

Come Play the Newly Renovated North Shore Country Club WTA GOLF FUNDRAISER - OCTOBER 5, 2009

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

Participants in the 2009 WTA Golf Fundraiser will have the opportunity to play one of Wisconsin's premier golf courses - North Shore Country Club in Mequon. Event hosts Bob Erdahl, Director of Grounds and Facilities, and Garrett Luck, Golf Course Superintendent have a wonderful day planned for you. The event occurs on October 5, 2009 and a registration form has been inserted in this newsletter.

North Shore Country Club is a championship golf course that has hosted the Greater Milwaukee Open, Wisconsin State Open, and State Amateur Championship. The club has recently undertaken an ambitious plan to rebuild all 27 holes based upon the Master Plan of nationally recognized Golf Course Architect, Ron Forse. Renovation of the first nine holes began last fall and reopened this spring to rave reviews. The renovated course features a unique bunker style, multiple tees and strategically placed water hazards that challenge every caliber of golfer.

For \$125, you will be treated to a delicious buffet brunch before golf, practice range, and golf with a cart. After golf you'll enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and hopefully go home with one of the valuable door prizes and/or golf awards. Many door prizes are worth more than the cost of registration. You may register as a foursome or by yourself. The event is a four person best ball format.

Your registration fee not only provides you the above benefits, but also supports the Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in



Turfgrass Research program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Fellowships include the Wayne R. Kussow, Terry and Kathleen Kurth, Robert C. Newman, and John and Flora Burbee Fellowships. No other turf school in the country has this many fellowships for turfgrass research. These fellowships facilitate the development of new techniques for managing turfgrass in the most environmentally responsible and cost effective manner.

Several of the studies funded by the turfgrass fellowships include a comparison between turfgrass and rain gardens to manage urban runoff, an assessment of different inorganic amendments to improve putting green construction mixtures, and an investigation to improve soil testing and soil test calibration for growing turf in Wisconsin. Two more studies began in

2008. One investigates the optimum time for applying fall fertilization from both an in-the-field and growth chamber design. The other study explores water conservation through rooftop collection of rainwater and subsurface drip irrigation.

The golf outing isn't all about funding research though. It's also about spending time with friends to enjoy a round of golf near the end of the season and this golf course will not disappoint! I hope you are able to attend the WTA Golf Fundraiser at North Shore Country Club to partake in this truly outstanding course and fundraiser. You may contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have questions. Whether it's your first WTA Golf Fundraiser or you've attended them all, we hope you won't miss this one. ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Never Give Up

By Dan Biddick, WTA President



Last week I was watching a news program on television. There was a segment on a young boy who had a debilitating disease. He had a conquering spirit. His motto was:

"Never give up,
Never back down,
Never lose faith."

I was reading an article in a magazine not too long ago. It was about a US soldier in a war zone. He received a letter from his Dad. "I believe in you. I am out there with you in spirit. Just promise you won't lose faith. Never stop believing you will make it."

Some time ago I was reading a book and highlighted this passage: "The glory of friendship is not in the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is in the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone believes in him and is willing to trust him."

Several years ago my young boys had been complaining all day. The next day I took them on a little field trip to UW Hospital. They never forgot it.

I was visiting with a customer a few days ago. We were sitting on his porch. He said, "I like the morning best, because I have the whole day to look forward to."

The grass keeps growing. Keep looking forward! I hope to shake your hand at the annual WTA Golf Outing on October 5th at North Shore Country Club in Mequon. I'm also looking forward to seeing you at the WTA Winter EXPO December 8th at Boerner Botanical Gardens. ■

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Late-Fall Nitrogen Applications: Not as Important as You Think!

By Dan Lloyd and Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Many turfgrass managers place a large emphasis on fall nitrogen fertility, often citing benefits such as increased root development, faster recovery from aeration, preservation of fall color, increased reserve carbohydrate storage, and hastened spring green up and recovery from winter damage. These proclaimed benefits are based on the observation that shoot growth tapers off in mid to late-October in Wisconsin while soil temperatures remain warm enough to sustain root activity. Conventional wisdom is that N uptake and photosynthesis continue and the byproducts (assimilated N, photosynthates) will be partitioned into root and rhizome development instead of being used for shoot growth as it would during the spring and summer. While this investment in infrastructure would be a very logical response for the plant, there is surprisingly little research that actually supports this notion. In fact, research generally links N uptake to growth and for many plants, a sharp decrease in N uptake has been observed when temperatures inhibit shoot growth. Limited research available on turfgrass has shown a few extra weeks of color response suggesting some amount of N taken up, although root growth, carbohydrate storage, and year round benefits have not been shown. Research is lacking directly measuring plant uptake and utilization, as well as evaluating environmental differences including soil type, plant species, and application timings. For a comprehensive scientific review of the work that has been done (or to cure your chronic insomnia), you can check the literature review section of my Master's thesis.

Because of the lack of good supporting data for one of the most important fertilizer timings, our research objectives were to evaluate beneficial claims associated with fall N fertilization. We hope that our findings will spark renewed interest in the conventional wisdom of fall fertilization and eventually lead to improved N fertilizer recommendations. This research was conducted between 2007 and 2009 and involved a greenhouse experiment and an ongoing field study conducted in Madison, WI and St. Paul, MN.

In the greenhouse experiment, plant species (Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, and annual bluegrass) were grown to maturity and transferred to a growth chamber set to the temperatures and day lengths characteristic of September 15th, October 15th, or November 15th for Madison, WI. Nitrogen was applied to these grasses at 0, 0.5, 1, or 2 lbs N/M. We found that the N uptake responses were fairly similar¹ among species, but very different among temperatures (Figure 1). Ten days after N was applied, uptake averaged 64, 47, and 26% of fertilizer applied in September, October, and November treatments across species. In field conditions, these numbers were even lower probably due to rainfall and other environmental factors. Root growth was not stimulated and was actually inhibited by the high application rates in September. Spring green up was greatest for October applications and there was no difference between the 0.5 lb and the 1.0 lb/M rate. November applications did not respond at all in the sand based

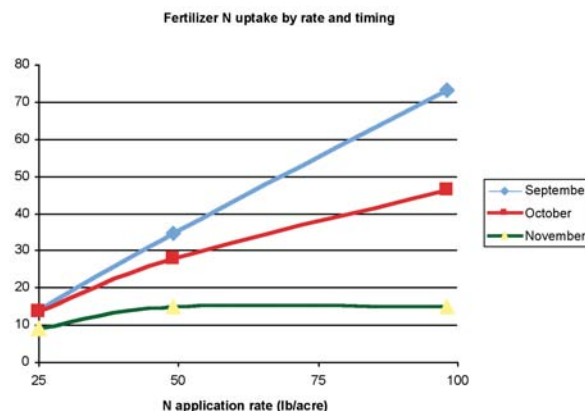


Figure 1. Fertilizer N uptake rates in the greenhouse experiment averaged between Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass as influenced by time of application and rate.

root zone but did green up nicely in the silt loam soil, suggesting fertilizer loss through leaching from November treatments on sand. Conclusions from this research include:

- Do not build up your expectations for late fall N fertility. Color will improve slightly in fall and spring but do not expect any noticeable differences in root production, carbohydrate storage, or any lasting impact on quality. The same spring and fall color responses can probably be achieved through much smaller applications than are currently being applied by most managers.
- Avoid high application rates. Only small amounts are being taken up in the fall, some will be lost over winter and early spring, and the remaining N will stimulate a flush of shoot growth in the spring at the expense of root development. We watched this happen in the field in Madison and St. Paul.
- Based on our research findings, the best strategy for golf courses that currently practice spoon feeding is to maintain the spoon feeding program into mid-October.
- For taller cut turf, or turf that is fertilized with granular fertilizers, managers should avoid applying more than 0.5 lbs N/M past mid-October. Prior to this time, applications up to 1.0 lbs N/M continue to be suitable.

(Note: We are proud to announce that Dan Lloyd completed his Master's Degree in August and has moved on to the University of Missouri where he will be a turfgrass research technician for Dr. Xi Xiong. His literature review and full research reports are in fact very interesting and worth a read if you find yourself in disbelief right now. To get a copy or for other questions concerning this article feel free to contact Doug Soldat at djsoldat@wisc.edu, office phone: 608-263-3631.) ■

¹). Interestingly, the annual bluegrass had a greater uptake potential than Kentucky bluegrass or creeping bentgrass in cool temperatures. That means fertilizing heavier in cooler temperatures may favor annual bluegrass, or lead to succulent growth for the annual bluegrass and therefore more winter damage on this species.

Putting Your Turf to Bed

By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Whether you manage a golf course, athletic field, sod production, or other landscape in Wisconsin or the Midwest, making sure the turf is ready for winter is of primary concern. One of the major reasons for this are snow molds. Snow molds are a general term for three major diseases in Wisconsin; Microdochium patch (aka pink snow mold) caused by *Microdochium nivale*, gray snow mold caused by *Typhula incarnata* and speckled snow mold caused by *T. ishikariensis* (Figure 1). Of these three diseases, Microdochium patch does not require snow cover and is usually most severe in southern Wisconsin. Gray snow mold can occur throughout the state as well, and is also usually more severe in southern Wisconsin when snow cover persists for more than 60 days. Speckled snow mold is the most destructive snow mold disease we see in Wisconsin, and is usually only seen in the central and northern parts of the state where snow cover persists for more than 90 days.

On golf courses, fungicides are required for acceptable snow mold control because of the susceptibility of creeping bentgrass to the different snow mold fungi. There are many effective fungicide mixtures for controlling snow mold with varying financial impact on your facility. Visit our website (www.plantpath.wisc.edu/tdl) to view the 2008-2009 Snow Mold Research Reports and see for yourself what works. In addition to effective chemical control, healthy turf with adequate carbohydrate reserves going into winter will develop thicker cell walls that can better fend off fungal infection. This means slightly raising mowing height in the fall and proper fertilization amount and timing to increase photosynthetic production while preventing excessive late fall growth.

On athletic fields, sod farms, and home lawns oftentimes snow mold control can be obtained without the use of fungicides. On home lawns especially, I rarely recommend fungicide usage to control snow mold for two reasons. First, if fertilizer has been applied to the lawn in the proper amounts throughout the year and the lawn is not especially lush going into snow cover, the damage from snow mold is usually minor. Second, any snow mold damage seen in the spring rarely kills the plant and full recovery is usually seen shortly after soil temperatures warm above 55°F. On sod fields or athletic fields where taking the time to recover in spring can mean lost revenues, fungicides to control snow mold may be warranted. In this case I would usually recommend a liquid fungicide formulation over a granular unless the active ingredient is readily absorbed into the plant. Common snow mold active ingredients such as chlorothalonil (Daconil™) and iprodione (Chipco 26GT™) are not transported readily throughout the plant, and the coverage provided by granular formulations may be poor.

Snow mold is a common problem for all turfgrass managers in Wisconsin. While some may require more chemical protection than others, everyone can take care to make sure their turf is healthy and ready for winter through proper cultural practices. Now if only there were a similar method for preparing ourselves for winter, we would all be set. ■

Figure 1. Microdochium patch (top) can cause significant damage to home lawns, as can gray snow mold (center). Speckled snow mold (bottom) tends to cause most of its damage on golf course turf.



Where in the World Was the UW-Madison Turf Team?

By Dr. Jim Kerns, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

For those of you who are contract members of the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab or work closely with Dr. Williamson, Dr. Stier, Dr. Soldat, Paul Koch, Ben Pease, or myself, you probably wondered where we all went after Summer Field Day. We all were out of the country attending the International Turfgrass Research Conference in Santiago, Chile. The meeting is organized by the International Turfgrass Society (ITS), which was established in 1969. ITS is a not-for-profit organization that encourages research and education in turfgrass science and to promote communication among the international community of turfgrass researchers. The meeting started on July 26th and ended on July 31st.

There were some great talks and posters presented at this year's meeting, which included all the papers presented by the UW-Madison turf team. Dr. Stier had two presentations, Dr. Soldat had one presentation, Dr. Williamson had two presentations, Paul Koch presented a talk and I presented the final bit of my PhD research from the University of North Carolina. The University of Wisconsin Turf Team definitely dominated the meeting! However, the most rewarding aspect of the meeting was hanging out with John, Chris, Ben, Paul and Doug. It was a rare opportunity for us to all interact away from work, even though we were at a meeting. I think we all got to know each a little better at this meeting.

Here are a few of the presentations that I enjoyed the most, of course the list is a little biased towards plant pathology. John Iguagiato who was a student of Dr. Bruce Clarke and has since moved to the University of Connecticut presented the effects of Primo® applications on anthracnose of annual bluegrass putting greens. Essentially they demonstrated that Primo® **does not** make anthracnose worse, but a lighter rate on a more frequent interval reduced disease severity up to 15%. Dr. Mike Boehm (Ohio State University) gave a phenomenal talk about the basic biology of the dollar spot fungus, *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*. They have found that the dollar spot fungus produces a wide variety of extracellular enzymes such as oxalic acid, which could be used as an elicitor for resistance genes



Figure 1. Club Hipico de Santiago, Chile. The horse track was a mixture of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue and I was told that it was a very impressive site! You can see the Andes in the background too

(Image courtesy of Michelle DeCosta, UMass).

for turfgrass plants. Other *Sclerotinia*'s produce similar enzymes and these enzymes are used to induce genetic resistance in field crops. This is something to keep an eye on for the next 5 to 10 years.

One of the most intriguing talks was by Dr. Drees from Texas A&M University on the management and spread of fire ants. He had fantastic videos of fire ants biting human flesh and stinging. He also had wonderful, graphic pictures of the pustules that form after a fire ant sting. He gave an overview of the introduction of fire ants to the US and their subsequent spread and interestingly enough they are not that far away from Wisconsin. He did mention that they probably would not make it into the Upper Midwest because they cannot tolerate our cold winters. PHEW! He finished his talk by discussing the management strategies other countries have used in an effort to eradicate the fire ants. Countries like China and Australia have been fairly successful with their eradication program because the ants were a single point introduction. Some of the techniques they used were pretty ingenious too, like a remote controlled helicopter that was used to spray large areas with insecticide.

Another good presentation was by a group from Sweden on the evaluation of Primo MAXX® (on Nordic golf course greens and fairways. This was especially interesting for us here in Wisconsin because the authors' results were eerily similar to the findings of Dr. Soldat and Bill Kreuser. Basically they found that lighter more frequent applications were more beneficial than the rates recommended on the current label in the Nordic countries.

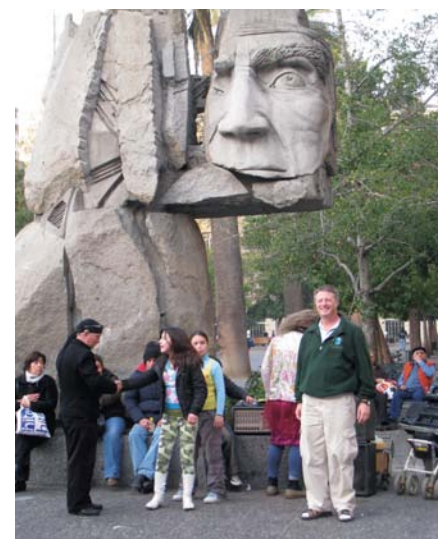


Figure 2. Picture of Dr. John Stier by an interesting statue on the Plaza de Armas. We could not figure out what or who the statue was.

None of our group went on any of the conference tours, but I was able to get a good picture of a horse track in Santiago from my colleague Michelle DeCosta (University of Massachusetts) (Figure 1). The track was a mixture of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue and according to her it was a very interesting place.

Finally I would like to finish with some non-scientific highlights from the trip to Chile. On Sunday my wife Anna and I made it to the conference hotel and to our fortune Ben Pease and John Stier were looking for a place to eat. We then ventured onto the subway to find Donde Augusta Seafood Market. Along the way we walked through the Plaza de Armas, where Anna snapped this picture of John (Figure 2). Monday was mainly a day of oral presentations for all of us, as well as

Continued on page 6

Where in the World Was the UW-Madison Turf Team? - continued

Tuesday morning. However, Tuesday afternoon we were able to visit a local artisan market to buy some gifts. Again my lovely bride snapped this picture of the turf team minus Paul (Figure 3). That night we had a marvelous dinner at the OX. Finding this restaurant was an adventure in itself. Ask Dr. Williamson about it someday! The OX was well known for steaks and to our great surprise they finish every meal off with cotton candy (Figure 4).

On Wednesday Anna and I opted out of the conference tours to explore the city of Santiago. In the middle of downtown are two Cerro's or hills that have exquisite views of the city. Cerro San Cristobal was one of the hills we visited. To get to the top we had to ride a funicular (elevator) and at the top was an outdoor sanctuary with a statue of the Virgin Mary. What a site to see and what a view of the Andes and the city of Santiago (Figure 5). I guess it is safe to say that this trip was one of the most personally and professionally satisfying trips I have ever taken. It was fantastic to spend some free time with my beautiful bride Anna, and my turfgrass comrades in an exotic, beautiful destination. ■



Figure 3. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Turf Team at Los Dominicos, a local artisan market. At the market we all enjoyed shopping and empanadas that were to die for. Oh and ask Ben about the salsa!

Figure 4. The grand finale to a fabulous dinner at the OX. Cotton candy was served as a dessert at this particular restaurant. If you look closely, many distinguished people are in the photo. Can you spot Dr. John Stier, Dr. John Kaminski, and Dr. Lane Tredway? Unfortunately Dr. and Mrs. Soldat, Dr. Williamson, and Ben were supposed to join us, but the cab drivers had a peach of a time finding the restaurant.

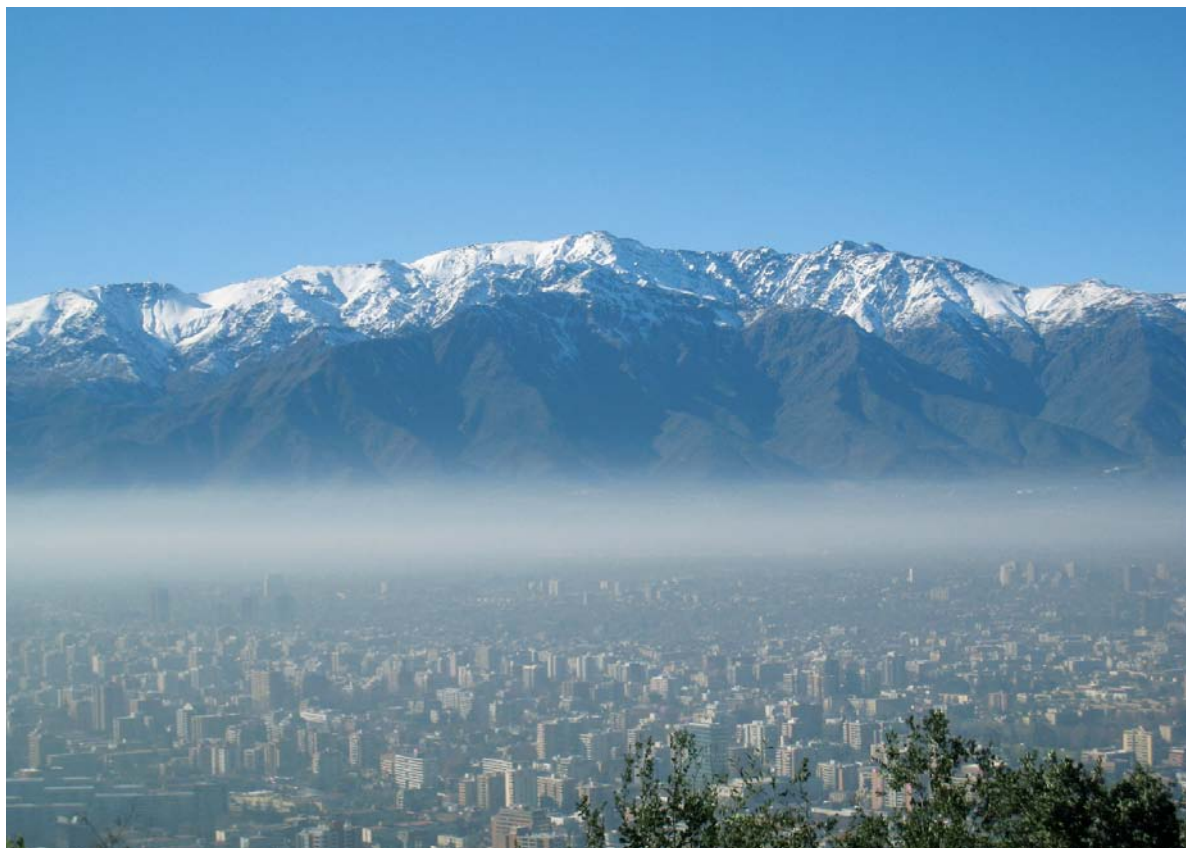


Figure 5. The view from Cerro San Cristobal, where we were 1400 meters (4,500 ft) above sea level. The haze is the inversion that Santiago experiences during the winter, but we were told does not happen during their summer. The mountains in the background are the Andes.

MEET THE UW-MADISON TURF PROGRAM GRADUATE STUDENT Mycorrhizal Interactions with Turf

By Rebekah Verbeten - Graduate Fellow, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Many of the people I have spoken with who are involved in turf seem to have been working on a golf course or had a strong interest in turf from early on in their education. By contrast, I am a recent immigrant into the turf world. When I graduated high school five years ago, I wanted to study human diseases and my dream job would have been something international and connected to the Center for Disease Control. Then I came to Madison for my undergraduate studies. During the fall semester of my junior year I simply wasn't happy with the classes I was taking and the direction my education was going. My boyfriend at the time, Bill (who I married last summer) asked me if I had looked at any of the majors in the College of Ag and Life Sciences. I looked at a few of the majors, and settled on Horticulture. That spring was a very different semester. I loved my classes and interacting with professors in the much smaller class setting. In the fall 2008 semester I took the introductory turf class with Dr. John Stier. During the course of the semester we began talking about graduate school opportunities, and the project that I am now researching. I graduated in May 2009 with my Bachelor of Science in Horticulture at the same time as Bill received his B.S. in Agronomy. We are both staying on here at Madison to pursue our graduate degrees - I in Horticulture with Dr. Stier, and Bill in Agronomy and Dairy Science.

My graduate work officially starts in September, and I have been honored by receiving the Robert Newman Fellowship that will fund my first year of research. It is very encouraging to see how much support the College of Ag and Life Science, the Horticulture Department, and the UW-Madison Turf Program receive from alumni and industry donors. They trust the University to find important new ways of managing our Wisconsin resources and landscapes. I hope to contribute to that with my research on mycorrhizal interactions with turf.

My two projects will work with bentgrass and vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae with the aim of determining whether use of these mycorrhizae may lower fertilizer and water needs for golf course putting greens. My first project will be a field



study that focuses on phosphorus fertilization and its effect on mycorrhizal colonization of turfgrass roots. Both velvet and creeping bentgrass putting greens will be inoculated with mycorrhizae and fertilized at different phosphorus levels. I will evaluate turf quality and degree of mycorrhizal colonization at each level of fertilization and hope to find a balance between chemical inputs and mycorrhizal aid. The second project will also use velvet and creeping bentgrass in a potted greenhouse study that will look at the effects of mycorrhizal colonization on drought tolerance of the grasses. With water quickly becoming an issue in several parts of the country it would be a sustainable move in turf management if water use could be lowered by use of these mycorrhizae.

I'm very happy to join the turf program here at the UW-Madison. I hope my research projects will further the development of sustainable management of turf in Wisconsin. Any questions or comments about this project can be sent to me at rverbeten@wisc.edu. ■

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Wisconsin Loses Another Leader in the Turf Industry

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

This year became a very sad one for Wisconsin's turf industry. First we lost Dr. Bob Newman earlier this spring. Now we hear of the passing of Dr. Charles Koval. These two men were two of the cornerstones of the University of Wisconsin-Madison turf program. They influenced and helped so many of us to manage our landscapes with the most current research and advice coming out of our University.



On August 3rd, 2009, Dr. Koval lost his long fought battle to multiple myeloma. He was only 71 years old. I remember when I first ran into Chuck after he was diagnosed: he and his wife Patricia were enjoying the Saint Patrick's parade in downtown Madison. That was almost 13 years ago, and the diagnosis was not good. But Chuck was enjoying the parade and told me about some of their future travel plans. He was always upbeat and a joy to talk to. He truly enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest.

Chuck and Patricia would have celebrated 52 years of marriage on August 24. They raised three children and enjoyed their nine grandchildren. Chuck was raised on a family farm in northern Wisconsin. He married Patricia and then attended Northland College where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology. This was followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in entomology. Chuck enjoyed a long, fulfilling career as a professor and administrator at UW-Madison. He particularly enjoyed traveling the state and working with students, faculty and community members.

Once he was diagnosed with cancer, Chuck became an activist in advocating for more research initiatives and forming patient support groups. To this end, he was a tireless researcher and mentor to other patients and their families.

Chuck will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, especially his family. I will never forget his friendly conversations when I saw him at work, at Badger games, or at the Saint Patrick's Day parade. He was a leader and one of the best human beings who lived life to the utmost and a person anyone would be proud to call a friend. ■

Short But Sweet Field Day

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

Summer Field Day 2009 started out perfect. The sky was cloudy, providing a nice break from the summer sun, temperature was 68 degrees, and winds were gentle. The 226 attendees and 60 vendors were having a great morning before rain shortened the day. Rain was predicted to start about 3:00 p.m. but decided to make an early arrival at lunchtime. The rain put an end to the afternoon trade show as vendors and attendees alike headed for their cars. The day was still a success as the morning research tour and an hour of trade show only time were completed, and everyone had grabbed their lunch and were under the tent before rain started. One of the vendors in the trade show summed it up perfectly commenting that field day was, "Short but sweet."

However, not everyone left after the rain started. A very successful lawn care training workshop took place inside the Noer Facility during the afternoon. The workshop cost an extra fee but sold out for the second year in a row. Topics that were covered in the workshop included identifying and managing weeds, diseases and insects in turf. It also included calibration of sprayers and spreaders.

The lawn care workshop was a nice complement to all the information that was presented during the morning research tour. Twelve turfgrass research stations were highlighted during the tour. Talks focused on golf, home lawn, athletic field, and sod production turf. The list of research topics included:

- Cutless® PGR for controlling *Poa annua* in Fairways
- Velvet Bentgrass Nitrogen Type and Rate Evaluation
- Rainwater Harvesting and Subsurface Drip Irrigation on Turfgrass



Dr. Soldat and Bill Kreuser drew huge crowds to learn about Primo MAXX® effects on fertilization and growth regulation.



Dr. Soldat talks about grasses for sustainable landscapes.

Continued on page 9

- Development of Dollar Spot Forecasting Model
- Primo MAXX® Effects on Fertilization and Growth Regulation
- Residual Activity of Acelepryn for Control of Black Cutworm in Low Cut Creeping Bentgrass
- JumpStart® Kentucky Bluegrass for Lawn and Sports Turf
- Velvet and Creeping Bentgrass Management for Shaded Putting Greens
- Grasses for Sustainable Landscapes
- Uptake and utilization for Fall-Applied N to Soil and Sand-based Putting Greens
- Non-traditional Fungicide Timing for Control of Snow Molds and Dollar Spot on Wisconsin Golf Courses
- Effectiveness of Early-Season Fungicide Programs for the Control of Dollar Spot

Following the research tour came one hour of trade-show-only time. The trade show included 28 companies displaying turf equipment, supplies, and services to improve everyone's turf management. The sales representatives were helpful in discussing all aspects of their products and services. The list of exhibitors is mentioned here. Please be sure to give them your business and thank them for helping to support Field Day.

Although shortened by the rain, Field Day 2009 filled all attendees' appetites for new turf knowledge. This year's WTA Summer Field Day provided many new ideas to help us manage our properties. ■

2009 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day Exhibitors

BASF	Kenne Enterprises
Bayer	L T Rich Products
Burris Equipment Company	McFarlanes
Capstan Ag Systems	Midwest Turf Products
Contree Sprayer & Equipment	Midwest Turf Specialties
Deer Creek Seed	Pauls Turf & Tree Nursery
DHD Tree & Turf	Pendelton Turf Supply
Dow AgroSciences	Reinders
Floratine Turf Products	Spring Valley
Frontier FS	Syngenta
Greater Earth Organics	UAP
GreenJacket	Valent
Horst Distributing	Waupaca Sand & Solutions
John Deere Golf	Wisconsin Turf Equipment

Barry Larson with his dad Curt, former president of the WTA.



Dr. Kerns explains development of a new dollar spot forecasting model.



Professor Emeritus Wayne Kussow talks about lawn care issues with Andy Kurth.



High tech spraying demonstrated by Capstan Ag Systems.

More Summer Field Day photos shown on next page.

Jeff Christopherson explains all the new offerings from Wisconsin Turf Equipment.

More Summer Field Day Photos...



Birds eye view of Field Day during the morning trade show.



Turfgrass Rules at Grandparents University

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

Every now and then one's job can offer an opportunity truly unique and exciting. This July, that occurred when the UW-Madison turf program teamed with the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) to teach a session of Grandparents University. This popular program, offered by the WAA for years, allows grandparents and their grandchildren to attend a two-day educational session offered by a dozen or so UW-Madison departments. Given the constant stream of anti-turf talk in today's media, we just couldn't pass up a chance to educate tomorrow's leaders. Little did we know what a tremendously rewarding and educational experience it would be for all of us as well!

Planning began in the late winter. Doug Soldat, Jim Kerns, Chris Williamson, Tom Schwab and I had several meetings to plan the types of events we'd put on for the kids and their grandparents. We decided to call our event "Backyard Safari: Bugs, Dirt and Grass." After all, what seven year-old doesn't like those things? We found out the grandparents really loved the subjects also.

Two weeks after the WAA announced the event, WAA called up and said our class was full (limit was 50 people). We said "Great!" The WAA said yes, but "we've got a lot of unhappy people." When we asked what they meant, the WAA replied that



Dr. Soldat points out soil remnants left by glaciers to the kids while Dr. Fred Madison uses maps to explain to the grandparents how Wisconsin's landscape was shaped by the glaciers.

there were 150 people on our waiting list! We did end up increasing the class size to 75, but any more would have reduced the quality of our events.

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Dr. Stier helps a youngster with the microscope.



Dr. Kerns' fungi were a big hit.



John Powless telling stories about his years with the Badgers.

A future Badger.

July 16 and 17 were typical of the best summer days Wisconsin has to offer. It was sunny and warm but not hot, with low humidity. When they arrived, all kids were split into groups which rotated among different subject matters. The first day, each group spent time learning about insect identification and using soil sieves to learn about soil textures and classification. Bread mold, tree conks, and other examples of fungi were used to teach the kids about plant diseases. Sod pieces representing bentgrass, bluegrass, tall fescue, fine fescue and ryegrass were used to discuss the connection between global warming, plants, lawns, golf courses and sports turf.



We had "recess" too. In order to really showcase the wonderful use of turf in our lives kids got tennis lessons on a bentgrass court from Mr. John Powless, who has achieved the title of U.S. Senior Tennis Player of the Millennium. Many of the grandparents remembered Mr. Powless from when he was the men's head basketball coach during their days attending the UW-Madison. Other turf activities during recess included a chance to play bocce ball, and all had fun shooting goals into a soccer net for prizes.

The second day, kids had fun learning all about insects to discover what an impact they have in our life. They then



This young lady won't soon forget her tennis lesson.

descended into a soil trench 7 ft deep and 20 ft long to learn how glaciers shaped our land and developed our soils. They also loved seeing turf equipment like mowers, aerators, and slit-seeders: the hit was a demonstration of the trap rake on sand. Plant pathology brought dissecting and compound microscopes from campus, giving kids a chance to look for spores, fungal hyphae, and even their own hair. "Recess" included golf and croquet.

Graduation was held in the afternoon at the Memorial Union on campus. Parents joined grandparents and the kids, filling the hall with well over 500 people. One department after another was announced, with usually about 10-12 kids coming up to receive their diplomas. When turfgrass was announced toward the end, a loud set of cheers and applause rang from the audience, followed by 38 kids marching one by one across the stage to receive their diplomas. Clearly, the Backyard Safari was the hit of the day! We've already been asked to do it next year. We'll have to see how we can top this one. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009

Sept 20	WLCA Landscape Tech Certification Test	MATC Mequon Campus
Sept 21	Wee One Foundation Golf Outing.....	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Sept 24	NGLGCSA Crew Outing	George Young RC, Iron River, MI
Oct 3	WGCSA Couples Outing	Fox Valley GC, Kaukauna
Oct 5	WTA Golf Fundraiser	North Shore CC, Mequon
Oct 8	UW-Madison CALS Fall Career Fair.....	Engineering Building, Madison
Oct 28-31	PLANET Green Industry Conference	Louisville, KY
Nov 17,18	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	American Club, Kohler
Nov/Dec	NGLGCSA Annual Meeting	TBA
Dec 8	WTA Turfgrass & Greenscape EXPO	Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners

2010

Jan 6-8	Minnesota Green EXPO.....	Minneapolis, MN
Jan 12-16	STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition	Orlando, FL
Jan 20-22	Mid Am Horticulture Trade Show	McCormick Place West, Chicago
Feb 1-5	TPI Midwinter Conference	Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
Feb 8-12	Golf Industry Show	San Diego, CA
Feb 26- Mar 2	Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Show.....	Toronto, Ontario, Canada

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members, call 608-845-6895, fax 608-845-8162, or email tgschwab@wisc.edu to include it in the next calendar.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Canadian	Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Show	888-682-7770
GIS	Golf Industry Show.....	800-472-7878
Mid-Am	Mid-Am Horticulture Trade Show	www.midam.org
MN	Minneapolis Green Expo.....	888-886-6652
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.....	715-542-2373
PLANET	Professional Landcare Network Executive Forum	www.landcarenetwork.org
Symposium	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	800-287-9645
STMA	Sports Turf Managers Association Conference	800-323-3875
TPI	Turf Producers International	800-405-8873
UW	CALS Fall Career Fair	sde-wane@cals.wisc.edu
Wee One	Wee One Foundation Golf Outing	630-457-7276
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association	414-786-4303
WGIF	Wisconsin Green Industry Federation Annual Convention	414-529-4705
WLCA	WLCA Landscape Technician Certification Test	800-933-9522
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association	608-845-6895
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536