



Worth The Delay

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

The weatherman was correct. He called for rain on October 10th, the date for the annual WTA graduate fellowship fundraiser golf tournament. But this group of avid turf research supporters couldn't be swayed; they were going golfing. The event had to be delayed at first because the rain came down pretty strong. This resourceful group decided to eat lunch and pass out door prizes while they waited for the rain to slow down. Rod Johnson said he played in the snow at Maple Bluff, and made it through most of the holes during the Westmoor deluge, so he wasn't going to opt out this year. Actually it only rained for about three holes and the rest of the golf was pretty nice. The winds were strong, but the temperature was warm enough that some players were seen in short sleeve shirts.

The fundraiser will provide support for future graduate students for the UW-Madison Turf Program. The scholarship program is called the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research. Once funded these scholarships will continue in perpetuity to keep the turf program in supply of quality graduate students. These graduate students will be investigating important problems to enhance our management of turfgrass well into the future.

Speaking of enhanced, you should have seen the Grand Geneva Highlands golf course. The event host, Jim Crothers, recently oversaw a major reconstruction of his course. I played the course once before and once after the change, and have to admit I loved it both times. But I really noticed the addition of many ornamental features that added to the beauty and enjoyment of the experience. The greens and everything else played so nice. Even when the greens were wet, they were still so fast and true. Jim's 19 years of experience at the same location really was evident.

It's unfortunate only 46 golfers signed up for the event. Others missed playing an awesome golf course. Golf wasn't the only fun part of the day. Every attendee got to choose a great door prize and many likewise won events on the course. Take a look at some of these nice door prizes and thank donors who gave prizes and helped make the event so fun.

Besides being fun, the event was a success at raising money for the fellowship. Mike Lee, the fundraiser representative on the WTA board of directors, estimated that we may have raised \$7,000, after expenses. This is in large part due to the hole sponsors that are also listed here.

Mike made another important announcement that

you should make note of. The date and location for next year's WTA fellowship fundraiser will be Thursday, October 10th at the Meadows Course of Blackwolf Run. So mark your calendars now for another wonderful day of golf, prizes, and fundraising. It will be one more great outing to match what this event has traditionally become - whether we're delayed or not.



Two fundraiser regulars prepare for battle.



Everyone is eager for golf after the delay.



Event host, Jim Crothers, was proud to show Ed Witkowski and the rest of us his wonderful course.



I think these horns are on the wrong head.

Donators and gifts for WTA fundraiser

Bob Brooker - 2 golf shirts, cap
 Caddy Shack - Ping putter
 Carl Grassl - golf shirt
 Chris Pinkerton - wedge, 4 golf shirts, 5 caps
 Chris Wendorf - 2 Swiss army knives
 Craig Reinders - four x 4-packs of 2002 season Brewer's tickets
 Dan Barrett - dozen balls, 2 sweatshirts
 Don Ferger - 1 prize
 Ed Witkowski - \$50 Kohl's gift certificate, case of Corona beer
 Glenn Gerth - dozen balls
 Janesville CC - cap, golf shirt
 Jim Krieger - 2 golf shirts
 Jim Shone - rain suits, wind shirt, other stuff
 Jim Trzinski - golf shirt
 John Turner - \$150 worth of prizes
 Jon Hegge - cap, wind shirt
 Ken Smith - twosome golf pass with cart
 Kerry Anderson - 2 windshirts
 Marc Davison - 2 sweatshirts
 Marc Schwarting - 2 golf shirts, 1 cap
 Mark Grundman - two jackets, one polo shirt
 Mike Berwick - foursome golf pass with carts
 Mike Lee - 2 books, dozen balls, cap, towel
 Mike Urben - dozen balls, 2 caps
 Neil Radditz - Taylor Made three wood golf club
 Oak Ridge - 1 prize
 Prairie Woods - 1 prize
 Randy Van Fleet - jacket
 Riverside GC - foursome golf pass with carts
 Shawn Hilliard - Wisconsin putter
 Steve Bailey - 1 prize
 Steve Spears - golf shirt
 Tiziani Golf Cars - towel, toy
 Tom Harrison - Ping putter, shirt, dozen balls
 Tom Schwab - umbrella, cap
 Towne Country Club - 1 prize
 Wisconsin Turf Equipment - windshirt

Golf Hole Sponsors

Andersons Golf Products
 Bayer Corporation
 Chipco Specialty Products
 DHD Tree Products Inc.
 E C Grow
 Horst Distributing
 J W Turf Equipment
 Lohmann Golf Design
 Lurvey Turf Nursery
 Maple Bluff Country Club
 North Hills Country Club
 Olds Seed Company
 Oneida Golf Club
 Ozaukee County Park Commission
 Pendelton Turf Supply
 Reinders
 Reinders
 Simplot Partners
 Syngenta
 Tom and Dianne Schwab
 United Horticulture Supply
 Waupaca Sand and Solutions
 Wausau Country Club
 West Bend Country Club
 Wisconsin Turf Equipment
 Wisconsin Turf Equipment



Jim Shone from Syngenta hammers a doozy.



Al Nees contemplates his door prize options.



Blackhawk and Evansville CC were well represented at the fundraiser.



Randy Van Fleet trying some trick shots.



A bunch of golf pros from Oshkosh.