



# Evergreen Hosts Tournament Meeting

By **David Brandenburg**, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Bill Rogers, General Manager and Mike Schmieden, Superintendent picked a great day for Evergreen Golf Club to host the WGCSA tournament meeting after last years rain out. Now 27 holes the original 18 hole course at Evergreen Golf Club was designed by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent of Chicago in 1973. The course was built on 150 acres of dairy farm while the original clubhouse was a restaurant. The original 18 consisted of the 9 holes of the South Course; the 1st and 9th of what is now the East Course; along with holes No. 1 through 5 and 8 and 9 on the North Course. In 1994 a third 9 designed by Gary Welsh opened consisting of holes No. 2 through 8 on the East and Nos. 6 and 7 on the North.

The day began with a presentation by Steve Randall, GCSAA Chapter Liaison -Association Management. Steve who makes his home in Lawrence, KS has worked in golf administration for nearly 10 years, serving as the regional affairs/media relations director and junior golf manager for the Minnesota Golf Association, the executive director of the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association, which is the governing body of amateur golf for New Mexico and West Texas. He also worked as a golf coach at South Dakota State University.

Steve presented information from GCSAA starting with the Water Use Survey that the association recently compiled. In the United States 408 billion gallons of water is used per day with 137 billion being used for irrigation. Golf uses only 1.5% of the 137 billion or .5% of the total 408 billion or approximately 2 billion gallons.

The average 18 hole course in the north central region irrigates 66 acres of turf and uses a average of 25 million gallons per year. This compares to the southwest where the average 18 hole course uses 149 million gallons per year on much less watered turf. We in this area are fortunate to have available sources of water when compared to our counterparts in the southwest. The average northcentral golf course spends \$4,700 per year on water costs while the average southwest course spends \$107,000 per year.

With water easily available very few Wisconsin Courses are using effluent water. Most of those surveyed sited the lack of infrastructure and seasonal needs as reasons for not considering effluent for irrigation needs.

Steve then turned his attention to recent surveys of core golfers by the National Golf Foundation. 32% of core golfers are playing fewer rounds while 38% are delaying equipment purchases. The little bit of positive



**Bruce Schweiger tends the flag on Evergreens 2nd hole.**



**Rich Chapman 2nd flight winner and Mike Lyons 1st flight winner.**

news highlighted the conference board shows consumer confidence rose in spring after sliding down from September to February where it seemed to bottom out. Rounds are also up 1.6% through May countrywide mainly due to better weather.

Steve finished with some information to remind superintendents that they are critical to the overall success of their facility. GCSAA's survey of golfers shows the number one reason players choose a course is because of playing conditions not prestige, the archi-

tect or difficulty. He also reminded us to take advantage of the many features GCSAA has to fulfill our educational needs.

After a great lunch we headed out to partake in fierce competition for the annual WGCSA Tournament on Evergreens North and South courses. Winning long drive events were Steve Heling and Mark Lockhart while Jeff Christopherson, Rich Chapman and Mike Kelly won closest to the pin events.

In the affiliate flight Ed Witkowski edged out Jim O'Toole with a net score of 70. In the 2nd flight Rich Chapman shot 69 net to edge out Dave Hassle who came in at 70. In the first flight Mike Lyons shot net 67 to beat out Scott Bushman who shot 69. Low gross for the event was Scott Anthes with a 70.

Thanks again to General Manager Bill Rogers and his staff for their hospitality and Golf Course Superintendent Mike Schmieden and his staff who had the golf course in great condition for us. 🌱



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