

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

Officially, March 20, 2009 is the Vernal Equinox and the first day of spring. At this point in time, the Earth is neither pointed towards or away from the sun; furthermore, the sun is located vertically above the Equator. Spring officially signifies that winter is over, and that flowers will bloom, bees will buzz, and grass will grow again.

Isn't it amazing how much our lives revolve around the weather and the seasons? As I have traveled this spring the topic of weather almost always comes up first. Some areas of Wisconsin have been too dry, others too wet, some of you made it through winter just fine and others experienced ice damage, snow mold and desiccation; either way many of you and are still waiting for ground temperatures to be consistently above 52 degrees. Hum!

If in fact, the Vernal Equinox is the time when the Sun is located vertically above the Equator, then spring should be here! Something is up, and I think NASA should snap some photos, and find where the Equator line moved to because it sure seems like spring is taking its sweet time reaching Wisconsin. At this rate, we will have summer until December!

New Superintendents

Dave Boyce previously at Kestrel Ridge in Columbus has taken a new superintendent position at The Oaks Club at Genoa in Genoa, Illinois.

Jeff Rottier is the new superintendent of Janesville Country Club which was founded in 1894. Janesville Country Club holds the historical distinction of being the first golf club in Wisconsin, second in the Midwest and sixth in the U.S. Jeff fills the position formally held by Dan Mosblack who took a new position in the Illinois market. Jeff hails from Pella, Iowa and has formally held positions at The Kohler Company and Erin Hills where he hosted the 2008 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship.

Brian Kruckenberg has taken the new superintendent position at Edelweiss Chalet Country Club in New Glarus. Brian was formally at Meadow Springs Golf Course in Jefferson.

Mike Bremmer is the new superintendent at Brynwood Country Club. Mike was previously the assistant superintendent. Mike is a UW-Madison graduate of the turf program.

Roy Janzen has accepted the superintendent position at Forest Hills Golf Course located in La Crosse. Roy is a UW-Madison turf graduate and was the former superintendent at High Cliff Golf Course for 18 years.

Chris Zugel has been hired as the new superintendent of The Kohler Company's Whistling Straits Course. Chris spent most of his childhood in Georgia, and graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Turf Management. Some of his former stops have included TPC at Eagle Trace in Florida, The Rivers Course at Blackwolf Run, and most recently with the Milwaukee Brewers as the Manager of Grounds. Chris will have his hands full with the 2010 and 2015 PGA Championships and 2020 Ryder Cup all

being held at the Straits Course.

Matt Zehm is the new superintendent at the Irish Course in Kohler. He has been with the company since April 2000. He is a 2005 graduate of the turf program at Penn State and former assistant of both the Irish and the Straits courses.

Zach Reineking has taken on the role of superintendent at Erin Hills. Zach is a UW-Madison graduate and former Evans Scholar winner. He worked as a caddie at Pine Hills Country Club in his younger days and on the crew at the Kohler Courses where he also served his internship. Erin Hills is slated to host the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship.

Dave Hassel, CGCS has been hired by Kenosha County to oversee Brightondale and Petrifying Springs Golf Courses. Dave hails from Iowa and has been a superintendent in North Carolina, and at The Club at Strawberry Creek here in Wisconsin. He also was a sales representative at Lesco in southern Wisconsin.

Congratulations to all listed above and we wish you much success in 2009 and beyond.

New Assistant Superintendent

Jason Schmelzer is the new Assistant Superintendent for Joel Peterson at New Berlin Hills Golf Course. Jason's family currently owns and operates Twenty Seven Pines Golf Course, in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

Births

Rod Lesnick and his wife Sarah had welcomed Emma Kathleen into the world on February 9th. She weighed in at 6 lbs, 12 oz. Rod is the assistant superintendent at Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course. Congratulations!

Possible Early School Start?

The Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin have sent out an important message to their members regarding a bill that is being discussed in the legislature to start school early. As this also affects many of us that work within this industry, I wanted to include some of the information that GCOW has passed onto its members.

You can go to <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov> and look up Bill - AB 125 for the details. Legislation to eliminate the September 1 school start date, Bill #AB 125, was introduced in the State Assembly. If passed local school boards could go back to the old days and we could again see schools beginning as early as August 15. If schools are allowed to begin in August, families will have less time to vacation during the popular summer season and we could see a significant decrease in tourism business. Make no mistake, this is a serious effort to change the current law and I would urge all of you to contact Governor Doyle and your State Senator and State Representative in opposition to the bill.

If you have news to pass along, please be sure to email me at jjensen@reinders.com or pass it along to your Reinders Sales Representative.