



Lake Breeze Hosts August Meeting

By **Jim VanHerwynen**, Golf Course Superintendent, South Hills Golf and Country Club

The WGCSA held its last educational monthly meeting for the 2008 season on August 4 at Lake Breeze Golf Club. The format for the event after the educational session was a Superintendent/Guest two-man scramble. The weather, similar to the other events this year was threatening but all participants were eager to begin the days' events.

The day began with David Swift, Golf Course Superintendent of Whistling Straits Golf Club in Sheboygan, WI doing a presentation on hosting tour events. David elaborated on two events in particular the 2004 PGA Championship and the 2007 Senior Open where the programs and practices used were somewhat different for each event. He also described the differences working with the different groups.

In a nutshell, for the PGA events they would like the course set up difficult, but a fair test of the golfers ability. The course generally would become tougher each day with green speeds ranging between 11.5-13.5 on the stimpmeter with "fluffed rough" at 5-6 inches.

For the U.S. Senior Open they wanted the course set so that everyone would finish. The course difficulty would virtually be the same all week. They stressed consistency should be the rule with stimpmeter readings at 12 feet everyday. The rough would be cut in steps with a 4 inch cut around fairways approximately the first 15-20 feet and then beyond, the rough would be 6 inches. The bunkers and divots were treated and played as true hazards.

The course prep for both events was accomplished with the crew of



372 yard par 4, 11th hole at Lake Breeze

Whistling Straits along with numerous volunteers totaling 140! They would work an a.m. and p.m. shift for approximately two hours each day. For those who love statistics the Straits had 12 fairway mowers and 20 walking greens mowers during tournament week. The greens were hand watered when necessary and hand rolled until the desired green speed was met. The volunteers helped rake the courses 1,000 sand bunkers by hand. At the end of his presentation, it was clear that hosting an event of this magnitude is extremely challenging but also very rewarding.

After David's presentation and a delightful lunch everyone headed to the course for practice and warm-ups on the range and putting green. Jim Hasz, Golf Course Superintendent at Lake

Breeze Golf Club along with his entire staff are to be commended for an outstanding job getting the course ready for tournament play.

Beginning in 1990, Jim was instrumental in the design, building and grow-in of this hidden gem in Winneconne, WI. The course was very challenging and fun to play. I am guessing everyone enjoyed the Wisconsin shaped green, I know I did! After a brief rain delay most participants finished their round and were treated to hors d' oeuvres as the awards for the winners and hole events were presented.

At the end of the day in third place with a solid 68 was Mike Leroy (E-Z-GO) along with guest Tom Theisen. In second place with a 64 was Peter Meyer of National Golf Graphics along with guest Joe Brown. And with a convincing

score of 61 in first place was Scott Bushman (Fox Valley Golf Club) with guest Tom Martine. The Hole Event winners in no particular order were long drive hole #4 - Tom Martine, closest to the pin, hole # 8 - David Swift (Whistling Straits), closest to the pin, hole #13 - Jon Stahl (Squires Country Club) and long drive hole #17 - David Petrack (Lake Breeze Golf Club). There was a very special surprise gift donated from E-Z-Go Golf Cars this year. The gift, two Packer tickets to the Bishops Charity Game on Monday Night August 11, 2008 were won by Roy Janzen and John VandenBoogard both from High Cliff Golf Club with the lowest score of 87. Special thanks for Jim Hasz, David Petrack and Tony Eilers and their respective staffs for an outstanding job at Lake Breeze Golf Club to end our monthly meetings for 2008.



433 yard par 4, 17th hole at Lake Breeze

In the last installment of the *Grass Roots* magazine (July/August) I failed to mention the overall Low Gross Champion for the 2008

Superintendent Tournament at Watertown Country Club on July 7, 2008. The winner of the 2008 Superintendent Tournament went

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out to Mike Skenandore of Wanaki Golf Club with an impressive score of 74! Great Job Mike!!

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the hosting courses and their respective Golf Course Superintendents for an outstanding 2008 monthly meeting schedule. In chronological order: Kevin Knudtson and Geneva National Golf Club, Mike Schmieden and Evergreen Golf Club, Mike Upthegrove and Watertown Country Club and lastly Jim Hasz and Lake Breeze Golf Club.

I would also, on behalf of the WGCSA, thank all of the supportive sponsors, many who have been supportive for years, for helping make our monthly meetings a success. Your support makes these events more enjoyable through

hole events and prizes, making the prices much more reasonable to participate and the food tastier with allowing for upgraded options. In no particular order the Vendor Sponsors for 2008 included; Syngenta, Hartman Companies Inc., Midwest Turf Supply, Pumpstation Professionals, Municipal Well and Pump, Pendelton Turf Supply, Tiziani Golf Cars and Bayer Crop Sciences.

Thank you once again, the 2009 season is being formulated already. If you and your facility would like to host an event in 2009 or even 2010 please contact me soon as the calendar usually fills up fast. If you are a vendor and would like to participate with supporting the WGCSA and the golf industry in Wisconsin to make these events possible and

more enjoyable, contact me as well. There will be a description of vendor support in the mail sometime late fall/early winter.

I would also like to thank your Board of Directors particularly Chad Harrington for setting up the educational presentations for these events Dustin Riley for communicating to the members for the cancellation at Evergreen and Jeff Millies for making sure the bills are paid! If you have any questions comments or concerns for the past year or the next years events never hesitate to contact me at (920) 922-8455 or email at jkvanherwynen@charter.net and I will be more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Until the next event, take care! 🌱

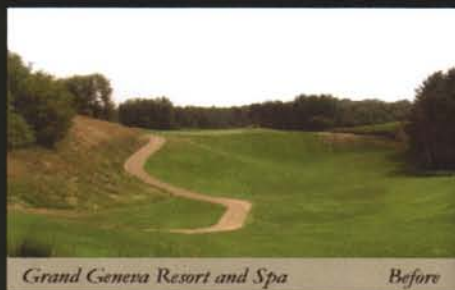
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