My name is Jared Nemitz and I recently graduated from Purdue with a B.S. Degree in Agronomy. I decided to pursue a degree in Agronomy because of my love for the game of golf. In high school I played golf for the school and decided to work at the local golf course, Bent Oak Country Club, on the maintenance crew. After three years of working for Bent Oak I realized that Turf Science was the career for me and there was no place better than Purdue University to prepare me.

While studying at Purdue I had many opportunities that I gladly took advantage of. I interned at the exclusive Chevy Chase Club in Washington, DC, Highland Woods Country Club in Bonita Springs, FL, the Honors Course in Chattanooga, TN and finally at St Andrews Links and Trust in Scotland where I was able to experience the 2006 British Open. During each semester I worked at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex and assisted Dr. Cale Bigelow and Kristie Walker with their research within the department. Being a part of the Agronomy Ambassadors also enriched my experience at Purdue by meeting new students and getting more involved within the Agronomy Department.

I will continue my education under the guidance of Dr. Cale Bigelow researching the fate of phosphorus in home lawn situations. With the life experiences and education I have received from Purdue I hope to become a part of a growing Green Industry. This summer I will be getting married to Rachael Keller, a cosmetologist from Granger, IN.

Hi, my name is Deb Morton. I am a new graduate student in the Turf Program at Purdue. I am from Osceola, MO. Osceola is a very small town located in west central Missouri. Most of my time in Osceola was spent working on prairies throughout the state and helping out on our cattle farm. I have always enjoyed working outdoors.

I received my bachelors in 2004 in biological sciences at the University of Missouri Rolla. After I graduated, I married Mike Peaslee from Rolla, MO. We have two “kids”, our dog Jake and our cat Oscar. My original plan was to follow in my dad’s footsteps and go to medical school but somehow I ended up in turf. I am currently pursuing an M.S. degree under Dr. Zac Reicher. My research involves the use of Velocity and Certainty to control Poa trivialis.

So far my husband and I are both very happy here in Indiana. It is definitely different from Missouri! I love the turf program and everyone in it. I really feel at home here at Purdue.

2006 May Graduates

Chase Best, unknown
Amelia Coyle, The Country Club in Vail, CO
Dan Grogan, unknown
Matt Lindborg, unknown
Jared Nemitz, Graduate School at Purdue University
Ashley Schelle, The Fort Golf Course, Indianapolis, IN
Joey Stevenson, The Kansas City Royals, Kansas City, MO
Mark Stout, Vine and Branch, Carmel IN
Ross-Ade and South Football Practice Field Renovations

After nearly a week of steady rain in West Lafayette and across the region, work was finally able to continue on the Ross-Ade stadium and South football practice field renovations. The existing Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf in Ross-Ade was removed today with a “Koro” machine. The machine is essentially analogous to a milling machine used to remove pavement on roadways. The Koro machine precisely removes the grass layer while leaving most of the rootzone in place and undisturbed. Once the grass is completely removed the rootzone will be laser leveled and thin cut ‘Patriot’ bermudagrass sod will begin being installed as early as next week.

On the South practice field the new grade for what has been transformed into a more or less flat field, compared to the severely crowned previous field. An updated irrigation system will be installed as soon as the ground dries sufficiently to resume trenching. Once the irrigation system is in place 2” perforated tile lines will be installed running East/West and overlain by a sand-trench system running North/South. To duplicate the grass surface in Ross-Ade, ‘Patriot’ bermudagrass will also be installed.

On 4 May the ‘Patriot’ bermudagrass sod was inspected at Oakwood Sod Farm located on the sandy soil of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Aside from a late-Spring frost which had slightly discolored the turf, the grass looked very healthy for this time of year and appeared ready for harvest and installation.

We will continue to keep you updated with the progress on this exciting renovation project. Go Boilers!!!

As an aside I have been taking spring green-up ratings each week on my bermudagrass traffic study and the trends from previous years continue. Compared to ‘Quickstand’ and ‘Yukon’, ‘Riviera’ continues to impress as it comes out of dormancy for it’s third year. More updates to come…..

Cale Bigelow
Assistant Professor Agronomy-Turfgrass Science
May 17, 2006

Indiana Green Expo

Starting in January 2007 the Midwest Turf Expo is going to become bigger and better for the Turf Industry. The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and cosponsors Indiana Park and Recreation Association have joined with the PLANTS Conference sponsored by the Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association to create the Indiana Green Expo.

January 10-12, 2007 will be the first Indiana Green Expo (IGE) in Downtown Indianapolis, at the Indiana Convention Center. Educational sessions will be held with topics dealing with lawncare, golf turf, sports turf, business, landscape maintenance and tree management; along with a tradeshow that will nearly double in size. You won’t want to miss the new Indiana Green Expo. Watch for more information at: www.mrtf.org.

In memory of

Jim Brandt, a 1950 alumnus, past MRTF president (1958) and turf industry supporter passed away on April 20, 2006 in Danville, Illinois.