

Badger State Turf Clippings

By John Jensen and the Reinders Team

With the growing season well underway, I have once again proven to my next door neighbors that I have the uncanny ability to grow the best crop of Dandelions, Clover and other annoying weeds that the world has ever seen. My wife and I have been blessed to have neighbors like Sam and Cheryl, they are the nicest people you will ever meet, but do they have to be so darn good at maintaining turf? I swear that when we cross property lines the world seems like a peaceful, quiet and somehow different place.

We walked over to visit with them the other day to discover (like we have always heard), Wisconsin does have many beautiful birds and animals such as Cardinal's, Golden Finches, Chickadee's, Deer and Squirrels. It seems my place is only good enough for the local Sparrow's, Black Birds, Raven's and occasional Possum or Skunk.

For Sam and Cheryl, nothing is ever out of place, from landscape rocks that somehow form the perfect look, flowers that glisten in the sunlight and to finish it off some freshly laid mulch around their towering evergreens. Even though we each planted the same grass mixture and each of us has the proper irrigation system, only one of us has a degree in Turfgrass Management. But it has become clear to me over the past 5 years that Sam should have been a Golf Course Superintendent and I should continue to sell mowing equipment for a living.

We have nicknamed them our "Better Home's and Garden's" neighbors. Their place is nothing short of perfect both in and out, so how are we ever to compete? We just can't, so it comes to this, do what we do best, grow the world's best crop of Dandelions and Clover then wait till the wind is out of the west before we mow. Then watch in pure delight as those beautiful white fluffy seeds blow in the wind to find their way to the happy land next door.

I wave to Sam from my mower as I ride around my yard, relishing in my accomplishments with how well I manage those beautiful plants and then to see the look of pain on Sam's face as they land onto his dense turf mean's only one thing for me, I'm living the dream.

Births

Bobby Lorenzo, Assistant Superintendent at Bristle Oaks Golf Course and wife Stephanie welcome their daughter Logan Olivia to the world June 2nd. Logan weighed 6 lbs 11 oz. She has an older brother Aaron who is 2. Dad is happy to have another future Cub fan in the family. Maybe they will win a World Series in her lifetime, but don't hold your breath.

Industry News

Nick Rongstad has been hired as the new Superintendent of Osseo Golf Club. Nick joins this course by way of Viking land. Congratulations on the new position.

Craig Hodowanic has joined Timber Terrace Golf Course in Chippewa Falls as their new Superintendent. Craig was formally the assistant under Brendan Osborn who recently returned to his homeland of Australia. Rumor has it he could not stand the winters.

Ace in the Hole

Back in May of this year at The Legend at Bergamont Golf Course, Bruce Schweiger and Scott Gilbertson, sales reps for Reinders, joined Dan Barrett, Bergamont's Superintendent and Darren Armstrong of Cedar Creek Country Club for a round of afternoon golf. Bruce stepped up to the 17th hole to hit a little knockdown 6 iron into the 184 yard par 3. I was told that the wind was howling, making the challenging peninsula green all the more treacherous. Bruce was said to have stared the flagstick down as the ball landed on the approach, it then took a nifty little hop, trickled forward and dropped into the hole! The foursome all let out the proverbial shouts of joy as Bruce pulled a Phil Mickelson by leaping for joy...about 3 inches high. (Short legs hinder your jump) Congratulations to Bruce on his ace!

Get well soon

I received a phone call yesterday from Paul Olson a former co-worker of mine to inform me that Myron Seaver had undergone triple bi-pass heart surgery. Although I have not heard anything beyond that, I hope that Myron is recovering well and is back at work at Delbrook Golf Course real soon. Before joining the grounds crew at Delbrook Golf Course, Myron was a Sales Representative with Wisconsin Turf Equipment for over 25 years and covered parts of Wisconsin and Northwest Illinois.

Jack Soderberg who has been the long time superintendent of Western Lakes Golf Course recently experienced some chest pains and with a simple stint fix was up and going at it again. Hope he is doing well and ready to get back out in the woods come fall hunting season.

Please be sure to email me or any of the Reinders team with any information that you feel is relevant to the Badger State Clippings. My email is jjensen@reinders.com