

country do not have them.

WGCSA members can be proud of the support they give to university research and support of the Wisconsin golf industry. The members in attendance approved the scholarship and research donations for 2008 shown on page 39.

The meeting finished with the election of officers and the passing of the presidential gavel. Past President Marc Davison's last duty as a board member was to run the election process. Elected as officers for one-year terms were President Dustin Riley, Oconomowoc CC, Vice President Brian Zimmerman, Milwaukee Count Parks, Treasurer Jeff Millies, Edgewood GC, Secretary Matt Schmitz, The Bruce Company. Chad Harrington, Autumn Ridge GC, was re-elected to a two-year term as director while Mark Storby, Oneida Golf & CC was elected to his first two-year term. Other board members include Past President Mike Lyons, Old Hickory CC, Director Jim Van Herwynen, South Hills Golf & CC and Director David Swift, Whistling Straights GC.

President Riley's first official act was to appoint Brett Grams, Waupaca Sand and Solutions as Industry Liaison replacing David Oberele, BASF who served two years. Thank you to Marc Davison and David Oberele for your service.

The WGCSA Legacy Scholarship Program started in 2005 to award three \$500 scholarships. The winners for 2007 are.

- Maggie Janzen, daughter of Roy Jansen, superintendent at High Cliff GC in Sherwood, WI. Studying Business at UW-Oshkosh.
- Melissa Kehoss, daughter of Bill Kehoss, superintendent at Timberstone Golf Course in Kingsford, Michigan. Studying to be a Medical Office Specialist at Bay West.
- Lydia Stuebs, daughter of Gregory Stuebs, superinten-

dent at Branch River CC in Two Rivers, WI. Studying Athletic Training/Pre-Physical Therapy.

Congratulations to the students and their parents.

While we are on the theme of change, let's talk weather. The old saying goes, "in Wisconsin if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute and it will change. A cold snowy December ended the golf season for all of us in a quick way. I for one appreciated the opportunity to close without receiving any complaints.

Just when it looked like we were in for an old fashioned winter a quick warm up the in early January melted the snow for the southern half of Wisconsin. Temperatures near 70 for many by the southern border led to rare January tornadoes on Jan 7. Fortunately, no one

was killed in the eight reported touchdowns although a great deal of damage was done. This is only the second time since 1844 Wisconsin has seen a January touchdown, with the other time being 1967.

The freeze thaw patterns have left some ice on golf course through the middle of the state, where the snow partially melted. Fortunately, the turf had time to harder off again before the deep freeze we had the third week of January. Time will tell if the ice will cause damage but one thing is for sure; the weather will change again before spring.

Change and the opportunity for change are all around us as the short days of winter start making way for the longer days of spring. Make the most of what remains of our "slow time."

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A USGA Championship Comes to the Badger State

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

June 16 to 21, 2008 will be the beginning of what the Wisconsin golf community hopes is a long relationship between Erin Hills Golf Course in Hartford, WI and the United States Golf Association. The Scottish links style golf course will be hosting the USGA's Womens Amateur Public Links Championship.

Erin Hills was awarded this national event by the USGA even before the course opened for play. That honor, the first of its kind speaks volumes for the layout designed by Dr. Mike Hurdzan, Dana Fry and Ron Whitten.

The Women's Amateur Public Links has a history with the Badger State that started in 1977 when the inaugural event was held at Madison's Yahara Hills East Golf Course. The tournament visited Wisconsin at Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point in 1986. At Sentry World Cindy Schreyer beat Wisconsin's own Vicki Goetz-Ackerman who was just 13 at the time. Goetz-Ackerman would go on to join the LPGA tour in 1994 after a great collegiate golf career at Georgia.

The Women's Public Links starts with 36 holes of stroke play to determine the top 64 and seating for the 6 rounds of match play to determine the winner. Only those players at the top of their game survive the 9 rounds to be crowned champion in the 36 hole final.

Erin Hills has been praised as a terrific Scottish links style layout. For those of you lucky enough to hear Dr. Hurdzan at the WTA Winter EXPO you realize what a special piece of property owner Bob Lang provided. Only 4 holes on the 600 acre property had major earth work done. When you consider the amount of work it takes just to revise a hole, it is amazing to consider the lack of work done at Erin Hills.

Watching Dr. Hurdzan's slide show I was amazed to see how many of the fairways were left natural. Roundup was sprayed in the native grasses, irrigation installed and new grasses seeded into the existing canopy. Most of the rolling terrain with its ridges and hollows were naturally carved during the last ice age.

According to owner Bob Lang the "star" of Erin Hills is the contrast of the grass varieties and the sea of fescue that surround every hole.

It's hard to highlight all the special features of Lang's golf only property. The natural layout offers awesome views of the Basilica of Holy Hill just a few miles away. If the views are not enough players need to bring their A-games if they want to play the back tees at 8,200 yards.

Overseeing this unique property is Golf Course



A natural green site before construction.



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Superintendent Jeffery Rottier. Maintaining a special golf course and hosting a national championship is a big challenge for a superintendent but Jeff has the experience if not the age. His resume includes;

- Whistling Straits - Straits Course, New Haven, WI Assistant Superintendent
- Michigan State Turfgrass Disease Lab, Student lab Assistant
- Meland Golf Klubb, Bergan, Norway, Student Intern
- Bos Landen Golf Resort, Pella, Iowa, Crewleader
- Horseshoe Bay Golf resort, Austin, TX, Crewmember

Jeff is from Central Iowa where he was attracted to golf course employment for free golf as many of us were. A graduate of Michigan States Golf Course Turf Management Program in 2001, Jeff choose a great career path.

With tournament experience from working at the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits and volunteering at the 2002 PGA Championship and the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, the USGA is comfortable that Rottier will have Erin Hills ready for the world's best amateur women players.

Coming on board early in the construction allowed Jeff the opportunity to see the property in its original condition. One of his goals at Erin Hills is respecting the natural feel of the property and staying in tune with nature while maintain the fine fescue with as little input of products as possible.



A natural view of Erin Hills.



The finished fairway looks just like the pre-construction picture with a flag

The national golf community is excited with talk that if the Womens Public Links goes well, Erin Hills will be in line for a United States Amateur and possibly a US Open in the near future..

Wisconsin is fortunate to have among our many great golf courses, and an above average number of facilities ideal for national championships. With Whistling Straits already scheduled to host two more PGA Championships in 2010 and 2015 along with the Ryder Cup in 2020 Wisconsin's "major" future looks bright.

The Women's Amateur Public Links Championship is open to the

public at no charge. It is a rare opportunity to see United States best women golfers right in our backyard. Take the family and have a memorable time in the June sun. ♣

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