



A Message from the Solicitor General

By **Jake Schneider**, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Thanks to all who attended the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Golf Fundraiser at Blackhawk on October 4. In a year when most budgets were cut or stagnant, it was refreshing to see 125 people supporting such a worthwhile cause. And, from a personal standpoint, the high attendance made all of the hard work that much more rewarding. Plus, it would've been slightly deflating if only 40 people signed up.


Naturally, that morning brought the hardest frost that we'd seen in Madison to that point, but our crew did a great job of getting a lot of work done in a short period of time. I've run a marathon before, and I'm pretty sure that I was more tired after walk-mowing approaches in world record time that day. Because of the (highly-organized) scramble that took place that morning, Chad and I didn't have time to visit with most attendees, but we hope that you enjoyed your round and the accompanying food. Despite the brisk start, it turned out to be pleasant early fall day, and between the burgers, brats, chicken wings, and ribs, it's safe to say that it was your own fault if you left hungry. Really, the only thing that was missing was my golf game, but that's nothing new.

What's new is the schedule for the 2011 PAR 4 Research auction; more on that later. I know what you're thinking, "Yes, more fundraiser talk. Why do I read this column again?" In last year's inaugural auction, your generous donations raised nearly \$8,700 for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund. While my fellow PAR 4 committee members and I definitely consider the first year to be a success, we know that

the auction is capable of raising significantly more money. To those who donated to this year's auction, thank you, and we hope that you will be able to provide a donation for 2011 as well. If you weren't able to provide a contribution this year, please strongly consider donating to next year's auction.

Certainly, we understand that not all clubs are able to donate golf rounds and that some may have concerns with auction winners causing a ruckus at their course. However, after hearing of no problems in year one, it seems as if the auction appeals to die-hard, respectful golfers who simply use it to get discounted golf or to play at courses that are normally inaccessible.

Now, back to what's new for 2011. Most importantly, the auction dates have been moved up to April 1-10 to coincide with the Masters. This means that we will be hounding you for donations even earlier, and we're asking to have the donations by March 21, 2011. Yeah, that seems like it's a long time away, but we would love to see your donations as early as possible. The earlier they get in, the easier advertising becomes and the less we have to harass you. As you can see, lots and lots of early donations helps us all win.

That's enough soliciting for now. Have a good winter, and get those donations in. Ok, now I'm done (for the time being).

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