



Experience of a Lifetime

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

Erin Hills Golf Course and superintendent Jeff Rottier hosted the WTA Golf 'Fundraiser for the Fellowship' on October 10th, 2006. The day was a total success for the WTA and an experience of a lifetime for the golfers. The WTA benefited when the event sold out for the fifth year in a row. The fundraiser netted \$7,000 to help support turfgrass research into the future. Golfers benefited by being early witness to one of the most interesting and fun courses to ever open in Wisconsin.

Erin Hills lived up to owner Bob Lang's goal of "wanting to create a unique golf experience you can't find anywhere else." Tour pro Charles Howell said of Erin Hills, "It's Whistling Straits on steroids." Howell made that comment when the course was set up at its full 8,100 yards. Fortunately the WTA golfers played the course at a more realistic length. But what really made the day was the beautiful scenery and challenging golf shots that were spectacular at every turn.

The weather cooperated with conditions at 50 degrees, slightly windy, and overcast. Rain threatened during the day but didn't arrive till everyone was off the course. It could have been a little warmer for those that didn't bring a windbreaker, but no complaints were heard as everyone enjoyed the unbelievable golf experience.

Besides the incredible golf outing, most everyone went home with a nice door prize, some that were worth more than the entry fee. We'd like to thank everyone who donated those prizes. They are listed here. Many gifts were given anonymously, thus some of the donors are not on the list. Two other donations to mention include

Reinders Turf and Irrigation for providing hot hors d'oeuvres and Beechwood Distributing for providing Smithwick's Irish Ale after the round. The golf hole sponsors should likewise be thanked. These individuals or businesses, listed here, gave \$100 to name a hole and additionally support turf research.

The winners of the four person best ball were a foursome from Whistling Straits; David Swift, Grant Davey, Chris Deckard, and Jim Leibham. These guys had the inside edge with their knowledge of fescue fairways and long drives.

Lots of camaraderie was shared among the sold-out crowd from the time they arrived to hit practice

balls to the post-game handing out of door prizes and golf hole winners. This course sure lived up to its claims of being a unique golf experience, and the 144 participants in this year's 'Fundraiser for the Fellowship' would agree. ♣



The smiles tell it all from Mike Lyons, Paul Blumke, Aaron Goninen, Chad Grimm, and Scott Boniface.

Our host Jeff Rottier pictured with Mike Lyons and myself.





Reinders Turf and Irrigation picked up the tab for the post game treats.

**2006 WTA Golf Fundraiser
Tee Sign Sponsors:**

- Agrotain International
- Aquatrols
- Arthur Clesen
- DHD Tree Products Inc
- E-Z-Go A Textron Company
- Green Bay CC
- Midwest Turf Products
- Oneida Golf & Country Club
- Pendleton Turf Supply
- ProSource One
- Rolling Meadows GC
- Sue Kershasky
- UAP Professional Products
- Wausau CC
- Westmoor CC Grounds & Green Committee

2006 WTA Golf 'Fundraiser for the Fellowship' Door Prize Donors:

Partial list of door prizes

Agrotain	Dozen balls, fancy watch
Aquatrols	Home Depot Gift Certificate
Arthur Clesen	Golf shirt
BASF	Various prizes
Brian Swingle	Windshirt
Bridges Golf Course	Foursome with carts
Bristlecone Pines GC	Two foursomes of golf with carts
Bruce Schweiger	Bicycle
DHD	Golf bag
Evergreen CC	Foursome of golf with cart
Jerry Kershasky	2 chipping wedges
John Hegge	Badger/Penn State Football tickets plus other prizes
Lawsonia	Foursome with cart
Lesco	Golf shirt, sleeve balls, leatherman knife
Midwest Turf Products	Windshirt
New Berlin Hills	Foursome of golf with carts
Oconomowoc Golf Club	Foursome with carts
Old Hickory	Golfwear
Pendleton Turf	Two cases of Guinness, two Home Depot gift certificates
ProSource	Dozen Balls, windshirt
Reinders	Hors de oeuvres
Scott Schaller	Golf prize
Stoughton Country Club	Foursome with carts
Syngenta	Two golf clubs, beer, fishing poles, gift certificate
Tom Schwab	Two golf bags, shirt
UAP	Putter, Dozen Balls
Washington Co GC	Twosome of golf
Waupaca Sand	DVD player
West Bend CC	Golf shirt