



Wes Danielewicz, Executive Director



# TETA Vendor Day

*On March 12, 2010, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) held its fifth annual Vendor Day. You're probably asking, what is Vendor Day? Vendor Day began as a day when technicians visited with a variety of vendors and learned about their products. It's a chance to see and learn about new products. These products can help make a technician's job better, easier, safer, and more efficient. We have always invited golf course superintendents to attend along with their technicians. For the last two years, TETA has opened Vendor Day to everyone associated with the turf industry. Today Vendor Day is also a form of fundraising for our association. Why does TETA have Vendor Day?*

The Turf Equipment Technicians Association is funded primarily by the dues it collects from its members. Additional revenue comes from employment opportunity postings and, on occasion, a 50/50 Raffle at our monthly meetings. In 2009, for the first time in the association's history, rather than increase dues, TETA began to charge for monthly seminars. This was done to offset costs such as the mailings, coffee, donuts, beverages, lunch and handouts. Yes, there are times that we have a sponsor for lunch, but that does not always cover expenses. As I am writing this, our membership is down this year by about 10%.

This year's Vendor Day couldn't have come at a better time and place. It was held at the DuPage Airport Authority in an airplane hangar. This venue gave us over 20,000 square feet of space under one roof, more than we have ever had. This unique space made it a very interesting event. The airport equipment and a Cessna Citation jet on display created an unusual ambiance. Almost 30 vendors participated in the event. Attendance was over 70, the largest ever, with superintendents, technicians, various municipalities and vendors who

came by to see what it was about. The participating vendors were equipment distributors, dealers, rental companies, turf chemical suppliers, lubricants, hydraulic supply companies, auto parts companies, fuel suppliers, battery suppliers, and a lot more.

Thanks to Mark Doles (airport director) our host, Tony Kalina (superintendent) and Josh Zartman (technician) of Prairie Landing Golf Club for co-hosting the event. Thanks to Matt Passantino of Stonebridge Country Club for his diligence in making it all come together. Special thanks to our TETA volunteers, Tina, Dottie, Pete Passantino, and Wes Danielewicz, Jr. for making it an enjoyable day for everyone. We must not forget to thank the infamous "Chef Anton" from Riverside Roasters, for cooking us up one great feast.

To all those who attended this year, including the vendors, thank you for making Vendor Day 2010 a great success. Mark your calendars for March 4, 2011, for next year's event. By the way, the TETA board is looking to change the name of the event. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, send me an email to wes@teta-online.com. Thanks again. **-OC**



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