



WISCONSIN TURFGRASS NEWS

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WINTER 1995

1995 EXPO BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

By Tom Schwab

The 1995 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO was the exemplar event turf professionals in the Midwest have become accustomed to. The attendance, educational scope, and display of equipment, supplies and services continues to get better every year. And Bigger! The number of exhibitors increased to 60 compared to 38 at last year's Expo, and attendance exceeded 600! Some of the classrooms were as full as they could be.

The roster of speakers was once again superlative. The planning committee of Joe Bilskemper, Bill Olson, Terry Kurth, Greg Youngs, Wayne Horman, Chris Wendorf, Bill Vogel, Ed Devinger, Jim Huggett, Brian Swingle, Dan DeVault, and

Drs. Rossi, Kussow and Meyer outdid themselves. The conference started out with an introduction from WTA President Curt Larson followed by Research Reports from our own U.W. Turf Group. Then at noon came the Awards Luncheon. Members and organizations were very generous again with their gifts to turf students and the WTA. Scholarships were awarded to Chris Kerkman from the WGCSA; Jeff Barlow, Chris Kleinsmith, Jess Taagen, and Josh Lepine from WTA; Kevin Henriksen from AgrEvo; and Todd Fregien from Spring Valley. Donations to WTA general fund were given by the Reinders Bros.' Daconil promotion, WGCSA, Wisconsin Sod Growers, Horst

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1995 WISCONSIN TURFGRASS and GREENSCAPE EXPO- EXHIBITORS

AgrEvo
Aimcor/Profile
American Sod Corporation
Aquatic Biologists
C R M Ecosystems
Cannon Turf Supply Inc.
Century Rain Aid
Chipco Specialty Products
Ciba Turf and Ornamentals
Clifford Sales and Marketing
Club Car Inc.
Conserv FS
Contree Sales Inc.
Data Transmissions Network
F S Seed A Division of Growmark Inc.
Glenn Rehbein Companies
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Greensmix
Hanley Company Inc.
Horst Distributing Inc.
I S K Biosciences
J W Turf
Johnson and Associates Turf Equipment
Kellogg Inc. Seed and Supplies
Knox Fertilizer Company
L L Olds Seed Company
Land Pride
Lebonon Turf Products
Lesco Inc.
Lohmann Golf Design Inc.
Mckay Nursery Company
Mechanical Soil Technology
Medalist America Turfgrass
MidAmerCo Inc.
Miles Inc.
Milorganite
Milwaukee Ford Tractor
O M Scotts Company
Par Aide Products Company
Pendleton Turf Supply Inc.
Pro Green Plus
ProLawn Inc.
Reinders
Reinders Irrigation
Rohm and Haas Company
Ryco Industries
Safety Storage Inc.
Specialty Seeds
Spring Valley Turf Products
Standard Golf Company
T J Emmerich Associates
Temporary Rain
Tiziani Golf Car Corp.
Town & Country Ford Tractor
Turf Supply Company
Tyler Enterprises
United Horticulture Supply/Cole Growers Service
Vigoro Professional Products
Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corp.
Wolosek Golf Course Mix



Big part of EXPO is exchanging ideas at the trade show.

1995 EXPO

(Continued from page 1)

Distributing, Northern Great Lakes GCSA, Ciba Geigy, Pro Lawn, High Pressure Clean and the country clubs of Edelweis, Bullseye, Stevens Point, Riverview, Fairbault, Wausau and Nakoma.

On Wednesday morning there were six in-depth workshops to choose from. The only problem with this set up was you could only attend one. With the excellent subjects, you wished you could attend them all. The afternoon's Breakout Sessions had in-depth information for everyone. Whether you had a background in golf turf, lawn and landscape turf, or grounds and sportsturf, there was a session for you. Once again,

you wished there was more time in the day so you could hear more.

What more can I say about the trade show! We were expecting 40-45 exhibitors. We got 60. The suppliers' array of information, equipment, supplies, and services (not to mention their support of the turfgrass industry) is nothing short of extraordinary. We hope you got a chance to talk with most of them and will return your support to them in the coming year.

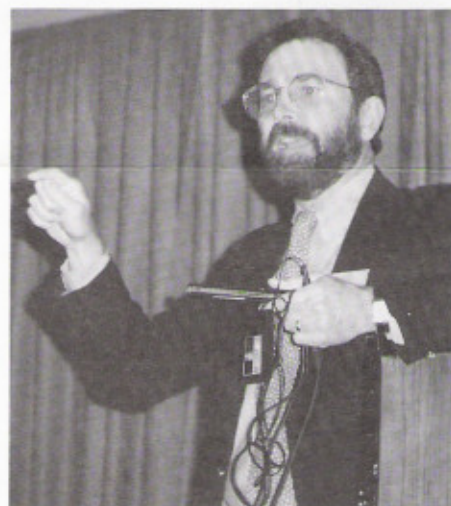
There is one more group that should be commended for the success of EXPO. That is the group of behind-the-scenes organizers that take care of the mailing lists, organize conference packets, answer questions, and do everything else to make your conference experience run smoothly. They are research specialists

Catherine Smejkal and Henry Berg, Noer/WTA secretary Audra Anderson, and a handful of UW-Madison turf students. Join me in giving them a big "Thank You."

EXPO 1995 will go down in the books as being a success. But you can also be assured, it will be evolving. We have already reserved 1/3 more exhibit space for the trade show next year and will be moving the date a week later in January. We had to do this so that the people who attend next year's bowl game would also be able to attend EXPO. There is a dream of some year seeing it become a three day conference to encompass more education. With how fast urban agriculture is expanding, as seen from this year's attendance, EXPO 1996 may be bursting at the seams again.



A crowded awards luncheon.



Dr. Lee Burpee offered current turf disease management strategies.



Dr. Wayne Kussow with WTA scholarship recipients.



WTA President Curt Larson offers a warm welcome at opening session.

News from the Noer Facility

By Tom Schwab

Hello all. I'd like to introduce myself and tell you what's been going on the Noer Facility this winter. Since I've been one of your peers, managing Monroe Country Club for the last 11 years, many of you in the golf industry know I've taken over as manager of the Noer Facility. I had the pleasure of meeting non-golf industry professionals during the Summer Field Day, since I was one of the organizers of that event.

Since I became manager in December, the job has been very interesting and challenging. The first item to handle was to finalize plans for EXPO 95. There are numerous deadlines for articles in this newsletter and also the GRASS ROOTS. On my first day of work, I was informed of three speaking engagements that I am expected to make. There have been meetings with the Noer Faculty Advisors (Professor's Koval, Kussow, Rossi and Meyer), the WTA board members, and a Winter Conference with my actual employers (The UW-Madison Department of Agricultural Research Stations). I've had to learn how to run a computer, the Fax machine, and other 20th century office machines. There has been something new every day and the people I work around are all extremely helpful.

You may have heard that the Facility has outgrown itself and that we are trying to acquire 24 acres adjacent to our present 14 acres. The reasons for this expansion are numerous. The Summer Field Day has grown so much, and is still growing, that there is no room for equipment demonstration or new research. With urban agriculture expanding, many new groups, including homeowners, will be wanting to use the facility. Lastly, this facility may have to consider doing research on more than just turf-

grass. In the Ag Research Station Conference I attended, Dean Roger Wyse of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences said that all research stations are going to have to become multi-disciplinary. I took that to mean a facility like ours may have to study other disciplines such as perennial flowers, ornamental grasses, prairie species and trees. By doing this, we would expect to get funding from these other allied groups. The Noer Facility would become more of a one-stop destination for green industry questions. The feeling I've been getting is that the grant of the new land is looking pretty good; initially it would be used for low management turf studies and expansion of Field Day.

We will have to comply with the Workers Protection Standard (WPS) this year. This law is designed to protect agricultural workers from pesticide exposure. WPS applies to production agriculture, such as sod farms but also includes research farms. It doesn't include golf courses, athletic fields, parks or lawn care companies. What we have to do

is require that anyone who applies a pesticide must be certified, train anyone else working at the Facility on pesticide safety, post whenever an application is made stating specific information on that product, provide decontamination sites, and follow re-entry intervals stated on the label. If you are in an industry that has to comply with the WPS and would like to talk with me about it, please don't hesitate to call. My office phone number is (608) 845-6536, fax (608) 845-8162 or e-mail tgschwab@facstaff.wisc.edu

As you may notice in this issue, we have schedules for the WGCSA monthly meetings, WTA events, NGLGCSA Spring Conference and some meeting schedules from our suppliers. If you are a member of the WTA and have an event that would be of interest to other members, let me know and I can get it printed in the *The Wisconsin Turfgrass News*. All WTA business is now conducted at the Noer Facility, so if you have questions or comments call myself or our WTA/Administrative Assistant - Audra Anderson.



Tom Schwab, new Manager of the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility.

Kevin Henriksen Receives AgrEvo Scholarship

By Tom Schwab

John Turner, Sales Representative for AgrEvo USA Company, presented Kevin Henriksen a \$1,000.00 scholarship award at the Annual Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO in Madison, Wisconsin on January 3, 1995. Henriksen, a senior in Turf

Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was recognized for his leadership and academic achievement. The annual scholarship, sponsored by AgrEvo USA Company, assists turfgrass students in meeting their educational needs and professed interests in turfgrass management.



AgrEvo's John Turner presents Kevin Henriksen with their 1994 scholarships.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Wayne Horman

When I first attended a WTA Winter Conference, it was held at the Arlington Field Station back in 1984. That was many years ago and it didn't compare with the current Winter Conference.

Watching the turf conference attendance grow to over 600 people has been amazing. However, there are many more people from the turf industry who haven't attend for one reason or another. It is important that we have those people in attendance, and we need your help, by letting non-members know more about the WTA or helping us with educational ideas that would interest more of the turf industry.

The next few years will provide us with many challenges. As the federal and the state government continue to scale back their financial support for the University, it will become necessary to raise even more money to help continue turf research. The University cannot lose sight of a growing urban agricultural industry like turfgrass.

A special mention needs to go out to Curt Larson and Gary Zwirlein who have left the board. Both provided outstanding leadership for the WTA over the years and contributed many hours of time and effort.

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association 1994 Year End Statement

Acct #	Acct Name	Income	Expense	Net
	Balance forward January 1, 1994			87,916.90
(\$12,500 collected in '93 and reflected in balance forward)				
410	Dues paid for 1994	12,400.00		
410	Dues paid for 1995	18,438.00		
430	Contributions	21,834.75		
440	Interest	1,177.54		
450	WC '94 Registration	17,550.00		
450	WC '95 Registration	16,560.00		
455	WC '94 booth rental	18,750.00		
455	WC '95 booth rental	23,830.00		
460	SFD registration	9,375.00		
465	SFD booth rental	7,310.00		
470	Golf Outing	10,314.50		
490	Miscellaneous	2,705.00		
	Total	160,244.79		
510	Research		46,587.00	
520	Puckup		989.89	
535	Newsletter		2,290.19	
540	Research Reports		5,689.00	
550	'94 Winter Conference		25,800.36	
550	'95 Winter Conference		7,901.43	
560	'94 Summer Field Day		9,076.50	
570	Golf Outing		3,937.64	
590	Office Administration		10,240.65	
595	UW Foundation		75,000.00	
599	O.J. Noer Center		204.56	
	Total		187,717.22	
	Balance			60,447.47

** CD's in the amount of \$50,000 redeemed and rolled in checking

FERTILIZER DEMONSTRATIONS

By Dr. Wayne R. Kussow

Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fertilizer demonstrations have been conducted at the O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education facility for the past two years. Because they are demonstrations without replicated treatments, some precaution is required in how the results are used. They provide some indication of the relative effects of the fertilizers on turfgrass color. The more consistent the differences are across different grasses, cultural practices and years, the more faith one has that similar results would be seen elsewhere.

Two different types of fertilizer demonstrations are being conducted. One deals with fertilizers generally found in lawn and garden centers for sale to home owners. These have been applied at the rate of 3.0 lb N/1,000 ft² as three 1.0 lb N applications spaced about 6 weeks apart. The time of application of the first application each season was about May 15th. This 3.0 lb nitrogen rate is minimal for Kentucky bluegrass. The rate was deliberately kept low to ensure that any color differences that might develop between where clippings were removed and where the grass was mulch mowed would be apparent.

The second fertilizer demonstration involves application of some 28 fertilizers normally available only to professional turf managers. To simulate golf course fairway conditions, the fertilizers were applied at the rate of 0.5 lb N/1,000 ft² /month.

As you study the color ratings given in the following tables, you'll note that the ratings were generally higher in 1994 than in 1993. There are two reasons for this. One is the fact that no N other than that in starter fertilizer was applied in 1992. The second reason is that 1993 was an extremely wet year. By October of that year, rainfall was 15 inches above normal. This excessive amount of rain undoubtedly increased N losses via denitrification and leaching. Because of the difference in the two seasons, it is particularly interesting to note which fertilizers performed reasonably well both years.

In 1995, the N rate on the mulch mowed home fertilizer demonstration plots will be reduced by 1/3 to 2.0 lb per season. The purpose is to see if the same turfgrass color develops under these conditions as when 3.0 lb of N are applied and the clippings removed. Why not come to the 1995 Summer Field Day and see for yourself?

Average color ratings of Kentucky bluegrass treated with fertilizers sold in lawn and garden centers: Clippings removed vs mulch mowing.

Fertilizer	Clippings removed		Mulch mowed	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
<u>Synthetic N carriers</u>				
Scotts 29-3-4	7.04	7.44	7.14	7.60
Scotts 19-3-12	7.09	7.28	7.23	7.52
Shur-Green 27-3-3	7.61	7.76	7.72	8.03
Tru-Green 28-4-8	7.70	7.80	7.81	8.11
<u>Natural organic N</u>				
Scotts 14-3-6	7.64	7.48	7.77	7.65
Scotts 9-2-4	6.99	7.25	7.12	7.35
Lawn Restore 9-4-4	7.14	7.29	7.26	7.44
Lawn Fixer 9-2-1	6.87	7.20	7.04	7.44
Milorganite 6-2-0	7.11	7.18	7.19	7.23
Nature's Best 10-1-4	6.92	7.20	7.04	7.44
Lorganic-8 8-0-0	—	7.30	—	7.49
Hynite 11-0-0	6.90	—	7.08	—
AgGrand 2-1-1	—	6.45	—	6.65
<u>Synthetic + Natural</u>				
Spring Valley 22-1-3	7.19	7.53	7.26	7.79
Spring Valley 25-1-7	7.08	7.35	7.18	7.52

Average color ratings of Kentucky bluegrass and creeping bentgrass treated with professional turf fertilizers.

Fertilizer	Kentucky bluegrass		Creeping bentgrass	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
<u>ParEx</u>				
31-0-0 F	6.65	7.31	7.04	7.45
31-0-0 C	6.75	7.27	6.95	7.31
19-0-20	6.89	7.34	7.09	7.36
24-4-12	7.08	7.69	7.26	7.61
11-2-5	6.87	7.27	7.04	7.29
<u>O.M. Scott</u>				
25-3-10	7.41	7.71	7.40	7.57
32-3-10 F	6.99	7.54	7.32	7.50
40-0-0	7.18	7.65	7.41	7.54
29-3-3	6.91	7.33	7.34	7.54
26-4-13	6.95	7.31	7.31	7.55
<u>Spring Valley</u>				
5-1-10	6.89	7.27	7.11	7.42
34-2-6	7.17	7.64	7.32	7.59
10-1-20	6.91	7.66	7.25	7.42
27-5-10	6.96	7.67	7.08	7.41
22-1-3	7.13	8.01	7.36	7.72
<u>Lebanon</u>				
18-5-9	7.26	7.72	7.42	7.58
18-3-12	7.02	7.50	7.30	7.45
10-18-18	7.07	7.48	7.29	7.46
29-3-5	7.28	7.63	7.39	7.68
18-3-18	7.01	7.43	7.29	7.51
<u>AgEvo</u>				
38-0-0	6.93	7.52	7.16	7.44
40-0-0	7.08	7.54	7.32	7.57
<u>Natural organic</u>				
Hou-Actinite 6-3-0	—	7.34	—	7.47
Sustane 5-2-4	6.89	7.44	7.31	7.44
Milorganite 6-2-0	7.16	7.40	7.30	7.44

The Wisconsin Turfgrass News

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Calendar of Events

March 6	WGCSA Spring Business and Educational Meeting	Fond du Lac
March 9	USGA Regional Conference	Maple Bluff CC
March 15/16	Reinders Turf Conference	Waukesha Expo Cntr
March 27	Northern Great Lakes GCSA Symposium	Rhinelanders
April 24	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Lake Arrowhead GC
May 22	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Hartford CC
June 19	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Naga-Waukee GC
July 10	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Lake Wisconsin CC
Aug 7	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	CC of Wisconsin
Aug 15	WTA SUMMER FIELD DAY	OJ NOER FACILITY
Sept 18	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	South Hills G&CC
Oct 2	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Hawthorn Hills GC
Oct 7	WGCSA Dinner Dance	Chula Vista
Nov 8/9	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	Hyatt/Milwaukee
Dec 11/12	WGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar	Fond du Lac
Jan 9/10	WI Turfgrass & Greenspace EXPO	Holiday Inn/Madison

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members call 608-845-6536 or Fax 608-845-8162 and let us include you on the next calendar.

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