

20TH Annual Top O' the Day Tee-Off



By Kimberly Cook

Event organizers couldn't have asked for nicer weather for the 20th Annual Top O' the Day Tee-Off Golf Scramble. The North Dakota Water Education Foundation (NDWEF) and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District hosted the scramble at CrossRoads Golf Course in Carrington to raise funds for the Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources Scholarship Endowment. Scholarship funds honor two North Dakota water giants, Russell Dushinske and Warren Jamison, who are remembered for their distinguished service, dedicated leadership and lifelong devotion to water development in North Dakota.

Students whose families have taken an active role in state water resource management and are attending a North Dakota college or university are eligible to apply for one of four \$1,500 scholarships awarded each year.

The 20th annual event attracted 130 golfers, vying for top finishes and prizes donated by 20 generous sponsors who filled the course with contests and promotional items. The day ended with dinner and an awards ceremony at the CrossRoads clubhouse recognizing the first-, third- and 20th-place teams, as well as contest winners featured at many of the holes.

Tyler and Ashley Reisenauer and Arick and Sabrina Scherr brought home bragging rights and first-place prizes by shooting a 56.



“We are so grateful to the tournament sponsors, planners, golfers and workers that make this tourney a success,” Diane Jamison-Richards said. “I’m so appreciative of all the participants who help keep this scholarship alive.”

Hole contests across the course provide a bit of additional friendly competition for the day. The lucky winners are as follows:

Individual Contest Winners

- Shortest Drive (Men) – Brad Carstensen
- Closest to Pin 2nd Shot – Arick Scherr
- Longest Drive (Women) – Jane VanRay
- Longest Drive (Men) – Alan Walter
- Closest to Pin 2nd Shot – Tyler Reisenauer
- Shortest Drive (Women) – Shayla Diede
- Longest Putt – Sabrina Scherr

A genuine thank you goes to the generous sponsors of the 20th Top O’ the Day Tee-Off, as their participation is vital to the success of the scramble. Many of these sponsors also provided door prizes or games of chance out on the course:

- AE2S (Marshmallow Putt)
- American Pipe
- Apex Engineering Group
- Bank Forward
- Bartlett & West, Inc. (Ax Throwing)
- Bessette Motors
- Black & Veatch
- Burian & Associates, LLC (Chipping Contest)
- Carstensen Contracting, Inc.
- Dakota Central (Jenga)
- Dwyer Law Office
- First International Bank & Trust
- Garney Construction
- HDR
- ND Irrigation Association (Estimation Game)
- ND Rural Water Systems Association
- Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc.
- David & Connie Sprynczynatyk
- Ulteig
- Vogel Law Firm



Jim, Hayden and Hudson Schmitz, along with Pierson Painter, were the third-place team, coming in with a score of 59.



Twentieth place honors were secured with a score of 66 by Clay and Kristin Larson, Dennis Freeman and Dan Miller.

Garrison Diversion Awards Water Supply Assistance Grants

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program also aids municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"Garrison Diversion is helping to provide a better quality of life for our citizens and strengthen our rural communities through the Water Supply Assistance Grant program," says Geneva Kaiser, chair of Garrison Diversion's MR&I Committee. "This program is an excellent example of giving back to our district."



In August, the MR&I Committee awarded \$73,155 to 11 water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use. Additionally, one municipality received \$1,080 to assist with extraordinary OM&R.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- Cass Rural Water District - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- East Central Regional Water District - \$29,500 for three customer hookups
- McKenzie County Water Resource District - \$14,908 for three customer hookups
- McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District - \$3,424 for two customer hookups
- Stutsman Rural Water District - \$15,350 for two customer hookups
- City of McVille - \$1,080 for extraordinary OM&R

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is May 1. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at www.garrisondiversion.org.

