

**SOMERSET COUNTRY CLUB'S JAMES BADE**

# *Soft Spoken But Strong Willed*

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS

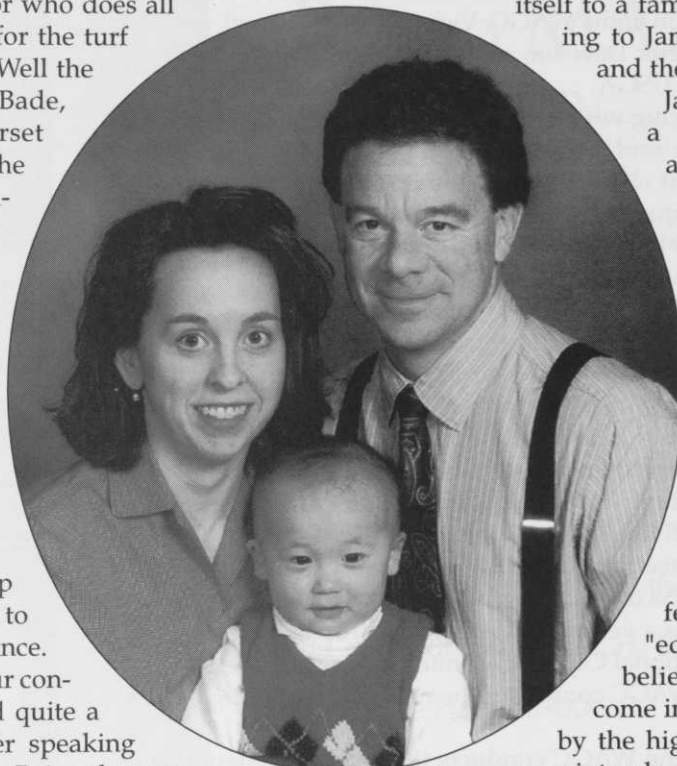
Did you ever wonder how or who does all the educational programming for the turf conferences or Mini-seminar? Well the person to ask is James Bade, Superintendent at Somerset Country Club. James has been the driving force behind all the educational programming for the MGCSA for the past few years. Having joined the MGCSA in 1986, James is currently serving his second term on the MGCSA board of directors.

He has served as Chairperson of the Conference and Education committee since his election in December of 1999.

To get the speakers lined up for these events, James has had to start up to two years in advance. Many of the key speakers for our conferences are so busy they need quite a bit of front time to fit another speaking engagement into their schedule. Being the conscientious person he is, James would like us all to have a great educational experience at our gatherings. If you have any input as far as speakers, topics, etc., please give him a call.

A soft-spoken person, James grew up in Chaska on a hobby/truck farm, rolling sod, picking tomatoes, cucumbers and apples. His first golfing experiences were at Dahlgren Golf Course and he was lucky enough to play high school golf at Hazeltine National Golf Club, where he worked on the greenstaff from the age of 16 and continued working there until his last year in college. James completed his internship at Saucon Valley Country Club in eastern Pennsylvania. Shortly after earning his degree in Turf Management from the University of Minnesota in 1986, he joined the staff of Somerset Country Club

Somerset was founded in 1919. The phrase "country club" certainly describes this fine track. It has a low membership and doesn't take tee times. The small club lends



itself to a family like atmosphere and according to James, "It is a great place to work and the people are good to work for".

James married his wife Stephanie, a "cheesehead", in 1995. They adopted their son Samuel in December 2000, when Samuel was only 5 days old. Their church is a big part of their lives. Recently the family has moved to a new house in South St. Paul.

When asked about the future, James stated that his goal is become a certified superintendent. He believes that because the environment will only become a bigger issue in the years ahead, that as a profession we need to be or become "educated stewards." He also believes the biggest changes may come in technology. This will be driven by the high standards that all golf course superintendents are being held to.

James' newest interest has been curling. Like many in our association it has become a bit addictive. James likens it to putting on ice. He strives to be the best he can in both his professional and personal life, without sacrificing time with family or friends.

I would like to personally thank James for the time and effort he has put in, making our association and its conferences better every year.

## **MGCSA SPRING MIXER**

MONDAY, MAY 13

THE RIDGES AT SAND CREEK

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: SCOTT WERSAL

## **PLAN TO ATTEND**