

1992 WTA Winter Conference & Show A Gathering of First Class Turf Professionals, Equipment & Education

By Tom Schwab

The weather outside was dreary and drizzling, yet the attitude inside for the 11th annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Conference and Show couldn't have been any more bright and enlightening. The trade show is growing and evolving with more exhibitors than ever before. New for this year were a few pieces of equipment to inspect along with the usual tabletop format with informative industry representatives. The educational sessions were top notch with a broad appeal to everyone and anyone in the turfgrass industry.

Evident was all the hard work and organizing it took to put together this largest ever WTA winter conference. Special thanks are given to the organizing committee of Wayne Otto (chairman), Gary Zwirlein, Tom Salaiz, Ed Devinger, Bill Vogel, Dave Payne and Terry Kurth. Thanks are also given to session chairmen Bill Vogel, Bob Erdahl, Terry Kerth and Dave Payne for the introductions and organization.

Welcoming remarks were given by Tom Salaiz, manager of the O.J. Noer research facility, and Gary Zwirlein, president of WTA. They reassured us the faculty positions for turf at the University of Wisconsin will be filled to replace retiring professors Gayle Worf and Bob Newman. Also mentioned was

that the Noer facility is ours and any of us can make suggestions for research projects. Next came the research updates from the University of Wisconsin Professors Newman, Kussow and Koval. All had enlightening information to share. Missing from this year's conference was Dr. Worf. His new duties as interim Dean of Agricultural Extension kept him away. It's hard to believe we won't be seeing him much anymore with those duties and his upcoming retirement.

Terry Kurth, past president of WTA, and Rod Johnson, past president of WGCSA, next addressed some current legislative and regulatory issues that will be affecting all of us. Their message was for all of us to get involved in the legislative process. We have to keep the handling of pesticides in the hands of trained people and we must get the message out that responsible use of pesticides does not harm the environment.

After lunch Tuesday and again Wednesday morning, attendees had a choice of two groups of educational sessions to visit. One group of lectures was aimed primarily toward golf course superintendents. The other talks were mainly for park managers, lawn care professionals, athletic field managers, sod growers & landscapers. Many of the sessions were for everyone.

As always, the USGA Green Section was on the agenda. Bob Vavrek shared many slides and turf tips he has accumulated from the 1991 Turf Advisory Service visits. He covered tree pruning, drainage tiling, turf covers, seeding techniques, new equipment, machinery problems, weed problems and many other pest problems from Sclerotinia to skunks.

The University of Wisconsin contributed extensively both days with lectures from Professors Newman, Koval and Kussow. Dr. Koval's talk was, "Insect Pest Management Tools for the 90's." He discussed some biological controls and also some chemicals that will work at extremely dilute rates that are being developed. He commented that 99% of insect control is done naturally. Of the 1% that we control, he reinforced that we must continue to talk to legislators to maintain this percentage of control. He warned that we should only protect the controls that are environmentally responsible.

Dr. Kussow gave an extremely timely and informative address entitled "Nutrient and Pesticide losses in Turf." He evaluated four studies that looked at these possible losses into the groundwater. The results showed some areas of concern that need our attention. One is that soluble N sources can leach 4



Professor Wayne Kussow makes a point during the conference educational session.



Bob Vavrek and Marc Davison enjoying lunch at the Olympia.



Don Maske presents UW-Madison Turf Management student Don Beuthin NOR AM scholarship.

to 10 times more than slow release N sources. Another is that acid forms of herbicide can possibly leach whereas ester forms won't. The studies concluded turf is environmentally safe when looking at leaching and run-off potential of nutrients and pesticides. Some of the reasons for this finding are that turf provides a permanent dense groundcover, has a dense fibrous root system, typically has high water infiltration rates, often has a thatch layer, is a high value crop that permits use of slow release nitrogen sources, N applications are spread out over season and N rates are less than optimum for biomass production.

Industry and government were also well represented by Doug Houseworth of Ciba Geigi, Jerry Ingenthron of Monsanto, Bruce Augustin of Lesco and Dave Frederickson from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

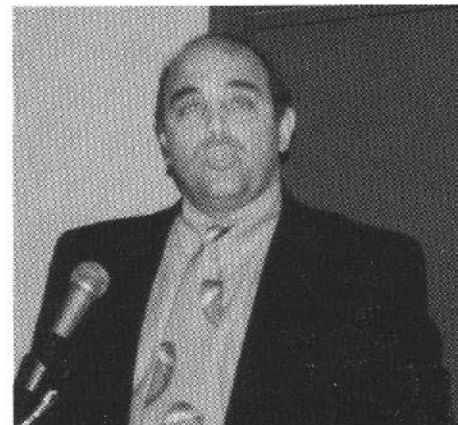
An interesting turf species was introduced by Bill Junk from Fine Lawn Research, Inc. The species is *Poa Supina* which was claimed to be the most shade and wear tolerant turf available. It sounded like a plant too good to be true. I hope it's not a disappointment like some other products have been in the past. I'd like to try some seed.

Marc Davison gave an interesting talk titled, "How I use my computer at Blackwolf Run." Tom Delaney from The Professional Lawn Care Association of America spoke on lawn care in the 90's. Dr. Mike Agnew of Iowa State University is becoming a regular on the Wisconsin speaking tour and often gives one of the most interesting lectures. His report, "Handling Environmental Stresses", was one such talk. He offered tips on what to do or not to do in wet or drought years.

Wednesday's award banquet and luncheon had many presentations for

scholarships and research. Spring Valley Turf Products presented a \$500 scholarship to U.W. junior Jay Packard. Nor Am gave a \$1,000 scholarship to Don Beuthin, a senior at the U.W. Both are students in the CALS Turf grounds program. WTA was presented other monies to be used for scholarships and research in the amounts of \$4,000 from Ciba Geigi, \$200 from the Northern Great Lakes GCSA, \$5,870 from Reinders Brothers Daconil promotion and \$1,000 from Horst Distributing.

The luncheon speaker, U.W. football coach Barry Alvarez, was able to fit us into his busy schedule. He told an array of anecdotes about his college and early playing years, his recruiting work and his players. He also told how he gets his players to motivate and set goals. The inevitable question came up about the synthetic turf at Camp Randall. He said his preference would be natural grass. Maybe the U.W. will be smarter next time they replace the rug.



Wisconsin head football coach Barry Alvarez wowed the crowd with his enthusiasm about the Badger football team.

This conference just keeps getting better. The planning committee keeps topping itself every year and deserves a lot of thanks. The ever increasing attendance and expanded trade show added much to the 1992 conference.

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Conference & Show

List of Exhibitors

The Andersons
 Dow Elanco and Company
 Hanley
 Horst Distributing
 ISI/Terra Sorb
 Kellogg Seed, Inc.
 L.L Olds Seed Company
 Lebanon Total Turf
 Lesco, Inc.
 Milorganite
 Nor-Am Chemical
 Northrup King
 PBI-Gordon Corporation
 Rhone Poulenc
 O.M. Scott & Son
 Spring Valley Turf Products
 Tyler Enterprises
 Vigoro Industries Waupaca Materials
 Wilbur Ellis Company/
 Brayton Chemicals
 Wisconsin Turf Equipment
 Standard Golf
 Clifford Sales
 Johnson and Associates
 Tractor Loader Sales
 Pendelton Turf Supply
 Reinders Turf
 Reinders Irrigation
 Mechanical Soil Tech
 Turf Products of Milwaukee
 KEI
 Environmental Protection
 ISK Biotech

List of Participants in Reinder/Daconil Program

The Alpine Inc.
 American Baptist Assembly
 Americana Lake Geneva Corp
 Auburn Bluffs Golf Course
 The City of Beloit
 Black River Country Club
 Blackhawk Country Club
 Blue Mound Golf Course
 Brown County Golf Course
 Brynwood Country Club
 Bulls Eye Country Club
 Butte des Morts Golf Club
 Camelot Country Club
 Carlin Sales Co
 Cedar Spring Golf Club
 Bob Chase Golf
 Chenequa Country Club
 Cherokee Country Club
 Chris's Lawn Service
 Countryside Golf course
 Crawford Tree Service
 Dairymen's Country Club
 Deer Run Golf Club
 Dodge Point Golf Club
 Edgewood Golf Course (Big Bend)
 Elks Country Club
 Escanaba Country Club
 Euroactividade (The Springs)
 Evergreen Country Club
 Fox Hills Inn & Country Club
 Fox Lake Golf Course
 Fox Valley Golf Club
 Grand View Golf course
 Green Bay Packers
 Green Meadow Turf

(Reinders Program, continued)

H & H Fairway
 Hartford Golf Course
 Henke Landscape
 Hiawatha Golf Club
 Hillmoor Country Club
 Hillview Golf Course
 Homestead country Club
 Hon E Kor Golf
 Horst Distributing
 Inshalla Country Club
 Kenosha Country Club
 Kenosha County Parks
 Kettle Moraine Golf Club
 Koshonong Mounds Country Club
 La Crosse Country Club
 Lac La Belle Golf Club
 Lake Arrowhead Golf Club
 Lake Lawn Ladge
 Lake Ripley Country Club
 Lake Wisconsin Country Club
 the City of Lancaster
 Landscape Management
 Lauderdale Lakes Country Club
 Leids Nursery (Neenah)
 Liban's Lawn Service
 Linderts Multiple Services Inc.
 Maple Bluff Country Club
 Maple Grove Country Club
 (Washington Island)
 Maple Grove Country Club
 Maple Valley Golf Club
 Maplecrest Country Club
 Maplewood Golf Course
 Mascoutin Country Club
 Maxwelton Braes
 Mayville Golf Course
 Merrill Hills country Club
 Merrill Public Golf Course
 Mid-Vallee Golf Course
 Milwaukee Brewers
 Milwaukee Country Club
 Mound View Country Club
 Muskego Lake Country Club
 Nakoma Golf Club
 Neillsville Country Club
 New London Country Club
 Nine Springs Golf Club
 North Shore Glof Club (Menasha)
 North Shore Country Club (Mequon)
 Old Hickory Golf Club
 Oneida Golf and Riding Club
 Oshkosh Country Club
 Ozaukee Country Club
 Jim Peck's Wildwood Golf
 Pictured Rocks Golf
 and Country Club
 Pine Grove Country Club
 Pine Hills Country Club
 Pinewood Country Club
 Platteville Golf Club
 Plum Lake Golf Club
 Prairie du Sac Country Club
 Quit-Quit-Oc Golf Club
 Racine Country Club
 Reedsburg Country Club

Riveredge Country Club
 Rivermoor Country Club
 Ridgeway Country Club
 Sandalwood Country Club
 Scenic View Country Club
 Fritz Schultz Enterprises
 Sentry Insurance (Sentry World)
 Sheboygan Town & Country Club
 The City of Sparta
 St. John's Military
 Sundown Golf Course
 Sunset Par 3
 Tee Hi Golf Club
 Trappers Turn Golf Course
 Tree Acres Sod Farm
 Tripoli Country Club
 Trout Lake Golf Course
 Tuckaway Country Club

Tuscumbia Golf Club
 Utica Golf Club
 Viroqua Country Club
 Wachtel Tree Service
 Walsh Golf Center
 Watertown Country Club
 Wausau Golf Club Inc.
 Wawaonowin Country club
 West Bend Country Club
 Westhaven Golf Club
 Westmoor Country Club
 The City of Whitehall/
 Whitehall Country Club
 George Williams College
 Willow Run Inc.
 Wisconsin Dells Schools
 Wisconsin River Country Club
 Wisconsin Turf Equipment

WGCSA Monthly Programs for 1992

Date	Location	Speaker/Topic
March 23 (Monday)	Spring Business/Educational Meeting Sheraton Hotel-Fond du Lac, WI "The Golf Course Irrigation Network"	Bob Emmerich Tom Emmerich Peter Beaves
April 27 (Monday)	Evergreen Country Club-Elkhorn, WI Bill Rogers, G.C. Superintendent	Gregg Richards "Weed Controls in Bentgrass"
May 18 (Monday)	Country Club of Beloit-Beloit, WI Don Ferger, G.C. Superintendent	Dr. Randall Kane "Disease Control in the '90's: Hit or Miss"
June 8 (Monday)	Watertown Country Club-Watertown, WI Ron Grunewald, G.C. Superintendent	NO SPEAKERS FOR SUMMER MONTHS
July 13 (Monday)	Cedar Creek C.C.-Onalaska, WI Pat Norton, G.C. Superintendent	
August 10 (Monday)	Waupaca Country Club-Waupaca, WI Kris Pinkerton, G.C. Superintendent	
September 21 (Monday)	Brown Deer Golf Club-Brown Deer, WI Robert Stock, G.C. Superintendent	Bob Vavrek Jr. "1992 Season in Review"
October 5 (Monday)	LaCrosse Country Club-LaCrosse, WI Joe Bahr, G.C. Superintendent	Dr. Donald White "Poa Annuua Breeding Research at Univ. of Minnesota"
November 9 (Monday)	Fall Business Meeting Site to be determined in coordination with the Regional GCSAA Educational Seminar. (A early evening meeting time will be scheduled.)	WGSCA Business
November 9-10 (Monday) (Tuesday)	WGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar Milwaukee, WI (Location site specifics to be determined by the GCSAA)	"Environmental considerations in Golf Course Management"