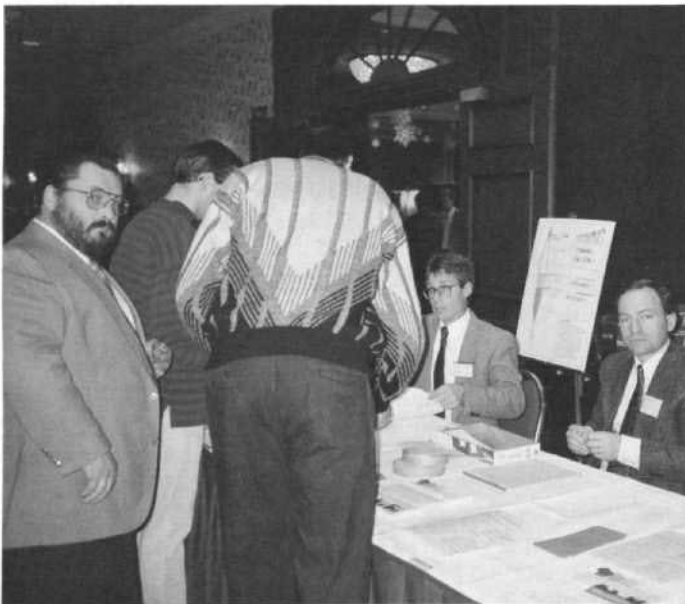


The First of a New Decade — 1990 WTA Winter Turfgrass Conference is a Huge Success!

By Monroe S. Miller

Since it was held on January 9th and 10th, this year's Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass Conference was the first conference of the year and the new decade for most of the people in attendance. And from all reports, it was a great way to start both.

It was the ninth annual educational conference planned for and sponsored by the WTA. It represented a lot of work by Wayne Otto, Gary Zwirlein, Ed Devinger, Dave Payne and Bill Vogel, the WTA committee in charge. For those who have attended all of the previous conferences, the 1990 version represented tremendous progress from the early ones held at the Public Events Center on the UW's Arlington Experiment Station.



Two of the four registrars — Gary Zwirlein (left) and Bob Erdahl (right).

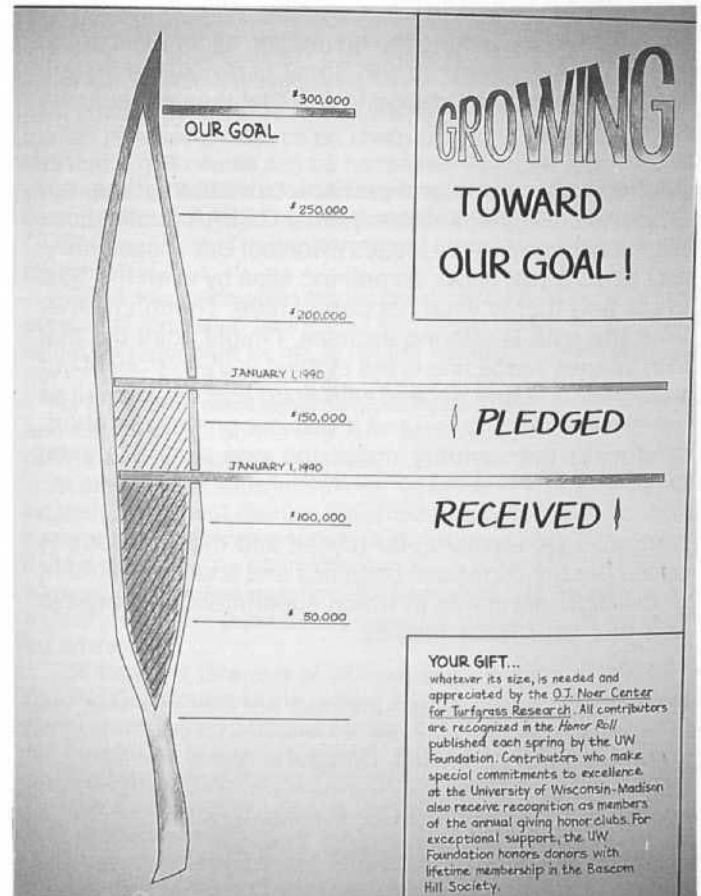


Brayton's Joe Wollner now offers computer access to their inventory.

The speakers covered a range of subjects as broad as the turfgrass industry itself. From *Poa annua* to earthworms and ants, from the politics of grass management to governmental regulation and from pumping stations to fast greens, this conference offered something for everyone.

Larry Lennert, assistant golf course superintendent at the Sheboygan Pine Hills County Club, reported on the research he completed for his masters degree under Professor Wayne Kussow. He received a two-year research assistantship from the WTA, and gave an excellent review of his work on "The Role of Iron In Turfgrass Management In Wisconsin." The industry certainly received a return on its investment in this research project; Larry's work and his lecture confirmed the value of such support.

A tradition was started in 1989 — inviting a faculty member from another land grant university who is involved in turfgrass research to be a speaker on our program. This year, Dr. Don White from the University of Minnesota made the trip to Wisconsin. He gave two excellent lectures; one



We're getting closer, but only this year remains.

centered on his extensive research with annual bluegrass and the other dealt with the risks involved in providing ultra-fast greens. The lecture rooms were packed for both. This gentleman, originally from Massachusetts, gives so much

to the industry, and he does it in a humble and quiet way. His style is almost exactly like that of our own faculty. That may be one of the reasons why Dr. White has, for years, been so well liked and respected here.

Professors Kussow and Worf were busy, as they usually are at these conferences. Gayle opened the 1990 meeting and reported on the NOER CENTER. He followed with a report on his 1989 research work. On Tuesday afternoon he gave an excellent lecture on a subject staring us in the face — "Politics of Disease Control for the 1990s." Wayne



Our speakers included Minnesota's Dr. Don White,

Business Council and of the Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition, spoke on the most timely topic of the times — AG29 — and its implication on the turfgrass business. He was involved in every hearing the WDATCP scheduled on implementation of the law. The result, to Russ' credit,



Jim Latham,



Russ Weisensel, and



Dick Hackett from the Milwaukee Brewers.

also reported on 1989 research on Tuesday morning, and he followed on Wednesday afternoon with a lecture on "Non-Conventional Turf Products." In a very scientific and analytical way, he focused on things to look for in a product offering unusual (and unrealistic) results — we've known these as "snake oils" for years. A staff person from the WDATCP was in the audience and amplified, from an enforcement perspective, Wayne's views.

Chuck Koval, fit and trim and tanned, hustled directly to Waukesha from Hawaii — literally. And he gave an outstanding presentation on two ever-increasing problems in golf turf management — earthworms and ants.

Russ Weisensel, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Agri-

is a set of rules the industry should be able to live with in coming seasons.

Whenever a group involving golf course superintendents meets, it's a good bet they've invited USGA Great Lakes Region Agronomist Jim Latham. And it's likely he's accepted, his busy schedule notwithstanding. Jim was on the WTA program this year and just like years before, his talk was excellent. Using some of the slides he's taken over the years, he spoke about developing consistent playing conditions on our golf courses.

Since the WTA Winter Conference has a broad appeal, other speakers focused on problems of the lawn care business, sod production, parks, athletic fields and grounds

maintenance. There was, literally, something for everybody.

The importance of the trade show cannot be overstated. This is the time of year many final buying decisions for the 1990 season will be made. Convenient access to so many companies and products appeals to many. This year's trade show featured more tabletop displays than ever before.



One-half of a very distinguished head table!

but also because he is a member of Westmoor Country Club!

The extensive planning and the hard work of the WTA Conference Committee paid handsome dividends. The 1990 meeting was educational, informative and enjoyable. It will be interesting to see what they do for an encore!



The other half! (Kurth, Roskopf, Zwirlein, Bell, Vogel and Payne)



Dr. Gayle Worf, barely visible from the back of the hall, opened Tuesday's session.



Milorganite's Jim Spindler and the WGCSA's Rod Johnson.



John Turner (left) presents Todd Monge the 1989 NOR-AM Scholarship plaque.



The trade show is serious business.

Wednesday's luncheon speaker didn't have to travel far to meet with the WTA. He was Dick Hackett, vice president of marketing for the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club. He shared all the latest news concerning the Brewers, from Robin Yount's salary to the prospects for a new stadium. Mr. Hackett also expressed an interest in the turfgrass industry, not only because the Brewers play on a grass field



This is what a trade show is supposed to look like during the educational sessions!