

Looking Back

WTA 1984 in Review

By Tom Harrison

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Board of Directors began 1984 with a great deal of enthusiasm and many great ideas for furthering turf research. All of the projects that were to be funded required a great deal of money to be raised. More money to be raised than we had ever raised before. Our goals were high but certainly within reach. It meant a lot of effort on every board member's part. In order to fund the projects we proposed, we would need at least \$18,000 in gross revenue for the year. In 1981, our first year, we raised approximately \$6,500; in 1982 \$9,700; and 1983 \$14,000. The board could see that gross income was rising but we were cautiously optimistic about raising the \$18,000. With a lot of hard work and a tremendous amount of support from the turf professionals in Wisconsin as of November 1, 1984 the WTA has raised over \$21,000.

In 1984 the WTA gave grants of \$5,800 to Dr. Gayle Worf; \$3,100 to Dr. Dan Mahr; and \$200 to Dr. Robert Newman. In addition a \$9,300 turf research vehicle was purchased which when coupled to gas and insurance for the year we have over \$10,000 invested in the vehicle. All in all a successful year we feel. The research funds were well spent, the research vehicle was a tremendous asset in getting a greater amount of work done in the field, and the vehicle is paid for.

Ed Devinger, chairman of the annual field day and leader of our infamous golf outing, is to be complemented for all his efforts on behalf of the WTA. Ed was the driving force on both events and it is due to his diligence and hard work that both events are as successful as they are.

The WTA board now will turn its attention to 1985. Currently our thoughts are leaning toward funding a graduate student or something along these lines to put more people out in the field or at least looking at an increased amount of field work. All of our efforts would be futile without the continued support of the WGCSA and the superintendents of Wisconsin.

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