



WISCONSIN TURFGRASS NEWS

VOL. XVI, NO. 4

WINTER 1998/1999

The Show of all Shows

By Tom Schwab

University of Wisconsin-Madison, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO 1999 is just weeks away. January 12th and 13th are the dates for you to attend this valuable conference. This is the most comprehensive turfgrass educational conference held in Wisconsin. There is information for anyone who works with turfgrass. Both local and national speakers will have information for you to use in your professions. A registration form is included with this newsletter in case you missed receiving one in the mail.

The site will again be the Madison Marriott West, where EXPO has been held the previous four years. The Marriott provides first class accommodations to match this equally first class educational conference/ trade show. It's easy to find on Highway 12/14, just west of Madison. The weather is usually the only negative about the whole conference when record cold temperatures of the season seem to fall upon us. Hopefully the trend of warm weather that we experienced this fall will continue through EXPO this winter.

EXPO will include three main categories of presentations: 1) lawn-care and landscape, 2) grounds and sports turf, and 3) golf turf. There will be two full days of information packed presentations for each category. Attendees may stay in one group of sessions or roam between them if another subject strikes their interest.

In addition, the trade show will be open throughout the conference. This trade show grows and gets better each year. A record number of exhibitors participated last year and there could be

even more this year. In any event, the Marriott provides a wonderful trade show area and Wisconsin's turfgrass products industry provides a ton of useful information to anyone that asks.

EXPO's opening session begins at 9:00 on Tuesday, January 12th. You'll hear from UW-Madison turfgrass researchers and the WTA president about current research initiatives and the direction that our industry is headed. Next, the new Dean of UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Elton Eberle, will report to us his new agenda for the college.

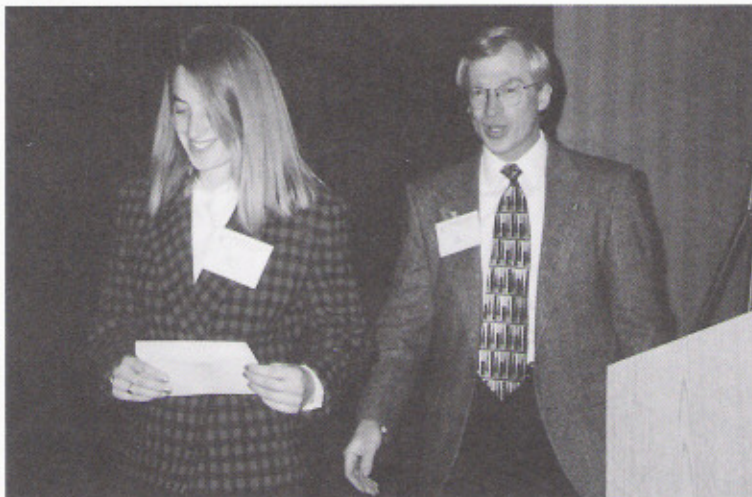
The trade show will occupy the rest of the morning. You may continue with the trade show after lunch, which is included with your registration both days, or attend the numerous talks. Speakers range from local Wisconsin experts from Lambeau Field and Brewer Park to nationally renowned athletic field

researchers for the sport turf managers. Business, regulatory, and horticultural experts will address the lawn care and

(Continued on page 2)



Dr. Mike Casler, a forage grass breeder at the UW-Madison, Department of Agronomy, talked about turfgrass breeding at EXPO 98.

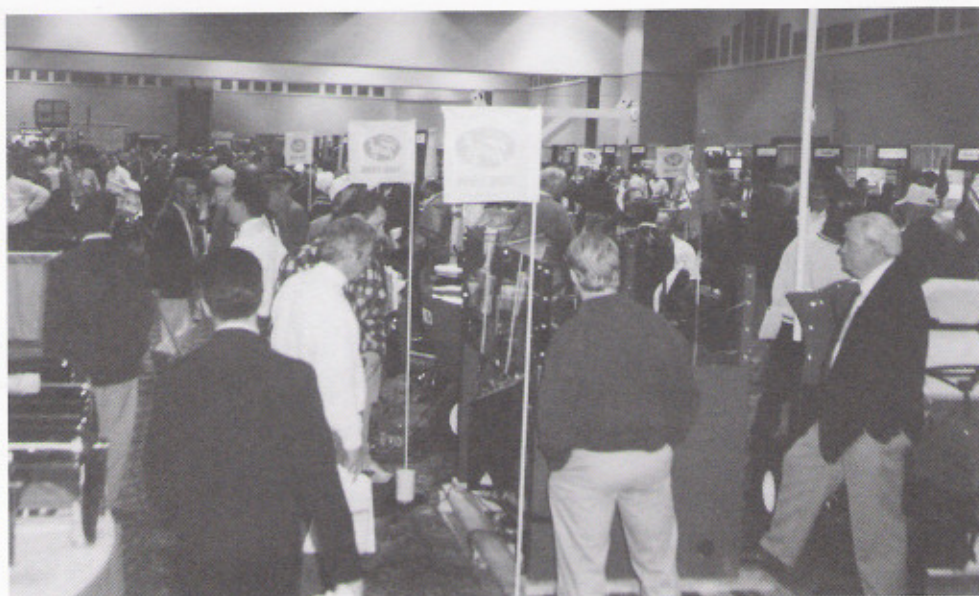


Raechal Sager accepts the Spring Valley Scholarship from UW alumni Bill Vogel.

(Continued from page 1)

landscaping industries. Architects, researchers, and industry experts will supply golf course information. These talks as well as the trade show will continue through the entire day on Wednesday.

Take a look at the complete schedule in the enclosed registration form. If you need any further information contact Audra, WTA administrative secretary, by telephone 608-845-6536, Fax 608-845-8162, or E-mail ajander2@facstaff.wisc.edu. Whether 1999 is your first Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO or you've attended all fifteen; there will be new and valuable information for you to gather for your chosen profession at this year's show. And it's the last EXPO that will be offered this century.



There is lots of networking and learning done on the trade show floor.

New Entomologist Aboard

By Tom Schwab

University of Wisconsin-Madison, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

A new turf and ornamental entomologist has joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Chris Williamson accepted the position and started on December 1st, 1998. He's hardly had time to catch his breath. Within a few days he had joined three committees and had met with as many user groups as days on the job. This position has been vacant since the retirement of Dr. Koval three years ago. However, the position is not a tenure-track faculty position at this time, but rather an outreach program manager with a 100% Extension appointment. Another UW-Madison entomology specialist that most of us have become familiar with over the years is Phil Pellitteri. Phil is remaining in his present position in the insect diagnostic lab and is happy about the assistance Chris will provide related to present, and anticipated insect problems.

Chris's position is funded by Extension for three years, at which time his program is expected to be self-supporting. The support is expected to come from association grants, product research, and program fees, to name a few. The College is anticipating reviewing the position in three years and may decide to fund the position as an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology. Chris certainly has the credentials to fill the position. Chris received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees from The Ohio State University in

Turfgrass Science and Turfgrass/Ornamental Entomology, respectively. He received his Doctorate in Turfgrass/Ornamental Entomology from the University of Kentucky.

His resume is impressive with teaching, research, and extension experience, as well as publications in scientific and trade journals. Not only is his academic background strong, so is his practical experience. Chris is a past golf course superintendent and has also worked in corporate grounds maintenance. His most recent employer was TruGreen-ChemLawn where he was a turf and ornamental research scientist in entomology.

Some of his duties in Wisconsin are to provide diagnosis and education about insect pests to the green industry, including turfgrass, Christmas tree, nursery, floral, and greenhouse, among others. He will likely be teaching entomology as part of a new class in turfgrass integrated pest management at UW-Madison along with John Stier. He will also conduct entomology research and product evaluation at the Noer Facility and throughout the state.

You may already know Chris Williamson. He has been a speaker at the Wisconsin Turfgrass EXPO and the Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendent's Annual Turf Symposium. He has also presented at the golf course superintendent's national conference among many other engagements. His out-

going personality and enthusiasm for the industry will allow you to meet him soon enough if you haven't already.

Chris, along with his wife Amy and son Jacob, will acclimate very quickly to Wisconsin life. They love camping together and Chris considers himself an avid kayaker, hunter and snowmobiler. He also sports a 12 handicap on the links. If you have any entomology questions or would like to meet him, you can contact him at the University by phone 608-262-4608, or email rcwillie@entomology.wisc.edu. Our industry is fortunate to receive more scientific backing from the UW-Madison and Cooperative Extension as evidenced through the hiring of Chris. Welcome aboard Chris.



New turf and ornamental entomologist, Chris Williamson

Bottensek Puts the Fun in Fundraiser

By Tom Schwab

University of Wisconsin-Madison, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

Jeff Bottensek hosted one of the most enjoyable Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Golf Fundraisers ever. The weather was ideal, the golf course spectacular, and participants thrilled. His golf course is designed so beautifully along the Plover River, with its marshes, and forested areas on the southern edge of Stevens Point. The course conditions were likewise perfect. Many other fine golf courses have hosted this event but few have had such

wonderful weather - - 70 degrees, no wind, and sunny on the September 28th event date. It is unfortunate that the number of participants was low, for whatever reason this year. It was a perfect way to bring the golf season to a grand finale and raise some money for turfgrass research at the UW-Madison.

The tournament started with a wonderful lunch before we headed out for golf. Later we were treated to a dinner

banquet where Jeff made sure there were enough door prizes for everyone to go home with something. Professor John Stier joined the event for dinner and gave some short remarks. He thanked the WTA for their support of the turf program and summarized some of the research that he is presently conducting.

The event raised close to \$5,500. The annual event is one of the largest fundraisers for the WTA throughout the year. We hope that next year's event will draw larger crowds. It will be hard to top the wonderful golf experience that was enjoyed this year but that is not the main reason the event is held. It is our chance to give back to the industry that provides so much for us. Most of the \$5,500 was gathered from individual hole sponsors, listed here, with the rest being collected from the registration fees. The WTA would like to thank everyone that supported the event.

Bayer GPC	Ozaukee Golf Club
Blackhawk Country Club	Pendelton Turf Supply
Bruce Schweiger	Reinders
Bulls Eye Country Club	Rivermoor Country Club
Butte Des Morts Country Club	Sentryworld
Century Supply Corp.	Stevens Point Country Club
Columbia Par Car	Stevens Point Country Club
Dale Marach	Grounds Crew
Fred Copps	Sue Kershasky
Horst Distributing	T I P
Hunter's Glenn Golf Club	T.J. Emmerich Associates
Jeff Gregos	Tom Harrison
John Stier	Tom Schwab & Dianne Bowcock
Johnson & Associates	Trout Lake Golf & Country Club
Lesco	Turf Partners
Lohmann Golf Designs	Wausau Golf Club
Maple Bluff Country Club	Wayne Horman
Miller & Associates - Sauk Prairie	West Bend Country Club
Milorganite	Westmoor Country Club
North Shore Country Club	Wisconsin Turf
Olds Seed	Zeneca
Oshkosh Country Club	



Cubby O'Brien and Dale Marach are smiling about their games.



Host Bottensek tells Gregos that one more won't hurt his game.



Bottensek with Ralph Christopherson; a WTA golf fundraiser regular.

President's Message

By Robert Erdabl, WTA President

This past year will go down as one of the longest turfgrass management seasons in Wisconsin history. We were all hard at it by early March and the record high temperatures in December had most of us praying for snow. My heartfelt thanks go out to the loyal members of the WTA, the WTA Board of Directors, and the entire Wisconsin turfgrass industry for making 1998 a great year for the association. I hope your season was safe, successful and profitable.

This past year was also a long and active year for the WTA. Here are some of the highlights:

- WTA membership reached a record high of 250.
- The 1998 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO set a record with over 500 participants.

- The 1998 Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day had a new format.
- Jeff Bottensek at Stevens Point Country Club hosted the 1998 WTA Golf Outing.
- The WTA Board of Directors convinced the UW-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and UW-Extension to fill the position of Turfgrass Pathologist in the Department of Plant Pathology.
- The WTA recruited 90 contract holders to contribute over \$23,000 to the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab.
- The Wisconsin Turfgrass Research and Development Endowment Fund reached the \$300,000 mark.

- The WTA funded research by Dr. Wayne Kussow, Dr. John Stier and Jeff Gregos.
- Dr. Mike Casler, a forage grass breeder in the UW-Madison, Department of Agronomy, joined the UW Turfgrass Team and began to look for genetic resistance to snowmold in turfgrasses.
- Plans are underway to expand the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility from its current 13 acres to over 25 acres.
- The WTA awarded four \$500 scholarships to UW - Madison turfgrass management students.

Update on Turfgrass Pathologist Position at UW

By Dr. John C. Stier

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Horticulture

For the past several months the Plant Pathology department at UW-Madison has been seeking to fill the turfgrass pathology position formerly held by Dr. Gayle Worf and, briefly, by Dr. Julie Meyer. The position was advertised for a 100% turfgrass pathologist with experience in turfgrass research and or management desired. The advertisement was sent nationwide and published for scientific groups in sources such as *Phytopathology News* and *Agronomy News*. The position was also listed on the UW-Plant Pathology website. While plant pathology positions often garner 100 or more applicants, only 16 applicants applied for the position. Of the applicants, only a handful had turf experience. A diverse group of scientists applied for the position, with backgrounds ranging from processed food production to molecular biology.

A search committee reviewed the applicants and scored them based on 10 criteria including experience, scientific ability, academic performance, and letters of recommendation. Four candidates were considered desirable based on the rankings. Most of the remainder of the group

was considered unacceptable for the position (although many were good scientists and may have been contenders for non-turf related positions). During the week the four candidates were to be voted upon for interviewing by the department, two of the candidates announced they had accepted positions elsewhere. With the pool of acceptable candidates limited to two, the department decided to bring in both Dr. James Farrar and Mr. David Han for interviews. Dr. Farrar is conducting a post-doctoral position in commercial vegetable extension in California, while Mr. Han is finishing a Ph.D. at the Ohio State University. Neither candidate had extensive turf experience although Mr. Han did obtain a M.S. degree in turfgrass pathology at Cornell University.

Interviews were conducted the week of November 16th. Each candidate interviewed for two days. During the interview process, the candidates met with the selection committee, campus administration, members of the plant pathology department, the UW turf group (Kussow, Stier, Casler, Gregos, Schwab, Gaard), and members of the WTA board. Unfortunately

neither candidate was deemed acceptable: the position remains unfilled.

At this time the position will most likely be readvertised for a 100% turfgrass pathologist without the reference for turfgrass experience. Hopefully the position will be readvertised by spring, with interviews conducted by mid-summer. The delay does mean the industry goes without a faculty member responsible for turfgrass pathology for another year. Hopefully, though, the delay will allow the hire of an excited, eager pathologist, dedicated to the steady advancement of turfgrass pathology for the turf industry of Wisconsin, the nation, and the world.

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

WSTMA Updates

By Rich Riggs, WSTMA President

The Wisconsin chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association continues to make progress. We now have over sixty members and are still growing. We held elections earlier this fall and elected the following: President, Rich Riggs; Vice President, Chris Wendorf; Commercial Vice President, Rich Miller; Secretary, Gregg Knudson; Treasurer, Tom Schwab; and Board of Directors, John Stier, Greg Freix, Mark Grundman, and Chris Brindley. If anyone has ideas, questions, or concerns please contact any of the above for assistance. Remember that this is your organization.

Some dates and upcoming events to mark on your calendar follow. The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO takes place at the Marriott Madison West on January 12th and 13th with many presentations for sports field managers. A chapter meeting for the WSTMA will take

place during the first day of EXPO at 10:30 am. Please plan on attending the conference and chapter meeting. They are great places to meet people and learn.

The national STMA Conference and Exhibition takes place in Mesa, Arizona on January 13th through the 18th. The conference is set up for sports turf managers of all levels. It is a great place to find out how others do the things they do to sports fields including some that we see on television. For more information call STMA at (800) 323-3875.

The WSTMA is planning a chapter meeting in Wausau in early April. We are hopeful of booking a one-day Floyd Perry program on the care and maintenance of baseball fields. Mr. Perry always puts on a great program with plenty of hands-on opportunities. We will get the information out as details become available.

The O.J. Noer Facility will again be the

site for Turfgrass Field Day in August. This year we are hoping to have more information for sports field management. Possible ideas include field painting and marking demonstrations. Again, as details are firmed up, we will pass them along.

The WSTMA board is also planning a fall chapter meeting. The meeting time, place and subject matter will be determined by the membership.

The WSTMA is going to be very active in 1999. Make sure you get involved. If you know of anyone interested in joining WSTMA, they may call Audra at the Noer Turfgrass Research Facility - (608) 845-6536, or call one of the Board of Directors for further information. Our organization will benefit from meeting and learning from each other, and organizing learning activities that will most benefit you, the members. Remember that it is your organization.

TDDL Changes for 1999

By Jeffrey S. Gregos

Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab, Department of Plant Pathology

The Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab (TDDL) was organized in the spring of 1995 as a separate part of the Plant Pathogen Detection Clinic in the Department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. The purpose of the TDDL is to: provide more extensive turfgrass disease diagnosis to the commercial turf industry of the state, provide an evaluation of management strategies for turfgrass diseases, and initiate a research program on turfgrass disease diagnosis. The immediate goals were to: deliver rapid turn-around-time for disease diagnosis, provide a voice contact with professional turfgrass managers, offer information on the diagnosis procedures, and suggest recommendations for disease management.

Like anything new, there is a learning process. We have developed some changes that we feel will benefit the lab and its customers. For example, starting in 1999, we will be restructuring our fee schedule (see Fig. 1). Additionally the lab currently obtains about 2/3 of its funding from research projects, which has resulted in redirection of the lab's resources toward more research projects.

Presently, the University contributes 45% of my salary and Gary Gaard is on a 40% appointment in the lab. Annual cost to run the lab and pay part of my salary amounts to between \$50K-60K. Contracts purchased and fees generated from sample diagnosis amount to around \$25K. This leaves about \$25K-35K to be raised through other means. This currently is accomplished through research projects. With the changes detailed in Fig. 1 personnel in the lab will be able to better direct their efforts.

1999 Fee Schedule Changes

<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Commercial sample (Phone call only)	\$50.00
Commercial sample (Phone call + write-up)	\$75.00
Site visit (Current TDDL contract holder)	\$100.00
Site visit (Non-contract holder)	\$150.00
Homeowner sample	\$20.00

Fig. 1

Additionally, the personnel of the TDDL request that people submitting samples via mail or walk-in provide some notification, so that we may adjust or schedule accordingly. If you have any questions pertaining to these changes or the lab in general please direct them to Jeff Gregos at (608) 845-2535.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 5	WNA Winter Workshop	Radison Inn, Madison
Jan 12, 13	WTA Turfgrass & Greenscape EXPO 1999	Marriott Madison West
Jan 13-17	STMA Conference and Exhibition	Mesa, AZ
Jan 14-16	Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show 1999	Navy Pier, Chicago
Jan 19-21	Wisconsin Fertilizer, Aglime and Pest Conference	Dane County Expo Center
Feb 3	Professional Grounds Manager Short Course	Kenosha/Waukesha
Feb 4	Professional Grounds Manager Short Course	Milwaukee/Sheboygan
Feb 10-14	GCSAA Conference and Show	Orlando, FL
Feb 23	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape)	Milwaukee
Feb 28-Mar 2	WLF State Convention	Regency, Green Bay
March 1	WGCSA Spring Business Meeting	Ramada, Fond du Lac
March 1-5	School of Turfgrass Management	UW-Madison
March 9 (tentative)	Regional Turfgrass Expo	Fond du Lac
March 10 (tentative)	Regional Turfgrass Expo	Stevens Point
Mar 10, 11	Reinders Turf & Irrigation Conference	Waukesha Co Expo Center
March 11	Regional Turfgrass Expo	Milwaukee
March 12	Regional Turfgrass Expo	Eau Claire
March 14, 15	NGLGCSA Annual Turf Symposium	Rhineland
March 17	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape)	Green Bay
March 18	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape)	Chippewa Falls
March 22	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape)	Arlington
March 23	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape)	Milwaukee
May 24	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Green Bay CC
Aug 10	WTA Summer Field Day	Noer Facility, Verona
Sept 13	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Washington County GC
Oct 12	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	North Shore CC

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

Aglime	Wisconsin Fertilizer, Aglime and Pest Conference	608-263-2795
GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America	800-472-7878
Mid-Am	Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show 1999	847-526-2010
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association	715-845-2339
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf & Landscape)	608-262-7588
Region Expo	Regional Turfgrass Expo	608-262-1624
Reinders	Turf Conference	800-782-3300
Short Course	Professional Grounds Manager Short Course	414-886-8460
STMA	Sports Turf Manager Association	800-323-3875
Turf School	School of Turfgrass Management	608-262-1624
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

January 12th, 1999

Schedule for Wisconsin Turfgrass & Greenscape EXPO 1999

9:00 - 9:15	Welcome		
9:15 - 9:30	Awards & Scholarships		
9:30 - 10:00	Dean Aberle - Dean of the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences at UW - Madison		
10:30 - 6:00	Trade Show open		
Noon - 1:00	Lunch		
	<u>Golf</u>	<u>Lawn & Landscape</u>	<u>Grounds & Sports Turf</u>
1:15 - 2:00	Wayne Kussow Root zone amendments	Eric Nelson Benefits of endophytes: Not just for insect resistance	David Mellor Striping & Patterns
2:00 - 2:45	Bob Lohmann Future of golf course architecture	Laura Jull Deicing chemical impacts on ornamental plants	David Mellor Multipurpose facilities: Working with a small budget
2:45 - 3:30	Jeff Gregos A different shade of green	Brian Swingle A regulatory update with an open discussion	Todd Edelbeck Maintaining Packers practice fields
3:30 - 4:15	Eric Nelson New low-mow Kentucky bluegrasses for fairways	Gary Korb Water quality, environmental health & good stewardship	Todd Edelbeck Happenings at Lambeau Field
4:30 - 6:00	Wisconsinizing - Hors d'oeuvres served at 5:00		

January 13th, 1999

8:00 - 2:00	Trade Show open		
	<u>Golf</u>	<u>Lawn & Landscape</u>	<u>Grounds & Sportsturf</u>
8:30 - 9:15	Mike Boehm Biological control - Fact, fiction or something between	Laura Jull Exciting evergreens for Wisconsin	David Minner Ten tips for managing sports fields on a limited budget
9:15 - 10:00	John Stier Proxy: A new growth regulator for bentgrass	Tom Smith Dollars & cents: Managing time and company cost	Rich Riggs Preparing for the NFL and the WSTMA
10:00 - 10:45	David Minner Reducing dry spot on putting greens	Wayne Kussow Nitrogen management	Bruce Branham Strategies for weed control in sports turf
10:45 - 11:30	Bob Emmerich Upgrading golf course irrigation systems	Mike Boehm Composts and their use on home lawns	Rick Rettler Proper designing of athletic fields
Noon - 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 - 1:15	WTA Annual Meeting	(All WTA members are welcome to attend)	
1:15 - 2:00	Tom Emmerich Steps for irrigation design	Tom Smith Marketing IPM for lawn care	David Minner Liability issues on sportsfields
2:00 - 2:45	Bob Lohmann Working with the superintendent during construction	Bruce Branham Optimizing your weed control program	John Stier Poke, pull and fill for award winning athletic fields

Registration for Wisconsin Turfgrass & Greenscape EXPO 1999

Name(s) _____
 Company Name _____
 Mailing address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone Number () _____

Make your check payable and return to:
 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA)
 O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility
 3101 Highway M
 Verona WI 53593-9537

		Postmarked by 1/5/99	After 1/5/99 and on-site
CONFERENCE	WTA Member	\$80	\$100
PACKAGE	Non-Member	\$100	\$120
One day only	WTA Member	\$45	\$55
	Non-Member	\$55	\$65

If you have questions about EXPO or becoming a WTA member, contact Audra at 608-845-6536, FAX 608-845-8162 or ajander2@facstaff.wisc.edu

Which day will you attend? Tuesday, Wednesday, or Both (Please circle your choice)

WISCONSIN TURFGRASS ASSN.

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