



# THE GRASS ROOTS



an official publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume XVI, No. 2

March/April 1989

## “BEST EVER” WTA Conference Held in Waukesha!

By Monroe S. Miller

It was at least a consensus, if not an outright unanimous opinion — the 1989 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass Conference and Annual Meeting was the best ever sponsored by the WTA. It was the 7th consecutive Winter Conference held by the association.

The rave reviews were in no way meant to diminish previous meetings. The same emotions seem to prevail after each one — “they keep getting better.” Such comments demonstrate that the conference planning committee takes lessons learned from the previous year and applies them to the next one.

This year’s committee deserves a standing ovation. Wayne Otto, Gary Zwirlein, Dave Payne, Bill Vogel and Ed Devinger decided to take a bold step and move the program to a two-day format for the first time. There simply wasn’t enough time in previous years to attend the educational sessions, visit the product displays, go to the annual meeting and visit with colleagues all in one day. And the day was significantly shorter for those with a long drive.

The second change initiated by the committee was a site change. The move from the Waukesha County Expo Center to the Country Inn was timed perfectly. The Country Inn is a beautiful facility, seemingly planned just for our meeting. Many took advantage of the situation and stayed overnight. The food and service were both outstanding; the location is very convenient for travelers. The meeting



Professor Chuck Koval’s return to the WTA podium was very welcome.



Guest speaker and former Milwaukee Brewer pitcher Pete Vukovich. He made a lot of new friends on that Wednesday. He is flanked by Terry Kurth (L) and Gary Zwirlein (R).

rooms were comfortable (even if too small for at least one lecture!) and the table top display room met every need.

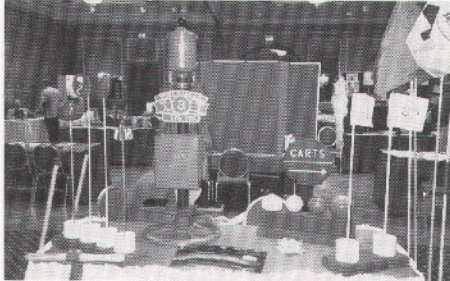
The most important reason to attend a meeting like the Winter Conference, however, is still education. The program was excellent, headed by our faculty and staff from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Wayne Kussow, Dr. Chuck Koval and Jana Stewart from the UW were joined by Dick Schneider from the Milwaukee County UW Extension office. The USGA’s Jim Latham gave his usual superb presentation. Industry experts on the program included Brady Surrena from Fermenta, Mark Grundman from Northrup King, John Turner from NOR-AM, Christine Madderom from Waupaca Materials and John DeMatteo from the Loft Seed Co.

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WTA officers Red Roskopf and Terry Kurth were speakers. And for the first time a faculty person from another land grant institution was on the program. Dr. David Wehner from the University of Illinois spoke on environmental stress in one session and focused on pre/post emergent crabgrass control in another.



The tabletop display area had everything from tee and green supplies to . . .



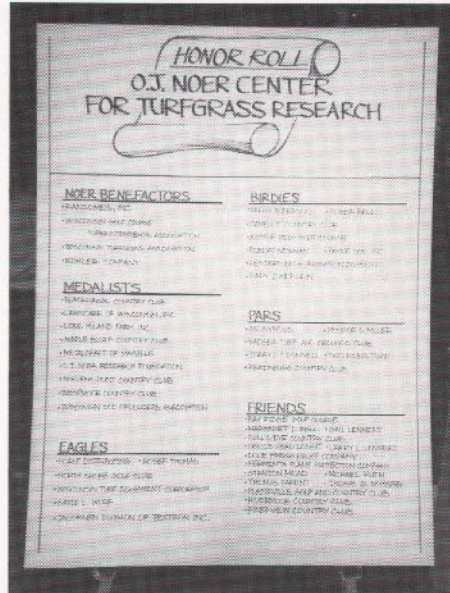
. . . rootzone mixes for putting greens.

**PLEASE,  
Pledge YOUR  
Support to  
the Noer Center  
TODAY.**

The noon luncheon on the second day was a real treat for the 250 people in attendance. Pete Vukovich, as a spokesman for Snapper Mowers, came as a guest of Stewart Lindsay. Vukovich was the American League Cy Young Award winner in 1982 when he helped the Brewers to the World Series. Vuke gave a very enjoyable talk about life after baseball. Interestingly

enough, he left the Country Inn for County Stadium where he was selected to replace Mike Hegan as color commentator on the Milwaukee Brewers television network.

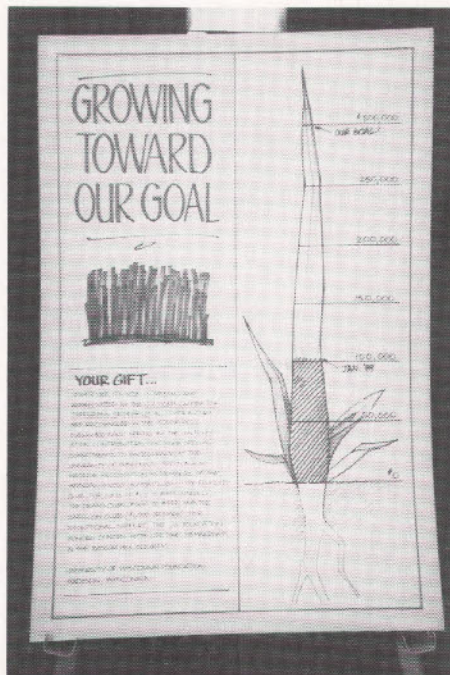
There's only one problem with a successful meeting like this one — next year's planning committee will be pressed to plan an event for 1990 that will also merit the title "Best Ever."



The O.J. Noer Center HONOR ROLL on display at the Winter Turf Conference.



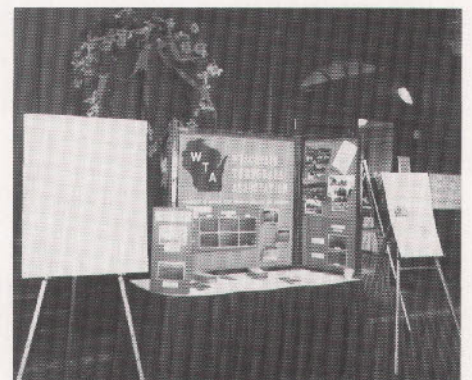
John Turner of NOR-AM formally presented Jeff Bahr, a UW-Madison senior in turfgrass management, the NOR-AM scholarship for 1988.



Moving up the "grass blade" toward our goal of \$300,000 for the NOER CENTER.



Dr. Gayle Worf had an excellent turfgrass pathology display.



WTA's attractive information center.