



Two New Features in this issue — See pages 29 and 33.



# THE GRASS ROOTS

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## WTA FIELD DAY ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBERS

By Monroe S. Miller

The seventh annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day drew a record number of both exhibitors and participants, according to Field Day co-chairmen Tom Harrison and Tom Schwab. The field at Yahara Hills was a beautiful site to behold — dark green turfgrass, brightly colored tents and an extremely impressive array of the latest in turf machinery.

One of the main purposes of a field day is to help golf course superintendents (and others) to make their buying decisions. And what an opportunity everybody had on August 22nd! Exhibitors were on the perimeter of a substantial practice field. The interior grassed area was available for any hands-on demonstration — aerifiers, rotaries, reel mowers, tractors, sprayers, trenchers and every other kind of equipment used in operating a golf course. It was in use almost constantly from opening until the afternoon finale.

Another field day tradition in our business is the inspection of plot work by turfgrass faculty members. Professors Kussow, Newman and Worf did a splendid job with fertility and variety trials, fungicide evaluation work, a bluegrass transplant study, renovation projects and several disease control studies. All were very interesting and instructive. Professor Koval from the UW-Madison Entomology Department was there and we were fortunate to have a visit from Dr. Herb Hopen, chairman of the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture.

The WTA Field Day again this year seemed to attract rain. Four of the seven field days that have been held have seen rain either the night before



WTA Director and Camelot owner Red Roskopf.

or the day of the event. Rain fell over a good portion of the state on Monday night, but few places received as much as Yahara Hills. Ron Schara's rain gauge showed an overnight total of 1.75", despite the fact that the Madison airport received only 0.5". Fortunately the field area is well drained and the rain did little to dampen the day's activities.

What may have been dampened was the potential attendance. Rain in the morning of an event like this tends to keep superintendents close to the golf course until the weather clears or until a determination can be made about closing, golf carts and all of the other problems that crop up on a rainy morning. Sod producers have to decide whether or not to harvest and take orders. Lawn care companies and landscape contractors have to decide whether to work or send crews home. WTA directors feel the attendance would have been much higher without the rain.

But no one complained about the

moisture — recent summers have been too dry for such complaining. The standing rule for the WTA Field Day is "the show goes on, regardless of the weather."

For those who travelled to Yahara Hills, the trip was worth it. New equipment and new products, old friends and the latest in turfgrass research are always draws to really progressive golf course superintendents. And many of them anxiously await the 1991 Field Day when it will be held at the NOER CENTER.

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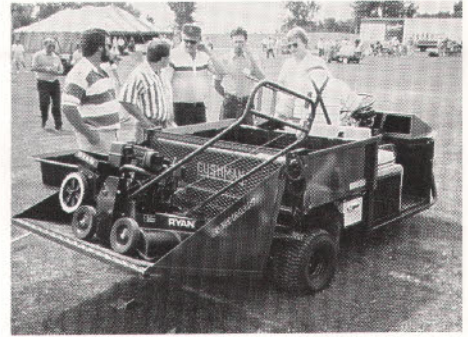


**1989 WISCONSIN TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION  
FIELD DAY EXHIBITORS**

The Andersons  
Century Rain Aid  
Dow Chemical  
Horst Distributing\*  
Hahn  
Jerry's Small Engines  
KEI\*  
Kasco  
Lebanon Chemical Co.  
Lakeside Lawn Service  
L.W. Meyer & Son  
Maxi Products  
Northrup King Seeds  
Phyto Technology  
Rhone Poulenc  
Reinders Bros. Turf\*  
Spray Supply  
Sierra Chemical  
Star City Fabrication  
Turf Management Supply  
Vigoro  
Wisconsin Magneto  
Waupaca Sand

Brayton/Wilbur Ellis  
Cleary's Chemical  
Elanco  
Hanley Implement\*  
John Deere  
JW Turf Inc.  
Kohler Engines  
Kellogg Seed  
LESCO  
Lindgren's  
Milorganite  
Mobay  
Olds Seed Co.  
PBI Gordon  
Reinders Bros. Irrigation\*  
Watertronics  
O.M. Scott & Sons  
Steiner Turf  
Tractor Loader Sales  
Uniroyal Chemical  
Vogel Spring Valley  
Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corp.\*  
American Intertool

\* These companies have exhibited at every Field Day the Wisconsin Turf-grass Association has sponsored, going back to the first one at the UW Arlington Experiment Station.



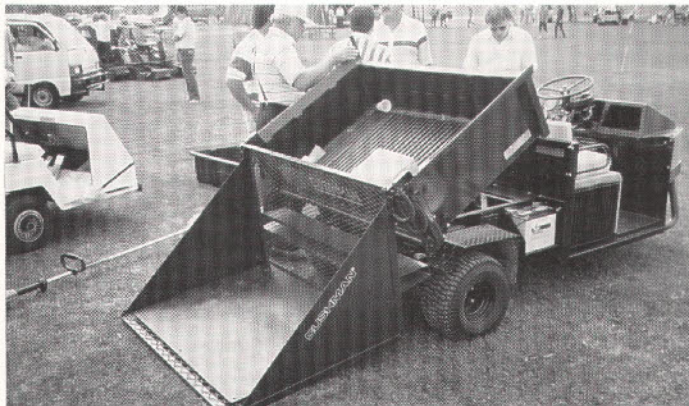
"Hauling equipment!"



Ransomes will sell the Fairway 5000 next year. We got a preview at the Field Day.



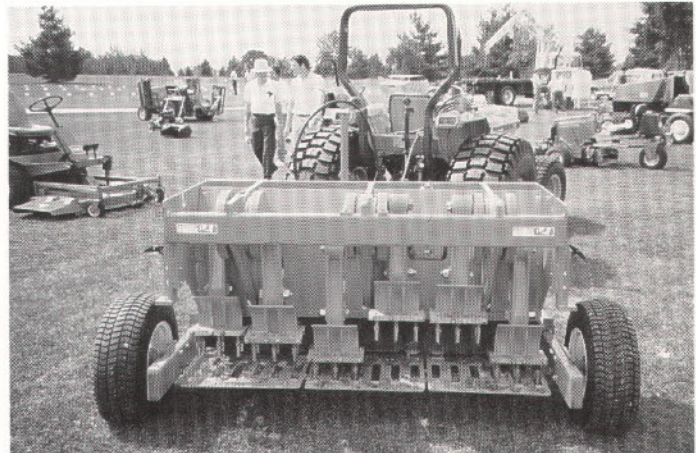
Deep tine aerification is gaining favor among some golf course superintendents. Wisconsin Turf offers this one.



"What's this attachment for?"

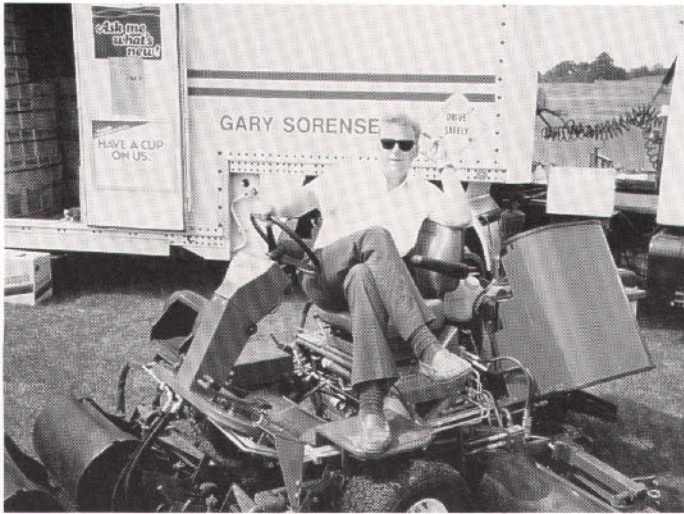


Field Days are meant for research and demonstration displays, too. Here Dr. Bob Newman and NK's Mark Grundman look at grass varieties.



Toro's PTO driven fairway aerifier.





Gary Sorensen has to learn how to relax a little!



One of two "birthday boys" at the Field Day — Ed Devinger and Neil Richter both celebrated the day doing lots of business!



Mike Lyons, Assistant GCS at Pine Hills, gives some John Deere equipment a close look.



The Sand Mizer could be used to store Milorganite, too.



The large field in the center of equipment displays was a perfect place for hands-on demonstrations.

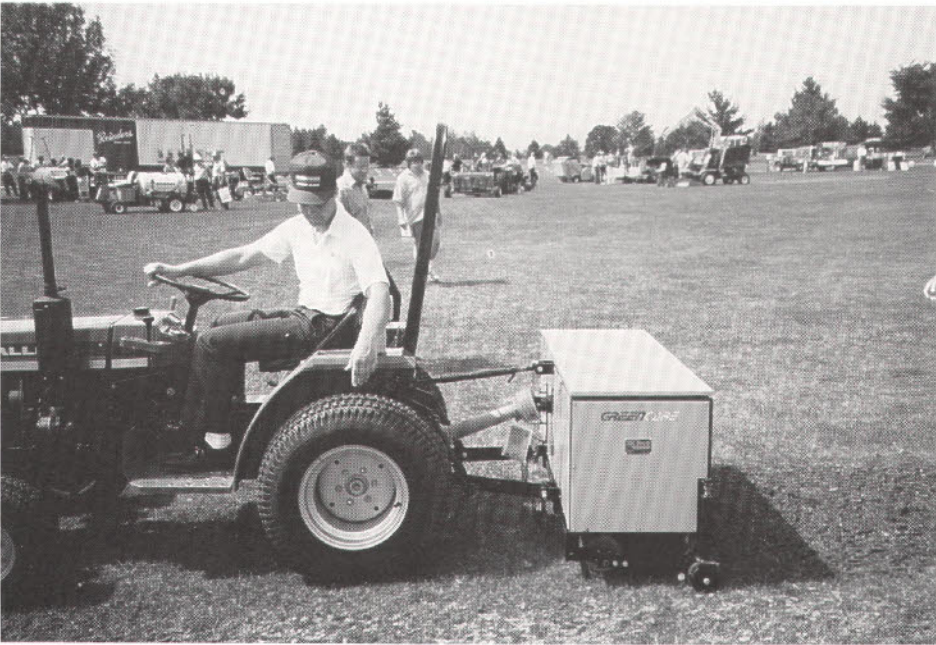


Here's an interesting machine for root pruning trees and installing herbicide barriers.





Specialty equipment was everywhere on the Yahara field.



The aerifiers on the field all got a good workout.

## The Ridges Hosts WGCSA Meeting

By Mark Kienert

Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent, Dave Murgatroyd, welcomed his fellow golf course superintendents to his outstanding (Dave can usually be found out standing in the Mississippi River somewhere) golf course, The Ridges. Dave has hosted our association for six times over the years he has been a member.

A nice dry day in Wisconsin Rapids (what else is new in this part of the state), saw the following individuals take home the prizes in the Chicago Points System format.

Standing	Name
1st .....	Host Dave Murgatroyd
2nd .....	Jeff Bottensek
3rd .....	Randy Smith
4th .....	Roger Lee
5th .....	Charlie Frazier
6th .....	Tom Schaller
7th .....	Robert Stock
8th .....	Norman Ray
9th .....	Deke DeCramer
10th .....	Dennis Robinson

Event winners saw Ron Grunewald hole out the longest putt. The accuracy award for closest to the pin went to the skillful Andy Archer. The "I like to keep it in play" award for long drive was hammered out by Steve Schmidt. And finally the "Nestea Plunge" award for most balls in the water goes to Bob "Flipper" Stock.

Special thanks for the hard work put in by Jack Harris, Webb Winn and their respective staffs for allowing us the use of their time and golf course.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 13.....WGCSA Meeting at Blackwolf Run
- September 25.....WTA Golf Outing at West Bend C.C.
- October 2.....WGCSA Meeting at Willow Run G.C.
- October 20 & 21.....WGCSA Dinner Dance
- October 25 & 26.....Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium
- December 25.....**Christmas!**
- January 9 & 10, 1990.....WTA Winter Meeting

### FOR SALE:

(2) RYAN GREENSAIRE II GREENS AERATORS — Good condition; ready to run w/1/2" tines. \$1600.00 ea. Contact Tom Harrison at Maple Bluff Country Club, (608) 249-3468.

### WANTED TO BUY:

(2) USED MOTOR 180'S w/7 Blade floating heads. Preferably some units in very poor condition for parts use. Contact Tom Harrison at Maple Bluff Country Club, (608) 249-3468.