

The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame is located at The Glen Club, in Glenview, Ill. Plaques, trophies, photographs, and other related memorabilia make up a first-class tribute to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the game both in Illinois and throughout the world.

MIDWEST ~ *The Golf Wish Universal Gift Card Program Increases Midwest Reach*

The age-old question of what do you get the golfer who has everything just got a little easier thanks to an innovative idea that was born in the Midwest. Simply put, **The Golf Wish Card** is the industry's first universal gift card that can be redeemed at a bevy of top-notch properties and businesses from coast to coast. Honestly, this is the perfect gift for those who love to travel and have cool goals such as playing golf in all 50 states. With over 50 courses participating throughout the county, the nation is now your golf course.



"The Golf Wish was born out of a passion for golf and a desire to help foster the golfing industry by driving more business to golf courses and facilities throughout the United States. After searching unsuccessfully for a universal golf gift card as a holiday or birthday gift for various golf enthusiasts in our lives, the brainstorm idea to start this business was founded," explained Michele Minten, CEO of The Golf Wish, Inc.

For the consumer, the gift cards can easily be purchased from their website (www.thegolfwish.com) in denominations ranging from \$25 to \$500. Their gift cards are used like cash at their partner golf courses and businesses for greens fees, golf lessons, golf apparel, equipment, and golf performance training – essentially everything golf related. This premise gives the gift recipient the gift of choice for their golfing needs.

The Golf Wish card can be redeemed at such perennial top Midwestern courses as Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa and Cog Hill in Illinois, The Bog and The Orchards GC in Wisconsin, and TreeTops Resort, The Otsego Club, and A-Ga-Ming Golf Resort in Michigan. This idea is so sweet, I'd better start dropping hints for my birthday in May.

WISCONSIN ~ *New Owner, General Manager Readies Erin Hills for 2011 Men's U.S. Amateur*

These certainly are heady times for the highly-acclaimed **Erin Hills Golf Course** in Erin, WI. Not only is the 8100 yard Hurdzan/Fry designed links-style behemoth preparing to host the 2011 Men's U.S. Amateur, but it is on a very exclusive list of courses hoping to receive the 2017 U.S. Open. Guiding Erin Hills forward is their brand new owner, **Andrew Ziegler**, co-founder and CEO of the institutional investment firm Artisan Partners Limited Partnership, and recently appointed President/COO **Rich Tock**. Tock brings over 30 years experience to the position, including his last 21 at the prestigious Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon, WI. "I left a wonderful job at Ozaukee CC, but the enticement at Erin Hills was to host a U.S. Amateur and hopefully a U.S. Open. To take this piece of property and grow with it for the next 8-10 years is pretty exciting," stated Tock.

In late October 2009 Ziegler purchased Erin Hills from its original owner and golf steward, Bob Lang. Lang found 650 untouched acres in rural Washington County in 1999 and has since created a pure, untamed golf experience that quickly ranked as one of nation's top new properties. Starting in the fall of 2008, Erin Hills has undergone renovations in preparation for the 2011 U.S. Amateur on 14 of the 18 holes. During this offseason, the par-5 10th hole is being converted into a par-4, therefore making Erin Hills a symmetrical par-72 layout.

When the course reopens on August 1st, 2010, Erin Hills will become a walking-only facility in preparation for the 2011 U.S. Men's Amateur. For more information on Erin Hills, visit their website at www.erinhills.com or call their golf shop at (262) 670-8600.



Photo courtesy of Paul Hundley