

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm happy to say the state of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent's Association is very good. The dues structure of \$30 for golf course employees and \$90 for company memberships proved sufficient to run the association out of our new office, with enough left over to grant \$2,300 to turf research.

1982 looks equally as good. The board and committees have worked hard all winter and most of our goals are accomplished or in process. Our monthly meetings are already set and we are well on our way to having the speakers committed for each.

Our new roster is in its final stages, and almost ready for printing. The dues are coming in fairly well, with 85% in as of March 15th. Let's get the rest in so we can get our books in order.

Our first membership meeting on March 15, 1982 had a turnout of 47. This is an improvement over recent years, but should certainly be better. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19th at Evergreen Country Club in Elkhorn with Dave Hills as our host.

Hope to see you there!

Jim Belfield

"COLLEGE DAY FOR TURF PROFESSIONALS"

150 Attend Meeting

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association held its first annual meeting on January 14, 1982 at the University of Wisconsin Arlington Experimental Farm. Over 150 people attended the event billed as "College Day for Turf Professionals." The morning session included informal discussion with the University personnel present and casual browsing through the display material. After lunch and a very inspiring talk by Associate Agriculture Dean, Dr. Don Patterson, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association held its first annual meeting. The interim Board of Directors was officially elected by the membership to guide the association through its second year. Officers of the association are:

David Payne, President
Egon Herrmann, Vice President
James Huggett, Treasurer
Thomas Harrison, Secretary

Other board members are: Monroe Miller, Ed Devinger, George R. Brandt, George P. Brandt, and Martin Schiebe.

The WTA has experienced a very successful first year in its efforts to raise research funds for the University of Wisconsin. Over \$6000 was raised in less than twelve months with a research grant of \$4500 going to Dr. Gayle Worf in April, 1982. Dr. Worf's work was on commercial sod, golf course turf and home lawns. At the WTA annual meeting Dr. Worf detailed his 1981 work.

The grants from the WTA have become an economic necessity for the University of Wisconsin turf personnel because of government cutbacks in funding. Turf research, being a specialized field, is of low priority to budget conscious administrators. Existing personnel, facilities and continuing research would be underutilized if not for support from private industry. Administrators tend to favor research programs that show public support. It is this public support for turf research that the WTA is trying to convey to the

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University of Wisconsin Administration.

The 1982 year has started out on a tremendous note for the WTA with double the interest of a year ago. It is anticipated a substantially larger grant will be given to the U.W. this year. Interested parties from all aspects of the turf industry have joined.

The one area that the association needs more input is from its many members. Feedback is needed on turf disease, insect, and soil problems. Also what educational activities that the members would like to see. Because of our vast cross section of members the possibilities for new education are tremendous.

Golf course superintendents have the opportunity to meet commercial sod growers, lawn care specialists and varied industry representatives, and exchange ideas on management, equipment and common problems. The learning potential at field days, seminars, etc., could be outstanding.

Presently for 1982, Dr. Gayle Worf is formulating his research plans. Input from interested turf managers is encouraged. Ed Devinger is looking into the possibility for a golf outing this summer and Bob Bolz is studying the feasibility of a field day. A field day to include demonstrations and discussion topics for sod growers, golf course superintendents and lawn care specialists would be a very interesting endeavor.

The 1982 membership drive is in full swing and anyone interested in furthering Wisconsin research and joining this very worthy organization should contact:

Thomas Harrison
1218 Winn Trail
Madison, WI 53037
Or any WTA Board Member.