



## WTA Golf Fundraiser Returns to the Irish Course at Whistling Straits

By Mike Lee, Blackwolf Run/Whistling Straits

One hundred and forty four players will have the opportunity to play one of most challenging and distinctive golf courses to be found anywhere, during the 2005 WTA Golf Fundraiser. The highly acclaimed WTA golf outing comes to the Irish Course at Whistling Straits on Tuesday, October 11th. The last four WTA Golf Fundraisers, including two held at Destination Kohler golf courses, have sold out so make your reservations early to attend this exciting event. Registration forms are included in the newsletter. Your participation supports the highly successful Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research.

### A CREDIBLE CAUSE:

The revenue generated from this event is a key component of the overall fund raising efforts of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. Since 1996, the WI Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO, WTA Summer Field Day, and the WTA Golf Fundraiser have raised over \$263,000 to support turfgrass research. During this same time period, the WTA has contributed over \$520,000 in direct research grants.

Your financial support is used to pay for research projects that generate solutions to our industry's most challenging issues. Nutrient run-off, traffic tolerance, new product testing, and disease



**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.

resistance breeding are a few examples.

Constant with the WTA's mission, the WTA embarked on an aggressive long-term goal to support Distinguished Graduate Fellowships at the UW-Madison. The Fellowship is a University research position that funds a graduate student to study a specific turfgrass related project. The benefits of a Fellowship are impressive!

- The program matches 100% of the money raised.
- Once a Fellowship position is established, the University maintains it indefinitely!
- The information produced by the Fellowship will solve problems encountered by professionals who make a living in the culture of turfgrass...indefinitely.

#### THE COURSE:

The Irish Course is the result of a massive golf course construction effort fueled by the imagination of Pete Dye and the resources of Herb Kohler. The Irish Course is a natural extension of its companion course, the Straits Course, which opened only two years earlier. The Herb and Pete duo constructed massive sand dunes, entire plateaus, and of course the largest collection of pot bunkers on the face of the earth. "We lose count at about 800 pot bunkers," says Course Superintendent, Grant Davey.

The Irish Course opened in 2000. GOLF MAGAZINE selected this course 37th on its 1999-2000 list of the "Top 100 Courses in the U.S." and GOLFWEEK selected it 11th among "America's 100 Best Modern Courses" for 1999-2000.

After a round of golf on the Irish Course, the par-three 13th is always the most talked about golf hole. Golfers find themselves perched atop an elevated tee turning their heads 360 degrees looking for the green. The lunar landscape is very effective in hiding a massive 16,000 square foot green that dwells in the bottom of a crater only a short 145 yards from the white tee markers.

#### DECISIONS, DECISIONS, WHO DO I INVITE?

The WTA golf outing is not just for Wisconsin turfgrass industry people. This is the perfect opportunity to invite anyone you want to recognize or to express your appreciation. WTA members have invited family members, friends, and club officials to enjoy this special event. For WTA members who do not golf, this is a great opportunity to reward staff members who do enjoy the game, and have worked hard during the 2005 growing season.

On page 15 of this newsletter is your registration form. Call 608-845-6536 if you have any questions regarding the fundraiser. 🍀

#### WTA GOLF OUTING ATTENDEES WILL USE THE CHAMPIONS LOCKER ROOM.

The Champions locker room is an 8,772 sq. ft. state-of-the-art structure used by the professionals during the 2004 PGA Championship. The massive stone building was built in the same tradition of quality and architectural detail of the adjoining clubhouse. The Champions locker room features two distinct locker rooms equaling 204 full-sized lockers, a separate shower and restroom area in each, a lounge featuring large plasma screen TVs, multiple sitting areas, a double-hearthed fireplace, and full beverage service. The Champions locker room was completed just months before the 2004 PGA Championship.

## Winter Kill in 2005

By Jerry Kershasky, Westmoor Country Club

Turfgrass in many parts of Wisconsin encountered long durations of ice cover during the winter of 2004/2005. Winter kill on putting greens was confirmed on several golf courses in Southeastern Wisconsin by early March. This prompted an emergency gathering at Westmoor Country Club

on March 22, 2005, to better understand the phenomenon and to brainstorm tactics to help a golf course recover.

Dr John Stier, an associate professor of horticulture at the UW-Madison, and

Mr. Bob Vavrek, a senior agronomist with the USGA Green Section, were invited in to share their knowledge and answer questions about winter kill. Nearly 180 concerned golf superintendents, golf club officials (greens chairmen, club presidents, owners, general managers, and golf professionals), and media representatives attended the discussion.

Dr. Stier was the first on the program. He illustrated how and why the winter of 04/05 was responsible for so much turf death. Here are several of the important messages John talked about:

- The turf most likely to suffer damage or death over this past winter is *Poa annua*. But there are many bio-types of *Poa annua* and not all will be damaged. Some are hardier than others. Other turfgrasses that could suffer are perennial ryegrass and tall fescue. It is unlikely that bent-

Both the velvet and creeping bentgrasses survived the ice damage while the surrounding *Poa annua* var. reptans died in this space planted breeding study at the Noer Facility.



grass will be killed. It might be set back a bit, but it will not die.

- Greens with poor surface drainage that have a high population of *Poa annua* will suffer the most damage. Good surface drainage is essential for the winter survival of *Poa annua*. The slope of a green surface must be sufficient enough to accommodate a quick exit for winter rains, and melting snow and ice, so refreezing doesn't occur on the green. The winterkilling of *Poa annua*, to some degree, occurs every year on poor surface draining greens. It is not very severe or noticeable except for about once in every 10 years.
- Internal drainage is also important so direct freezing injury doesn't occur. Significant damage could occur to small roots and the lower crown of *Poa annua* if the soil is completely saturated, no insulating snow cover is present, and the temperature drops significantly over the course of 24 hours, say from 50 degrees to 0. This is exactly the scenario that happened to many courses back in January.
- Why *Poa annua*? John used the analogy of a hibernating bear. Even though the bear is in a deep sleep during the winter, it is still respiring. This means the bear, like turfgrass, is using up energy (sugar) all winter long. So during the fall, the bear eats a lot to build up its sugar reserves for that long winter nap. Likewise, during the shorter cooler days of fall, most turfgrasses store more energy (sugar) than they use for growth, and this sugar replaces some of the water in the cells of the plant. This makes freezing damage less likely to its cells. Bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass are very good at this. But *Poa annua* is like a lazy bear. It can't eat or store enough energy (sugar) to make it through the winter. Then when temperatures rise in the winter and expose *Poa annua* to sun and standing water, it wakes up and takes in more water which starts the growth process. Since it has smaller reserves of energy than other species, it has consumed most of its stored sugars early in the winter. Its life is in peril if a sudden drop in temperature occurs in the next 24 to 36 hours, after growth has started and much of the remaining sugar has been replaced by water. Cold tolerance of *Poa annua* is at its greatest in December and January of most years. Its cold tolerance declines rapidly in February and is essentially gone in March so usually most of the destruction done to *Poa annua* is in mid-February and March. This year, however, a warm spell in mid-January melted our insulating snow cover, temperature rose to 54 degrees, and 0.75 to 1.00 inch of rain fell. Temperatures then dropped over the course of the next 24 hours to -2 degrees. This episode certainly could have caused some death even though



Two year old perennial ryegrass, surrounding these creeping bentgrass clones, was killed by prolonged ice cover at the Noer Facility.

*Poa annua* should still have good cold tolerance in mid-January.

- John commented on ice covers: Recent studies suggest that *Poa annua* loses its cold hardiness faster under ice cover than under snow cover and some suggest that this can occur in as little as 39 days. The buildup of gases like carbon dioxide and cyanide, or the lack of oxygen (called anoxia) could occur and if prolonged enough, could cause damage. But John did not think that this winter's damage would be from this occurrence. More likely the damage would be from crowns being hydrated followed by a quick temperature change, causing cells to rupture from ice crystal formation within and around those cells.

Mr. Bob Vavrek was next on the program. He had an abundance of other information to add to the discussion which I'll outline here:

- In the last ten years, greens have been cut lower and kept at those low heights from opening day to the end of the season because of the demands from golfers to have fast greens all year. Bentgrass cultivars that were planted 10 to 50 years ago do not possess the physiological characteristics to be cut short and flourish. When they are cut short for extended periods they thin out, creating voids for *Poa annua* to fill in. And because we mow greens so short in the fall there isn't enough leaf surface to carry on photosynthesis to produce enough energy (sug-



A beneficial result of this winter's turf damage was the selective control of *Poa annua* that contaminated this fall 2004 planting of Pennncross creeping bentgrass.

ars). Bob used the analogy of sugars being antifreeze in the cells. None or too little antifreeze in the cells sets up *Poa annua* for winter failure on poor surface draining greens.

- Bob also mentioned if you don't have all the proper growing characteristics for bentgrass to survive, even though you may have just planted a green to bentgrass, it will eventually turn into a *Poa annua* green. Key growing characteristics are all-day full sun or at least no shade on the east and south sides of greens, no tree root competition, good surface drainage, and good internal drainage. Additionally the correct variety of bentgrass should be chosen for your area and for the green speed needed, along with managing that variety with the correct mowing practices, aerating and topdressing programs, and fertility and plant protectant plans.
- Bob additionally had these ideas on turf recovery if injury or death has occurred to the green: First, choose the right bentgrass for the desired green speed, and then plant that seed by aerating on close centers or by deep slicing to get good seed-to-soil contact. Next, topdress and fertilize to help the turf to fill in. Consider going back to the areas again in 10 days and punching more holes and doing another seeding. Use soluble nitrogen sources because soil temps will be cold for microbial nitrogen decomposition. Cover the green with plastic covers to raise soil temperatures and then close the green to play. Playing on a damaged green will set it back tremendously. Use walkers with solid rollers and raise the height to 3/16 inch, to reduce wear when you start to mow. Make sure to water frequently and it may be best to hand water so you get only the seeded areas moist, not the grass that's still alive. You may want to consider covering the greens on cold nights with an insulating blanket so frost injury doesn't occur to the seedlings. If you want bentgrass for more than a couple of years after this seeding, be sure to correct all the negative characteristics that turned this green into a *Poa annua* green in the first place.
- Bob lastly mentioned that each course should set standards for spring, summer, and fall mowing heights of their greens, along with the corresponding speeds for each season. An

aeration and sand topdressing program, along with other cultural practices should be chosen to ensure the continued health of the greens. Once standards are established, stick to it.

The discussion continued with Bob and John answering questions from the attendees. Covers for winter protection were asked about. It was decided they are not always reliable from season to season. Sometimes problems occur under them.

One question concerned why one golf course could have dead greens while another course a mile down the road doesn't. John and Bob thought the courses could have different bio-types of *Poa annua*, differing surface or internal drainage, higher populations of bentgrass, or differing shade or other weather issue like rainfall amounts or more melting at one place compared to the other.

Two attendees brought in Pennlinks plugs that were really damaged. It appears that Pennlinks may not be as winter hardy as other bentgrasses.

The question was asked of whether or not to remove ice. The answer was — it depends. It might be wise to do so after 30 days with *Poa annua* greens that have poor surface drainage. Bentgrass, other than Pennlinks, may not have to be removed until after 90 days.

The meeting ended with discussing ways to melt or remove ice if it is present for an extended period. Good products for melting ice are dark materials like crumb rubber, Milorganite, dark dyes sprayed with a backpack sprayer, and sand topdressing or sand with an organic mixed in. Then the ice could be broken up by using an aerator with solid tines or other mechanical implement. In all cases the ice must then be removed so further melting and the resulting standing water doesn't refreeze on the green. Basically, get all standing water off the green. 🍀

**Ice damage did not differentiate between cultivars of tall fescue in this 3 year old NTEP study as all were killed.**



# Annual Bluegrass at the Annual Symposium

By Brett Grams of Waupaca Sand and Solutions

The annual Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association (NGLGCSA) held their annual Symposium on March 1st and 2nd in Wausau, WI. This year's symposium centered on everything you need to know about annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). Wausau provided a great venue for learning, discussion, and conversation for the 70 plus attendees.

A board meeting, open to all attendees, started the event on Tuesday evening. Following that short meeting was time to attend the hospitality room, sponsored by loyal vendors of

the association. A good evening of spirited conversation and catching-up with friends made for an enjoyable time by all.

On Wednesday morning NGL President Steve Spears started an excellent day of education by welcoming all in attendance. The first speaker was Dr. Bruce Clark, of Rutgers University, who discussed the best management techniques to deal with anthracnose and dollar spot in annual bluegrass. The discussion was a great review of the basics for managing annual bluegrass. Specific cultural practices of fertility, mowing height, and chemical controls

were discussed.

Following Dr. Clark, Dr. John Smith of The Bayer Corporation discussed the latest findings of the company sponsored research and product development studies. His topic was management of *Poa annua* in the Midwest. Dr. Smith provided interesting information and listed ideas on timing pre-emergent herbicides and plant growth regulators for *Poa annua* seedhead suppression.

Prior to lunch, Drs. Jung and Stier updated the audience on the current studies being conducted at the UW. The NGL has consistently provided all proceeds from the annual symposiums to turfgrass and disease research at the UW.

Following an excellent pool side buffet lunch, Dr. Eric Watkins from the University of Minnesota spoke about the latest *Poa annua reptans* (creeping bluegrass) breeding research being done at U of MN. The first generation of *Poa annua reptans* seed is now on the market and Dr. Watkins explained that he expects the second generation with improved qualities to be ready for sale perhaps as early as 2007.

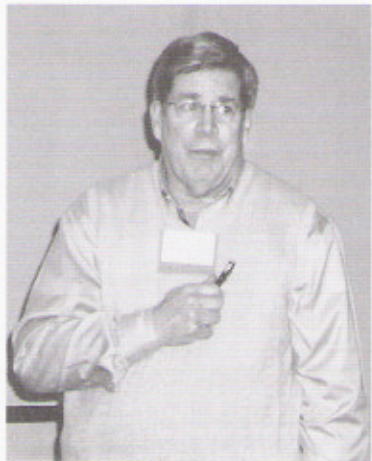
The final session of the day was the always-popular round-



Dr. Bruce Clark, from Rutgers University, talks about disease management in annual bluegrass.



Dr. Eric Watkins, from the U of MN, expounds the virtues of creeping bluegrass or *Poa annua reptans*.



Dr. John Smith, from the Bayer Corporation, talks about *Poa annua* management.



The Board of Directors of the NGLGCSA, who brought us this exceptional symposium.



table discussion. This year the participants were Richard Victorson of Pine Grove GC in Iron Mountain MI, Steve Schmidt of Butte Des Morts CC

in Appleton, and Marc Davison of Green Bay CC. The audience heard many different ideas and strategies of managing *Poa annua*. Many questions and

comments from the audience were answered and discussed. The roundtable discussion was a great way to end an informative day for all attendees. 🌱



Roundtable Panel of Experts - Richard Victorson, Steve Schmidt, and Marc Davison.

## Venues Worthy of the Designation "Field of the Year"

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

There is a new pinnacle of sports field management in Wisconsin. Four years ago, the WSTMA started the "Field of the Year" contest to annually name some of the best managed fields in the state. Field managers that feel their sports field is worthy of the designation must submit descriptions of their fields and programs along with several photographs. The contest was very difficult to judge again this year with several fields setting such high standards.

Seven different athletic fields entered the 2004 WSTMA Field of the Year contest. The contest takes many criteria into consideration and the winners had to be dedicated to meet the specifications for submission. Yet we hope the recognition from peers and community for a job well done outweighed the effort of entering the contest. Winners of the contest were announced during the annual WSTMA meeting at the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO in January, 2005.

The guidelines of the contest require submission of several specific photographs of the field. Also, required is an essay about the field including a brief history, description of how much the field is used and for what sports, and an explanation of components of the field (seating, lighting, irrigation, etc). Other comments in the narrative include explanations about scheduling, special

maintenance challenges and their solutions, unique innovations to problems, and descriptions of other events/activities held on the field.

In addition to the essay, several outlines needed to be submitted. They describe the maintenance program including types of materials and supplies used, operations budget, all maintenance equipment used, and organization and numbers of maintenance staff.

A panel of three members from the University of Wisconsin then sifted through the entries and information. It was hard to make the decision with such quality entrants, but the judges agreed that these winners stood out:

- Baseball Field of the Year — James R. Crawford (McFarland High School)
- Football Field of the Year — James Berend (West Bend School District)
- Soccer Field of the Year — Jeff Netzer (La Crosse Soccer Club "Field for Kids")
- Softball Field of the Year — Travis J. Crawford (McFarland High School)

Each of these winners will tell you it was a team effort that helped them win the award. The dedicated staff, volunteers, community, and athletes should all take pride in achieving the recognition. The quality leadership helped also.

The entrants that didn't quite make the cut should be congratulated likewise for having wonderful fields and for their efforts in entering. As stated earlier, the judging was hard. The WSTMA is very proud to have so many top-notch athletic fields such as all the 2004 entrants. We hope to see many others showcase their fields in 2005. We know Wisconsin has so many fields to be proud of. 🌱



James Berend from the West Bend School District accepts the WSTMA Football Field of the Year award from Tom Schwab.

# Wisconsin Legislators Encounter the Green Industry

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

Over two hundred representatives of Wisconsin's green industry converged in Madison on February 15, 2005 to meet with state legislators for the first ever Wisconsin Green Industry Day on the Hill. The representatives were comprised of business owners, workers, enthusiasts, and educators who wanted to impress upon Wisconsin's lawmakers the impact our industry makes in Wisconsin's economy. They also wanted to impress on them that, while making this large economic impact, they remain true stewards of Wisconsin's environment.

We started by meeting at the Inn on the Park Hotel in downtown Madison. After several presentations, we walked across the street to the State Capitol to meet face-to-face with our state legislators. The 200 plus participants broke into small groups of 5 to 10 people to meet the senators and representatives. But because the senate and assembly were in session on February 15th, many of the groups met with their legislator's staff. We were assured that the staff get the attention of the legislators and will surely pass on our messages. Several of our small groups were able to meet with the legislators who, despite being in session, came out to speak with the industry. A file was given to each legislator or staff which presented our important issues.

Issues discussed with the legislators and presented in the file included statements about pesticide and fertilizer products, land and water use, invasive species, health care, immigration and labor, environmental protection, and more. The main message, though, was the economic information compiled in the recently completed Wisconsin Green Industry Survey.

This independent and un-biased survey, conducted by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service,



The Green Industry heads for the State Capitol for the first ever Green Industry Day on the Hill

found Wisconsin's green industry annually contributes over \$2.7 billion and provides over 43,000 jobs to the state's economy. The survey also found there are over 4,700 businesses doing work in Wisconsin's green industry that have strong ties and commitment to our state's agriculture and its future.

The day was coordinated by Brian Swingle, the executive director of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation. Brian brought together 19 different green industry associations, listed below, to take part in the event. Additionally, he brought in several speakers including politicians, agriculture representatives, and educators who spoke about issues important to agriculture and the green industry.

State Senator Ted Kanavas (R-33rd District) was one of the first to speak to the crowd. Ted serves as the chairman of the Senate Committee on job creation, economic development and consumer affairs. He also has first hand knowledge of the green industry, as his brother George Kanavas owns a landscape company. He acknowledged the



This group got the chance to meet with Michael Bruhn of State Representative Scott Gunderson's staff. (L to R) Wade Hummer (Treescapes), Mike Schuster and Heather Schuster (Terra-Firma Landscape), Michael Bruhn (Representative Gunderson's staff), and Jeff Millies (Edgewood Golf Course).



Day on the Hill coordinator, Brian Swingle of the Wisconsin Green Industry Foundation, poured his all into the event.

exciting growth potential of the industry with its positive impact on business and contributions to the environment.

State representative Mark Honadel (R-21st District) spoke next. Mark is also familiar with the green industry being a former garden center owner. He was impressed with the large number of people that came together for the Day on the Hill. He said lawmakers will listen to groups that take the time to be involved with their government through events like this.

Dr. Laura Jull from the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture was the driving force behind the Wisconsin Green Industry Survey. Dr. Jull stated that the green industry ranks #2 for agricultural crop cash receipts in Wisconsin. The only crop which exceeds in receipts is corn — (Green Industry - \$2.7 billion/ Corn \$5.65 billion). But she further clarified that those numbers only include product sales and that if the green industry included services and resales into their value, they would rank as the #1 agricultural crop in the state.

Other distinguished speakers that spoke to the industry included Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Secretary

Rod Nilsestuen, former Governor of Wisconsin Martin Schreiber, and UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Elton Aberle. Dean Aberle was given a surprise before he took the podium to speak. Brian Swingle presented him with a "Friends of Wisconsin Green Industry" plaque in appreciation for all he's done in support of the industry as Dean of the College.

After this, Brian was surprised himself. Bill Vogel, the president of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation, said some nice words about all the work and expertise Brian put into the Day on the Hill. The surprise was the response that followed from the green industry. A long and sustained standing ovation was given Brian for all of his work. He was truly touched but could only thank his staff for all their behind-the-scenes work and additionally thanked the Board of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation who helped with this vision.

In closing, Brian asked the audience if they felt the day made an impact on legislators and will help when important industry issues are being discussed by legislators. Every hand went up in agreement. 🍀



**Green Industry Day on the Hill Participating Associations:**

American Society of Landscape Architects-Wisconsin Chapter  
Associated Landscape Contractors Association  
Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin  
Gardens Beautiful Garden Centers  
Grounds Management Association of Wisconsin  
Midwest Hardware Association  
Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Professional Landscape Contractors Association of America  
Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Florist Association  
Wisconsin Arborists Association  
Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association  
Wisconsin Golf Course Owners Association  
Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Wisconsin Green Industry Federation  
Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association  
Wisconsin Nursery Association  
Wisconsin Sod Producers  
Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association  
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association

Mark your Calendars for a Fun and Educational Day  
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility

**WTA Summer Field Day**  
**Tuesday, July 26th, 2005**  
**608-845-6536**



# Turf Information Arms Attendees for Upcoming Season

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

The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO 2005 was held January 11th and 12th. The wonderful accommodations of the Marriott Madison West served as the conference headquarters. The education was plentiful and pertinent, and attendees gathered lots of new information to arm themselves for the coming season.

Attendance fell well short of the record 415 attendees and 107 trade show representatives from 2002. This year there were only 262 and 128 respectively, in part due to the impending poor weather predicted for those days. Many potential attendees stayed home to avoid the icy roads and mixed snow/rain of the first day and record rainfall the second. The trade show exhibitors were there despite the lagging attendance. Fifty companies were represented, up from 34 last year, but well short of the record 64 from 1998.

Whether you came for the huge trade show or great education, you were not disappointed with EXPO. The conference started out with keynote speaker Pat Richter telling interesting stories about

his years playing for the UW Badger's football team and later years taking the helm as athletic director for his alma mater. He deserves much of the credit for the Badgers' most impressive rise in success. He took a failing program and turned it into the nation's 10th best, according to SPORTING NEWS in 2001. He also told many interesting stories about when he played for the Washington Redskins under the legendary coach Vince Lombardi in the early 1960s.

That was just the beginning of EXPO! Next came the very current discussion of "The Phosphorus Controversy". Jerry Kershasky from Westmoor Country Club moderated the knowledgeable round-table panel of Richard Lathrop, UW Limnology Department; Herb Garn, US Geological Survey; Roger Bannerman, DNR; and Dr. Wayne Kussow, UW Soils Department. A lively and very informative discussion followed, including many well thought out questions from the audience.

A golf cart maintenance workshop for shop personnel was held at the same time as the phosphorus round-table. Everything you need to know about golf cart maintenance was presented. New information was learned by even the most experienced mechanics.

The huge trade show came next. An hour before and after lunch were provided for trade show only time, with no conflicting educational seminars. Everything needed to maintain turf areas was on display and the educated vendors were enthusiastic to talk about all their latest products and services. The list of 2005 EXPO exhibitors is listed on page 11 that shows you who to call when you need anything for your landscapes. These EXPO exhibitors are the ones most willing to help with all your commercial needs throughout the season, so be sure to call on them first.

A wonderful awards banquet luncheon, the first day, included the presentation of numerous turf student scholarships. Many research donations were likewise presented at this time. The list of scholarship recipients and donators is listed below.

One other award was presented during the luncheon. Monroe Miller from Blackhawk Country Club, on behalf of the WTA, presented a travel voucher to Dr. Wayne Kussow to thank him for 20 years of service to the turf industry. Dr. Kussow will be retiring this summer and from the resounding applause he received from the audience, he will surely be missed by his friends in the green industry.

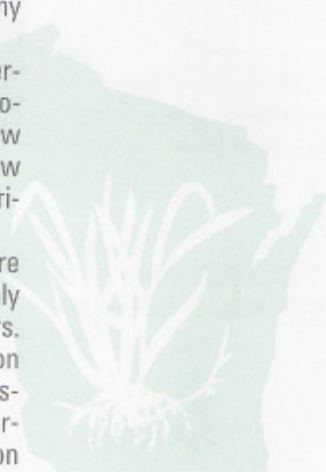
The concurrent educational seminars began in the afternoon, and excellent speakers presented insightful information for three concurrent sections, focusing on the golf industry, sports industry,



Professor Kussow addressing the crowd after receiving a well deserved retirement gift, from the WTA, for his many years of dedicated turf research.



Dr. Stier talks about turf seed developments with Chris Wendorf of Olds Seed Solutions, during the huge EXPO trade show.



and lawn and landscape industry. Attendees were treated to two days of presentations for their specific occupation.

The lawn and landscape section was presented by experts such as Scott Craven, John Stier, Chris Williamson, Kurt Steinke, Geunhwa Jung, and Mirrel Ingram from the UW-Madison, in addition to Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota. The golf section was presented by Mike Agnew from Syngenta, Wayne Kussov and Steve Ablor from the UW, Bruce Martin from Clemson

University, and Bob Vavrek from the USGA. The sports turf section included talks by Pam Sherratt from The Ohio State University, Bob Cross from Pumpstation Professionals, Rich Riggs of Rettler Corporation, Paul Zwaska from Beacon Ballfields, and Brian Horgan and John Stier.

So many subjects were covered that they all can't be described here. Suffice it to say that all attendees will be on top of their games this coming season due in part to what they learned at EXPO. 🌱



The 2005 UW Turf Scholarship recipients.

#### 2005 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO Research and Scholarship Donors

##### Scholarship Donor

##### Recipient

##### Amount

Bayer Environmental Scholarships	Michael Boettcher	\$500
Bayer Environmental Scholarships	Steven Sartorius	\$500
Dave Murgatroyd Memorial	Benjamin Pease	\$500
J. W. Turf John Buck Memorial	Zachary Reineking	\$1,000
Spring Valley Turf Products	Michael Upthegrove	\$600
WGCSA J.R. Love Scholarship	Jacob Schneider	\$1,500
WTA	Timothy Adas	\$600
WTA	Anthony Hudzinski	\$600
WTA	Paul Koch	\$600
WTA	Adam Moeller	\$600

##### Turf Research Donor

##### Recipient

##### Amount

Gary Zwirlein	WI Turfgrass Research & Development Fund	\$300
Westmoor Country Club	WI Turfgrass Research & Development Fund	\$2,560
Aquatrols and Horst	WTA	\$1,733
Bulls-Eye Country Club	WTA	\$810
DHD Tree Products	WTA	\$750
Oshkosh Country Club	WTA	\$2,160
Wisconsin Sod Producers	WTA	\$1,375
Reinders and Daconil Program	WTA	\$5,530

(Total Reinders/Daconil WTA contribution to date - \$104,242)

## 2005 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO Exhibitors

### **Aquatrols**

Produces cutting-edge new chemistries to help maximize winter management and overall turf health.

### **BASF**

Full line of plant protectants.

### **Bayer**

Full line of plant protectants.

### **Champion Greens Sales & Service**

Wiedenmann and SISIS dealers. Aerification contract service. Verticutting rentals.

### **Cleary Chemical**

Turf & ornamental plant protectants.

### **Commercial Irrigation & Turf**

Golf course irrigation installation.

### **Contree**

Custom built sprayers, parts and service.

### **CPI**

Commercial lawncare equipment, chainsaws, blowers, seed, etc.

### **Custom Manufacturing**

Custom designed bridge kit for courses and trails. Arch and flat design with horizontal or vertical railings or just curbs.

### **DHD Tree Products**

Fertilizer, plant protectants, tree supplies, greens roller.

### **Dow Agrosciences**

Ornamental and technical products. Offers 17 high-quality insecticides, herbicides and fungicides to professionals in lawn care, golf course and nursery business.

### **Ero-Tex**

Turf reinforcement mats, bunker liners, greenjacket covers & porous pavement geoblocks.

### **Frontier FS**

Full line of turf supplies. Seed, fertilizer, pesticides and erosion products.

### **Geese Police**

Environmentally safe Canada Goose control using working border collies.

### **Glenn Rehbein**

A total service provider for golf courses, athletic fields and stormwater management.

### **Herfort Norby G C Architects**

Golf course design, practice facilities, irrigation, renovations, restorations.

### **Horst Distributing**

Turf maintenance equipment and supplies.

### **Johnson Turf Equipment**

Line painter, groomers, mowers push & hover, pruning tools.

### **Lebanon Turf**

Superior quality fertilizer, grass seed and PennMulch seed accelerator.

### **Lesco**

Full line of supplies to the green industry.

### **Long Island Farm**

Sod and tree needs.

### **Midwest Curb**

Install continuous concrete curb on new or existing golf cart paths or parking lots.

### **Midwest Turf Products**

Turf products for the green industry.

### **Miller & Assoc - Sauk Prairie**

Manufacturer's representative of Park and Play Equipment. Including shade systems, shelters, playground equipment and surfacing, site amenities, drinking fountains and so much more.

### **National Golf Graphics**

Golf course signage, accessories, laser measuring and scorecards.

### **National Seed**

Seed, fertilizer, chemicals, erosion control and mulch sales.

### **Nature Safe**

Natural & organic fertilizers made from animal proteins not waste by-products or manure.

### **Olds Seed Solutions**

All your seed needs.

### **Pendelton Turf Supply**

Plant protectant materials, seed, fertilizer, tee and green.

### **ProGreen Plus**

Fertilizers, aquatic supplies, hydro seeding supplies, seed and chemicals.

### **ProSource One**

Providing quality fertilizer, seed, and plant protectants for the turf-grass and ornamental industry.

### **Reinders**

Distributor of commercial turf equipment, fertilizer, grass seed, herbicides, fungicides, irrigation products, landscape supplies and ice control salt.

### **Reister & Schnell**

John Deere turf equipment and One Source supplies.

### **Rettler Corporation**

Landscape architecture, civil engineering, golf course architecture, land surveying, site maintenance and irrigation design.

### **Spring Valley**

Formulator of quality fertilizers, complete line of plant protection products and grass seed.

### **Sports Turf Specialists**

Syngenta Full line of plant protectants.

### **Tee Shot Marketing**

AerWay aerators and other supplies for the green industry.

### **TIP**

Specialty turf equipment.

### **The Andersons**

Fertilizer, control products, spreaders.

### **Tiziani Golf Car Corp**

Club car golf & utility vehicles.

### **Verdicon**

Pesticides, fertilizers and seed.

### **Waupaca**

Supplier of quality topdressings, mixes, bunker sands, decorative stone, cobbles, infield dirt and cart path materials.

### **Wisconsin Turf**

Golf and turf maintenance equipment and supplies. Custom deep-tine aerification.

### **Wolosek**

Golf Course Materials.

### **WSTMA**

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in Wisconsin.

### **WTA**

Dedicated to better turf through research and education.

### **Yamaha Golf Cars**

Golf Cart Sales.

## President's Message

# Let's Be Thankful

By Rich Riggs, WTA President



I hope this finds you all safe, happy, healthy, and working outside. As I write this message, I was hoping that spring was here. Yesterday it was sunny and 52 degrees, and today it is snowing with temperatures dropping to the low 20's. Welcome to spring in Wisconsin!

I would like to remind everyone to take a few moments each day to appreciate how good we have it and how lucky we are. I know we all work very hard, but be thankful you can stay healthy and work. I had a few friends that were not so lucky this past year. It does not matter if it is a health problem or accident. Our lives can change quickly and forever.

I know some days are hard to get through depending on the weather, employees, or family

concerns. They all affect how we do our jobs. I am reminded that, at least if we have our health, we are doing OK. So try to take just a moment from each day and be thankful for what you have.

As time continues to move along, it will not be long before the annual WTA Summer Field Day is upon us. This year it will be held on Tuesday, July 26th. The field day committee is working on this year's field day, but they also recently learned the Noer Facility will be hosting the Turf Producers International (TPI) field day in conjunction with our field day in 2007. This international field day will further bring recognition to the UW turf program, for the great program that it is. You will witness some of the changes to the Noer

Facility in progress when you come to WTA Field Day this summer. Ten more acres of turf will be added to the facility. Details for both field days will be announced as they are finalized.

The WI Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO committee is also hard at work finalizing next year's program. It is not too late if you have topic or speaker suggestions for the conference. Let someone on the committee know your suggestions by calling 608-845-6536.

I will close for now but, please remember as spring arrives and we get busier, take a few moments each day to remind yourself what you have and how fortunate you are. 🍀

## What Does the WTA Do with Your Contributions?

By Paul A. Huggett, WTA Treasurer

The WTA board of directors is pleased to report the financial progress of the association. Included here and on page 13, are two financial reports. The first is the treasurer's report for the last fiscal year, March 1, 2004 to Feb 28, 2005. You will note that the activities such as Summer Field Day, Golf Outing, and Winter Conference are listed as net figures. All other figures are listed as income or expenses.

Are you curious about where the money goes? We have a great answer. All financial records have been kept electronically since 1996, so it is easy to total the dollar amounts of what we have done. The second report outlines this activity. It shows the income sources into the WTA's books, along with where the association has awarded funds.

The totals are amazing for an organization of volunteer board of directors, several UW-Madison faculty and staff, and one administrative secretary. The bottom of the chart lists a few positive disclaimers. The total does not include gifts-in-kind, building of the O.J. Noer Facility, or research supported prior to 1996. So the grand total would be in the range of \$1.6 to \$1.7 million, if those were included. Please give me a call if you have any financial questions. (Paul A. Huggett, WTA treasurer — 608 698-3640 (cell), or paul@paulsturfandtree.com. 🍀

### Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Treasurers Report

For the Fiscal Year March 1 2004 - Feb 28, 2005

Beginning Balance March 1st 2004 - \$55,041.39

INCOME	
410 Dues	\$46,625.00
420 Summer Field Day (Net)	4,907.17
430 Golf Outing (Net)	8,092.08
440 Winter Conference (Net)	12,475.81
510 Contributions	93,490.50
520 Interest Income	388.95
530 Miscellaneous Income	245.81
570 TDL	32,892.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$199,117.82</b>
EXPENSE	
710 Program Assistant	\$18,006.00
730 Newsletter Expense	5,103.40
740 Office Expense	8,065.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$31,174.84</b>
GRANTS	
790 Projects	\$1,800.00
795 TDL	21,475.00
800 Research Grants	30,000.00
890 Scholarships	3,400.00
895 Endowment Accounts	15,575.00
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$72,250.00</b>
<b>CURRENT YEAR INCOME</b>	<b>\$95,692.98</b>
Ending Balance February 28, 2005	\$150,734.37

Respectfully Submitted by  
Paul A. Huggett WTA Treasurer  
Call 608 698-3640 for questions about WTA finances.

# What Does the WTA Do with Your Contributions?

As of February 28, 2005

By Paul Huggett, WTA Treasurer

## Educational-Fund Raising Activity Income

*(Since 1996)*

Summer Field Day	\$65,135.33
Golf Outing	\$56,558.65
Winter Expo	<u>\$141,432.48</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$263,126.43</b>

*(Other funding comes from dues and generous contributions)*

## Grants Awarded

*(Since 1996)*

Scholarships	\$21,000.00
Endowment Accounts	\$207,522.34
Research	<u>\$292,198.97</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$520,721.31</b>

## Graduate Student Fellowships

Kussow -WTA Fellowship	\$250,000.00
Newman-WTA Fellowship	
(Still building to \$250,000)	<b>\$215,000.00</b>

*(Direct contributions to this fellowship are available)*

## Endowment Account *(Started after O.J. Noer Building Completed)*

**Wisconsin Turf Research and Education. \$221,000.00**

*(A list of contributors is available)*

## TOTAL Contributions for

**Turfgrass Research and Education\* **\$1,206,721.31****

\* This Total does not include the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility in Verona. It also does not include research funding from 1980 to 1996. It does include total endowment account values since inception. The total does not include gifts in kind such as land work and materials contributions. Call Paul Huggett with questions or comments 608-655-3600



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 25	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva
May 16	Club Managers Golf Outing	Geneva National Golf Club, Lake Geneva
May 18	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	The Woods, Green Bay
June 1	Super Pro	Abbey Springs GC, Fontana
June 13	People vs. Pro Tournament	Green Bay CC, Green Bay
July 19	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Glen Erin GC, Janesville
July 21	John Deere Tournament	The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, Sheboygan Falls
June 22	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	Mellen CC, Mellen
<b>July 26</b>	<b>WTA Summer Field Day</b>	<b>OJ Noer Turfgrass Facility, Verona</b>
Aug 10	WSTMA Chapter Meeting	Miller Park and Milorganite Plant, Milwaukee
Aug 11	WNA Summer Field Day	McKay Nursery, Waterloo
Aug 16	WGCSA Tournament	Mayville GC, Mayville
Aug 24	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	Marquette CC, Marquette, MI
Sept 12	Superintendent/Guest	The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, Sheboygan Falls
Sept 26	Wee One Fund Raiser	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Sept 28	NGLGCSA Crew Outing	Eagle River GC, Eagle River
Sept 30-Oct 1	WGCSA Dinner Dance	Coldwater Canyon GC, Wisconsin Dells
<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>WTA Golf Outing for Turf Research</b>	<b>The Irish Course at Whistling Straits, Sheboygan</b>
Nov 15-16	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	American Club, Kohler
<b>Jan 9-11</b>	<b>Wisconsin Turfgrass &amp; Greenscape EXPO</b>	<b>Marriott Madison West</b>
Jan 18-20	Mid-Am	Chicago
Feb 9-11	Golf Industry Show	New Orleans

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.

### Contact Telephone Numbers

GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America .....	800-472-7878
GIS	Golf Industry Show (Formerly GCSAA Golf Conference) .....	800-472-7878
Mid-Am	Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show .....	www.midam.org
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.....	630-443-1008
John Deere	John Deere Tournament .....	651-437-7747
Symposium	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium .....	800-287-9645
TPI	Turf Producers International Midwinter Conference .....	800-405-8873
Wee One	Wee One Fund Raiser .....	920-458-6048
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association .....	414-786-4303
WLF	Wisconsin Landscape Federation Winter Convention .....	414-529-4705
WNA	WNA Winter Workshop .....	414-529-4705
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association.....	608-845-6895
<b>WTA</b>	<b>Wisconsin Turfgrass Association .....</b>	<b>608-845-6536</b>



**2005 WTA Golf Outing**  
**The Irish Course at Whistling Straits Benefiting the**  
**Wisconsin Distinguished Fellowship**  
**in Turfgrass Research**



**Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

**Golf Outing Info**

Where: Whistling Straits – Irish Course  
 N8501 Highway LS  
 Haven, WI 53083

When: Thursday, October 11, 2005  
 9:00-10:00 Registration and Practice  
**10:30am Shotgun**

What: Golf and Lunch  
 Recognition and Awards  
 Ceremony after Golf

Event: 4-Person Best Ball  
 Cost: \$165.00/person

**The Irish Course at Whistling Straits:**

Whistling Straits, which opened in 1998, offers two courses of dynamic contrast. Open, rugged and windswept terrain defines the Straits Course along two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. Just inland, interspersed by four meandering streams, the grassland-and-dunes aspect of the Irish Course a deceivingly tranquil landscape. With more than a hint of the Emerald Isle in its style and personality, the Irish Course at Whistling Straits possesses all the character of a centuries' old legend. The Irish Course completes 72 holes of the most diverse golf experience in the world. The course is another Pete Dye masterpiece and a perfect companion to the adjacent, stunning Straits Course. Tranquil grasslands. Soaring dunes. Cavemous bunkers. And, to ensure that golfers will remember the Irish Course, Dye claims he has used "every trick I've ever learned" in routing and sculpting the hole dynamics. Capitalizing on the endlessly fickle personality of nearby Lake Michigan, the Irish Course offers intriguing prospects at every turn. Carry the creek or lay up short from the tee on #9. Steer clear of the 40-foot bunkers on the right or fall victim to the wetlands on the left of the "blind" par three at #13. The Irish Course has ten bridges over four streams that meander through the property and offers panoramic views of Lake Michigan from several holes. Every hole will inspire. Every stroke will challenge.

**Wisconsin Distinguished Graduated 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.

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

# of People \_\_\_ x \$165 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tee Signs @ \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution = \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable and return by **October 3, 2005** to:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**2502 Highway M, Verona WI 53593**

**Refer questions about the outing to Audra @ 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu.**

**Due to the time of year, special lodging rates are not being offered at the The American Club or Inn on Woodlake. The American Club: Std rooms are \$250 single/ \$280 double occupancy, Inn on Woodlake: prairie rooms \$158 single / \$178 double occupancy. Please call 1-800-344-2838 to make a reservation.**