



An Eventful Summer in Wisconsin

By **Marc Davison**, Golf Course Superintendent, Green Bay Country Club

The PGA Championship recently swept through Wisconsin. What an exciting event to host in our state. The crowds were tremendous and the feedback has been very positive. Competition at that level is very exhilarating and to finish playing 72 holes with a three-way tie is almost hard to believe even possible. Kohler has hosted two major championship tournaments so far and both have ended in ties during regulation play.

Whistling Straits proved to be the perfect test for the top professional golfers in the world. There was much concern prior to this event on whether the course would be accepted by the players and the fans. Is it too hard, too long, and too tough? Remember the first professional tournament at PGA West? The pros did not like that course and said they would never return and they haven't.

Weather was definitely a factor each day. It is clear to see that the wind direction has a huge effect on how the course plays. Thursday produced some very low scores. I know this was a big concern for Mr. Kohler and Mr. Dye. The mighty length did not seem to bother the pros one bit. Only one player in the top 12 managed to improve on their Thursday score in subsequent days. The scores continued to go up each day for the top players. Vijay's rounds continued to climb each day with his worst score on Sunday. He shot the highest round out of the top 40 players Sunday and still won.

Mike Lee, David Swift, Grant Davey, Tony Rzedzki and the entire staff at Whistling Straits have to be commended for an outstanding job during the Championship. The time involved in producing a golf course of that magnitude for an event like the PGA Championship is tremendous. Congratulations, men; you did a great job and made a great statement world wide about great golf in Wisconsin. From the sound of it, this is only the beginning of major tournaments for the Kohler courses.

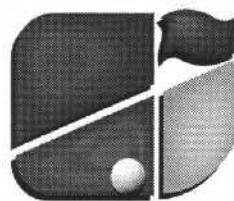
The WTA recently held its annual field day at the O.J. Noer Facility in Madison. The day turned out to be a perfect one. Attendance was good (remember how long you stood in line for lunch?) This event seems to grow each year. The plots are very interesting and always expanding. The professors, graduate students, Tom Schwab and staff members do a great job at the Facility. We should be very pleased



and proud to have such a wonderful facility in our state. Take advantage of the research going on there.

In July the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and Wisconsin Agribusiness Council hosted their annual Ag tour in Wisconsin. The purpose of this tour is to get legislators out "in the field" to view different aspects of the agriculture business. This year's tour included stops at Accelerated Genetics, Equity Livestock, Walsh Farms, a lumber business, an apple orchard and the tour concluded with dinner at LaCrosse Country Club. The entire day is sponsored by organizations and businesses involved in agriculture in some way or another. Our organization was contacted and asked to help out. The turf industry sponsored the evening meal and program at LaCrosse CC. With the help of some of our allied turfgrass association friends, money was donated to pay for the meal. Thanks to the following organizations for contributing to this event: Wisconsin Landscape Federation, Wisconsin Sod Producers, Sports Turf Managers, WTA, Wisconsin Grounds Managers and WGCSA. Dr. John Stier and Brian Swingle presented a short program after dinner explaining the impact the turfgrass industry has on our state's economy. Dr. Stier also addressed pesticide, fertility and water issue concerns. What a wonderful opportunity to address influential politicians on issues that are very important to our industry. Thank you very much, John!

Enjoy the fall! ♣



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