

Worth The Wait - WTA Fundraiser At Maple Bluff Country Club

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

It's been 28 years since the WTA Golf Fundraiser last visited Maple Bluff Country Club. Superintendent Tom Harrison hosted the 4th ever WTA fundraiser there on September 30th, 1985. I still remember that fun golf event despite the cold weather and occasional snowflakes that fell. Superintendent Josh LePine made up for that weather this year when he hosted the 34th edition of the fundraiser with weather in the low 70s, slight wind, and clear blue skies.

Everything was first rate in addition to the weather. 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. Josh, his crew, and everyone at Maple Bluff went all out to make our experience the very best.

There were 134 participants this year. Ten more and the course would have been maxed out. That along with more Hole Sponsors than ever before helped push the fundraising to a record of over \$13,000. The ultimate beneficiary of those funds is the turf industry. All the funds raised support the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fundraiser'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 three years ago, proceeds have gone to the Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund that was created to support ever more turfgrass research initiatives.

It should be mentioned that a big contributing factor to the record fundraising was Maple Bluff Country Club giving up their course for a very low fixed cost. We thank the membership for being so kind and hospitable.

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 golf tournament.

The event winners were:

1st Place: Joel Peterson, Chad Kirchen, Tony Herrera, Brandon Correll
Middle Place: Bob Lohmann, Todd Quinton, Matt Lohmann, Grant Rundblade

Hardest Working Place: Tim Rebholz, Dave VonBehren, Matt Berger

Other golf winners in the Skills Events:

Closest to Hole #6	Tony Hudzinski
Closest to tree #7	Brandon Burns
Longest Drive #9	Grant Rundblade
Closest to Pin #11	Patrick Reuterman
Closest to pin in two #16	Mike Lyons
Longest Putt #18	John Bailey

There were other fun events both on and off the course. The most significant was a drawing for an Apple iPad tablet with Wayne Horman 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.



Team Bremmer, Goninen, Grimm, Strain readying for battle. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Team Burris being carried by the purple man. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Brother Chuck attempting to keep his ball dry on the 6th. (Photo by Tom Schwab)

NOTES FROM THE NOER



Mike Moschkau spending a day at the beach. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Mark Livingston tries to get er back in play. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Beth Duschack putting on a clinic for her foursome. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



All smiles from team Riley, Van Herynen, Bartosh, and Brandenburg. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Representing Lawn Care, team Kurth can play some mean golf. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Thanks for the wonderful golf course conditions team Maple Bluff. (Photo by Tom Schwab)

NOTES FROM THE NOER

Thanks to our Hole Sponsors

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Top: The Par 3 205 yard 6th hole

Below: The Par 4 382 yard 18th hole
(Grass Roots Photo)



Marathon man Jake discusses business with WTA president Paul Huggett. (Photo by Tom Schwab)



Our host Josh LePine, in red, chatting with another WTA Golf Fundraiser host Chad Grimm. (Photo by Tom Schwab)