



Fundraising for The Fellowship

By **Tom Schwab**, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The most successful Wisconsin Turfgrass Association fundraising golf tournament just occurred on October 10, 2000. The event was hosted by Mike Lee from the new Irish Course at Whistling Straits. The level of success was measured in several ways. Well over \$15,000 was raised, which is easily a record for WTA golf, was one of the measures. The participants having a most memorable round of golf was another measure that was definitely reached. The dollars raised will go to the newly formed Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research program. This fellowship program when completed will provide a masters or doctoral student to each discipline of turfgrass research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This will result in even more brainpower working on Wisconsin's turf quandaries than previously available.

WTA must raise \$250,000 for each graduate student fellowship that will then be matched by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Fund. Part of the investment interest from that \$500,000 will fund graduate students in perpetuity, which in today's dollars is approximately \$26,000 per year. The first fellowship, which you read about in the last issue of the Grass Roots, is fully funded and the second one is moving along very well.

The second one is well on the way due to events like this that are so well attended. One hundred and eight golfers and a handful of others participated in the event. I don't know if this was a record attendance for WTA golf, because some past events drew great crowds, but thanks to Mike Lee the costs were kept to the very minimum. Bottom line - more money went to the cause. The other

reasons for the success were Mike was the perfect host, the event was well organized, the weather could not have been more perfect, and the course!!!!!! The course was, how shall I say, like nothing you've ever seen. It was challenging, beautiful, scenic, diverse, different, and above all fun. You must see this course with your own eyes to believe it. It had everything - sand traps were everywhere yet well placed, water hazards were strategic and beautiful, greens were fast and challenging, and the natural beauty of the landscape along Lake Michigan was indescribably scenic.

The combination of an exceptional golf course, great weather (mid 60 degrees, blue skies, slight wind), and nice people made for another kind of fellowship also - the kind described as sharing a common interest with friends. Everyone was in such a good mood and was ready for an outing like this. It was a well-earned reward for working hard and sacrificing time away from family as we do in the summer.

Although Mike Lee earned our gratitude, there are a few others that need to be thanked for the success. Jeff Gregos put lots of effort into making up the brochures and constructing the hole sponsor signs, Audra Anderson did tons of registration organizing, Bruce Schweiger and others publicized the event, and many companies and individuals generously donated door prizes for after the event. The door prize table was so nicely stocked that every participant took home an exceptional present. Here is the list of door prizes and donors to show you who helped and how many gifts there were. I'm sure there were even a few other people

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that put prizes on the table whose names I missed.

Door Prize list for the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research Golf Outing

Aventis	bike, boom box, tool set, 2 x coolers & thermos cups
Bayer	binoculars, flashlight, camp chair & stove, cooler, thermos, game
Beacon Ballfields	electric screw driver, thermos
Bruce Co	charcoal grill
Caddy Shack Golf Shop	umbrella, head covers, visors
Cherokee CC	Wisconsin jacket
Dr. Neil Peterson	remote control car
Edelweiss CC	golf shirt
Geunhwa Jung	golf cap, football, toy truck
Grand Geneva CC	free golf for a foursome with carts
Greensmix	gourmet treats basket
Hanleys	blower
Horseshoe Bay GC	2 x one free round of golf - cart included, golf shirt
Horst	2 x Caddy Shack gopher stuffed animals
Jacklin	wind shirt
Janesville CC	golf hats
John Stier	golf shirt
Johnson and Associates	2 x saws
JW Turf	John Deere toy tractor
Lawsonia Links GC	free golf for a foursome, carts not included
Lesco (Wasser)	3 CD changer stereo system
Lesco (Madison)	pruner
LL Olds Seed Company	7 x Swiss army knives
Matt Stasiak	sleeve of golf balls
Miller & Associates	duffle bag
Novartis	\$200 worth of Irish Course gift certificates
Old Hickory CC	golf shirt
Oshkosh CC	Cleveland S Wedge
Pendleton Turf Supply	prizes
Plum Lake CC	Calloway putter
Progreen Plus	golf bag
Racine CC	2 x golf shirts
Reinders	2 x color TVs, stereo system
Rettlers	2 x golf shirts

Riverside CC	free golf for a foursome with carts
Spring Valley	snowboarding for 2 including lessons, rentals, & tickets, binoculars
The Andersons	4 x golf shirts
Tom Schwab	golf shirt
Town Country Club	free golf for a foursome with carts
Trout Lake CC	3 x dozen golf balls, golf towels
United Horticultural Supply	\$100 worth of Irish Course gift certificates
University Ridge GC	shirt, hat
UW Athletic Department	golf shirt
Windy Acres GC	2 x golf hats, dozen golf balls
Wisconsin Turf	golf shirt, wind shirt, jacket
Zeneca	\$200 worth of Irish Course gift certificates

The hole sponsor list is also shown below. The Graduate Fellowship Program is rewarded for their support.

Hole Sponsor list for the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research Golf Outing.

- Advanced Drainage Systems
- Bayer
- Bruce Company - Golf Course Construction
- Bruce Company - Golf Course Maintenance
- Doug & Martha Maxwell
- Geunhwa Jung
- Jeff Gregos
- John Stier
- LL Olds Seed Company
- Lohmann Golf Designs
- Long Island Farm
- Maple Bluff CC
- Miller & Associates - Sauk Prairie
- Milwaukee Lawn Sprinkler Corp
- Pendleton Turf Supply
- Reinders
- Stephen Pearson
- Sue Kershasky
- The Andersons
- Tom & Dianne Schwab
- United Horticultural Supply
- Wayne Kussow
- Wisconsin Turf Equipment

The last reason for the great success of this outing was from all of you participants who registered for the fundraiser. You did enjoy some nice golf but in so doing raised a large sum of money to help the turf industry of Wisconsin for the future. 🌿

