

Our 11th Annual Pay It Forward Charity Challenge

The weather shone upon our August 1st and 2nd charity event on Thornberry Creek at Oneida's Iroquois course. This 9-hole gem is ideal for all 3 eras of hickory golf: feathery, gutty, and Haskell Ball.

Playing from traditional sand buckets and specially cut holes in front of the regular greens, most of the 25 players embraced the special event by dressing in clothing representing the eras.



On Saturday, the participants battled it out in three divisions, Gutter Open Championship, Braid Limited Flight or Haskell in the scramble division.

Nine competed in the Open Division where a past champion, Ernie Ernst (2) , posted a hickory course record 72 and emerged with the trophy; Don Madelung (3) enjoyed a fine day of golf in the Braid Division, with a nice 84, and 6 scramble teams fought fiercely for the coveted Argentine wine. At the end of the day, Teddy and Nancy Stevenson (left side, 4) edged Mike and Leanne Brown by a single stroke, 77 to 78.



Then, it was off to Jim “Wally” and Judy’s home a scant 4 minutes away. Everyone was in a wonderful mood as they shared many tales (some of which were true) and enjoyed a bountiful buffet. Chef Connor Dunning prepared his tasty BBQ and dessert was highlighted by Shirley Ernst’s “killer brownies.”

The hickory celebration continued with the iconic group photo followed by a special awards ceremony.



Wally recognized four who have contributed over and beyond to the growth of hickory the last twenty years. The recipients were Doc Eike, Ernie Ernst, Ken Holtz and our beloved photographer and organizer, Jenn Koss Conger.



Festivities concluded with Priceless Prizes for Everyone. Gratitude to Teddy Stevenson and Dan Norstedt for contributing priceless prizes from their private collections.

As our players dispersed, all eyes looked ahead to Sunday's 5th Annual *333 Auld Gawf* historic 3 hour challenge.

Ten contestants played the 3 one-shotter holes with Lane Featheries; 3 two-shotter holes with the McIntyre Gully or Braid; and 3 three-shotter holes with the McIntyre Brown or JH Taylor ball or other suitable low compression modern ball.

The lead zig-zagged throughout the day but when the last putt was holed, Patrick Zinuticz emerged with the coveted trophy. "PZ", as he is known, had established a 333 course layout record of 79. Keith Hanson, affectionately known as "The Bandit.", was six shots back.

Our Wisconsin Hickory Players thank our Thornberry Pro Matt Nadeau and Superintendent Bryan Wasilewski, along with their respective teams, for their continued support.