

WTA Turfgrass Research Day Conference and Webinar

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

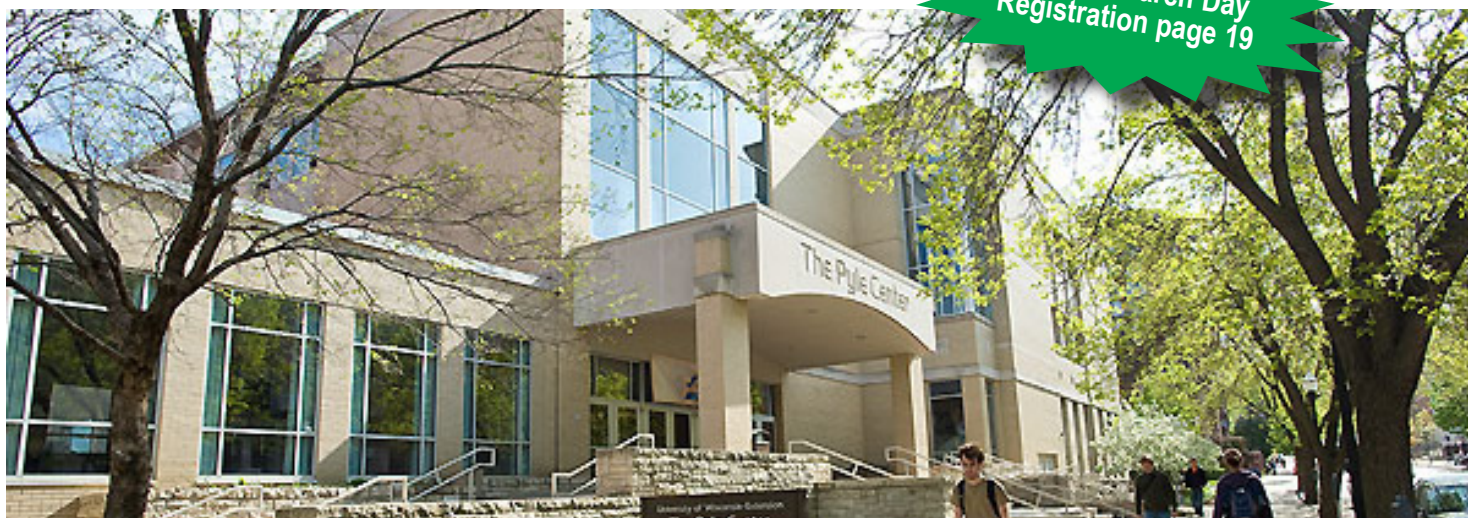
The UW Turf Team and WTA invite you to the 3rd annual Turfgrass Research Day Conference and Webinar on January 6, 2015. The location is the Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus. The conference will also be offered as a webinar, if you'd prefer not to make the trip to Madison. The education is exceptional and will be a great way to start your new year.

The committee has put together a lineup of presenters and subjects that are very pertinent for today's turf managers. The UW Turf Team will be joined by academics from neighboring states and big hitters from industry. Subjects will cover *Poa* suppression in bentgrass turf, management of new bentgrasses, and reduced risk disease control. Other talks include evaluations of fertilizer and herbicide trials at OJ Noer, putting green restoration do's and don'ts, bee decline and additional insect updates, along with more great talks. Please see the enclosed registration form for the complete agenda. The program has something for every turf manager, whether from golf, sod, athletic field or lawncare, to take home and put into practice.

It's hard to predict what Mother Nature has in store for us on January 6th, which is why the WTA is offering the conference both live and as a webinar. Some people prefer to get out of the office after being cooped up in the shop, and others like the convenience of learning from their personal computer. Either way, the conference will be worth your time and admission. You may mail in the enclosed registration form or register and pay online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. Contact WTA administrative assistant Audra at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have any questions. We hope to see you there. ■



WTA Research Day
Registration page 19



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Driving Success

By Paul Huggett



I went to the DMV this morning with our oldest daughter to take the driving portion for her first driver's license. I was constantly reminded of the advantages of planning ahead and being prepared. While waiting for her return from the road test, I observed the following. One person didn't have his social security number, one was missing a tail light on the vehicle being used for a driver's test, and the third one was missing a date next to a doctor's signature on a medical form. All

three resulted in long faces as they walked out the door.

Be prepared. This is a motto for some and a path to success for others. In that vein, the WTA board is preparing for a successful future. I mentioned to you earlier that the WTA has started the **Legacy Fund**, which is an endowment fund for long-term support of the UW Turfgrass Program, for future research and education. The fundraising effort is underway. Please see the enclosed brochure included in the newsletter. We already have a contributor that will match donations up to \$10,000 for the year 2015. We also have a WTA member who is willing to donate a portion of their company's profits to the **Legacy Fund**. Get your creative juices flowing and think of ways you can join us for a future of success.

What are in your plans for the upcoming year? Maybe it's to grow a better product, make more sales, increase number of rounds, or hire talented employees. Or maybe it's the reverse. How can I hang on, or keep that old mower going for another year.

I prefer to focus on growth. Not necessarily bigger but better. I could decrease overhead with short-term projects and prepay for inputs. I could also concentrate on more long-term projects with good paybacks like increase insulation in buildings to improve heating efficiency, or make irrigation system improvements to result in less hose pulling. Growth comes from planning ahead.

While snow is on the ground I hope you find time to plan for the year-end and reflect on the past season. I would be remiss in not thanking people who have helped the WTA, from the efforts of getting the Plant Pathology professor position filled, to all the volunteers that make our summer field day, golf outing, and winter conference/webinar so successful. The professionalism of our board and staff at the OJ Noer Facility are awesome. **WE Thank You.** I hope the upcoming year will lead to your success and calculated luck.

The part about having more planning time in the winter implies that you are not in the business of clearing snow. Thanks for that reminder, Jake. For now keep working and may all your snowfalls be measurable, light and fluffy. Your planning time will come.

In a follow up to the first paragraph, she did pass her driver's test. Driving around the farm the past two years was good preparation. Merry Christmas! ■



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

MEET THE UW-MADISON TURF PROGRAM GRADUATE STUDENT

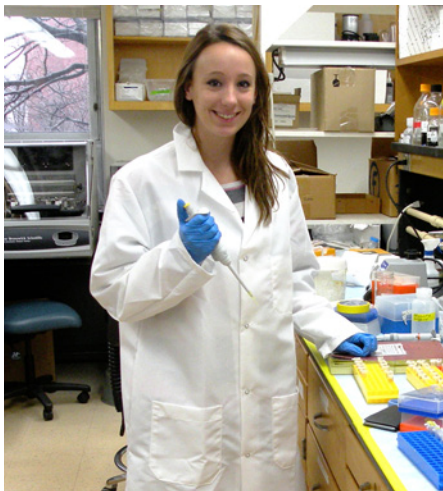
From Oxygen and Babies to Pesticides and Turfgrass

By Lisa Marie Reedich, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

I first met Dr. Paul Koch, from the department of Plant Pathology, in mid-January 2014, when it was around -15°F outside. I was a first year graduate student from UW-Madison's Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center (METC), and had recently discovered my enthusiasm for the environmental side of toxicology. I wanted more exposure to this field of science, so I met with Dr. Koch to discuss the possibility of completing a rotation through his lab. I felt pretty nervous for this meeting because my scientific background was most certainly not related to turfgrass. In fact, when I first joined the METC in the fall of 2013 to begin my Ph.D. research, I imagined that I would end up in the biomedical sciences. I had just received my BS in biological chemistry from Bates College in Lewiston, ME, where my research focused on the effects of hyperoxia on the development of the hypoxic ventilatory response (HVR). I was inspired by the fact that premature babies, often born with underdeveloped lungs, are frequently provided with supplemental oxygen. Unfortunately, chronic postnatal hyperoxia alters the maturation of the HVR, and an altered response to hypoxia can cause serious, potentially life-threatening damage to infants.

Well, turfgrass science has nothing whatsoever to do with lung development of premature babies, so you might be wondering how I ended up in Dr. Koch's lab in the department of Plant Pathology. Let me explain:

After arriving in Madison from my home in Massachusetts, the first item on my agenda was to set up laboratory rotations that were to take place during the fall



semester. Two of my rotations ended up being in the School of Veterinary Medicine and greatly enhanced my knowledge of toxicology as it relates to health and disease. However, during a class lecture one day, Dr. Keller from the Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology gave a talk about toxic fungal secondary metabolites. I was amazed by how cool her research was (who knew fungus could be so exciting?), and I soon realized that I wanted to take the opportunity to explore the environmental side of toxicology while I had the chance to do so during the rotation period. Accordingly, I switched one of my rotations to the Keller lab and thoroughly enjoyed my time spent working with fungus.

After completing those three rotations, I wanted to further explore the environmental side of toxicology before settling in a lab, hence the January meeting with Dr. Koch. Shortly after our talk, I began my rotation in the Koch lab, which sparked – and held – my interest in studying turf management. I find turfgrass research to be especially

rewarding because it is an applied science that will clearly benefit the urban and suburban environments. For example, my current project focuses on pesticide fate on turf; specifically, I am interested in studying the effect of cool temperatures on pesticide degradation. Most of the research done on pesticides has been conducted at 68-77°F. However, urban pesticides are frequently applied into the fall when it is much cooler. Therefore, we will be doing our research at 39°F and comparing the results to 68°F. We expect that because temperature influences enzyme and microbial activity, in which will affect the overall fate of a pesticide such as its persistence in the environment and which breakdown products it forms. I will be using Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS) to obtain the degradation profiles of our pesticides of interest – propiconazole, 2,4-D, and chlorothalonil. Additionally, I am planning to look at the effect of cool temperatures on the environmental impact of these pesticides, i.e., are pesticides more or less toxic at cooler temperatures? A third project involves developing reduced-risk, environmentally sustainable pesticide care regimes for golf course maintenance. Ultimately, our goal is to develop better recommendations for urban pesticide use in order to mitigate the off-target effects of these chemicals.

I love that these research projects provide both laboratory and field experience and that the results of my research will directly assist in turf management. I am thrilled to have joined the Koch lab and to be involved in turfgrass research. I would love to discuss my projects with those who are interested, and questions can be sent to lreedich@wisc.edu. ■

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Noernet Approaches 17

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

Wisconsin turf managers have been sharing ideas on Noernet for almost 17 years. For those unfamiliar with Noernet, it is a free "email discussion group" for turf professionals in Wisconsin and neighboring states. Subscribers share information that helps them in their work. Discussions have included landscape construction projects, turfgrass selection, pest alerts, solutions to pest problems, equipment or tool choices, sale of used equipment, educational event announcements, university research results, government regulations, management solutions, and other topics.

Any Noernet subscriber may submit a turfgrass management related question, concern, or comment to the Noernet email address. All subscribers will receive that message and may send a reply back if they choose. All subscribers will see that reply and again have the option to respond with additional information. Some subscribers are extremely active and respond to many messages. Others never write messages but only read Noernet to keep an eye on what is happening around the region. You may participate as much or as little as you like. There are also many topics discussed across professions. For instance, a sport field manager or sod producer may ask questions to lawn care providers or golf course superintendents, and vice versa. We all belong to one important industry that is being brought closer together by shared information.

Noernet presently has about 260 subscribers from golf courses, sod farms, sports fields, lawn care companies, and turf businesses. Most are from Wisconsin, while others come from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, eastern Minnesota, and northern Illinois.

Noernet is meant for local use and concerns. There are many national discussion groups but Noernet is intended for turf care professionals in Wisconsin and neighboring states. We are better able to discuss topics unique to our upper Midwest region by keeping it local. Noernet is also a private list. It is not meant for homeowners, media, or any individuals outside of the turf profession.

If you think that sharing information is an important tool for turf management, then Noernet is one more tool available to you. Let your local peers know about this service if you think they could benefit.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison sponsors this electronic discussion group. The University has set an appropriate use policy that includes:

- You may not use Noernet for uses that are forbidden by the University of Wisconsin campus telephone or paper mail system.
- Noernet is not to be used for personal purposes or gain.
- Do not send abusive, vulgar, harassing, or bigoted messages.
- It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Board of Regents that Noernet be used primarily for purposes of fulfilling the University's mission of teaching, research, and public service.
- Content of all postings are that of the contributing author and not necessarily of the Noernet list owner, moderator, or of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Information Technology.

How to Subscribe to Noernet

1. Log onto the Noernet web address: https://lists.wisc.edu/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=noernet using Netscape, Internet Explorer, or a similar web browser.
2. This takes you to the WiscList page where you type your email address and name in the blanks provided. You may also enter a password but that is optional. You do not need a password, so enter one only if you really want one. If you forget your password, you can find it again through the website.
3. Next hit the subscribe button.
4. It may take a day before I can post your name to the list after you sign up -- so be patient.
5. You may email or call me if you have any questions or problems with Noernet at tgschwab@wisc.edu or 608-845-6895.

How to Participate in Noernet

1. The easiest way to participate in Noernet is to send an email to Noernet@lists.wisc.edu, just like you normally send emails. You will receive all Noernet messages at the email address that you used to subscribe.
2. Remember that if you reply back to a message, all subscribers will see your response. If you want to send a personal reply, just to one person, then cut and paste their email address from the Noernet message into a separate email. But active participation of subscribers is what Noernet is all about as long as messages are thoughtful, productive, and follow the rules outlined above.
3. Another nice feature of Noernet is you are able to look at the past 180 days of messages. Follow the instructions in #4 to open the archive page.
4. The other way to participate in Noernet is from the web address - - - <https://lists.wisc.edu/read/login/?go=https://lists.wisc.edu/read/?forum%3Dnoernet> Type this address into your browser. This will take you to the WiscList page where it'll ask for your email address. Another box will ask for your password, but most of you don't have passwords, so next click the OK button to open the Noernet page. That page shows 180 days of archived Noernet messages, and also has a 'Create New Message' button for sending messages (although it's easier to send messages as described in #1). Always remember to write a topic in the subject area when you send a new message. ■



Playing Where the Badgers Play

By Tom Schwab, OJ Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

University Ridge played host to a most successful WTA Golf Fundraiser on Oct 7, 2014. Attendees got to play the same course where our Wisconsin Badgers hosted an NCAA Championship just one week prior. Golf course superintendent Phil Davidson and his staff had the course in spectacular shape for both events. However, the course was set up a little easier for us less proficient strikers, much to our appreciation.

Participation was just short of a sold out field, at 123 golfers, and sponsorships were at an all time high. Please see the list of golf hole sponsors and thank them for making the day a success. They contributed to helping the WTA reach \$11,700 in funds raised, which will help support worthy turfgrass initiatives well into the future.

The WTA definitely was a winner for the day but so were the 123 participants. They played a wonderful golf course, on a spectacular autumn day in the low 60s, with mild breeze, mostly sunny skies, and in peak autumn color. The course conditions, food, and hospitality were top notch, and everyone went home with a nice door prize. Many of those prizes were valued more than the cost of registration. A special thanks goes to the many generous donors of door prizes, who made the day even more memorable. The donors are listed on right (I'm sorry if I missed anyone).

It's been a long time since many of us have played University Ridge. Our UW Badgers sure have a nice course to call home. We are so glad that they shared it with us this year. Thanks for participating. ■

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Door prize donors	Company	Prize
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ASGCA	ASGCA	Book
Beth Duschack	Dow	Mens shirt, 4-beverage glasses, thermometer
Bill Rogers	Evergreen GC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Bob Lohmann	Bishops Bay CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts & Packers balls
Bruce Monke	Bayer	Merit Insecticide
Bruce Schwieger	SAS Management	Bike, fishing pole
Chad Grimm	Blackhawk CC	Taylor Made Hybrid Club
Chuck Schwab	Stoughton CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Dan Harrier	JDL - Middleton	2 scoop shovels
Dan Quast	DHD	Golf bag
Dan Schuld	Portage CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Dan Steiner	Laser Link	Range finder
Dave Kloss	JW Turf	4 John Deere hats
Dean Musbach	Reinders	6-shirts, 6-hats
Don Spier	Precision Labs	4 x \$50 Gift certificates
Drew Putzer	Monroe CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Ed Witkowski	Pendelton Turf	12 pack beer, 2-\$50 Home Depot gc
Gary Huenerburg	Burris Equipment	8 hats, golf towel, 3 shirts, 2 doz Titleist
Jeff Millies	Edgewood GC	Bottle of Jack Daniels
Jeff Rottier	Janesville CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Jim VanHerwynen	South Hill CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Joe Schneider	Janesville Riverside GC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Joel Peterson	New Berlin Hills GC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
John Meyer	Koch Industries	Dozen golf balls
John Turner	Bayer	Wireless Bluetooth speaker
Jon Hegge	Evansville GC	Two UW Football Tickets, 2 cases cider
Karl Schimmel	ProGreen Plus	4 x \$20 gift certificates
Kevin Knudtson	Geneva National	Two logo pullover jackets
Marc Watts	Tumbledown Trails GC	UW golf shirt and hat
Mark Kienert	Bullseye CC	Ladies golf polo shirt
Matt Kinnard	ProTurf Solutions	Wisconsin cooler w/wheels
Mike Lee	Kohler	Six caps, two jackets, two golf shirts
Mike Lyons	Lawsonia GC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Mike Werth	ProGro	2 x 12 pack
Monroe Miller	WTA	Golf shirt
Neil Radatz	Hawks Landing	Wisconsin shirt
Nick Strain	Quali-Pro	12 pack beer & \$25 Visa Gift Card
Paul Bastron	Kenosha CC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Peter Meyer	National Golf Graphics	Foursome of golf w/carts, 5 wind shirts, hat
Phil Spitz	Syngenta	Vest, shirt, jacket
Randy Lusher	BASF	2 Jackets
Rob Johnson	Waupaca Sand	Blue Ray player
Sandy Cashman	Epic Creative	Six signed and framed golf art prints
Scot Spier	Arthur Clesen	2-\$50 Best Buy Gift Card
Scott Anthes	Brown Co GC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Shawn Hilliard	Agrium	Box of Roundup Quickpro Packets
Wayne Horman	Landmark	Ketel One Vodka, Captain Morgan Rum

Photos from WTA Golf Fundraiser shown on pages 6 & 7

WTA Golf Fundraiser 2014



Randy Smith and son Chad enjoy some post golf conversation.



Andy Kurth missed the fairway and takes a rare shot from the rough.

Team Evergreen, led by Mike Schmieden, enjoy a day away from the office.



Mark Ronnie attempts a green landing on the scenic #17 par 3.



The new WTA flags, donated by Peter Meyer of National Golf Graphics, dressed up the event.



WTA president Paul Huggett enjoys conversation with John Turner and event organizer Audra Anderson.



Team University Ridge including Aaron Hansen, Gram Weed, Adam Wepfer, and Kyle Nielson took advantage of home-course-knowledge taking 2nd place in the 4 person best ball format.



Shane Griffith displays proper swing alignment on his approach shot to #16.



The full moon rising over University Ridge was a perfect ending to a perfect day.

Try Something New

By Bruce Schweiger, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Have you ever heard the saying --- Continue to do things the same way and expect different results? This year, at the WTA Golf Fundraiser, I tried to do something not-the-same to get different results.

I have always attended the WTA Golf Outing with three friends from the turf industry. Many times these have also been clients. Now that I am the manager for the Turfgrass Diagnostics Lab, I considered playing with a few of our contract members. But then I had another idea.

I have played in this event almost every year since the beginning (I think I was sick for one of them). This year the event was at a great golf course, University Ridge, and one that many of us have not played lately. At a recent family gathering last spring, I was talking about the upcoming golf season with my two brothers-in-law and I had a thought. Why not make the WTA Golf Fundraiser something different, and share the fun with my family. It was a great chance to show my family what I really do. So I made the decision to invite them and one of my boys to play this year. They all agreed but with some apprehension.

My son's wife informed me that she has never seen him play golf in the seven years they have been married. My brother-in-law, Ed, now retired from the Law School, had taken up golf 3 or 4 years ago and my other brother-in-law, Jim, semi-retired bean-counter, has played for years to achieve a current handicap of 28. My two sisters and brothers-in-laws spend one week every September in northern Wisconsin for a golf vacation. From what I have learned, Ed and Jim are more excited about the number of golf balls they find in the woods than they are about their golf games. What had I gotten myself into?

When the day arrived at University Ridge it appeared Jim and Ed were actually nervous. They had hoped we were playing a scramble and they could just ride along and putt once in awhile. They made their way to the range and the putting green and proudly announced they were ready to go. We headed to the first tee and the day started with Ed heeling one so bad it exited the tee sideways. With Jim laughing he stepped up and at least dribbled his tee shot off the front of the tee. My son Brad decided he would hit his into the woods to the left on number one. On the second hole things changed. Well, Ed's tee shots was the same, but Jim hit his some 140 yards, only it was into the water hazard, and my son actually hit the fairway. The rest of the day progressed about the same with each of them having fleeting moments of golfing brilliance.

What also continued were laughter, kind ribbing, and family memories that will last forever. I am looking forward to Thanksgiving to see how Jim and Ed's memories will have faded and they can re-count how well they played to the rest of the family. We have always enjoyed each other's company but this event will be talked about around picnic tables, the dining room, and at wedding receptions for the rest of our lives. Besides enjoying the company of my family during that round of golf, I can revel in at least knowing my group did not finish last. That was reserved for my boss Dr. Koch's team.

My next thought is to try to arrange for all three of my boys to play with me at another WTA Golf Fundraiser in the near future. Let's see, Scott has not played in ten years, Paul has not played since he moved to Germany seven years ago, and that means Brad is the only other golfer in the family.

My challenge to all of you is to expand your world and bring someone new to next year's WTA Golf Outing. This is the perfect outing: no one remembers who wins, everyone wins a prize, and the courses are always the ones people hear about but may not get the opportunity to enjoy. In the past I have played lots of golf outings but this and the Wee One are always the most enjoyable. They are a great way to enjoy the fall season, bond with friends or family, and introduce them to your work world and peers.

Next year's fundraiser is being planned as I write this. Tom and Audra already have a list of possible course and telephone calls are being made. See you at next year's WTA Golf Outing and bring someone new! ■



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PROFESSIONS

What Do You Want To be When You Grow Up?

By Shane Griffith, Weed Man Lawn Care

Editors Note:

'Professions' is a new column for the WTA Newsletter. We will hear from UW-Madison turf graduates about the path they have chosen for their careers in this new column. In the early years of the program, the majority of students got their degree and then went out to decide what golf course they would work on. Golf is still a great and rewarding profession, but many graduates are tending to test the waters in other turf professions. Some are buying golf courses, owning lawn care franchises, managing sod farms, running sports complexes, and going into academia or consulting. We will hear about their stories here.



What do you want to be when you grow up? Inevitably the response comes back... a doctor, a teacher, a basketball player, a pro bass fisher or my personal favorite, an astronaut. While digging through my mother's dusty collection of childhood memories, more commonly referred to in my family as the junk in the attic, I came across a homework assignment I completed while in 3rd grade. When faced with the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?", a younger version of myself answered "a grass mower". Lucky guess!

While earning my Bachelor's degree in the Department of Soil Science from UW-Madison I spent my summers completing internships at Beaver Dam CC, Blackhawk CC, and Whistling Straits. No shortage of grass to mow at those courses! As a graduate student at UW-Madison working with Dr. Doug Soldat I studied the changes in soil nutrient content and organic matter after applying biosolids to sod farms. I also helped out around the OJ Noer Facility conducting research trials focusing on fertility, irrigation, and other common cultural practices. Nearing graduation I was once again faced with the question.... What do I want to be when I grow up?

The choices, as I saw them, included continuing in turf research and academia, getting back on a golf course, or testing my entrepreneurial spirit in the lawn care industry. I was comfortable with golf course management, I was interested in continuing research, and I was inspired to start my own business. I decided to jump into the lawn care industry.

I was soon hired by Weed Man Lawn Care as an entry level Sales & Marketing Manager in Middleton, WI. After a successful first year

I was ready to take on a bigger role and the owners of Weed Man were interested in expanding into the Chicago market. In early 2013 I opened a new Weed Man franchise in partnership with Andy & Terry Kurth. We called it Weed Man-Elgin and serviced a large portion of Northwest Chicagoland. Two years later we've grown to over 1,300 accounts spanning six counties and expect to exceed 2,500 accounts next year.

For those considering their next career move, consider the following insights on lawn care. The basics are still the same... fertilize at the proper rate, water as needed, keep it mowed tall, and keep your eyes open for diseases and insects. But there are also a lot of differences:

Growing the Business

The key to being successful isn't always about making the lawns green! Sales and marketing strategies are needed to develop a client base. How do you get your name on the first page of a Google search? Should you go door to door approaching homeowners about your business, send out mailers, or just stick with telemarketing? What's the return on investment when attending a regional Home & Garden Expo? How many homeowners were interested in an estimate? How many purchased our lawn treatment service? What did we end up spending and was it worth it? It's always important to track the numbers!

Staffing Levels

As our business has grown, so have staffing demands. A good business plan is necessary to estimate numbers of applicators, salesman, front line supervisors, and managers. At Weed Man-Elgin we began with two applicators; Adam Hughes, a former assistant Superintendent at The Bridges in Madison, WI and myself. Last year we hired five applicators and next season we're expecting to employ nine. To really make matters interesting, we will be hiring a seasonal sales and marketing staff of over fifty! It's also important to plan for employee turnover. Despite our best intentions, not all hires work out.

Managing Client Relations

Education can be the key to a long-term customer. I remember visiting a lawn last summer that had severe necrotic ring spot damage. Their question for me was simple... why do I pay for fertilizer & weed control if my grass can still turn yellow? We went on the internet and did some research together to help make sure we understood one another and the fungus attacking the lawn. The relationship was forged and they've continued as a loyal customer to this day. We also try to keep it fun with our customers. This season we encouraged clients to compete in a coloring contest hosted on Facebook. The winners received overnight stays at Kalahari Resort.

This is just a taste of some of the day-to-day activity in the lawn care business. The goal for many young professionals in the turf industry is to become a golf course superintendent. In my opinion, this is still one of the greatest professions out there. But it's important to keep your mind and eyes open as the turf industry has many opportunities on and off the golf course. Good luck in your journey and don't be afraid to change (or stick with!) what you want to be when you grow up. ■

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Fall Meeting

By Peter Bemis, Western Technical College

The WSTMA held their fall meeting at Helfaer Field and Miller Park, in Milwaukee, on November 5th, 2014. The day offered many interesting and educational topics to over 50 sports field managers and suppliers to the industry.

President Chris Brindley welcomed the attendees before introducing our first speaker, Mr. Bruce Schweiger, manager of the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab at the UW-Madison's OJ Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility. Mr. Schweiger presented "Updates and Research at OJ Noer." It was great to be reminded of all the work that is being accomplished at the facility. Additionally, it was good to be reminded of all the services that are provided to turfgrass professionals and the general public including evaluation of herbicide effectiveness, insect and disease diagnostics, assessment of different turfgrass species and cultivar attributes, soils investigations, management in drought and/or low light conditions, and disease, weed and insect control options, among others. Lastly, he mentioned that the researchers at OJ Noer would like to hear from our members regarding issues and challenges we face, or studies they could perform to benefit sports field management and the athletes that play on our fields. Contact Mr. Schweiger at the OJ Noer Facility, at 608-845-2535 or bschweiger@wisc.edu, with your ideas and concerns.

Our second presentation was co-presented by Mr. Bart Bartelme of the Green Bay Packers and Mr. Michael Boettcher of the Milwaukee Brewers. Their topic was "Preparations for Next Season." Mr. Bartelme started the program with a review of the many tasks that must be accomplished with both Lambeau Field and the various Packer's practice fields. The stadium field has its rootzone stabilized with a DD Grassmaster system which incorporates plastic fibers into the playing surface. Repairing this kind of surface brings challenges that no other field managers in Wisconsin have to contend with.

Both Mr. Bartelme and Mr. Boettcher spoke about their need for supplemental lighting on their fields. Due to the height of the stadiums and the lower angle of the sun in the fall, both fields need to provide supplemental lighting. This lighting, not unlike the supplemental lighting in a greenhouse, stimulates the foliage and the roots to continue to grow beyond Wisconsin's natural limits.

As an added bonus we were treated to a tour of Miller Park to see the lights in action. Mr. Boettcher reviewed the challenges of managing

the turfgrass field at Miller Park. This season saw the requirement to remove the pitcher's mound, and cover all the dirt areas in sod to provide a safe playing surface for a professional soccer match. Of course, after the soccer match, the mound and infield dirt had to be rebuilt and returned to major league standards.

A delicious lunch was provided after those talks. After lunch, we toured Helfaer Field, the little league park adjacent to Miller Park. That tour was nicely led by Mr. Joe Ranthum who is the landscape manager for the Milwaukee Brewers.

The event then continued with a panel discussion entitled, "Artificial Turf Football Fields - The Good, The Bad, and the Money." Speakers for this session included Ms. Kim Tiber, Grounds Supervisor at UW-La Crosse, Mr. Tom Johns, Director of Baseball Operations at the Rocks Sports Complex in Franklin, Wisconsin, and, Mr. Mike Miller, Athletic/Grounds Crew Lead for UW-Whitewater. All three facilities have had synthetic sports fields for a number of seasons. Each panel member provided a brief history of their complex and then addressed questions from the members regarding managing synthetic sports fields. It was invaluable to gain knowledge from firsthand supervisors and to embrace some of their recommendations. Recommendations included being actively involved in the construction of the field, making sure the contractor leaves a large supply of rubber for infilling and maintenance, and making sure the contract includes the supply of appropriate maintenance equipment and a maintenance program.

The event then moved to a tour of the playing field and the maintenance facilities at Miller Park, led by Director of Grounds, Michael Boettcher. Mr. Boettcher provided a great background of the maintenance of the field, and showed us many of the unique pieces of equipment and maintenance procedures used on the field. Many questions and answers were provided regarding the supplemental lighting system, the products and equipment used, and the standard maintenance practices.

This event was a great opportunity to expand one's knowledge of sports turf management. The opportunity to network with members, learn from fellow professionals, and learn about the resources of the OJ Noer Facility made for an excellent event. Thank you to all that contributed to its success. ■



The 50+ attendees gathered in the Helfaer Field Atrium to listen to our great line up of speakers we had for the day

See more photos on page 11



Left to Right – Bruce Schweiger (UW Madison), Bart Bartelme (Green Bay Packers), and Mike Boettcher (Milwaukee Brewers) were our morning session speakers



Left to Right – Tom Johnson (Rock Sports Complex), Mike Miller (UW Whitewater), Kim Tiber (UW LaCrosse), were our Panel Speakers discussing Artificial Turf



Mike Boettcher provided a great tour. Here he was explaining how the infield is Laser Graded to a flat +/- of 1/16th of an inch.

Tour of field included interesting discussion on the benefits of the grow lights and how they help with turf and counteract the lack of sunlight in the stadium



One Year Later

By Dr. Paul Koch, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison/

As the holiday season sets in and another year comes to a close, sometimes it's easy to forget all the changes that have occurred in the past year. Perhaps your facility experienced staff turnover, crises (or events deemed crises by others), and/or numerous other unforeseen events. For me personally it was a year of great change right from the start, as I started my faculty position on January 1, 2014. While much remained the same in my new role, there were many changes. By necessity I delegated more, which is never an easy thing to do. I paid more attention to not only how the results of our research would directly benefit the turf industry, but also how the university would interpret them. And I had more paperwork...so much more paperwork. Despite the ups and downs that come with any job, I can honestly say I had the time of my life in 2014, and can't wait to see what 2015 brings. Before looking at what 2015 might bring, let's take a minute to look back at what the UW Turf Pathology program accomplished in 2014.

Staffing Changes

Bruce Schweiger is not a new addition; he was hired to manage the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab in May of 2013. But Bruce doesn't just manage the TDL; he helps coordinate our field research, schedules plot maintenance, and is an invaluable asset to the team as a whole. Sam Soper was officially hired on November 15th to coordinate the day-to-day activities of the fungicide trials. Sam has actually been with us in various forms for a number of years, and is an integral piece to our successful fungicide testing program. Lisa Reedich joined the lab in April as our first graduate student. Lisa is from the Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center on the UW-Madison campus, and her research will focus on the fate of fungicides in a winter environment and their potential impact on the urban environment. Lisa is doing some very nice work, and her research will be an asset to both the turfgrass industry and the urban ecological community. You can read more about her in the 'Meet the Graduate Student' column in the newsletter.

More recently, Brijesh Karakkat joined the lab in September as a post-doctoral researcher and is an expert in molecular research techniques. Currently he is conducting the molecular portion of the rust research that you are all likely sick of hearing about. His knowledge of molecular techniques is vast, and we are all learning a tremendous amount from him. I'm biased, but I feel very lucky to have what I consider the best team in the business.

Research

As mentioned above, Lisa is undertaking a large and complex project looking at the impact of cold temperatures on the various factors that affect fungicide depletion during the winter. This may sound to some very similar to the research I completed during my Ph.D., but is actually much more complex and will provide more detailed information on what actually happens to these products in the winter months following application. Lisa is also working with Bruce and Sam on managing turf diseases using a reduced risk fungicide program. I will present more information on this topic at our Turfgrass Research Day Conference in January. I feel this research will help provide superintendents and other turfgrass managers to meet the challenges of increased pesticide restrictions in the coming years. Other projects that were conducted include our continuing rust study, the impacts of QoI fungicides on dollar spot, the impacts of nitrogen



The hardest working crew in turf at the Memorial Union Terrace. From left to right: Sam Soper, Lisa Reedich, Brijesh Karakkat, and Bruce Schweiger.

source on dollar spot development, and the use of nozzles and low water volumes to manage dollar spot.

Outreach and Extension

Despite the relatively low-stress year that most Wisconsin turf managers faced, Bruce had another busy (and successful) year with the TDL. The overall number of sample submissions were comparable to the previous year, and once again included numerous samples from across the country including (but not limited to) Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, North Dakota, and as far away as California. Bruce's excellent work at the lab, coupled with the dearth of turf-specific diagnostic labs and personnel around the region, will only lead to continued growth of the TDL's breadth and influence. But diagnostics are only a part of what both Bruce and I do; we communicated via phone, social media, and email with hundreds of professional and homeowner turfgrass managers. We also joined to give nearly 40 talks around the US and Canada, conducted 7 Pesticide Applicator Training sessions, and wrote nearly 20 articles for local, regional, and national trade journals. Additionally, we provided biweekly email updates to TDL contract members throughout the year, and wrote monthly updates for the national Turf Diseases blog. Lastly, Sam assisted with the production of 27 field research reports (all available at www.tdl.wisc/results), which is almost double the number of reports that have traditionally been produced by our program.

The Future

Looking ahead to 2015 I envision further increases in the productivity of the UW-Madison Turf Pathology program. We have submitted numerous grant proposals to fund new research projects investigating the degradation of acropetal penetrant fungicides in the winter months, fungicide absorption during cold temperatures and optimal snow mold fungicide timing, new diagnostic assays for root-infecting fungi that will hopefully increase the amount of research conducted on these frustrating diseases, and investigating the impact of repeated pesticide applications on the microbial communities in a turfgrass environment. We will add at least one graduate student to our team, but more likely will have brought on two by this time next year. The fungicide testing program will continue to grow into one of the largest university testing programs in the world, providing

Continued on page 13

Wisconsin turfgrass managers with an excellent resource for product selection right in their back yard. Bruce, Sam, and I will continue to improve the resources available to you and the way we communicate about them, through both social media and continued improvements to the TDL website. We will also look to you for continued input on the research we currently conduct, ideas for future research projects, and other ways we can improve our service to the industry. Your input is

a critical component to the success of our program, and I encourage you to contact us with your ideas.

We have set the bar high in 2015, but I have full confidence in our team that our goals will be met. We will endure setbacks, make mistakes, and encounter obstacles. However, with the unfailing support of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and its allied organizations throughout the region, we will undoubtedly overcome those obstacles. When I write this article one year from now, I expect to be talking about how 2015 was our best year yet. ■

Great Educational Opportunity for Professionals!

GREAT LAKES SCHOOL OF TURFGRASS SCIENCE ONLINE IS SET FOR JANUARY 7TH - MARCH 25TH

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

An investment in quality continuing education benefits employees and employers alike. The 2015 Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science Online is designed to help meet the continuing education needs of individuals and organizations. Beginning on January 7, 2015, this 12-week program will feature training sessions accessible live online on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 8 pm (Central Standard Time) or the option to view the recorded sessions. This certificate program aims to provide participants with thorough and practical continuing education in turfgrass management. The course is directed by educators from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with 12 turfgrass scientists and educators from eight other Land-Grant Universities.

Turfgrass is a resource in our urban community environment and best management practices are aligned with environmental, economic & societal priorities. The Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science provides participants with the science-based principles needed to effectively manage turf for recreation, sport, aesthetics, and environmental protection. The Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science is a quality training opportunity for:

- Practitioners that establish and maintain turfgrass for athletic fields, consumer/commercial lawns, golf courses, recreation/parks, and sod production
- Technical representatives from industry (suppliers of equipment, plant protectants, fertilizer, etc)
- Those new to the industry to get trained and off to a great start
- Those with experience in the industry to review/update their knowledge and practices

The registration deadline is December 31st, 2014. Students will have access to the course and materials at their convenience during the 12-week period via moodle class management system. The fee for the course is \$495, which includes supplemental materials and a certificate after successful completion of the program. Visit this link to register: <http://z.umn.edu/2015greatlakeschool>

Early registration is encouraged and pre-registration is required.

For Further Information: Contact Sam Bauer, Assistant Extension Professor - University of Minnesota, Email: sjbauer@umn.edu, Phone: 763-767-3518. ■

2015 Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science Online

Supporting Partners



Register at: <http://z.umn.edu/2015greatlakesturfschool>



2015 Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science Online (For Professionals)



Online Program (Jan. 7th - Mar. 25th 2015)

- Live Wednesday night online sessions from 6-8pm (CST)
- 12 internationally renowned turfgrass science faculty from across the Great Lakes Region
- 24 hrs of in-depth training in turfgrass science and management

Questions about the class?

Contact: Sam Bauer (sjbauer@umn.edu, 763-767-3518)

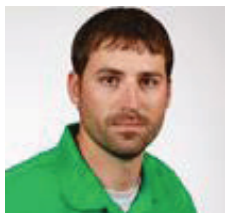
Class fee: \$495.00/person

Registration deadline: Wed. Dec 31st, 2014

Register at: <http://z.umn.edu/2015greatlakesturfschool>

2015 Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science Instructors

Without question, the strength of this new online school lies within the depth and experience of the turfgrass faculty. This program allows for extensive interaction with researchers and educators having national and international recognition.



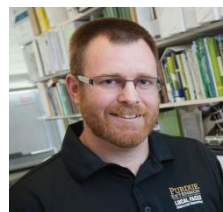
Sam Bauer, M.Sc.
Assistant Extension Professor
CFANS Extension
University of Minnesota-TC



Paul Koch, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Dave Chalmers, Ph.D.
Professor and Extension Specialist Emeritus
Department of Soil and Crop Science
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Aaron Patton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Department of Agronomy
Purdue University



Kevin Frank, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
Michigan State University



Frank Rossi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Department of Horticulture
Cornell University



David Gardner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Horticulture and Crop Science
The Ohio State University



Doug Soldat, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Department of Soil Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Brian Horgan, Ph.D.
Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Department of Horticultural Science
University of Minnesota-TC



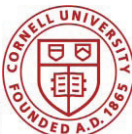
Chris Williamson, Ph.D.
Professor and Extension Specialist
Department of Entomology
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Ed Nangle, Ph.D.
Director of Turfgrass Programs
Chicago District Golf Association



Zac Reicher, Ph.D.
Professor of Turfgrass Science
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
University of Nebraska- Lincoln



2015 Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science Schedule

Live sessions will be held on Wednesday nights from 6:00pm to 8:00pm (Central Standard Time).
Participants will have the option to view the live or recorded sessions.

Session 1

Wednesday, January 7th

Turfgrass identification, physiology and growth

Session 2

Wednesday, January 14th

Soil science and management

Session 3

Wednesday, January 21st

Selection and establishment

Session 4

Wednesday, January 28th

Nutrition and fertility programming

Session 5

Wednesday, February 4th

Mowing and additional cultural practices

Session 6

Wednesday, February 11th

Abiotic stresses

Session 7

Wednesday, February 18th

Irrigation

Session 8

Wednesday, February 25th

Insect biology, identification and management

Session 9

Wednesday, March 4th

Disease biology, identification and management

Session 10

Wednesday, March 11th

Weed biology, identification and management

Session 11

Wednesday, March 18th

Specialty product usage

Session 12

Wednesday, March 25th

Mathematics and calibration

New format

Expert
instructors

Open to
anyone

Fully online

Learn at your
convenience

Earn CEUs

All questions regarding
this course can be
directed to:

Sam Bauer
University of Minnesota

Email:
sjbauer@umn.edu

Phone:
763-767-3518

Register at: <http://z.umn.edu/2015greatlakesturfschool>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 6	WTA Turfgrass Research Day	Pyle Center, UW-Madison
Jan 13-16	STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition	Denver, CO
Jan 14-16	Northern Green Expo.....	Minneapolis Convention Center, MN
Jan 15	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Comfort Suites, Green Bay
Jan 21	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
Feb 4	NGLGCSA Educational Conference.....	Comfort Suites, Green Bay
Feb 9	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	American Family Center, Madison
Feb 11	WGCSA Assistant's Seminar	Whispering Springs, Fond du Lac
Feb 11	WSTMA Annual Winter Conference	Fox City Stadium, Appleton
Feb 13-15	WPT Garden Expo.....	Alliant Center, Madison
Feb 16	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Metropolis Resort, Eau Claire
Feb 16-19	TPI International Education Conference and Field Day.....	San Diego, CA
Feb 21-26	GCSAA Educational Conference and Golf Industry Show.....	San Antonio, TX
Feb 25	GCSAA WGCSA Hospitality Room	Hard Rock Café, San Antonio, TX
Feb 25-27	iLandscape; the Illinois + Wisconsin Landscape Show	Schaumburg, IL
Mar 4	WGCSA Spring Business Meeting	South Hills G & CC
Mar 11,12	Reinders 22nd Green Industry Conference	Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha
Mar 25	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
Apr 8	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
Apr 17	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Stoney Creek Hotel, Rothschild
Apr 28	WGCSA Super/Pro Outing with PGA.....	Abbey Springs GC, Fontana
May 19	WGCSA Monthly Meeting.....	Lawsonia GC, Green Lake
June 22	WGCSA Tournament Meeting	Autumn Ridge GC, Valders
July 22	WGCSA 9-Hole Golf / Footgolf, and Couples Picnic	Rolling Meadows, Fond du Lac
Jul 28	WTA Summer Field Day	O.J. Noer Facility, Verona
Aug 18	WGCSA/NGLGCSA Combined Meeting	SentryWorld GC, Stevens Point
Sept 21	Wee One Fundraiser	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Oct TBD	WTA Golf Fundraiser	TBD
Nov TBD	WGCSA Couples Dinner	Lombardi's Steakhouse, Appleton
Dec 2,3	WGCSA Turf Symposium	American Club, Kohler

**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 to include it in the next calendar.**

Contact Telephone Numbers

GCSAA/GIS	GCSAA Educational Conference and Golf Industry Show.....	800-472-7878
Green	Green Industry and Equipment EXPO	www.landcarenetwork.org
iLandscape	iLandscape; the Illinois + Wisconsin Landscape Show	ilandscapeshow.com
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.	www.nglturf.org
Northern	Northern Green Expo.....	888-886-6652
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	608-262-7588
Reinders	Reinders 22nd Green Industry Conference	800-782-3300
STMA	Sports Turf Managers Association Conference.....	800-323-3875
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	414-529-4705
WSPA	Wisconsin Sod Producers Association	262-895-6820
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association	920-643-4494
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536

WTA Turfgrass Research Day Conference & Webinar

Tuesday, January 6th, 2015
Pyle Center

702 Langdon St • Madison • WI • 53706

The WTA and UW–Madison Turf Program welcome you to the 2015 Turfgrass Research Day. You may attend in person at the Pyle Center or attend via webinar. If you choose to view the talks via webinar, you will receive the link by January 5th, 2015. For driving and parking instructions, visit <http://conferencing.uwex.edu/maps.cfm>. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Audra at ajander2@wisc.edu or 608-845-6536, or visit our website www.wisconsin-turfgrass-association.org.

SCHEDULE

8:00am	Registration, Coffee and Donuts	11:30	Association of Insecticides and Bee Decline: What's All The Buzz <i>Dr. Chris Williamson, Entomology UW-Madison</i>
8:30am	Welcome/Introductions/Awards/ Announcements	12:00	Lunch – provided
8:45am	Management Programs to Suppress <i>Poa</i> in Existing Bentgrass Turf <i>Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University</i>	1:00pm	Year in Review for the Turfgrass Diagnostic Laboratory <i>Mr. Bruce Schweiger, TDL UW-Madison</i>
9:15am	Insect Lab Update: Trends for 2014 and What's In Store for 2015 <i>Mr. P.J. Liesch, Entomology UW-Madison</i>	1:30	Fertilizer and Herbicide Product Evaluations from 2013 <i>Dr. Doug Soldat, Soils Department UW-Madison</i>
9:45am	Reduced Risk Disease Control: How To Do It and Why It's Important <i>Dr. Paul Koch, Plant Pathology UW-Madison</i>	2:00	Do's and Don'ts of Putting Green Restoration <i>Jerry Kershasky, Reinders, Inc.</i>
10:15	Break	2:30	Adjourn
10:30	What's New in Bentgrass Cultivars <i>Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University</i>	2:45	WTA Annual Meeting
11:00	Using Technology in Maintenance Operations <i>Mr. Rick Tegtmeier, Des Moines Golf & Country Club</i>		





2015 WTA Turfgrass Research Day Attendee Registration Form

Please submit the following registration form by Monday, December 29th, 2014 to WTA / 2502 Hwy M / Verona / WI / 53593

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone & Fax number _____

Email address _____

Attendee Names (Only if attending at Pyle Center)

**Registration prices are before the December 29, 2014 deadline.
After that date, and/or if you plan to register on-site add \$10 per person.**

Webinar Only - WTA members \$25 each X _____ = \$ _____

Webinar Only - Non WTA members \$40 each X _____ = \$ _____

Attendance at Pyle Center WTA members \$40 each X _____ = \$ _____

Attendance at Pyle Center - Non WTA members \$50 each X _____ = \$ _____

2015 WTA Membership Dues X \$150 = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

You may pay by check or credit card. If paying by check, please make the check payable to WTA and return to 2502 Highway M / Verona / WI / 53593. If paying by credit card, fill out the information below and mail to above address or fax to 608-845-8162. You may also register online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org.

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard CC#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

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Tim Venes
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