

## Chad Burke In His Element at Limestone

Chad Burke began charting his course in a career as a golf course superintendent like many others in the industry. “I got a job right out of high school at a private golf course in my hometown of Champaign, Illinois. I became friends with some of the guys working there at the time. I did not have a career choice made yet. I had always loved science and golf so the decision to dedicate my life to the golf course industry was an easy one.”

Chad went on to earn an Educational Associates Degree in Ornamental Horticulture at the Danville Area Community College in 1996. In 1998 he got his Bachelor’s Degree of Science in Plant and Soil Science Southern Illinois University.

When asked about important influences in his career Chad said, “Early on a family friend “Red” Buttitta was my first mentor. After that Scott Werner and Lee McClemore both had large and influential parts in my career path. Without a doubt I owe Mark Langner many thanks for all that he has contributed to my professional and personal life since my transition to Alabama.”

Chad began working at Limestone Springs as Assistant Superintendent under Mark Langner in 1998. In 2003 a series of events led Mark to Farm Links. That transition gave Chad the opportunity to become superintendent at Limestone Springs. He says the following maxims have helped him in his job:

- ◆ If you are having a problem, pick up the phone and call someone chances are they are having, will have or have had the same problem.
- ◆ Err on the side of caution.

One of the things Chad enjoys most about his job is “being outside with nature and all of its elements daily.” His least favorite part of work is — can you believe it?— paperwork!

.Anyone who attends many of the AGCSA’s meetings has probably met Chad at a few and knows that he loves golf. He says, “My favorite course to play is Shoal Creek. My favorite to look at is Augusta National. One of the funniest things I’ve seen on a golf course was a man buying a \$40.00 shirt because he fell in the creek finding a \$2.00 golf ball. (It was one of our off duty marshals.)”

Chad lives in Trussville, Alabama with his wife Niki who is a third grade teacher at Inverness Elementary School. They have a son, Kyle, who just turned five. Favorite hobbies also include mountain bike riding, landscaping and coaching Kyle’s soccer team. Chad has made a wonderful addition to the AGCSA Board of Directors this past year and we look forward to keeping him with us for a while to come!



*Chad Burke*