

## Resounding Success at Ozaukee

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

Colin Seaberg, his crew and all the staff of Ozaukee Country Club conducted one of the finest WTA Golf Fundraisers this past October. The course could not have been more enjoyable or in more fabulous shape. The greens were lightning fast, the fairways thick and tight, bunkers consistent, and everything else proved a perfect example of great course management.

The trees were in peak autumn color and the weather was perfect with temps near 80° with no wind and sunny skies. Everything came together to give everyone a most enjoyable round of golf near the end of the season.

The fundraiser was enjoyed by an even 100 golfers at this year's event. The other beneficiary of the day was the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fund-raiser's long history, proceeds have gone directly to support turf research and more recently to

fund the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Beginning two years ago, proceeds have gone to the Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund that was created to support ever more turfgrass research initiatives.

The golf fundraiser generated nearly \$10,000 this year thanks to the Ozaukee CC members donating the use of their club for an unbelievably low fixed cost. The participants and hole sponsors likewise contributed to making the day a financial success.

Ozaukee County Club was incorporated in 1922 with play starting later that summer. The course designed by Ted Moreau and William Langford hosted the 1929 Western Open Championship which was won by Tommy Armour.

Host Superintendent Colin Seaberg entered the golf industry like many of us by looking for a summer job. Needing to pay his parents back for some borrowed funds

from his Freshman year at Michigan State University the only job Seaberg could find was at Grand Traverse Resort working for a Jim Bluck. Jim took Colin under his wings and took the time to show him the ins and outs of course maintenance. According to Colin, Bluck was a terrific individual and continued to teach him new tasks, "all while looking past my personal limitations." "I screwed a lot of things up that year!"

Because of that Colin's experience working for Bluck he fell in love with the industry and the people working within it. His love of the field was not immediate as it took a five year stint working in a pie factory before Seaberg came back to the golf industry.

Colin finds one of his biggest challenges is trying to communicate to the membership how much time, effort and material it takes to maintain the golf course to expected conditioning.

### Member 9 With Colin Seaberg

1. **First Vehicle?** *1965 Chevrolet Impala SS*
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** *Toro Procore 648/864*
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** *23.4 (indexing up!)*
4. **Current Vehicle?** *2004 Dodge Ram 1500*
5. **Favorite TV Show?** *Dextra, Shameless, Detroit Sports Teams*
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** *Detroit Lions*
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** *Lasagna*
8. **Pets?** *3 Dogs, 2 Cats, 2 Guinea Pigs (I call it the Seaberg Zoo!, but havent been able to sell any tickets yet.)*
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** *Personal relationships and camaraderie.*



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- SAS Management
- SentryWorld
- Soldat Family
- Syngenta
- Tom & Sandy Schwab
- Turfgrass Disease Lab
- Wausau Country Club
- Wayne Horman
- Westmoor Country Club



A Ticket Booth From The 1929 Western Open Sits Near The 3rd Tee.



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# COVER STORY



**Top Left: Monroe Miller, WTA Executive Director accepts a check from Dustin Riley on behalf of the WGCSA Par4 Research Fundraiser.**

**Top Right: Host Superintendent Colin Seaberg.**

**Left: Josh Lepine lets one go off the tee.**

**Bottom: Dan Quast, Craig Haltom, Paul Huebner, and Craig Filley**





# COVER STORY



**Top Left: Preparations on Hole 10.**

**Left: Deep bunker protecting the 3rd green.**

**Below left: 392 Yard Par 4 3rd Hole.**

**Bottom Left: Approach Mowing on 435 Yard Par4 10th.**

**Bottom Right: 188 Yard Par 3 16th Hole.**

**Below Right: Bridge on Hole 7.**

**Top Right: Old set of rollers ready for work.**





# COVER STORY

This challenge comes to light during the budget process when the staff is asked to hold or cut expenses without any corresponding repercussions on the course.

Colin expressed he feels very fortunate to have acquired the staff members he has to work with. He is sure to tell members there may be staffs as good as his but none are better. Working with Colin are:

- **Karl Wehausen**, aka "The Silver Fox", Assistant Superintendent
- **Brett Hosler**, Assistant Superintendent.
- **Dan Dommer**, Equipment Manager.
- **Mark Bednarek**, Club Horticulturist.

The day was not all about raising research money. It was full of fun events too. The main event of the day was a four person best ball tournament.

## The Winners Were:

**1st Place** - Darrin DiChristopher, Steve Fisher, Chris Goodwick, and Joe Brown

**2nd Place** - Tom Wentz, Mark Wentz, Mike Skenandore, Trygve Ekern

**Middle Place** - Dave Kloss, Jim Hasz, Scott Bartosh, Dominic Frese

**Hardest Working Place** - Karl Wehausen, Ryan Rusch, Dan Dammer, Marcus Verdun

## Skills Event Winners:

Longest Drive # 5 - Tim Schmidt

Longest Putt # 7 - Ryan Rethetzford


Closest to Hole # 9 - Scott Bushman

Shortest Drive # 10 - Jon Hegge

Closest to Hole # 16 - Josh Hounsell

Longest Putt # 18 - Randy DuPont

There were other fun events both on and off the course. The most significant was a drawing for an Ipad II Computer with Mark Kienert from Bull's Eye CC taking home the prize. Additionally there was a door prize giveaway where every participant took home something, many prizes being worth more than the registration fee.

The day could not have been so successful without everyone's help including all the participants, door prize donors, hole sponsors, volunteers, and especially the golf course staff and Ozaukee Country Club members. The WTA is so fortunate to having everyone pull together to make the day perfect. Thank you to all the players and sponsors and we cannot wait until next year. 



**Top Left:** The Ozaukee Country Club clubhouse behind the 411 Yard Par4 11th Hole.

**Left:** The maintenance facility like many is a barn left over from many years ago.

**Top Right:** The 442 yard Par4 8th Hole is rightly named "Oak Grove".