

# WISCONSIN turfgrass news

VOLUME XXVI, NO. 1

SUMMER 2012

## Come Enjoy the Turf Show of the Summer

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

Golf Fundraiser  
Registration Page 5

WTA Summer Field Day will be here before you know it. The date is set for Tuesday, July 31, 2012. This is a wonderful day for you to visit the OJ Noer Facility and see all the new turfgrass research being conducted at the University. There are over 60 studies ongoing this summer and several of the most pertinent ones will be showcased during the research tours. The education will describe new turf maintenance findings to help all turf managers with their sportsfields, golf courses, sod farms, lawn care sites, parks, and other commercial turf areas.

Comments from attendees of previous field days asked for longer discussions during the educational tour. This year's presentations by UW-Madison turf researchers promise to be more in-depth than in past years. Bring your questions and be ready to learn from the researchers about their latest findings for managing turfgrass. There will be education both in the morning and afternoon.

The morning research updates include these topics and more:

- Compost Evaluations
- Crabgrass Pre-emergent Demonstrations
- Disease Trials
- Dollar Spot Water Volume
- Fertilizer Trials
- Fiesta Trials
- Grub Management Strategies for 2012
- Humic Acids

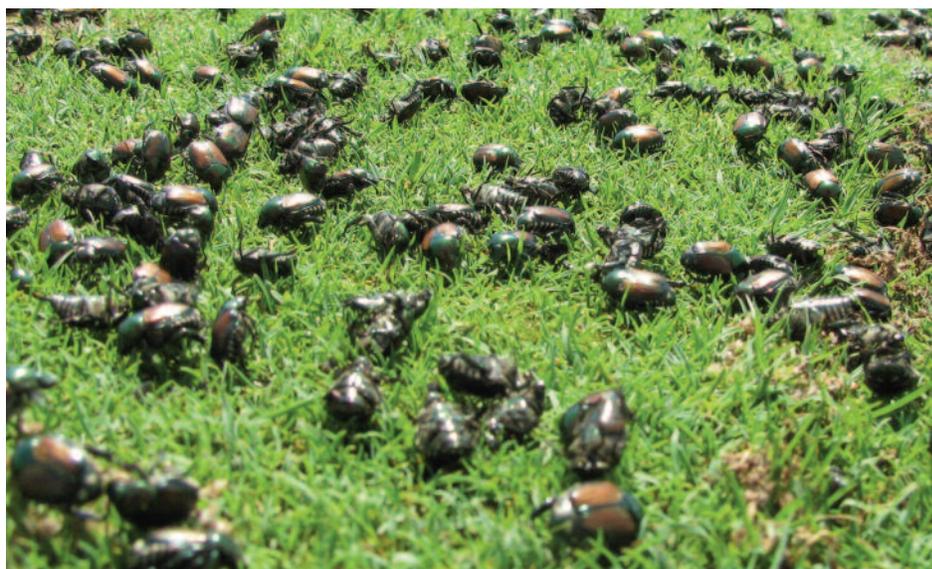
- Japanese Beetle Research
- Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties For Wisconsin
- Methiozolin (Poa Cure) Update
- Ocean Organics
- Reduced-Risk Herbicide Performance
- Soil Moisture Monitoring Tools and Technology
- Surfactants

The afternoon sessions pertain specifically to industry. Golf turf education takes place at the Noer Facility while sports turf education occurs at Verona Area High School. The golf turf session will go more in-depth into subjects specific to managing golf turf. The sports turf session is sponsored by

the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association and will visit the new stadium football/soccer field that was constructed this spring. The field will be ready for football in mid-August. Learn how a football-ready turf was established in 3 short months. Experts will be on-hand to explain everything that goes into constructing a high school sports field.

The education will be complemented by the ever popular summer field day trade show. Helpful vendors will offer expert advice about their latest equipment and supplies/services to help you better manage your maintenance

*Continued on page 3*



Japanese Beetles study will be one of many research updates

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Voices

By Dan Biddick



Phillip Phillips won American Idol. (I was cheering for Jessica....Man, can she sing!)

Jermaine Paul won The Voice. Phillip and Jermaine are two incredible young talents with distinct and unique Voices.

You and I listen to Voices every day: Voices of customers, Voices of employees, Voices of associates, Voices of family, Voices of friends, and Voices

of suppliers. Every day you and I have to decide whose Voice is best!

Who do we listen to? We hear lots, but who do we really listen to? We base our decision on history, reputation, experience, service, trustworthiness, and sometimes value.

Regarding suppliers, we ask ourselves:

1. Which supplier is going to make me and my company outstanding in the eyes of my customers?
2. Which supplier puts themselves in my shoes and walks my mile and understands the importance of his/her product, service, and performance to my business?
3. Which supplier gets orders, invoices, and deliveries done promptly and right the first time?
4. Which supplier is there when I have a problem? Which supplier is there to help me!
5. Which supplier's product performs best for me and my situation?
6. Which supplier provides me with the best value and terms?

Now let's twist our thinking a bit. Who do your customers listen to? They hear lots, but who do they really listen to? They base their decision on history, reputation, experience, service, trustworthiness, and sometimes value. Your customers ask themselves:

1. Which supplier is going to make me and my company outstanding in the eyes of my customers?
2. Which supplier puts themselves in my shoes and walks my mile and understands the importance of his/her product, service, and performance to my business?
3. Which supplier gets orders, invoices, deliveries done promptly and right the first time?
4. Which supplier is there when I have a problem? Which supplier is there to help me!
5. Which supplier's product performs best for me and my situation?
6. Which supplier provides me with the best value and terms?

I listen to the Voice of the person I know and I listen to the Voice of the person I trust. ■

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Year behind board member name, is the expiration of their current term.  
January is the month the term is up.

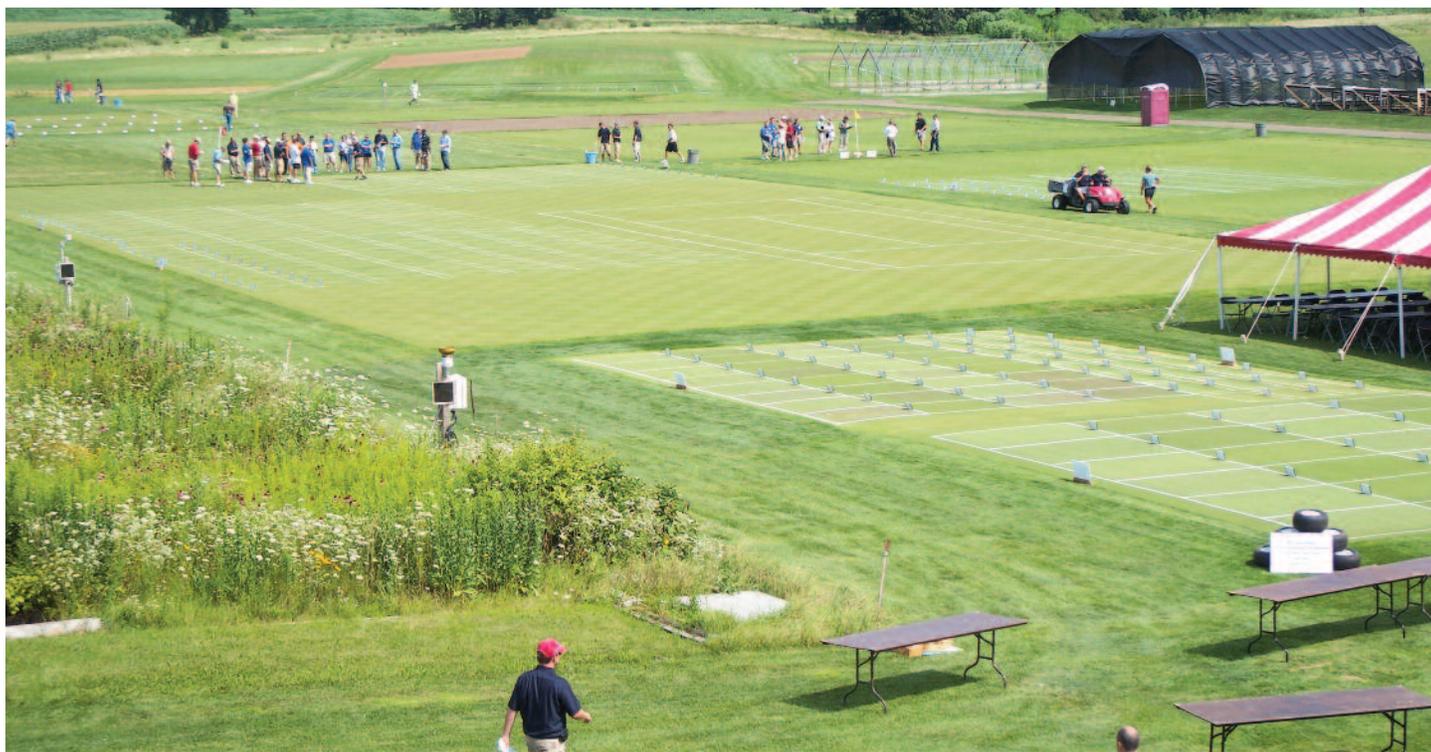
**Come Enjoy the Turf Show of the Summer- *continued***

program. Several equipment vendors allow test drives of their products so you can compare between manufacturers.

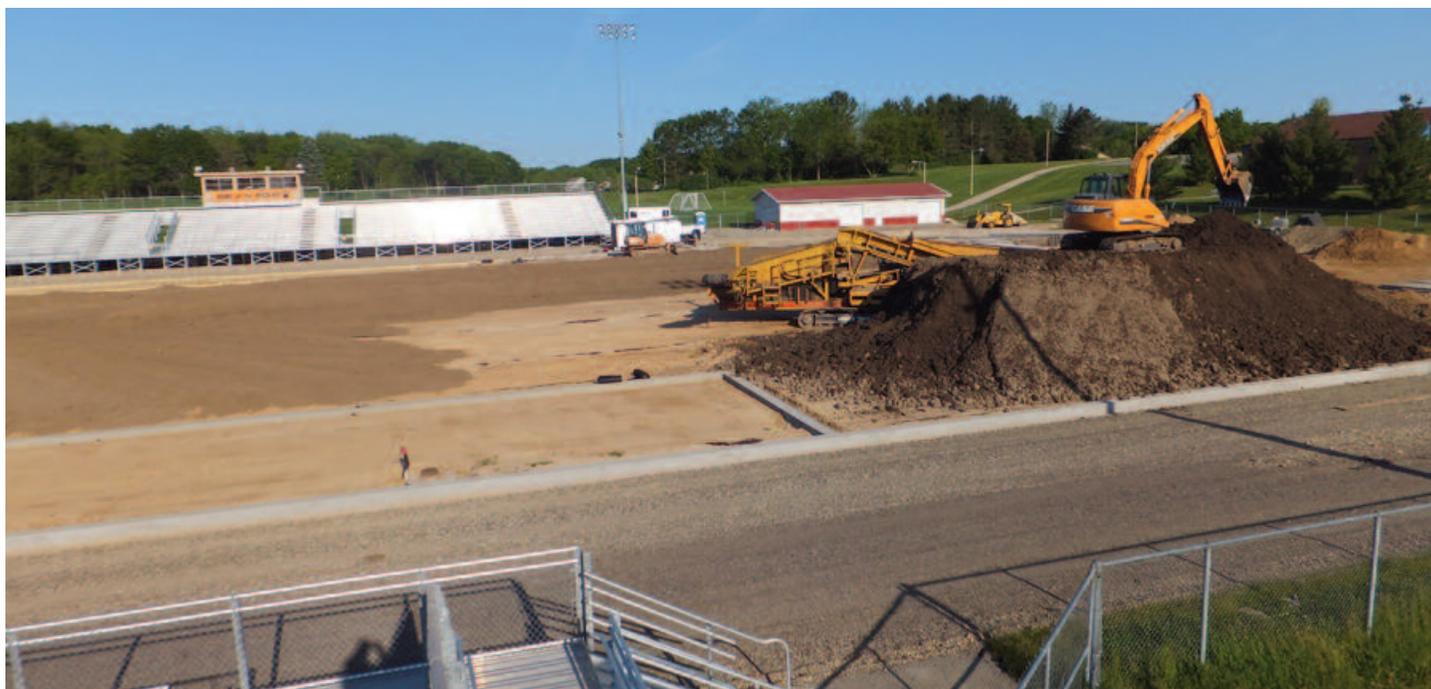
Summer Field Day is a great way to learn about the latest research coming from the UW-Madison, compare the newest commercial offerings from the trade show, and visit with colleagues over a great lunch. You will surely leave Field Day with many ideas to put into practice back home. Contact Audra

Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu) if you have any questions.

Your Field Day registration form is enclosed with the newsletter or may be downloaded from the WTA website, [www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org). You may also pay online from the website if so desired. Field Day 2012 is going to be the best ever, and I hope to see you there on July 31st. ■



**WTA Summer Field Day at the Noer Facility**



**Construction of Verona Area High School's stadium field will be featured during the afternoon sports field manager's tour**

# Will the Mild Spring Affect Disease this Summer?

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

Not that we needed confirmation, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced that the spring of 2012 was the warmest on record. The spring of 2012 was largely a huge success for most turfgrass managers in Wisconsin. Golfers were out in force and lawns needed attending weeks ahead of schedule. Ever the cautious group, I've had numerous conversations with turfgrass managers in the region excited about the extra revenue this spring, but leery towards what this will mean for managing diseases this summer.

The general line of thinking has been that the early warm up will mean increased levels of disease throughout the summer. To date, this has not been widely observed. Through early June there has been relatively little in the way of dollar spot, fairy ring, brown patch, or any other disease observed. Temperatures have been relatively mild, and humidity has been relatively low. The glaring exception was the humid 2-3 day stretch in early May that led to an explosion of dollar spot

across the area, as well as Microdochium patch and even Waitea patch. The presence of dollar spot wasn't all that surprising, even though it was 2-3 weeks ahead of the normal first dollar spot sightings. What was unusual was how quick and severe the dollar spot outbreak was. Was this rapid outbreak a result of the warm spring? Tough to say for sure, but I find it hard to believe that there was no connection between the early dollar spot outbreak and the mild spring.

In addition to foliar diseases, many turfgrass managers were concerned about root diseases such as take-all patch, necrotic ring spot, and summer patch. Fungicide applications to control take-all patch and necrotic ring spot are most effective when applied when soil temperatures are between 55 and 65°F. Soil temperatures reached this range in mid-March, and I know of at least a few superintendents who made applications targeting take-all patch at this time. It's tough to say whether these early applications provided a significant benefit, and with the cool down in April we'll likely

never know. Take-all patch has been slightly more problematic than is typical in early June, and some courses that haven't seen it in years have seen some moderate symptom development. Necrotic ring spot has not really been observed to a significant degree on home lawns, and it remains to be seen if extended dry conditions in June will bring about increased symptom development.

Since the outbreak of dollar spot in early May, disease development has been relatively modest. What this suggests is that a mild winter and warm spring may increase fungal activity, but it still takes optimal infection conditions for disease to develop. The bottom line is that the overall level of disease activity this summer will not depend on what conditions were like in the spring. But those warm spring conditions may increase the speed and severity of the outbreaks once optimal disease conditions do arrive, so keep an eye on the turf and be ready to protect the turf when humidity is on the rise. ■



## Bayer CropScience Environmental Science

John 'JT' Turner  
Sr. Sales Specialist  
Golf and Lawn  
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Elburn, IL 60119

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Fax: (630) 443-7839  
john.turner@bayercropscience.com

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# Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Golf Fundraiser

Benefitting the  
**Wisconsin Turfgrass Research  
Sustainability Fund**



**Ozaukee Country Club – October 1**

**Where: Ozaukee Country Club**  
10823 North River Road  
Mequon, WI 53092  
(262) 242-3710

**When: Monday, October 1, 2012**

9:30-11:00 Registration  
9:30-11:30 Range  
10:30-11:30 Lunch  
11:45 4-Person Best Ball Shotgun Start  
After Golf Hors d' Oeuvres, Reception, Prizes, Cash Bar

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**What:** Golf, Cart, Practice Range,  
Lunch, Door Prizes, Golf  
Awards, Hors d' Oeuvres

**Questions:** (608) 845-6536

**Directions:** Exit #85 (Mequon Exit) off I-43 / Go West on Mequon Rd  
2 1/2 miles to N. River Rd / Go South on N. River Rd 2 blocks to Course

### **Ozaukee Country Club**

Ozaukee Country Club is a storied club rich with history and tradition. The Langford and Moreau links style design, which accentuated open fairways and plenty of visibility, opened in 1922. According to the renowned local sports writer Billy Sixty, "The large undulating greens make putting no easy matter." Ozaukee Country Club was privileged enough to host the 1929 Western Open, justifying its position as a quality golf facility within the Midwest. Over the years the course has indeed changed but the quality of the putting surfaces still is the pride of the club. The gentle rolling hills and classic design make this facility a great place to play.

You are invited to play this classic Wisconsin treasure. Course superintendent Colin Seaberg, his staff, and the members of Ozaukee Country Club, welcome everyone to this WTA event. Proceeds from the golf outing will be used by the UW-Madison turf faculty to develop new techniques for managing turfgrass with the most environmental approach.



### **ENTRY FORM – WTA Golf Outing Fundraiser**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People Attending \_\_\_\_ x \$125 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

#### **You May Also Sponsor A Golf Hole or Make An Additional Tax Deductible Contribution**

Optional Tee Sign Golf Hole Sponsorship x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name To Be Printed on Tee Sign --- \_\_\_\_\_

or Additional Tax Deductible Contribution = \_\_\_\_\_

- Please make check payable to WTA and return to 2502 Highway M / Verona, WI / 53593
- Refer questions about the outing to Audra Anderson at @ 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu)
- Registration deadline is Tuesday, September 25, 2012
- You may register by yourself or as a foursome



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2012

|                |  |                                 |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| June 25        | WGCSA Monthly Meeting, Tournament .....    | Oshkosh CC, Oshkosh             |
| July 8-11      | PLANET Leadership Meetings.....            | Washington DC                   |
| July 17        | WSPA Summer Field Day .....                | DeBuck Sod Farm, Delavan        |
| <b>July 31</b> | <b>WTA Summer Field Day .....</b>          | <b>Verona, OJ Noer Facility</b> |
| July 31        | WGCSA Summer Field Day .....               | Verona, OJ Noer Facility        |
| July 31-Aug 2  | TPI Summer Convention & Field Day .....    | Asheville, NC                   |
| Aug 20         | WGCSA/ NGLGCSA Joint Monthly Meeting ..... | Lake Arrowhead GC, Nekoosa      |
| Sept           | NGLGCSA Crew Outing .....                  | Antigo Bass Lake CC, Deerbrook  |
| Sept 17        | Wee One Foundation Golf Fundraiser .....   | Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan        |
| <b>Oct 1</b>   | <b>WTA Golf Fundraiser .....</b>           | <b>Ozaukee CC, Mequon</b>       |
| Oct 5,6        | WGCSA Couples Weekend .....                | Edgewood GC, Big Bend           |
| Dec 4,5        | Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium .....        | American Club, Kohler           |

## 2013

|           |  |                   |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| Jan 9-11  | Northern Green Expo .....                            | Minneapolis, MN   |
| Jan 15-19 | STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition.....           | Daytona Beach, FL |
| Feb 11-15 | TPI Midwinter Conference .....                       | San Antonio, TX   |
| Feb 4-8   | GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show..... | San Diego, CA     |
| Mar 4,5   | NGLGCSA Educational Conference .....                 | Wausau            |

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members, Call 608-845-6895 or email [tgschwab@wisc.edu](mailto:tgschwab@wisc.edu) to include it in the next calendar.

### Contact Telephone Numbers

|            |  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| GIS        | Golf Industry Show .....                                     | 800-472-7878   |
| Mid-Am     | Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show .....                   | <a href="http://www.midam.org">www.midam.org</a>                     |
| NGLGCSA    | Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. .... | <a href="http://www.nglturf.org">www.nglturf.org</a>                 |
| Northern   | Northern Green Expo.....                                     | 888-886-6652   |
| PAT        | Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and landscape 3.0).....  | 608-262-7588   |
| PLANET     | Professional Landcare Network .....                          | <a href="http://www.landcarenetwork.org">www.landcarenetwork.org</a> |
| STMA       | Sports Turf Managers Association Conference.....             | 800-323-3875   |
| Symposium  | Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium .....                          | 800-287-9645   |
| TPI        | Turf Producers International .....                           | 800-405-8873   |
| Wee One    | Wee One Foundation Golf Outing .....                         | 630-457-7276   |
| WGCSA      | Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association .....      | 920-643-4888   |
| WGIF       | Wisconsin Green Industry Federation Annual Convention .....  | 414-529-4705   |
| WSPA       | Wisconsin Sod Producers Association .....                    | 262-895-6820   |
| WSTMA      | Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association .....              | 608-845-6895   |
| <b>WTA</b> | <b>Wisconsin Turfgrass Association .....</b>                 | <b>608-845-6536</b>  |