



**LATE BULLETIN: U.S. Supreme Court Overturns Wisconsin Supreme Court Decision in Town of Casey Suit. See page 9.**



# THE GRASS ROOTS

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## Salaiz Hired to Manage NOER Research Facility

By Monroe S. Miller

Thomas A. Salaiz, a recent M.S. degree graduate in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been selected as the manager of the O.J. NOER TURFGRASS RESEARCH and EDUCATION FACILITY. He will assume those duties on July 1st.

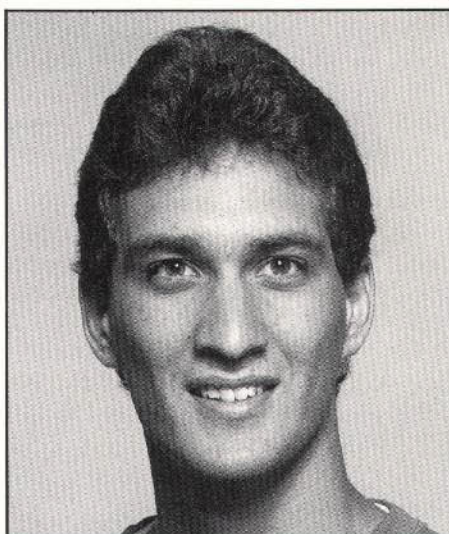
Salaiz is originally from El Paso, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at El Paso for one year before transferring to Texas A & M University in the fall of 1985.

As an undergraduate in the Agronomy Department, he worked for several graduate students, helping them with their research on corn, cotton, soybeans and sorghum. This work gave him a broad base of experience in agricultural research.

He also worked at the Texas A & M turfgrass research center in Bryan/College Station. This employment inspired a real interest in turfgrass research, an interest which continues to grow yet today.

During the summer of 1988, Tommy worked at the Texas A & M Research and Extension Center in El Paso where he learned some of the intricacies of turfgrass irrigation. He received his B.S. degree from A & M in December of 1988.

A visit to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to investigate the campus and see the quality of the turfgrass research facilities made his decision to attend graduate school there an easy one. He was inspired not only by the campus and the facilities but with Dr. R. C. Shearman's leadership abilities.



Thomas A. Salaiz

Bob Shearman has, of course, been a speaker at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium.

Tom's Master's thesis is a golf green management study in which he is looking at the effects of mowing height and vertical mowing (grooming) frequency on putting green speed. It has been hypothesized that by raising the cutting height to improve the health and vigor of the turfgrass, and by using vertical mowing as a grooming process, adequate putting speeds could be maintained. You will be able to read about Tom's results in upcoming issues of *Golf Course Management*, *Crop Science* and *HortScience*.

In addition to his thesis work, Salaiz presented a paper at the American Society of Agronomy meetings in 1989.

The subject of that paper was a creeping bentgrass cultivar evapotranspiration and rooting in hydroponics experiment completed before he started grad school at Nebraska. The data will be published in the September/October issue of *Crop Science*. Several other creeping bentgrass cultivars, including three experimental lines from the Texas A & M turfgrass breeding program in Dallas, Texas, were studied. You'll note elsewhere in this issue how small the world is. The A & M-Dallas breeding program is headed by UW-Madison graduate, Dr. Milt Engelke. As time permits, Tom will publish these results, as well.

Salaiz has his work cut out for him when he arrives at the NOER facility. First he will establish the research areas and work with the installation of the irrigation system. Once that is completed, the plots will be identified and seeded with the appropriate varieties.

He sees his primary duties as planning the major research areas, getting the turfgrass maintenance equipment acquisition squared away, and assembling an inventory and a budget for the NOER facility.

The committee that interviewed candidates for the position included Wayne Kussow, Marsh Finner (Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Experiment Station System), Bob Newman, Chuck Koval, Gayle Worf, Dale Schlough (Manager of the Arlington and West Madison Experiment Stations) and Tom Harrison.

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They were all extremely pleased that Salaiz accepted their offer to manage Wisconsin's new turfgrass research center.

"Tom Salaiz has a very strong background in turfgrass management," said Professor Wayne Kussow.

"In addition, he has good mechanical skills which will be essential in the operation of the NOER facility. He is a dynamic young man."

Salaiz will be subordinated to Dale Schlough since the NOER facility will be operated as an integral part of the UW Experiment Station network.

"I am very much looking forward to begin working as manager of the O. J. NOER TURFGRASS RESEARCH and EDUCATION FACILITY," Tom said in a recent interview with this editor.

"The opportunity to work in a new facility with quality people and a supportive industry is very exciting," he added.

"After seeing *The Grass Roots* and the *Wisconsin Turfgrass News* and reading about the industry support for turfgrass research in Wisconsin, I know my work there will be very fulfilling. I am interested in all areas of turfgrass research and am looking forward to

transferring them to the industry so that they can apply them in their everyday management practices."

Tommy Salaiz is 25 years old, single and "eager to learn to play golf." He holds an impressive list of honors and awards, was very active in student organizations at both the undergrad and grad level, and has authored three technical articles.

You are going to get a chance to meet him real soon. As Tom Harrison said, "I like this guy and his attitude a lot. Everyone else will, too."

## Special Award goes to Reinders' Brian Schmidt

A few months ago, at the GCSSA Convention in Las Vegas, Brian Schmidt was honored as the Top Salesman for the North Central Region by the Toro Company.

Each year, Toro selects one salesman from each of their six regions. The winners receive the coveted "Green Blazer".

This award not only recognizes his top sales achievements, but also, his product knowledge, his ability to communicate with his customers, his territory management, his ability to demonstrate equipment, and his dedication to the turf industry.

Brian wishes to thank his customers for their loyalty and support.

CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN!!

## Leave The Driving To Someone Else

Last October after the Superintendents' Dinner Dance, it was brought to our attention that we should take a bus to Minocqua for the 1991 Dinner Dance. What we would like to find out is how many people would really be interested in doing this. A Greyhound type bus would leave on Friday noon and return on Sunday. The bus company did tell us that they could make stops along the way.

So since the bus would originate in the Milwaukee area we could stop at locations on the way up north and pick up additional couples. We need 40-45 people to do this otherwise it would not be economical.

Any interested parties contact Bruce Worzella at 338-0540.

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