

Par 4 Round 3

By Jake Schneider, Assistant Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

If there's one thing that I'm good at, it's begging, and if there are two things that I'm good at, the second one has yet to be discovered. So, let's just get this out of the way...

Please, please, please, please consider donating to the 3rd annual PAR 4 Research auction (please)!

For any newbies, PAR 4 Research raises funds for turfgrass and environmental research at UW-Madison through the online auctioning of donated golf rounds and other, golf-related items. In the first two years, over \$19,000 has been donated to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund from the auction's proceeds. Based on the bidding that's taken place over the past two years, it's become apparent that there's significant demand for these items and that the success of the auction is limited by number of donations that are received. Last year, only 25% of the WGCSA member courses submitted donations, and I think that we can do better than that.

As was done last year, this year's auction is slated to coincide with the Masters tournament and will be from April 1-9. Donations are needed by March 21, but the earlier that you get your donation in, the better that we're all able to hype the auction to potential bidders.


Once again, we are hoping that Steve Stricker will agree to be the face of the auction. I think that it's a testament to the WGCSA and to the cause that PAR 4 supports that one of the most successful and recognizable golfers in the world has supported

our efforts. Personally, when promoting the auction to Blackhawk's members, I was proud to note the affiliation between our organization and Mr. Stricker.

Certainly, the PAR 4 committee recognizes that not all clubs are able to donate due to policies that are outside of our control, but if that isn't the case, ask your decision makers to consider

making a donation to a cause that has, and will continue to, improve your bottom line and your course conditioning. Within the WGCSA dues renewal notice that was mailed out, there are three letters that pertain to the auction: a donation form, a letter intended for your own use, and a letter that was written to address your course's decision maker(s). If you've misplaced these documents, they are easily accessible for printing or downloading on the WGCSA homepage (wgcsa.com).

It's pretty remarkable that little old Wisconsin has one of the strongest turfgrass research institutions in the world, but we must not become complacent in what we have. The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and WGCSA are big reasons for the continued

viability of both the O.J. Noer Research Facility and the UW program, and it's difficult to imagine not having either. Please, secure a donation for the 2012 PAR 4 Research online auction and help keep Wisconsin's turf research programs strong for years to come. 



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