

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

To me, fall and Wisconsin just seem to go hand in hand. The vibrant colors, the fresh smell of autumn, the early morning dew which leads into late morning frosts and a sign that winter is just around the corner. It just does not get any better than this.

By the time you read this article, almost everyone has done their preparations for putting the course to bed and now the reflection on the 2008 golf season can begin. One thing is for sure; Wisconsin weather always gives us something to remember a certain year by. When I think of drought, my mind goes back to 1988, (now that was Africa Hot) or in May of 1990 when many area courses saw a late spring snowfall. Or how about 1994, a perfect year with rain and sun popping in at just the right time or 1999 that threw a record heat wave at everyone the last week of July and then the floods of 2008 to make it another year to remember. So just to knock on wood, and hope winter is as kind to us as this fall has been.

Hole in One: Now I personally have golfed with Matt Kregel from The Club at Strawberry Creek located in Bristol, Wisconsin, and if it wasn't for the picture and the plaque for his "Hole in One," I might not have believed it but what can I say? Back in June of this year, Matt took a trip down to Farmlinks located in Alabama. He stepped up to the 17th tee with a 173 yard shot across the pond and dropped it right in. Now my guess is that it really happened more like this: After numerous beers and plenty of mulligan's, Matt stepped up to the forward tee on the 17th hole and with a shot of say 100 yards, took out his Big Bertha driver, sliced the ball left, bounced it off the cart path, across the bridge, hit a rock, kicked right, hit the guy changing the cup and somehow fell into one of the two holes on the green but hey, it doesn't matter how you do it, just that you got the job done. Great job Matt!

Births: Congratulation goes out to Colin Seaberg, Golf Course Superintendent of Ozaukee Country Club and his wife Andrea on the birth of Blake James Richard Seaberg. Blake was born on October 10th and weighed in at 8 lbs, 5 oz. They are also

blessed with a 7 year old girl and a 4 year old boy and now Blake makes three.

Weddings: Steve Houlihan, assistant superintendent at Merrill Hills Country Club married Katherine Tomczyk on November 8th. I personally crashed this wedding reception and can tell you it was a fantastic time with lots of drinks and food. Congratulations again to Steve and his new bride!

Superintendent and Assistant News: Mike Jaeger is the new Superintendent of Skye Golf Course located in Northern Wisconsin in the town of Upsan. This 18 hole course lies along the southern shore of Lake Superior where a golfer can easily view the Apostle Islands. Way to go Mike!

Bill Stein is the new superintendent of Minocqua Country Club. Bill was a assistant at Victoria National Golf Club in Newburg, Indiana. He grew up in North Dakota and graduated from North Dakota State University. Bill also worked three years at the exclusive golf, fish and hunt club called Sutton Bay in South Dakota. My close sources tell me Bill is a dedicated goose, duck and pheasant hunter and has a fantastic hunting dog. This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship! Best wishes to Bill and good hunting.

Your Kid is not a Weiner, but he is a Racing Sausage. Mike Skenandore, Superintendent of Wanaki Golf Course son Colton, is one of the racing sausages at Miller Park. You can recognize him by the multicolored wristbands that he wears during the races. Mike says the question often comes up about predetermined winners during game day, but he cannot reveal that information as he is sworn to secrecy. Colton is attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison in pre-med with scholarship help from the Milwaukee Brewers and other various sources. Please cheer on Dad's little plumper next time you are at Miller Park in 2009.

Big Buck: Jon Stahl, Golf Course Superintendent of The Squires Country Club managed to find some time to enjoy the beautiful Northwoods recently and tagged a personal best 8-point buck with a bow. Unfortunately, he was not expecting to see anything that day and left his knife

back at the truck. Almost like being up a creek without a paddle!

Industry Moves: Steve Abler joined the Reinders organization as their new soft goods sales representative in Southern Wisconsin. Steve was the former Syngenta representative for this region of the U.S. and prior to that in charge of the Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab at UW-Madison. He has some big shoes to fill but I know he will do a fantastic job.

Tom Wentz, former Badger State Turf Clippings writer and Reinders soft goods sales representative, has taken on a new role with Lebanon Seaboard Corporation as their Regional Sales Manager. Although Lebanon is based out of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, he plans to remain in Wisconsin and will continue to be an active member of the WGCSA and the WTA. Those who have been around Tom, know he is a top notch sales representative, golfer and all around good guy and is sure to be missed by many. The one thing I know Tom will not miss is having his button holes of his dress shirts sewn shut by me at the next G.I.S. show, but heck, I always have Abler. Good luck Tom!

Retirements: Robert Taylor retired as Superintendent of Kenosha County Brightondale Golf Course in October. Bob had been with the County for over 37 years. My guess is he will be spending a good share of his retirement enjoying time up north at his cabin hunting and fishing. Best wishes to Robert as he begins a new journey in his life.

Job well done!

The Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin (GCOW) awarded Pat Zurawski of Camelot Country Club with the 2008 Leadership award. This award honors a manager or worker that exemplifies outstanding leadership skills.

On this same evening Pat Shaw accepted the award for The Bull at Pinehurst Farms for outstanding Golf Course Appearance and Maintenance as voted by the public via internet on the GCOW website. Congratulations to both!

Please email me with any new news at jjensen@reinders.com.