VOL. XX1, NO. 1

SPRING 2003

WTA Golf Outing 2003: The Bull at Pinehurst Farms

By Jeff Gregos, WTA Golf Outing Committee

The place to be on October 8. 2003 is at the WTA Golf Outing Wisconsin supporting the Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Your attendance will ensure that the University of Wisconsin-Madison's turfgrass program will continue to grow and become one of the best, if not the best in the country.

The WTA has three fundraiser during the year; WTA EXPO, WTA Summer Field Day, and WTA Golf Outing. The revenue



The Wisconsin Turfgrass News

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

generated from these events is the lifeline for much of the turf-grass research done at the University. So, in order to maintain the quality research and generate the funds for the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research, our fundraising efforts must be kicked up a notch or two.

If this years event is anything like last years, it will be sold out early. Last year several registrants were turned away due to

the course being filled. Again this year the golf will be limited to the first 144 golfers, so register early.

We understand that many budgets have been reduced in the current economic situation. But, it is important that we get a full house at this event to guarantee that our goal of \$1,000,000 is raised to support four graduate fellowships, one in each of the disciplines of turforass research: soils, horticulture, entomology, and plant patholoav. This might require some recruitment on behalf of each WTA member. Many members of your club or business acquaintances might have an interest in participating in this event, and should be encourage doing so.

Fellowships

The primary objective of this fellowship is to ensure that the University has the resources available to attract the nation's most talented students and enable them to pursue their

studies in the Turfgrass Sciences at UW-Madison.

The Fellowships will provide selected graduate fellows, in both master's and doctoral programs, with stipends and professional development funds derived from sources independent of traditional government funding. Annual support for one graduate student currently requires approximately \$24,000, including a stipend and fringe benefits of \$22,000 and professional development funds of \$2,000. To attain this level of support, an endowment of \$500,000 is necessary for each fellowship.

The WTA's current goal is to establish four Fellowships in turfgrass research. Each endowment requires a contribution of \$250,000, which will be matched by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF). This goal would require a fund-raising effort \$1,000,000 over the next several year on behalf of the WTA. This



golf outing and other events hosted by the WTA, as well as the financial assistance from WARF, will provide a significant portion of the funds needed to obtain this goal.

The Course

The Bull, located at Pinehurst Farms in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, is the only Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course in the state and is already garnering top reviews from veteran golf writers. Its full unveiling in 2003 is sure to strengthen Sheboygan County's designation as the #3 Golf Destination in the US and #7 in the World (Golf Digest, Sept. 2000).

From grassy, tree-lined, rolling meadows to holes carved out of mature hardwoods. The Bull will meander corner-to-corner over a 418-

acre parcel of this former dairy farm. Lakes, wetlands, and the ever-present Onion River will factor into decision-making on 16 holes. Making certain that The Bull will play true and fair to all playing abilities, Nicklaus has added many elements of risk-reward golf to this fabulous layout. This par 72 course will play to over 7,300 yards from the "Bull" or championship tees.

The Best Damn Turf Show"

By Audra Anderson, Wisconsin Turfarass Association Administrative Secretary

The 2003 WTA Summer Field Day is shaping up to be one of the best ever. Mark your calendars now to be in Verona on Tuesday, August 12th, 2003. The location, as always, is the O.J. Turfgrass Research Noer Facility. The facility is the site where the greatest amount of the University's turf research is conducted. It provides ample space to host the large crowds of interested turf managers and gives you a chance to view all the current research.

This year at Field Day, ex-Green Bay Packer Blaise Winter, will be with us. He is now a motivational speaker and will be the keynote speaker at the 2004 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO in January. He will be at Field Day to talk with people of the turf industry to see what interests

they have both within and outside their jobs.

Field Day starts out with two different research tours. One focuses on golf subjects and the other is for lawn care, sod, and sports turf interests. The exact tour has not been defined as of this time, but every effort is being made to present talks that you want to hear about. If you have topics that you'd like to see presented, please call Tom at the Noer facility (608-845-6895). In addition to the tour, the researchers will make themselves available in the afternoon to answer your individual questions one-on-one.

Many people think the research tour is the highlight of the day, but there is so much more! There is a huge trade show featuring over 40 companies that supply every piece of turfgrass equipment, product, or service that you could ever need. Many of the vendors let you test drive and compare their mowers and other vehicles during the trade show hours. If you prefer, you can sit back and take notes during the equipment demonstration period where factory representatives demonstrate all the latest features on their newest equipment.

The vendors sponsor a silent auction where attendees can bid and get deals on needed supplies. The proceeds made from this silent auction go directly to support turf research. Keep in mind that if you have the winning bid, we can bill your business later. You don't have to bring cash to the show.

Lastly, don't forget the lunch. The lunch is always superb and almost worth the admission







The 2002 opening session crowds ready themselves for the research tour.

price by itself. Lots of good networking and comradeship is shared over lunch and throughout the whole day.

Here is a recap of the highlights and the reasons why you must make plans now to attend this important event in August:

- Coffee, juice and donuts at morning registration
- · Research tour
- Lunch that will make your mouth water
- "Ask the Expert" table (oneon-one discussions with the researchers)
- Equipment demonstrations (on your own or with factory representatives)
- Huge trade show

- · Silent auction
- All proceeds go to turf research at the UW-Madison to benefit your profession

It's a fun and educational day, well worth the small registration cost. Plan now to attend and bring a friend with you. Registration material will be sent out in mid-June. If you haven't received something by the end of June, call Audra at 608-845-6536 or email at ajander2@wisc.edu to check if you're on the mailing list or to ask any other questions. Mark Tuesday, August 12th on your calendars and plan to attend this best damn turf show.



UW-Stevens Point staff demonstrates how logos get painted.

No More Am I Taking Chances

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility University of Wisconsin-Madison

How many more chances am I going to get! I'm talking about having close calls with lightning. I've really been lucky not to be hurt by lightning considering where I've been and what I do. It's likely the same as what you do - working outdoors in Mother Nature's alory. Sometimes exposure to lightning has been out of my control. Such was the case, several years ago, while hiking in the Rocky Mountains and finding ourselves miles away from any safe shelter. A severe thunderstorm blew up out of nowhere around my family. Luckily no one was hurt. We later learned there were things we could have done better to protect ourselves even in that desperate situation. I've also realized that at a few other times I've put myself and others in great danger when I knew better and could have done things differently. What I should have done is suspend a recreation or work activity much earlier when I knew a storm was comingAs I get older and a little wiser, I'm

not going to take as many chances. I love life too much. And it would be dreadful if someone on my crew got hurt because I didn't educate them properly on lightning safety or set a poor example being cavalier around such a danger. I, and probably you, have escaped being hurt by lightning so far. Educating ourselves and our staff and clients better about lightning will hopefully save more lives in the future. Having a lightning plan in place will

make a difference later, but you must take the effort to devise a plan now.

You and I work and recreate in the fastest rising segment of lightning injury occurrences in America. That segment is the area of outdoor recreation like golf and field sports, along with other outdoor activities like swimming, biking, hiking, camping, boating, etc. Farming used to represent the highest risk.

Many little tractors out on open flat fields exposed lots of people to danger. Now days there are less people working in agriculture. And today's farmers are likely in larger, metal-surrounded, enclosed, and thus lightning-safe vehicles. Compare that to us who work in great numbers in open areas and lightning-unsafe vehicles (open utility carts and maintenance equipment).

The actual risk of being killed by lightning is relatively small,





but that's not the only risk. On average about 100 deaths per year in America are attributed to lightning strikes. You have a greater chance of winning your state lottery. But death is not the only concern. Many more are struck by lightning but survive. Those people report any number of long term debilitating symptoms. Most of these lightning injuries and deaths could have been avoided by being educated about lightning safety.

Lightning education can even help you if caught by surprise out in nature like I was in the Rocky Mountains. That day in the Rockies we climbed under a rock overhang to get out of the rain which I later learned was one of the worst places to be during a thunderstorm. Lightning could have likely hit higher up on the mountain and followed along the wet rocks right into our shelter.

Small shelters in general, whether they are on a golf course, athletic facility, or in the backvard are one of the worst places to be even if they have lightning rods attached. Lightning can hit far away and travel into them. What we should have done and what you should do if caught out in a desperate situation is this: Search out a low area, away from anything tall or metal like trees or fences, and position yourself at least 15 feet away from each other. Then crouch low with

your feet together and protect your hearing by putting hands over your ears.

Getting caught by surprise out in nature is one thing. Your workplace and home are much easier environments to set up a safety plan. You really should implement one before this summer. There are many tips and safety plans that you can learn by doing a lightning safety search on the internet. Two good websites with scads of information on lightning are www.lightningsafety.com and www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. I found many important guidelines and rules there to include in my safety plan. Here is what I learned:

- Designate a responsible person to monitor weather conditions. An inexpensive portable weather radio will provide regular weather condition updates.
- 2. An emergency procedure should include: SUSPEND ACTIVITIES EVACUATE PEOPLE MONITOR CONDITIONS RESUME ACTIVITIES. Identify safe and unsafe locations beforehand.
- People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electric charge and are safe to handle. If someone near you is hurt by lightning, apply first aid immediately, if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help promptly.

SAFE AREAS INCLUDE:

- Fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up.
- Substantial and permanent buildings.

UNSAFE AREAS INCLUDE:

- Small structures including huts and rain shelters.
- Nearby metallic objects like fences, gates, instrumentation and electrical equipment,wires, and power poles.
- Also AVOID trees, AVOID

water, AVOID open fields, AVOID high ground, AVOID using hardwired telephones and headsets.

A lightning safety plan that has been adopted by such prominent associations as the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association) and the AMS (American Meteorological Society) uses the 30/30 rule. This rule states that you, your crew, and clients should go to a safe shelter if the time between lightning and thunder is 30 seconds or less. Then stay there 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. Or to think of it in simpler terms — The National Lightning Safety Institute (one of the above websites) puts it this way, "If you can see it (lightning), flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."

I've witnessed way too many situations where golfers and outdoor athletic events placed people in very grave situations. I hope you can bring some of this education to the powers-to-be at one of your next board and/or staff meetings. Advance planning is the single most important means to achieve lightning safety.

I realize it's very hard to delay an important construction project, postpone tee times, or stop an athletic event. But just remember that lightning can happen in half a second. In that instant, the lightning flash superheats the surrounding air to a temperature five times hotter than that on the surface of the sun. We've all seen a tree that has exploded from a lightning strike. The moisture in the sapwood turns to steam resulting in the explosion. You could read about what happens to humans hit by lightning at one of the above websites. It's similar to trees. And I'm not taking those chances anymore.

Winter Drought and Turf Production

By George Brandt, American Sod Corporation

This past winter brought record lows in precipitation for parts of the Mid-West. Damage to young and dormant seeding could be extensive. Contrary to popular belief, turf needs moisture during the winter and does benefit from a blanket of snow. Without sufficient moisture young turfgrass plants can die

from desiccation. If there is some moisture without cover, strong dry winds can dehydrate or even kill young plants. This winter, the biggest problem has been with late fall or dormant seeding. As I have traveled through southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois I have seen 100's of acres being re-seeded

by sod farmers. Our farm in Jefferson lost 32 acres of dormant seeding to high winds. These re-seedings may be good news to seed salesmen but may cause a reduced supply of turfgrass in the fall of 03 and spring of 04. It's always a good idea to talk to your supplier to make sure your needs are covered.

Greens Stress, Biotic and Abiotic

By Scott W. Sann, Greenwood Hills Country Club

On March 24th, 2003 the Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association (NGLGCSA) held their annual symposium at the Best Western Midway Hotel in Wausau, Wisconsin. Over 80 turf professionals attended the symposium. This year's topic was about managing various biotic and abiotic stresses for putting green management.

NGLGCSA President Ken Velpel of Lac Vieux Desert Resort welcomed all the attendees. The first speaker was Dr. Geunhwa Jung, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Plant Pathology. Dr. Jung discussed some of his new research findings on Anthracnose. He discussed the role of environmental stresses such as shade and drainage, and their impact on the development of Anthracnose on Poa annua and creeping bentgrass. His research also showed that Daconil by itself or tank mixed with a DMI or Strobilurin fungicide showed promise in controlling Anthracnose. Even though it was one year of data, Dr. Jung hopes to discover if timing of these fungicide applications play a significant role in reducing the damage caused by Anthracnose.

Next came keynote speaker Dr. Houston Couch from the Department of Plant Pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Couch gave a very useful and entertaining talk. One of his main messages addressed the impact that water stress and available nitrogen have on disease development in turfgrass.

In addition to the good education, Dr. Couch had the pleasure of introducing his graduate research assistant, Steve Abler. Steve will be leaving Dr. Couch's lab in May to become the manager of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Turf Diagnostic Lab (TDL). Steve is from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and looks forward to returning to Wisconsin. In Dr. Couch's opinion. "Steve's experience with disease diagnosis is second to none, and working with Dr. Jung will make them the Dynamic Duo of plant pathology". Many attendees that I talked to expressed confidence that Dr. Jung and Steve Abler will increase the quality of service to the TDL this coming season.

After an excellent lunch, Bob Vavrek an agronomist for the United States Golf Association (USGA) spoke about the importance of going back to the basics of putting surface management. Bob shared successful and unsuccessful cultural practices that superintendents in his region were using to manage putting greens. In researching his talk for

the symposium, Bob discovered and presented the differences in management practices used presently compared to 15 years ago. It was quite interesting.

Dr. Wayne Kussow, Department of Soil Science at University of Wisconsin-Madison, ended the symposium with an interesting presentation about plant nutrition and its relationship to environmental stress.

All in attendance agreed that the theme of the symposium was fantastic. Steve Spears of St. Germain Golf Club said, "The price of the event and the quality of speakers was second to none." Preparations for another quality event are already being made for next year. Please contact Ken Velpel at 715-479-8658 for information regarding membership to the NGLGCSA.



Ken Velpel & Steve Spears greet NGLGCSA keynote speaker Dr. Houston Couch.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 28	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Trempealeau Mountain GC, Trempealeau
May 12	Application Institute/ sponsored by Syngenta, Simplot, John Deere, TeeJet	Prairie Landing Golf Course, West Chicago, IL
May 13	Application Institute/ sponsored by Syngenta, Simplot, John Deere, TeeJet	OJ Noer Facility, Verona
May 13	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	Waushara CC, Wautoma
May 28	WGCSA Super/Pro Tournament	Wilderness Woods GC, Wisconsin Dells
June ?	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	TBA
June 11	WSTMA Quarterly Meeting	West Bend School District
June 17,18	NCR-192	University of Minnesota
June 30	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Northbrook CC, Luxemburg
July ?	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	TBA
July 11	WSTMA Quarterly Meeting	St. Norbert's College and Lambeau Field
July 21	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Crystal Springs GC, Seymour
Aug?	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	Homestead GC, Marquette, MI
Aug 12	WTA Summer Field Day	OJ Noer Facility, Verona
Aug 13	WNA Field Day	Silver Creek Nurseries, Manitowoc
Sept?	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	TBA
Sept 22	WGCSA Tournament Meeting	Nakoma GC, Madison
Oct 1	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	St. Germain GC, St. Germain
Oct 3,4	WGCSA Dinner Dance	Greenwood Hills CC, Wausau
Oct 8	WTA Fundraiser Golf Outing	The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, Sheboygan Falls
Oct 14	WGCSA Superintendent/Guest Meeting	Racine CC, Racine
Nov 5-8	PLCAA Green Industry Conference	St Louis, MO
Nov 18,19	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	American Club, Kohler
Dec 3,4	GCSAA/WGCSA Regional Seminar	Fond du Lac, WI
Jan 5-7	WTA Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO	Marriott Madison West
Jan 21-25	STMA Conference and Exhibition	San Diego, CA
Feb 9-14	GCSAA Golf Course Conference and Show	San Diego, CA
March 1	WGCSA Spring Business Meeting	Fond du Lac
	WTA Members — If you have an important date Call 608-845-6895 or Fax 608-845-8162 and le	
	Contact Telephone	Numbers
Application GCSAA		Simplot, John Deere, TeeJet708-217-8509 nerica800-472-7878

Application	Application Institute/ sponsored by Syngenta, Simplot, John Deere, TeeJet	708-217-8509
GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America	
NCR-192	North Central Region of University Turfgrass Researchers	608-262-1624
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association	715-542-2373
PLCAA	PLCAA Green Industry Conference	800-458-3466
STMA	Sports Turf Manager Association	800-323-3875
Symposium	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	800-287-9645
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association	414-786-4303
WNA	Wisconsin Nursery Association	
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association	608-845-6895
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536

Make Time to Attend Important Events

By Dan Barrett, WTA President

It's hard to believe April is already here. Especially as I look out my window and see 10 inches of fresh snow that fell over the weekend. Before you know it there will be golf tournaments, landscaping projects, athletic events, sod harvesting, homelawn application, and many other seasonal activities in full swing for the turf industry. There will be a couple other events that you should make plans for also. Those are Summer Field Day and the annual WTA golf fundraiser.

As much as I like summer, it seems like it goes too quickly each year, especially for us in the Northwoods. Before you know it, August will be here and it'll be time to come visit the Noer facility to see all the important turf research that you're supporting. This research is helping each of

us in our different turf industries to grow better grass. Be sure you take time this summer to enjoy many activities with your family and friends. But also leave time to advance your profession by attending Summer Field Day. The date is set for Tuesday, August 12th. Mailers will be sent out in early summer.

Another way to advance your profession is to attend the annual WTA golf fundraiser. The money raised from this event will help fund the Distinguished Graduate Turfgrass Fellowships in Research. These fellowships will support turfgrass research graduate students in perpetuity. These students will be unraveling turfgrass guandaries for years to come. Some guandaries we already know about and others we haven't even seen yet.

The golf fundraiser is also lots of fun. It's about the last chance to enjoy a nice round of golf at the end of the season. And I can almost quarantee that the event is going to sell out, like it did last vear at Blackwolf Run. The date for the fundraiser is Wednesday. October 8th. The site of the event is at the much acclaimed, newly opened Bull at Pinehurst Farms in Sheboygan Falls. A registration slip is included in this newsletter, and other forms will be mailed out later in the month to WTA members

These two seasonal events are lots of fun and very important to the turfgrass industry of Wisconsin. I hope you can participate in them. I hope you have a very enjoyable and successful year both towards your careers and your family life.



Fertilizer Requirements for Lawncare Firms

By Michael Koran, Fertilizer Program Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

Most lawncare and landscape businesses are complying with Wisconsin's pesticide certification and business license requirements. However, businesses currently holding pesticide applicator and/or business licenses may not be aware of Wisconsin's fertilizer regulations and how it may affect their businesses.

Do I need a fertilizer license for my business?

Anyone who manufactures and distributes fertilizer in Wisconsin, including lawncare firms, must have a fertilizer license if their services are for hire. Golf courses and others that mix and blend fertilizers intended only for their own golf course or

commercial property, are exempt from license and permit requirements. But for firms that mix and blend their unique liquid formulas to apply or sell to other individuals or properties must get a license. Both mixing fertilizer ingredients together, as well as mixing fertilizers with water or other materials, is considered manufacturing, and requires a fertilizer license. Some businesses that have their own line of dry granular fertilizers must also have a fertilizer license.

Here are four questions to help determine if you need a fertilizer license:

11001100				
1.	Are	you	mixing	urea
and/or	potash	with	water?	
Yes		1	lo.	

	Are you mixing a dry
granul	ar fertilizer with water?
Yes	No
3.	Are you mixing a liquid
conce	ntrate fertilizer with water?
Yes	No
4.	Do you have your own
line or	brand name of fertilizers?
	No
10	

If you answered yes to any of the questions, then you need a fertilizer license.

Permit Requirements for Low-Analysis Fertilizers

In most situations, many lawncare and landscape businesses mix and blend their unique liquid formulas specially designed for spring, summer and fall applications. These bulk liquid blends are formulated to contain low amounts of plant nutrients (mainly nitrogen) to avoid burning turfgrass and lawns. A typical low-analysis liquid formula is manufactured by mixing 50 pounds of urea (46-0-0) into 200 gallons (~1,780 lbs.) of water. The N-P-K grade for this low-analysis fertilizer is 1,29-0-0.

"Low-analysis" fertilizers are subject to permit requirements found in our fertilizer law. Section 94.64(3m)(a), Wis. Stats., states:

No person may distribute mixed fertilizer in which the sum of the guarantees for nitrogen, available phosphate and soluble potash totals less than 24% unless:

- The mixed fertilizer is exempted from this requirement by department rule; or
- 2. The mixed fertilizer is a nonagricultural or specialuse fertilizer and the per-

son obtains a permit from the department authorizing its distribution as a nonagricultural or special-use fertilizer.

Most lawncare businesses generally need one to three nonagricultural fertilizer permits for their spring, summer and fall formulas.

Required Customer Information

Certain information must be supplied with any fertilizer sold or distributed in Wisconsin. Lawncare and landscaping firms must also comply with labeling requirements when servicing homeowners. In most cases, a written invoice or statement with the following information can be provided at the time of application:

- Lawncare firm's name and address;
- Customer's name and address;
- Date of sale (application date);
- 4. Fertilizer brand name or

product name;

- 5. Fertilizer grade;
- 6. Guaranteed analysis; and
- Net weight (or total gallons and weight per gallon).

The guaranteed analysis must include the percentage of ammoniacal, nitrate, water insoluble and other forms of nitrogen which makeup the total nitrogen guarantee.

Figure 1 is an example of acceptable labeling for a lawncare firm that applies dry granular products.

Figure 2 is an example of acceptable labeling for a lawncare firm that applies liquid bulk formulations.

Contact the department at (608) 224-4541 for further information regarding fertilizer regulations for lawncare firms. Or, visit our website at: http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/fertilizers/index.html

Mike's Lawn Care Service 2101 Industrial Park Drive Anytown, WI 53713 Phone: 608/555-1212	20% Unu Nitrogen 5% Water Insoluble Nitrogen Available Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₅)	25%
Customer Name: John Smith		Service Amt\$45.00
Customer Address: 123 Birch St., Madison, WI 53705		Tax\$2.48
Date of Service: April 7, 2003		Total \$47,48

Figure 1

Mike's Lawn Care Service	Brand Name & Grade: Spring Treatment 0.6-0-0.2		
2101 Industrial Park Drive Anytown, WI 53713 Phone: 608/555-1212	0.6% Uros Nitrogen Available Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₂) Soluble Potash (K ₂ O)		
Customer Name: John Smith		Service Amt\$45.00	
Customer Address: 123 Birch St.	, Madison, WI 53705	Tax	
Date of Service: April 7, 2003		Total\$47.48	

Figure 2

Reinders Turf & Irrigation Conference Draws Diverse Group Green Industry Trends & Opportunities Shared

By Tom Rowe, Director of Marketing, Reinders, Inc.

Attendees at Reinders' 16th Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center March 12th and 13th included sports field managers, school officials, municipal supervisors, golf course superintendents, service technicians, landscape contractors, lawn care specialists, and others. The opportunity to choose from more than 40 educational seminars, visit with more than 75 manufacturers, and check out the latest equipment and products showed why it is one of the largest independent turf shows in the country.

The conference presented an array of industry speakers who were well received by partici-Gary Vanden Berg, Director of Grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers, gave practical advice in his presentation, "Major League Tips for Managing Championship Ball Fields." Bruce Schweiger of Reinders followed with a discussion of "Turf Maintenance Programs for Athletic Fields." Other popular sessions included, "Improve Your Turf - Making Sense of Soil Analysis" presented by Steve Frack of MDS Harris and "Latest Trends in Turfgrass Diseases" given by Dr. Joe Vargas of

Michigan State University. A discussion about the "Impact of the Food Quality Protection Act on the Turf & Ornamental Business" by Dr. John Stier of the University of Wisconsin-Madison kept attendees up to date on new legislation.

Reinders provided a free booth for the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association, and the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association to distribute membership applications and publicize the benefits of their organizations. A highlight of the show was the chance to win Brett Favre, Donald Driver and Mike McKenzie autographed footballs. Individuals tested their passing skills and competed with one another at a Football Challenge booth.

Everyone was treated to tasty, hot homemade donuts each morning, a Reinders tradition since their first show in 1973, and a delicious buffet lunch was provided each day. Wednesday morning, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association President David Brandenburg presented Bob and Dick Reinders with a plaque honoring Reinders' 45 years of membership and support of the WGCSA.

Jim Hicks from Westmoor



Jim Hicks, from Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield, WI, was the lucky winner in a drawing for a Limited Edition Reinders/Green Bay Packer scooter. Dean Musbach (L), Reinders Turf Sales Manager and Bob Parsons (R), Tanaka Sales Representative presented him with the prize.

Country Club in Brookfield was the lucky winner of a Limited Edition Reinders/Green Bay Packer scooter. Individuals had the opportunity to enter a drawing for the scooter at various trade shows Reinders exhibited at since August. The promotion helped raise funds for various Wisconsin turfgrass associations.

Each day ended with a social hour featuring refreshments, door prizes and an enjoyable time visiting with fellow green industry professionals. The Reinders Turf & Irrigation Conference is a biennial event. The next conference is scheduled to be held for March, 2005.

J.D. Huseboe (L), Reinders golf irrigation sales representative, John Tobin (C), and John Murphy (R), of Tuscumbia Golf Club in Green Lake, WI enjoy talking about the latest products and trends in the golf industry.





Attendees were welcomed to the show each morning by Green Bay Packer quarterback Brett Favre in a video presentation.

Changes Expected in Grass Seed Availability in 2003

By Susan H. Samudio, J.R. Simplot/Jacklin Seed

Thousands of acres of grass seed have been taken out of production throughout the Pacific Northwest as grass farmers have been plowing grass fields and switching to other crops. There are many reasons behind the mass plow out, but for the seed buyer it means spot shortages of many varieties and probable higher prices. This article will highlight the expected availability of popular cool season species and how you can obtain the best lots available before they are gone.

The grass seed market is a fluid industry and competition between grass seed and other crops for production land, fall weather, field burning, and crop carryover all influence seed availability. Efforts to reduce the oversupply and make farming more profitable are underway. Farmers have been plowing their grass acreage and planting to other crops like wheat, oats, or clover, as these crops appear more profitable with grass prices so low. Gale Gingrich, Marion County Oregon Extension Service in Seed Today magazine reports estimates of over 50,000 acres of grass seed production was planted to soft white wheat.

The Pacific Northwest also suffered a drought last year from May to December that slowed establishment on new plantings, affected the after harvest greenup on older fields, and the effectiveness of some of the fall herbicides used to cleanup weeds in the fields. According to the National Climatic Data center the threeregion (Oregon. Washington, and Idaho) had below normal precipitation in 9 of the 12 months in 2002. Seed quality may become an issue with many seed lots produced this year. Luckily, the

Northwest's dry fall was followed by a mild winter with timely precipitation that allowed many of the older fields to catch up on their regrowth.

Perennial ryegrass

Prices have been at rock bottom on the perennial ryegrasses for over a year and they were one of the first to have their supply corrected with massive plow Perennial ryegrass acreage in Oregon's certification program dropped 18% between 2001 and 2002 to 62,833 acres. Although official figures are not available yet, older fields continued to be plowed after last summer's harvest. The dry fall not only affected seedling establishment and regrowth on older fields but reduced the effectiveness of herbicides used to cleanup the fields. Perennial ryegrass prices already began going up this spring and are expected to go even higher as the new crop comes in.

Tall fescue

Between 2001 and 2002 tall fescue acreage in Oregon increased by 7% to 115,401 acres. This was mainly the result of new varieties being increased for the new National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) tall fescue trial planted in 2001. After the 2002 harvest, older tall fescue fields also began being plowed. Oregon has 30,000 less tall fescue acres than last year.

Tall fescues are expected to have an adequate supply through 2003 even with the plow outs. A large carryover from 2002 will keep older varieties readily available. Many of the newer varieties can be expected to be in short supply. Prices are also expected to rise in the fall as the carryover gets used up.

Kentucky bluegrass

Dark clouds hang over the future of Kentucky bluegrass seed production and it is not smoke. Seed production of Kentucky bluegrasses has benefited for years by burning production fields after harvest. Burning the plants stimulates tillering and growth in the next year. Without field burning, yields are often reduced by 50% or more. Grass burning was banned in both Oregon and Washington prior to 2000. Now



Farmer plowing a Kentucky bluegrass field on the Rathdrum Prairie in Idaho. Poor seed yield was expected since the field was not burned after havest and the dry fall inhibited regrowth.

a ban is expected to pass in Idaho, the premier Kentucky bluegrass production area. within the next 18 months. Legislation has failed in the past, but it is believed that the anti-burning coalition now has enough support to get this passed in many counties, if not statewide. Idaho's climate is not conducive to annual cropping and with the threat of not being able to burn, production is moving to higher-priced irrigated land, increasing the cost of production. Overall, Idaho acreage is down about 20,000 acres, mostly on the non-burned land, including many that had poor fall greenup because of poor moisture. Poor supply of both common and proprietary varieties is expected for 2003 and Kentucky bluegrass prices will be higher.

Other cool season grasses

Oregon's fine fescue acreage was reduced 31% between 2001

and 2002 to 16,507 acres. Even with the drastic reduction, seed supplies of the fine fescues are expected to remain about the same as last year with stable prices. Bentgrass production remained about the same so plan on good availability and stable prices for them also.

Maximize your seed purchasing power

There will be less seed to go around this year. Seed lots with "zero other crop and weeds" will command a premium price. Seed lots containing some weed or other crop will seem more prevalent because the cream of the crop will sell the fastest. Before you buy, know the minimum quality and germination levels you will accept, and which weeds will be a problem in your area and choose your purchase accordingly. Each bag of seed has a label containing information on the seed purity (how much of the bag contains the variety), inert



Production field being combined.

(plant chaff, etc.), % germination (with the date it was tested) and the percent of weed seed and other crop seed by species that was found in the bag.

Both the perennial ryegrasses and Kentucky bluegrasses can be expected to have spot shortages of some varieties, so have alternatives in mind when you go to purchase seed. Purchase your seed early if possible to avoid disappointments and changes to your turf establishment plans.

"Intense" and "Enjoyable" Describe This Year's School of Turfgrass Management

By Bob Lisi, Research Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Horticulture

Are you ready for the 2003 season? Twenty-two participants took advantage of the winter weather to brush up on their turfgrass knowledge. returned to the classroom to complete this year's intense, week-long School of Turfgrass Management. The school was held February 24-28 at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station in Madison. The program offered over 40 hours of diversified instruction in turfgrass growth and development, establishment and renovation. soil and nutrient management. equipment calibration, chemical applications and regulations, water management, irrigation systems, insect and disease management, and environmental communication.

For many of the participants, the week of instruction provided a refresher on basic principles of turfgrass management with an update on modern practices. Some of the attendees had no formal education in turforass science, but took the course as a foundation for work in the turfgrass industry. Five laboratory sessions allowed the students to get hands-on exposure to common turfgrass species, weeds, turfgrass diseases, soils, and application equipment. One student commented that the "disease lab was my first chance to identify turfgrass diseases under a microscope. It was very impressive." The small group size gave each participant the opportunity to seek personalized solutions to issues they antici-

pate during the growing season.

The instruction was provided by representatives from T.J. Emmerich Associates Inc., the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and seven faculty from the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. attendees enjoyed the high energy speakers and amazing amount of information. Another attendee remarked, "The course was extremely worthwhile and we will send more of our people to the program in the future." The program was offered as a cooperative effort, for the first time, between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Minnesota. Next year's program will take place in Minnesota.

Changes Underway for EXPO 2004

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility University of Wisconsin-Madison

Big changes are being planned for the 2004 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO. The show always has great education for all turfgrass professionals. But the attendance numbers took a huge dive in 2003. It was probably an irregularity since the year before tied the record for most attendees. There were only 278 attendees this year compared to 415 in 2002. Guesses abound about why people didn't come, but it wasn't for lack of good education.

Good turfgrass education is and always has been the main focus of EXPO. The planning committee is committed to this and we are calling on many of you to find out what subjects would best serve your operation. We would rather hear directly from you than schedule subjects that we think you want to hear about. There are other areas besides the education that we would also like to hear from you about. Some suggestions you already made are:

- Discount the price so that more staff members may attend.
- Offer education for mechanics, irrigation people, assistants, and other lead personnel.
- Change the trade show back to the former open layout.
- Send out show brochures earlier and more often.

We've started contacting speakers that you've suggested and others that the committee knows are good. Hopefully we'll have most of them confirmed soon. Contact someone on the planning committee if you have suggestions for speakers or subjects. The committee is made up of:

- Your UW-Madison turf team professors and staff.
- Rich Riggs (chairman)
- Dean Musbach

- · Kurt Schimmel
- John Jensen
- · Dennis Robinson

The dates are set for January 5-7, 2004 and the location will again be the Madison Marriott,

West. We hope you and your staff make plans to attend. And

remember to support the companies that participate in the trade show. They help finance all the great education that EXPO brings. A list of the 2003 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO vendors are listed on page 13.



Past WTA president Jim Huggett talks over old times with founding STMA member Roy Zehren.



WTA president Dan Barrett Accepts research check from Dean Musbach of Reinders Turf and Irrigation.

Mike Stever chats with Dr. Geunhwa Jung about important turf production issues.



2003 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO Exhibitors

Aquatic Biologists Inc

Robert Langjahr 920-921-6827 Decorative fountains, pond liners, lake/pond, management services

Beacon Ballfields

Paul Zwaska 608-824-0068 Equipment & supplies for athletic facilities

Brillion Iron Works

Terry Ward 920-756-3720 Long term provider of Ag equipment, now enters the golf & turf market

Contree Sales

Kevin White 920-356-0121 Sprayers, parts and service

Country Club Turf

Vic Peterson 612-804-7651 Complete line of turfgrass seed needs

Custom Manufacturing

Teresa Krebs 608-676-2282 Custom designed bridge kits. Flat or arched design, horizontal or vertical railings

DHD Tree Products

Dan Quast 920-386-9000 Plant protectants, fertilizer and golf course supplies

Extreme Equipment

Paul Swanson 612-861-1323 AEBI multipurpose tractors & equipment

Feick Design Group

Dan Feick 608-588-7888 Golf course architects & irrigation consultants

Fertilizer Dealer Supply

Todd Yeazel 608-868-7300 All your golf course, landscape & sports field fertilizer needs

Flowtronex PSI

Liz Hannabas 214-357-1320 Packaged pump systems for golf, landscape and municipal markets

Herfort Norby Golf Architects

Kevin Norby 952-942-0266 Golf course design, bunker renovations, irrigation design and longrange master planning

Horst Distributing

Dennis Robinson 920-849-2341 Distributors of turf maintenance equipment and supplies

J W Turf

Holly Gilmour 920-485-2859 John Deere golf and turf equipment

Jacklin Seed Company

Mark Grundman 715-421-0028 Complete line of proprietary preformulated grasses blended to meet any need

Jefferson County Farmco

Jerry Ramseier 920-474-4466 Full line for turf products for golf courses, sports fields, sod farms and landscapers

John Deere Landscapes

Doug Laak 262-670-6470 Full line of irrigation supplies, Hunter golf, Syncroflo & John Deere pumpstations, Boardtronics, Aquamaster

Johnson Turf Equipment

Vince Johnson 920-293-8247 Topdressers, seeders, brooms, leaf collection units and sports turf equipment

Lebanon Turf Products

Frank Baden 563-332-9288
Produces high quality, innovative fertilizers and combination products and also offers seed varieties with consistently high NTEP ratings

Lesco Inc

Rob Wasser 262-249-8928 Fertilizer, pesticides, specialty products, golf accessories, irrigation and equipment

Long Island Farm Inc

Paul Huggett 608-655-3600 Sod farm and tree nursery

Manitowoc Lifts

Tom Williams 262-495-3201 Manufacturers of profession turf equipment lifts

McFarlanes

Bill Levers 608-643-3321 Kubota, Ferris, Dixon, Landpride, New Holland and Stihl products

Miller & Associates -Sauk Prairie Inc

Steve Barritt 608-643-8105 Athletic field goals, tennis supplies, benches, receptacles, signage, drinking fountains, shelters, restroom facilities, bleachers & scoreboards

National Golf Graphics

Peter Meyer 608-222-9363 Complete signage for golf courses, laser measuring & sprinkler head tags, and other course accessories

Olds Seed Solutions

Chris Wendorf 608-249-9291
A complete line of performance proven proprietary turf mixtures and varieties custom blended for the upper Midwest. Wholesale distributor

Pendelton Turf Supply Inc

Ed Witkowski 262-534-3334 Seed, fertilizer, pesticides, tee & green supplies & various other miscellaneous products

ProGreen Plus

Mike Akin 414-716-0040 Wholesale distributor of turf, landscape and aquatic supplies

ProSource One

Conrad Stynchula 608-235-4999 Fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, pesticides

Pumpstation Professionals

Bob Cross 262-490-1992 Pumpstation service, Otterbine fountains/aerators

Reinders Inc

Dean Musbach 800-785-3301 Full line of turf and irrigation supplies

Spring Valley Turf Products

Pat Staehler 800-635-2123 Formulator of quality golf & turf fertilizers

Syngenta

Jim Shone 708-217-8509 Plant protectants

T J Emmerich Associates Inc.

Bob Emmerich 262-966-1051 Irrigation evaluation, design, specification, bed and construction observation services

Terracare Products Company

Kathy Rodenhauser 608-429-3402 Topdressers, mowers, aerators, sweepers, & brooms

The Andersons

Tom Wentz 608-846-9457 Fertilizer, plant protectants, growth regulators, & spreaders

United Horticultural Supply

Shawn Hilliard 800-362-8049 Pesticides, fertilizers and seed

Waupaca Sand & Solutions

Brett Grams 715-258-8566 Custom blended soils & mixes for golf courses and athletic fields

Wisconsin Turf Equipment

Lyle Christopherson 608-752-8766 Jacobsen, National, Turfco, Smithco, Lebanon, Cushman, Ransomes, Ryan & Milorganite

Wisconsin Sod Producers Association

Gina Halter 262-895-6820

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers

Tom Schwab 608-845-6895 Helping sports turf managers to keep on top of issues pertaining to sports turf

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association

Audra Anderson 608-845-6536 Improving turfgrass management through research and education

Wolosek Lndscp & G C Materials

Dan Wolosek 715-423-3909 Mixes for golf courses, landscape firms and sports fields

Lurvey Turf Nursery to Host Field Day

By Mark Lurvey, Lurvey Turf Nursery

The Midwest Sod Council, a regional association of sod growers in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, has announced that this year's Field Day will be held Tuesday, July 29th at Lurvey Turf Nursery in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

The Field Day begins at 9:00 am. The event offers a full day of hands-on exhibits and demonstrations by over 50 vendors. They will include distributors of seed, fertilizer and chemicals in addition to manufacturers of

mowers, tillage equipment, seeders and forklifts. The Field Day will also feature automated sod harvesting equipment.

Renowned turf specialists from the University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin will be on hand to share their latest research and answer visitor's questions.

Over 250 attendees are expected. Pre-registration is required, and all who register by June 15th will be entered in a drawing for prizes ranging in

value from \$250 to \$1000. The event is free for members; the fee for non-members is \$25.00. Information and registration can be obtained through Gina Halter at 262-895-6820 (Haltersod@prodigy.net).

The Midwest Sod Council was formed in 1997 and exists to advance the interests of turf producers and promote industry concerns within the Midwest region. For additional information visit their website: www.midwestsod-council.com.

Ag Clean Sweep 2003 Open for Business!

By Roger Springman, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection

The Wisconsin Department of Ag, Trade, and Consumer Protection's (WDATCP) very successful Ag Clean Sweep Program has "opened its doors" for 2003. As in previous years, nearly 35 counties will be offering collections at permanent or season-long facilities and one-day events.

The collection season got off to a terrific start on March 20th in Jefferson County when the Program's two millionth pound of hazardous waste came across the scales. Speakers including Brian Swingle from the Wisconsin Landscape Federation, Jennifer Sunstrom from the Wisconsin Counties

Association and several EPA officials from Region V in Chicago spoke to the great success of the Program. All speakers applauded the Doyle Administration's efforts to save Clean Sweep by using the Recycling Fund for county grant support starting in 2004.

Ag Clean Sweep 2003 is offering its standard range of services. Turf management and greens industry businesses such as golf courses, parks, cemeteries, commercial real estate properties, and recreational facilities can all receive a 50% subsidy for the disposal of unwanted agricultural pesticides and sludge. If you are

interested in getting a disposal quote, please contact the nearest county coordinator on the list below. Keep in mind that your actual savings over private pickup at your facility can actually exceed 50% . . . it all depends what you have and how much you have for disposal. Get a no obligation quote from the Program's waste haulers by calling one of the numbers listed below and on page 15.

For general Program information or information on waste disposal options, contact Roger Springman, Ag Clean Sweep Program Manager at 608-224-4545.

2003 Agricultural Clean Sweep Collection Schedule			
County	Collection Date	County Coordinator	Phone Numbe
Dane	June - October	David Radisewitz	608-294-5358
Dunn	May 16 - 17	George Hayducsko	715-232-4017
Florence	April - November	Mary Klopatek	715-282-4942
Forest	April - November	Mary Klopatek	715-282-4942
Grant	September 9	Tim Filbert	608-723-2125

2003 Agricultural Clean Sweep Collection Schedule (Continued)

County	Collection Date	County Coordinator	Phone Number
lowa	September 10	Paul Ohlrogge	608-935-0391
Jefferson	March - October	Bob Mueller	920-674-7130
Kenosha	April 15 - 16	Rose Skora	262-857-1945
Kewaunee	June 21	Lori Hucek	920-487-2940
LaFayette	September 11	Dan Hill	608-776-4820
Langlade	June 20 - 21	Dave Tice	715-627-6236
Lincoln	April - November	Mary Klopatek	715-282-4942
Manitowoc	May 2 - 3	Jeff Beyer	920-683-4085
Marathon	January - December	John Schlicher	715-261-1900
Northwest Clean Sweep (10 counties)	May - October	Bill Welter	715-635-2197
Oneida	April - November	Mary Klopatek	715-282-4942
Pepin	April 4	erry Mesch	715-672-5709
Pierce	April 5, Sept. 20	Steve Melstrom	715-273-3092
Polk	June 9, Sept. 27	Debbie Peterson	715-485-9278
Racine	April 15 - 16	Rose Skora	262-886-8460
Sauk	September 26 - 27	John Carrol	608-524-6515
St. Croix	May 17, Sept. 20	Jennifer Havens	715-386-4675
Trempealeau	June 7	Patricia Malone	715-538-2311
Vilas	April - November	Mary Klopatek	715-282-4942
Washington	September 25	Troy Kuphal	262-335-4800
Waukesha	January - December	Karen Fiedler	262-896-8300
Wood	May - September	Nancy Eggleston	715-421-8911

WISCONSIN TURFGRASS ASSN.

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