

FEATURE ARTICLE I
Jeff VerCautren, *Rich Harvest Farms*



The 2009 Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Farms

The Solheim Cup is a biennial, trans-Atlantic team match-play competition featuring the best U.S.-born players from the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour and the best European members from the Ladies European Tour (LET). The U.S. Team leads the competition, 7-3, and has never lost The Solheim Cup on home soil. In 2009, the Americans will be looking to keep their untarnished home record intact at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove.

U.S. Solheim Cup team captain, Beth Daniel, a member at Rich Harvest Farms, will lead a cast of 12 Americans against Allison Nicholas' European team from August 17-23, 2009. Daniel, a player on eight U.S. Solheim Cup Teams, was assistant captain for the U.S. Team at the 2007 Solheim Cup in Hamstad, Sweden.

"I am very excited that the Solheim Cup is being played at Rich Harvest Farms," said Daniel. "The layout of the course adds to the risk and reward of match play competition."

The rich history of The Solheim Cup dates back to 1990 when the first international competition was held in Orlando. Since then, the event has grown not only in patriotism, but also in fan involvement. The 2005 Solheim Cup at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana, sold out eight months in advance via a random drawing. A record 103,000 attended the last staging of The Solheim Cup on American soil, and estimates for the 2009 crowd are pushing 150,000.

"The greater Chicago area is a perfect venue for this event and we couldn't be more excited to make a variety of ticket packages available to fans in the United States and abroad," said Kelly Hyne, 2009 Solheim Cup executive director. "Rich Harvest Farms provides a fantastic layout for fans and corporate guests to experience the event in a unique setting."

Fans from around the world can purchase tickets at www.solheimcup.com or by phone at 866-848-4639. Tickets at Rich Harvest Farms will be limited to 40,000 fans per day.

The Solheim Cup is named in honor of Karsten Solheim, and his family, the makers of PING golf equipment. In addition

to founding sponsor PING, Global Partners of The Solheim Cup include AIB Group and Rolex. All GCSAA members will be able to enter the event with their card but guests will have to pay at the door.

For more information on the 2009 Solheim Cup, including a schedule of events, hotels and accommodations, log on to www.SolheimCup.com.

Rich Harvest Farms is Going Green for the Cup

In preparation for hosting the 2009 Solheim Cup, Rich Harvest Farms is going even greener. The staff at Rich Harvest is proud to be working at a facility that can be rated in Golf Digest's "Top 100 of America's Greatest Golf Courses" and still be 'green.'

Over the years, RHF has consistently used integrated pest management to limit chemical and fertilizer application on the golf course. To limit the use of water, we have one of the most up-to-date irrigation systems. Ninety percent of all the water features (ponds, creeks, and streams) on the property are bordered with native grasses both to reduce runoff and to filter the water that runs through and off the property.

Along with these practices, within the last two years RHF has refurbished a horse stable and arena into lodging for the club's membership. When compared to building new, this practice of refurbishing has reduced waste in landfills and limited the resources needed for construction. During the stable's renovation, a geothermal energy source was used for heating

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and cooling. Initially, this geo-thermal installation was more expensive, but the energy savings in the long run will give the club a good return on the investment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, geo-exchange systems save homeowners 30-70% in heating costs and 20-50% in cooling when compared to conventional systems.

The next step RHF took toward going green was the implementation of a recycling program. Based on their experiences at home, many people think that this would be fairly simple, but getting the staff, membership, and guests to buy into this program has not been easy. The golf course and grounds maintenance has been on the program for a year. They have reduced the waste going straight to the dump by 40%. Because of these positive results, a recycling program has been implemented for the entire club and estate.

This year RHF is also changing to B11 (Biodiesel blended 11%) diesel fuel. Biodiesel is a renewable resource; it reduces harmful emissions. Research has shown that engines that run on biodiesel need less maintenance. The cost of biodiesel is a little higher, but the state of Illinois exempts users of sales tax if the blend they use is greater than 10% (B10). This tax break gives about a 10-cent-per-gallon savings when compared to the price of regular fuel.

Rich Harvest Farms is also investigating a program for changing the irrigation pump house controls to Variable Frequency Drive. An adjustable speed drive often uses less energy than an alternative fixed speed mode of operation.

When a pump is driven by a fixed speed motor, the flow can sometimes be higher than it needs to be. Flow can be regulated by using a damper, but it is more efficient to regulate the speed of the motor. It follows from the affinity laws that reducing pump speed by 50% results in a power consumption drop of 12.5%. In addition, the electricity supplier, Commonwealth Edison, also provides incentives up to \$7 per horsepower for qualifying premium efficiency motors.

The Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois, housed at Rich Harvest Farms, is dedicated to bringing the sport of golf into the lives of young children and providing them with an opportunity for personal growth and career enhancement. The Foundation offers and supports several junior golf programs. These are designed to introduce children between the ages of 5 and 15 to the sport of golf, its fundamentals, rules, history, etiquette, and more. Rich Harvest Farms is also working with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. They go on nature walks and talk to RHF representatives about golf courses and their environment. Our outreach to the community allows us to become stewards of our local environment.

With all these practices in place, Rich Harvest Farms looks forward to becoming one of the community leaders in smart business solutions for the environment. These business solutions will result in a greener Solheim Cup tournament and a greener business in the future. **-OC**

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