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The 1987 Midwest Regional Turf Conference

by Clark Throssell

The 1987 Midwest Regional Turf Conference was a successful event. More than 300 individuals attended the Conference, which represents a 30 percent increase in attendance over last year. Most individuals were pleased with the educational sessions and felt the speakers did an excellent job. A wide array of topics were scheduled to try to accommodate the diverse needs of professional turf managers.

The banquet on Tuesday evening was a special occasion. The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation honored Dr. Ray Freeborg for his fine career and his many contributions to the turf industry in Indiana and nationwide. Dr. Bill Daniel recounted many of Ray's contributions both professional and personal. The MRTR presented oak deck chairs to Ray and his wife Erma, as an expression of appreciation. The banquet speaker was Mark Hermann, former Purdue University quarterback, and currently playing for the San Diego Chargers. Mark spoke about his athletic career and life in the NFL. He answered questions from the audience about NFL players, the state of college athletics and his views about artificial turf.

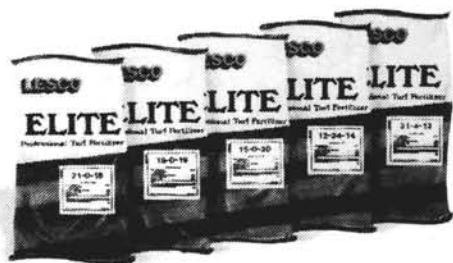
Thirty-five companies had displays in the Tabletop Trade Show. The response from the Tabletop Trade Show was very enthusiastic from both distributors and professional turf managers. We plan to make the Tabletop Trade Show an annual event. One complaint we did receive was that the room was too small. We are currently trying to reserve a larger room for next year to expand the size of the show and to make it more comfortable for the participants. The Tabletop Trade Show was added to improve the quality of the Conference and to make it more attractive to potential attendees.

Although the 1987 Midwest Regional Turf Conference was a success there are many areas that we can improve upon. One area that we are going to change for the 1988 Conference is the development of the educational program. We will be asking professional turf organizations to be responsible for one of the educational sessions. The organization would select the topics they are interested in and suggest potential speakers. The MRTF would be responsible for the speakers' expenses. Hopefully, this will make the educational sessions more responsive to your needs. Organizations such as the Indiana Golf Course Superintendents Association, Hoosier Turfgrass Association, Indianapolis Lawn Care Association, the Sports Turf Managers Associations, and others will be invited to organize an educational session. The MRTF would be responsible for the general sessions.

The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation belongs to all the members; it is truly our organization. All of the activities of the MRTF are open for your input. If you have suggestions for ways to improve the MRTF please contact me or any Board member. Your help is vital if the MRTF is to grow and become stronger.

P.S. — I understand that many individuals in the Chicago area did not receive information concerning the 1987 Turf Conference. We had problems with our mailing and I apologize for the oversight. We are currently working hard to improve our mailing lists so this does not happen again. All turf managers in the Chicago area are always welcome at Purdue.

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