

From The Director's Desk  
**REFLECTIONS ON  
 THE WISCONSIN  
 GOLF TURF  
 SYMPOSIUM**

By Stanley J. Zontek



The following are a few thoughts about the Wisconsin Turf Symposium. In my travels as an agronomist for the USGA Green Section I have an opportunity to see and participate in a large number of turf conferences locally, nationally and even internationally. The Wisconsin Turf Symposium is one of my very favorites. It has a particularly unique character among the other conferences held today and this uniqueness is...what I like. Specifically, the following are a few items which set the Wisconsin Turf Symposium apart from other turf conferences.

- 1) One topic is covered in depth. Most turf conferences give the listener a little bit of a lot of subjects which, in many ways is fine but it is refreshing to have a turf conference that takes an important issue of today and examines it from different viewpoints very comprehensively. This is the only conference that I know takes this approach.
- 2) The conference is a pure golf turf conference. Increasingly, turf conferences are just that...conferences that relate to all aspects of turfgrass be it golf courses, roadsides, athletic fields, lawn maintenance companies, etc. In some ways, even with concurrent sessions, these conferences can become general in nature and perhaps even a bit diluted in content for the golf course turf manager. The Wisconsin Turf Symposium

stays true to the problems of golf course turfgrass management. This is almost unique any more.

- 3) Size. The Wisconsin Symposium is not too small...nor is it too large. A number of turf conferences across the country seem to be obsessed with numbers...more people in the door than anyone else. While such large numbers are fine and even needed to support the turf research effort in the state, a conference can become so large that it stifles such things as individual's questions. It also makes the speaker have less time on the podium so, in many ways, they can't really develop their subject matter. By being more of an intimate group, the Wisconsin Symposium is just big enough to be a major conference and yet small enough to be a "comfortable" conference.
  - 4) A good facility, a good location and a reasonable cost. It is getting expensive to attend turf conferences and sometimes inconvenient to find a place to park, to eat or to be entertained. This is not the case with the Wisconsin Symposium...it is all in one building, in a nice downtown location with some excellent (I sure can attest to that) restaurants. Come to think of it, that may be one additional reason why I like the Symposium...Milwaukee is an excellent restaurant city!
  - 5) Audience participation. It seems to me that because of the size, atmosphere and continuity of organization that the people in the audience feel at ease to ask questions. I have attended a number of turf conferences where no one literally asked a question of a speaker. This is unfortunate because I do know that people have questions and oftentimes, one question leads to another. This exchange of questions and answers is, oftentimes, just as important as what the speaker presented in his prepared talk. Thus, I feel the audience gets more out of this type of exchange than some of the others.
- There is no doubt in my mind that one of the best conferences I routinely attend is the Wisconsin Turf Symposium. I mark it on my calendar each year as a priority

conference to attend. It usually falls on my son's birthday but...what's in having a little birthday party a few days early or a few days late! It gives me a chance to do some shopping for him in Milwaukee.

I look forward to the Wisconsin Turf Symposium each year and I can say that I am proud to have been part of and a participant in this excellent turf conference.

**POLARIS E-Z-GO**

**TEXTRON**

**GARY MONFRE  
 PARTS, SALES, SERVICE**

**E-Z-GO GOLF CARS**  
 Waukesha, WI 53186  
 414/542-7586  
 414/344-0404

**E-Z-GO CHICAGOLAND**  
 24404 N. Hwy 12  
 Lake Zurich, IL 60047  
 (312) 438-5511

Our best to the  
**"GREENEST  
 THUMBS"**  
 in the State...  
 enjoy a  
**bountiful 1984!**



**WISCONSIN SECTION  
 PGA OF AMERICA**