Last year was the first year the Golf Industry Show combined the annual events of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the National Golf Course Owners Association and the Club Managers Association of America. It was a big show with a lot of ground to cover, but not too big for its britches. In a Golfdom survey of more than 400 superintendents, only 6 percent said "the show was too big, and I had trouble finding my way around." More than 50 percent said they "enjoyed it immensely and that it had a good mix of educational and networking opportunities."

It's hard to believe the 2008 show, set for Jan. 28 through Feb. 2 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, is here already. Here is some, but not all, of what you'll find at the show:

This is Turf Jeopardy!
Education is the BASF booth theme this year with games including Turf Jeopardy and Ask the Expert. Also, Dr. Peter Dernoeden of the University of Maryland and Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State will sign 30 copies each of their recent books, and representatives of the 2008 BASF Innovative Superintendents of the Year will discuss their winning ideas. Attendees are invited to share their knowledge by playing Turf Jeopardy. All participants will receive prizes.

Fixin' up the Soil
Aquatrols will be touting its new products, eXimo and BurstTurf. The products, powered by the company's SyntechT technology, are manufactured by Environmental Manufacturing Solutions. Syntech is a patented synthetic acid, which is non-corrosive, non-fuming, safe to plants and grass, and 100 percent biodegradable), according to the company. Syntech-powered eXimo and BurstTurf are soil treatments that help repair soils by reducing bicarbonate levels and solubilizing normally insoluble mineral deposits.

Here we GO
E-Z-GO will exhibit its new fleet golf car — the RXV — engineered to deliver reliability, superior performance, operating efficiency and safety through an array of enhanced features and innovations, according to the company. The new vehicle is expected to deliver value to golf course operators through reduced energy and maintenance costs, the company says.

DuPont seminar
DuPont Professional Products is partnering with Patricia Vittum of the University of Massachusetts to present a comprehensive seminar on insecticide modes of action and resistance management during the GIS. The seminar is set for Jan. 29 at 8 a.m. Chuck Silcox, global product development manager for DuPont, and Vittum will provide the half-day seminar to help superintendents understand the modes of action of the most common turf insecticides and to understand how insects develop resistance to insecticides. Vittum and Silcox will also review the primary insect physiological systems that are targeted with insecticides.

New at Nufarm
The people at Nufarm Americas' booth will be talking about two new products. One is...
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Dynamo, a new pre-emergent herbicide that not only provides pre-emergent coverage, but it also offers early post-emergent control of many broadleaf and grassy weeds, including crabgrass. Quincept, a multi-action and selective post-emergent herbicide, is another new product from the company that combines grassy and broadleaf weed control.

That's “P” for “Precision”
John Deere’s new line of PrecisionCut Fairway Mowers (including models 7500, 7700, 8500 and 8700) will premiere at the show. The mowers provide superintendents a precise cut and straight line, according to Deere. The double-acting steering cylinders equalize left and right pressure to hold a straight line. The patented adjustable hydraulic down pressure keeps cutting units in close contact with the turf.

Phos-Free
Look for ZeroPhos at the booth of Grigg Brothers Foliar Fertilizers. ZeroPhos is a new phosphorus-free granular fertilizer that provides three-season feeding and improved visual appearance while mitigating phosphate impact.

Precedent part two
Club Car will introduce its Precedent i2 golf car at the show four years after introducing the Precedent. The Precedent i2 looks like its namesake, with its unique exterior styling. But the Precedent i2 also features the new Excel drive system, which continues the evolution of Club Car’s electric platform with enhanced efficiency, reliability and control capabilities, according to the company.

The Precedent i2L, an upgrade of the Precedent i2 model, is aimed at upscale facilities.

Floratine plays TAPs
Floratine Products Group’ representatives will tell visitors the philosophy behind its new Turf Action Plans (TAPs). Previously known as “Management Action Plans,” TAPs aid superintendents in combating a wide variety of challenging yet difficult-to-treat turf issues. Each TAP includes Floratine product selections tailored for specific situations, conveniently packaged to allow for easy mixing and application.

“After years of field research, working side-by-side with turf professionals, we developed TAPs to provide effective, consistent and convenient turf solutions,” said Kevin Cavanaugh, Floratine’s CEO.

Toro takes to the air power
The Toro Co. will tout a variety of products, including the Toro Pro Force Debris Blower, which attaches to the back of a Toro Workman or similar utility vehicle and utilizes a high-efficiency turbine design to deliver air power to blow clippings from fairways, or leaves and other debris from a variety of maintained areas. Also at the Toro booth: the Groundsmaster 5900/5910 16-foot rotary mowers; the Mid-Duty Workman with a redesigned suspension system; and other products.

Golfdom will cover the GIS with a special edition of its Insider e-newsletter on Feb. 1. Also, watch for more show coverage in an upcoming Golfdom issue.