

WGCSA Participates in The North Central Turf Exposition Program For The First Time

For the first time ever, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association formally participated in the North Central Turf Expo. This year's meeting was held for three consecutive days, December 8 through December 10, at the Pheasant Run Resort outside of St. Charles, Illinois. This excellent meeting has been well attended by Wisconsin golf course superintendents over the years. Members of the WGCSA and faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Madison have served as speakers. Individuals in the turfgrass industry in the state have also accepted invitations to address the Expo. But 1987 was the first time that a part of the program was formally dedicated to the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Carl Grassl had been approached about the prospect of a WGCSA section in the educational program earlier in the year. Carl, who spent many years as a golf course superintendent in the Chicago area, responded favorably to the idea after it was warmly received by the directors of the WGCSA at the March board meeting. As the chair of the education committee, Carl designed the program that was presented and chose the speakers.

Bill Roberts, appropriately, was the lead speaker on the Wisconsin program. As the new past president of the

WGCSA and current director of the GCSAA, Bill addressed the subject of "How Involved Are We - Or - Should We Be?" Obviously, Roberts is committed to many causes within the profession and took this potentially deadly and boring subject to a level that captured everyone's attention. Bill's ever increasing experience as a speaker is really starting to show—his words sparked with clarity, vision and inspiration.

The subject of the environment was addressed by Monroe S. Miller. He drew on his experience as a member of the Forestry/Rights-Of-Way/Turf Coalition and as a citizen in the capital city of Madison where there is always some flap about the environment. Miller's rather blunt opinions regarding environmental zealots were well received by the audience.

It has not taken the turfgrass industry in the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Midwest very long to discover Dr. Wayne R. Kussow, faculty member in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Wayne spoke on a subject we haven't heard much about in recent years—"Organic Matter in Turf". Per usual, he did an excellent job of covering his subject material. Wayne was also a speaker on Wednesday afternoon at the invitation of the Central Illinois Golf

Course Superintendents Association, and again on Thursday in the Sports Turf Managers Association. All three talks were on completely different topics but well within Dr. Kussow's expertise. Wisconsin has a lot to be proud of in this man.

Grassl decided to finish the program with another subject that has become an infrequent part of educational golf turf programs in recent years—sand topdressing. Carl asked Jerry Kershasky, Wayne Otto and Ray Knapp—all WGCSA members—to take a look at "Ten Years of Sand Topdressing Greens". These three superintendents, with Carl serving as moderator, did a classic job of thoroughly covering the subject with their own experiences. Few could have given the perspective these men did simply because they had Westmoor, Ozaukee and Tuckaway on sand programs before most others jumped on the bandwagon.

Of the feedback received to date about our efforts in St. Charles, all have been very favorable. Give most credit to Carl Grassl. As for next year, although no invitations have been made, a betting man would expect to see another WGCSA session at the 1988 North Central Turf Exposition.

—Monroe S. Miller

WGCSA SPEAKER LINE-UP AT 1987 NCTE



Ray Knapp



Wayne Otto



Carl Grassl



Wayne Kussow



Jerry Kershasky



Bill Roberts



Monroe S. Miller