



news

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Iron Range Native Is New Manager Of Fortune Bay's Wilderness Golf Course

Every Hole A "Wow Factor," Says New Pro After First Seeing Course

TOWER, Minn. – Tom Beaudry, the new general manager at The Wilderness golf course at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, knew the time had come to move his family back home after 10 years managing golf courses in South Carolina.

"When my oldest daughter began to get a southern drawl, I knew it was time to go," said Beaudry, who grew up and attended high school in Grand Rapids, Minn., before moving south with the U.S. Marine Corp and eventually golf pro school at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Now Beaudry finds himself back on the Range in the "dream position" of head golf professional at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, ranked the Best New Course by *GolfWeek* for 2007 and the Best New Upscale Public Course by *Golf Digest* in 2006. "Every hole is a wow factor," Beaudry said of his first reaction to seeing the course. "The spectacular views, the thoughtful design; it's the most beautiful course I've ever played."

And Beaudry has played a few impressive courses during his 15 years in the golf industry, earning his certification as a PGA Class A Professional in 2000. While in South Carolina, he worked at prestigious Brays Island Plantation Golf Club near Hilton Head and Ocean Creek Golf Club on Fripp Island. He made his move back to Minnesota six years ago when he opened the new Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, Minn., complete with a new golf course, expanded hotel and indoor water park.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for me and my family," Beaudry said of his new assignment. "I am hoping that my experience in both private and public course management will allow me to take the best of both worlds and implement them here."

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Beaudry replaces former Wilderness general manager Joe Wisocki. Wisocki will open the new Chambers Bay links course in Washington State this summer for KemperSports, the company that also manages The Wilderness for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, owner and operators of Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Bois Forte Tribal Chair Kevin Leecy said, “We are delighted to have Tom Beaudry join us at Fortune Bay. Tom has excellent golf credentials and will continue our commitment to great golf and customer service. In addition, his move back home is another great example of how Indian gaming provides great job opportunities for people that live on the Range and dozens of communities in northeastern Minnesota.”

Beaudry and his wife Stephanie with daughters Kate, 8, and Claire, 6, have already moved into a new home in Cook, Minn. Aside from golf (a six to a seven handicap), Beaudry enjoys fishing (especially Lake Vermilion walleye) and hunting.