Don't forget to bring your comfortable shoes to New Orleans to walk the trade-show floor at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center from Feb. 5-7. They call New Orleans the Big Easy, but you know that walking a trade-show floor is never easy on your feet.

With that in mind, here is some — but not all — of what you'll find on the show floor:

For the Love of Science
In keeping with its dedication to science-based turf solutions, BASF Turf & Ornamentals says it will feature multiple educational events at its booth. Superintendents and assistants who visit the BASF booth Thursday and Friday at 11 a.m. will have the chance to meet Bert McCarty of Clemson University and Joseph Vargas of Michigan State University and receive free, signed turf textbooks. McCarty will sign his book, “Color Atlas of Turfgrass Weeds,” on Thursday, and Vargas will sign “Management of Turfgrass Diseases” on Friday.

BASF will also host three “Ask the Expert” sessions with BASF technical specialists Kathie Kalmowitz, Kyle Miller and Todd Burkdoll. Also, show attendees will also have the chance to showcase their turf and trivia knowledge while playing Turf Jeopardy, which takes place throughout Thursday and Friday. A special round is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday with members of the trade media, including myself (guess I better brush up!).

Pick Up This Catalog
Standard Golf Co. is giving away $25,000 in product at the show to promote the complete redesign and philosophical change reflected in its 2009 product catalog.

“We understand that golf course superintendents have a long list of daily tasks to attend to so we wanted to make the process of ordering golf course accessories as easy as possible,” Standard Golf Vice President Matt Hurley said.

“The entire philosophy behind the new catalog design was to make it easy to navigate and place orders. We’re going to add some incentive for superintendents to pick up a catalog at GIS by placing 25 stickers in randomly selected catalogs with $1,000 in free product redemption.”

The free product stickers will be put inside the catalogs to encourage users to peruse the books. Winners can place an order for free product at the booth or redeem their winning catalogs for a voucher to be used later.

New Company in Town
Putnam, Conn.-based Kochek Co., which has found success in the fire-equipment market, has recently expanded into the golf, turf and irrigation markets and will exhibit its products at the show. “There are a number of crossover products that we currently make, such as suction hose and strainers, that have very useful applications in the golf, turf and irrigation markets,” said Greg Kozy, Kochek’s president. “In addition to these items, we are excited about the full line of high-quality nozzles we have developed specifically for these customers.

Hazeltine Worth a Thousand Words
Tee-2-Green says the fifth painting in the popular “Artistry of Golf” series will be unveiled and awarded at the show. The series of Continued on page 50
commissioned paintings, sponsored by Tee-2-Green, pays tribute to the hard work and dedication of golf course superintendents throughout the world.

“We were eager to get involved with the Artistry series because it pays tribute to superintendents who demonstrate the unique combination of science and intuition to successfully master the art of golf course maintenance,” said Bill Rose, president of Tee-2-Green.

The fifth painting, titled “Number 17 at Hazeltine,” features the par-3 17th hole at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. The painting, the work of artist Sandra Cashman, showcases the hole, which is encapsulated by bunkers and water.

Held in conjunction with Tee-2-Green’s “Seeds of Fortune” game, the individual with the highest score will win the original framed oil painting.

In addition, every “Seeds of Fortune” participant will receive a signed and numbered, limited-edition artist print.

Granular Acelepryn
DuPont Professional Products will highlight the new granular formulation of DuPont Acelepryn insecticide, which is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Acelepryn controls every turf-damaging white grub species and other key pests such as the annual bluegrass weevil, billbugs and caterpillars. Acelepryn is a new class of chemistry that provides control at the lowest application rate ever utilized for white grubs, according to DuPont. Acelepryn was granted reduced-risk status by the EPA in April 2007 for applications to turfgrass.

Heritage Plus Daconil Equals Renown
Folks at the Syngenta Professional Products booth will be talking about Renown, a new fungicide designed to treat brown patch, gray leaf spot, dollar spot, large patch, leaf spot and anthracnose. Combining active ingredients from Heritage and Daconil fungicides, the new fungicide features both systemic and contact modes of action. Renown is expected to receive registration from the EPA in the spring.

Well-connected
Rain Bird will have some new products, including its DB Series Wire Connector. The product’s smaller, more durable, single-piece construction allows installers to make more reliable wire connections and in less time than ever before, according to Rain Bird. The DB Series Wire Connector is particularly suited for the installation of below-ground decoder control systems. It’s also useful when working with standard controllers, valve boxes and soil moisture sensors.

Fast Work
Underhill International will showcase the LiquidPro, a new applicator gun that evenly distributes wetting agents, fertilizers and micronutrients, according to the company. Weighing only 3 pounds, the LiquidPro is easy to use, UV-protected and chemical resistant. It covers 1,000 square feet of turf in less than a minute.

One Tough Bridge
Axion International Holdings will display its bridges, which are also used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Union Pacific and Chicago Transit Authority.

The bridges feature textured surfaces that don’t absorb water, which makes for less slippage. The bridges are also customized to withstand extreme traffic and weight from golf carts, maintenance and construction vehicles. The décor of classic and contemporary models blend with course surroundings, according to Axion.

Lots New at Deere Golf
John Deere Golf says it will unveil more products than ever before at the show. “John Deere will demonstrate how precision mowing and cut quality are only enhanced by next-level innovations with expansions on its current hybrid power platform and new quick, time-saving cutting unit adjustments,” according to a press release. Those products include five new mowers, which John Deere Golf says are heavy on power and light on turf impact.

Editor’s note: Golfdom will cover the GIS with a special edition of its Insider e-newsletter on Feb. 5. Also, watch for more show coverage in an upcoming issue.