

# WISCONSIN TURFGRASS NEWS

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WINTER 1997

## EXPO 1998 — The Big Event Nears

By Tom Schwab

Attention all turfgrass enthusiasts. The 1998 edition of the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO draws near. The dates are set for Tuesday and Wednesday, January 13th and 14th. You should have already received your registration packet. A registration form is included with the newsletter if you were missed or would like to pass one to a friend. The site will again be at the Holiday Inn, Madison West.

The line-up of prominent speakers will make this year's EXPO one you won't want to miss. The EXPO will have information for any and everyone who works with turfgrass. The general sessions will break into three main groups: Lawn and Landscape, Grounds and Sports Turf, and Golf.

Some of the talks will have an international flavor as they touch on subjects like California greens, Japanese snow molds, and turf for North Carolina football teams to name a few. But all the talks will include information that relates to growing and managing turfgrass in our region. Learn about development of new turfgrasses like *Poa supina* and greens type selections of *Poa annua*, or learn how to choose some of the best Kentucky bluegrass cultivars from the scads of choices available to you. There will be a wealth of ideas on topics covering all stages of sports field management, greens construction, and nutrient management for lawn care. You may also learn about growing grass under trees and in covered stadiums where low light conditions exist. Plant growth regulator use will be explored and numerous experts will reveal how to manage different turfgrass diseases.



The Holiday Inn is a great venue for the large trade show.

There will be some reviews of the past, analysis of the present, and glimpses of the future in turf management. One talk will reveal the "real story" on "turf and the environment." Other talks will share how to increase profits and client satisfaction, how to identify and manage snow molds, inform you about pesticide laws, and update you on the newly forming Wisconsin Sport Turf Managers Association.

Do you want more? How about a 30,000 square foot trade show with 65 different exhibitors! Learn about all the products and equipment that you may need for the coming year. The people working in the booths always have practical turf management tips that will make your work easier and more productive. Remember that your registration fee will include lunch on both days and a nice hospitality gathering on Tuesday.

Mark your calendars for EXPO 98. This event is the largest gathering of Wisconsin



Past WTA President Wayne Horman accepts turf research gift from Wisconsin Turf Equipment, Curt Larson presenting, at EXPO 97.

turf professionals of the year. You may contact the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's administrative secretary, Audra Anderson, for more information. Her numbers are 608-845-6536, fax 608-845-8162, or E-mail [ajander2@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@facstaff.wisc.edu). See you in January.



# Summer Field Day 1997; The Effort Was Great

By Tom Schwab

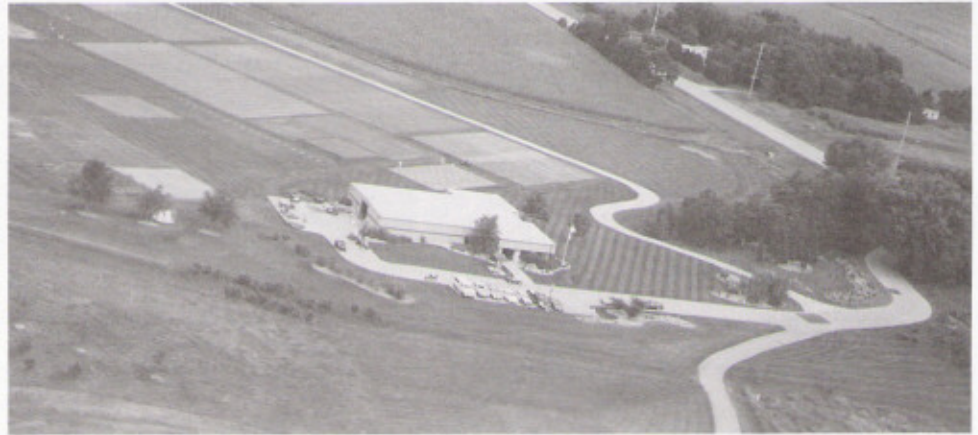
The amount of effort put into Field Day 1997, on August 19th and 20th was commendable. The Field Day planning committee and the UW-Madison Turf Group really let the stops out to make the education as valuable as possible. Additionally the trade show was large and well staffed so that you could explore any equipment or supplies you may ever need. Attendees shared good camaraderie and got many of their questions answered from the educational tours, the trade show, and also by just roaming the facility looking at plots.

A few new ideas were tried for 1997. The field day was a two-day event for the first time since it was started 15 years ago. The trade show was also moved to a larger location on the Noer Facility grounds. Lastly, more signs and marking paint were used on the plots than ever before for people that wanted to take a self-guided tour.

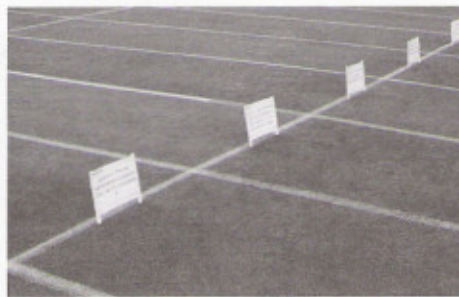
The two-day format was attempted to make the field day available to more people. The first day was more of an afternoon show and the second day geared more to morning. This flexible format with more options hoped to attract people that were busy one day and not the other or people that couldn't come a certain time of day but could another. Unfortunately the number of attendees was less than previous years despite the change. The weather was not the best this year either, with cool and drizzly conditions, perhaps contributing to keeping the on-site registration low. As a result, the planning committee has decided to go back to the one-day format and also to order nice weather next year.

The trade show was moved to a new six-acre addition at the Noer Facility. This change was needed because the trade show keeps getting bigger and the space getting smaller. The old trade show area got smaller with the addition of new research studies being located there. The larger trade show seemed to spread attendees out more which some exhibitors appreciated, saying that it gave them more individual time with customers.

Tons of effort went into signs and marking off the research. This was done to make the event more informative and better organized. It also allowed atten-



A fly-over the day before Field Day shows the facility ready for a successful event.



Rows of well laid out plots.



Spring Valley Turf products brought some impressive equipment.



Some of the distinguished guests attending Field Day were UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Executive Associate Dean Doug Maxwell, College Dean Neil Jorgenson, and Horticulture Department Chairperson Larry Binning.

dees to view the research on their own if they so wished. Many people did notice the extra effort and we were glad to hear numerous positive comments.

The planning committee is interested in any and all of your comments to make Field Day more beneficial to you. Their two main objectives are to increase attendance and to make the research more informative towards your area of turfgrass management. Write me if you have constructive criticism for making Field Day 1998 even better. The suggestions can be

anonymous or not. I'll get the suggestions to the planning committee. Send them to Tom/ Noer Turfgrass Research/ 3101 Hwy M/ Verona, WI/ 53593 or email to [tgswab@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:tgswab@facstaff.wisc.edu). Also let me know if you would like to help plan or work during the field day. You may be just the one to make the day even better. You could participate on the planning committee, help publicize the event, be a tour guide, work the auction, help the vendors and demos, organize parking, or help inform attendees about the day's agenda.

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

Your effort to help make Field Day the best ever could make the difference.

Listed below are the 1997 Summer Field Day exhibitors. They do so very much to make the field day a success every year. So please show them your gratitude by giving them your business throughout the year. Thank you.

Absorbent Technologies  
Bayer Corp  
Cannon Turf  
Century Rain Aid  
Chipco  
Conserv F/S  
Contree Sales  
DGS & Associates  
Finn Corp  
FS Seed  
Glenn Rehbein  
Great Lakes GC Products  
Greensmix  
Hanley  
Hanson & Assoc  
Horst Distributing  
IMC Vigoro  
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Johnson & Associates  
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Lebanon Turf  
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Melcher Equipment  
MidAmerCo  
Miller & Assoc  
Milorganite  
Neary Mfg  
Olds Seed  
Olsen Dist  
Par Aide Products  
Pendelton Turf Supply  
Pro Greens of the Midwest  
ProGreen Plus  
ProLawn  
Reinders  
Reinders Irrigation  
Rhody's Town & Country  
Rohm & Haas  
Scotts Co  
Soil Organics Consulting  
Sports Turf Association  
Spring Valley Turf  
Tee Shot Marketing  
Terra International  
Tiziani Golf Cars  
TJ Emmerich and Associates  
Trelay Seed Company  
United Horticultural Supply  
WDATCP  
Wisconsin Turf  
Wolosek Landscaping  
Zeneca Products



Hanley Company along with most exhibitors had lots of new innovations to talk about.

## President's Message

By Robert Erdahl, WTA President

1997 has been a year of progress for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA), the O.J. Noer Facility, and the entire Wisconsin Turfgrass industry. Some of the highlights include:

The WTA Research and Development Fund passed the \$250,000 mark in 1997. The goal of this fund is to reach one million dollars at which point the earnings on the principle will be used to fund research. The fund is managed by the UW Foundation and grows through donations by the WTA, gifts from supporters, and accumulated earnings.

A 20,000 square foot bentgrass research green was constructed at the Noer Facility. Funding was provided by the WTA, a research fund of Professor Doug Maxwell's, and a very generous donation of \$29,000 worth of construction materials from Greensmix in Waupaca.

Dr. John Stier took over as Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Management at the UW - Madison. Dr. Stier has spent the year teaching, planning his research, and getting up to speed as the head cheerleader for the turfgrass industry in Wisconsin.

Dr. Wayne Kussow, UW - Madison Soil Science Professor, continued his research at the Noer Facility on nutrient runoff, putting green management systems, and root zone amendments.

The Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL), under the direction of Jeff

Gregos, had a very successful year. Over 200 samples were analyzed, research was initiated on dollar spot, brown patch and snow mold, and an education outreach program was established. The WTA and the UW-Madison Plant Pathology Department provided funding for the TDDL. The WTA's share came from the 85 supporters that together pledged over \$19,000 per year for 1997 through 1999.

Looking ahead to 1998, one of the top priorities for the WTA and all Wisconsin turfgrass managers must be filling the position of Turfgrass Pathologist in the UW-Madison's Plant Pathology Department. This key faculty position has been vacant since June of 1996 due to bureaucratic red tape and budget cut-backs. The people you need to contact are the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (Neal Jorgensen at 608-262-1251) and the Dean of Extension (Carl O'Connor at 608-263-1096). Let them know how strongly you feel about the need to fill this position. Remember that you are a taxpayer. They work for you!

As always, thanks to the hundreds of WTA members and supporters that have contributed their time and money to improve turfgrass research and education in our great state. Your continuing support does make a difference!

Have a safe and enjoyable winter and I hope to see you at EXPO 98 in January.



# WTA Golf Fundraiser a Success Despite Weather

By Tom Schwab

The WTA fundraising golf outing had a great turnout even though the weather took a drastic turn for the worse. The two weeks before the event had temperatures breaking record highs. Unfortunately the streak couldn't last a couple more days. Fifty golfers braved the 45-degree temperatures with 20 mph winds. The weather improved for the back nine when the sun finally broke through to warm things up a little. A few golfers even admitted that the weather wasn't that bad. They must be the one's that golfed in the snow flurries when Tom Harrison was host or during the rains when Jerry Kershasky hosted some years ago. Most golfers this year were happy to retire to the extravagant and warm accommodations of the Bishop's Bay clubhouse.

Mike Semler was this year's host superintendent. He and his staff had the course in great condition. All the golfers were pleased to experience this newly opened jewel-of-a-layout on Lake Mendota's north shore. Another ten turf research supporters joined the group for dinner. Everyone was quite impressed with the residence of the late Bishop Cletus F. O'Donnell that had been renovated into the clubhouse and proshop. For dinner we were joined by the new but interim, Dean of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Neil Jorgenson, interim Executive Associate Dean, Doug Maxwell, and assistant professor of horticulture John Stier. Everyone seemed to have good times and lively conversation.

The event raised \$6100 for turf research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This money helps support projects like the new 1/2 acre plant pathology research green, programs like the Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab, and worthwhile studies that test products and practices that help you to grow healthier turfgrass, in addition to add money to the WTA Research and Development Fund. Some of the money came from registration fees but most of it came from the generous sponsors listed below. WTA would like to thank everyone that participated in the fundraiser and braved Wisconsin's unpredictable weather.



Terry Kurth giving local knowledge to Curt Winter.



Bishop's Bay provided a beautiful site with Lake Mendota in the background.



This group had lots of fun; Mark Grundman, Curt Larson, Jim Krieger, and Cubby O'Brien.



Host superintendent, Mike Semler, slams one home.



O'Brien taking a swing, his home in the background.

## Sponsors

Bayer  
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 Butte Des Morts C C  
 Cannon Turf Supply  
 Chipco / Rhone Poulenc  
 Green Bay Country Club  
 Janesville Sand & Gravel

Johnson & Associates  
 Lawn Care of Wisconsin  
 Maple Bluff Country Club  
 Miller & Associates - Sauk Prairie  
 Milorganite  
 North Shore Country Club  
 Olds Seed Company  
 Oshkosh Country Club  
 Ozaukee Country Club  
 Pendelton Turf Supply Inc  
 Rain Now  
 Reinders Irrigation  
 Reinders Turf  
 Rivermoor Country Club  
 Riverview Country Club  
 Scotts Company  
 Sentry Golf Course  
 Stevens Point Country Club  
 Sue & Jerry Kershasky  
 Tom and Dianne Schwab  
 Trout Lake Golf Course  
 Wausau Country Club  
 Wayne Horman  
 West Bend Country Club  
 Wisconsin Turf  
 Zeneca



# A New Tournament Tradition Began in 1997 Funds Raised for Turf Research and Sticks-For-Kids

By Jim Trzinski, Maintenance Director - Greensmix

A new tournament tradition was started this past September with the first annual Superintendents Championship Tournament. It was held on September 15th and 16th at the Foxfire Golf Course in Waupaca. Approximately 30 superintendents attended the two-day event where they were treated to excellent September weather, a wonderful golf course, and great food.

The tournament was initiated by Greensmix in order to provide a championship tournament format for superintendents and raise money for two worthy programs. All of the proceeds are gifted to turfgrass research at the UW-Madison through the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) and to the Stick-For-Kids Program. The WTA provides turfgrass research for developing better ways

to grow healthy turfgrass. The Sticks-For-Kids Program provides both inner-city and underprivileged children with golf clubs and opportunities to learn and participate in the game of golf. The tournament raised \$500 for each of the programs. A big thank you to the sponsors that helped make this first annual tournament a success. They were Greensmix, Milorganite, Club Car, and Reinders.

Plans for the second annual tournament are already underway. Next year the tournament will include neighboring states. Superintendents from Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and Upper Michigan will be welcomed. The broader range calls for the tournament to be renamed the Tri-State Superintendents Tournament. The 1998 tournament will be held in early August and the site will



Enjoying a day on the links — Kris Pinkerton, Ken Smith, Mike Berwick, and Dave Hill.

again be the Foxfire Golf Course in Waupaca. The same enjoyable camaraderie will be experienced. With more people participating we hope to be able to raise even more money for these programs. Hope to see you next year.

## Updates on Turfgrass Extension and Academics

By John C. Stier, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Horticulture

### Academics

I have proposed a new course in turfgrass science to be taught at the University of Wisconsin - Madison beginning autumn 1998. The course will be entitled "Advanced Turfgrass Management and Physiology". For the first year, the course number will be Horticulture 375. Thereafter, the course will be taught in alternate years (e.g., 1998, 2000, 2002). Successful completion of Horticulture 261 (Turf Management) and Soil Science 326 (Nutrient Management: Turfgrass) will be desirable prior to taking the advanced turf course. Prior coursework in botany, general soil science, and chemistry will be necessary; it will be helpful to have prior coursework in plant physiology, genetics, and business/personnel management or budgeting. The course is intended to be a "capstone" for students specializing in turf management, and will be the third turf-specific course at the UW. The intent is to continue to build a full-fledged turf program at the University of Wisconsin. The course will focus on the "whys" of turfgrass responses to the environment and how these affect, or are affected by, our management practices. Topics include light

stress physiology and management, carbohydrate production and growth relations, monitoring soil moisture, water stress physiology and management, cold/heat stress physiology and management, turf growth regulators, pesticide fate in turf, turfgrass breeding, and molecular biology in turf. A turf management project will be required for all students: students will be provided with a "situation" in the turf area of their choice (golf course, lawn care, or athletic field), and required to develop a budget, labor, and management programs for one year.

### Extension

Turf EXPO is coming quick! This year's EXPO will be held January 13th and 14th. Turf management and research presentations will be addressed for golf, lawn/landscape, and athletic field turf. A program and registration form is included in the newsletter. If you have questions about EXPO, please contact Audra Anderson at 608/845-6536.

The University of Wisconsin School of Turfgrass Management will be offered this year during the week of March 17-20. This year's format will include turfgrass identification and use, turfgrass growth and development, turf disease

identification and management, turfgrass weeds, turfgrass insects, and irrigation. It will be held at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona. Additional information (cost, speakers, etc.) will be forthcoming. Since attendance will be capped (between 30-35 people) due to space limitations, reserving your space early is not a bad idea.

Pesticide applicator training sessions for turf and ornamentals will be held on the following dates in 1998. Contact Roger Flashinski for more information at 608/263-6358.

March 5:	Milwaukee
March 10:	Chippewa Falls
March 12:	Green Bay
March 25:	Arlington
March 26:	Milwaukee

### *The Wisconsin Turfgrass News*

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, edited by Tom Schwab.  
O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 9 & 10	GCSAA/WGCSA Seminar	Marriot Hotel, Brookfield
Dec 11 - 13	MT&GF Conference	Minneapolis, MN
Jan 7	WNA Winter Workshop	Oshkosh
Jan 13 - 15	WI Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO	Holiday Inn Madison West
Feb 2 - 8	GCSAA International Conference & Show	Anaheim, CA
Feb 25 - 27	WLF State Convention	The Edgewater, Madison
Mar 2	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Fond du Lac
Mar 5	PAT Pesticide Applicator Training (Orn. & Turf)	Milwaukee
Mar 10	PAT Pesticide Applicator Training (Orn. & Turf)	Chippewa Falls
Mar 11	PAT Pesticide Applicator Training (Orn. & Turf)	Green Bay
Mar 12	Spring Valley Turf Fair	Waukesha
Mar 17 - 20	School of Turfgrass Management	Noer Facility, Verona
Mar 25	PAT Pesticide Applicator Training (Orn. & Turf)	Arlington
Mar 26	PAT Pesticide Applicator Training (Orn. & Turf)	Milwaukee
Aug 12	WTA Summer Field Day	Noer Facility, Verona

*WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members call 608-845-6895 or Fax 608-845-8162 and let us include it in the next calendar.*

## ABBREVIATIONS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America	800-472-7878
MT&GF	Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation	612-473-8169
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training	608-262-7588
—	Spring Valley Turf Fair	800-635-2123
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association	414-786-4303
WLF	Wisconsin Landscape Federation	414-529-4705
WNA	Wisconsin Nursery Association	414-529-4705
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536

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