

Pesticide Use Forum Highlights Spring Educational Meeting

By Pat Norton

Three great speakers, one no-show, some interesting questions, and great discussion highlighted the WGCSA Spring Educational Meeting on March 22 in Fond du Lac.

The speakers for the "Pesticide Use Forum" (arranged by Scott Schaller and the hard-working Education Committee) included Dr. Frank (don't call me Dr.) Rossi, Mr. Tom Dawson, and Dr. John Harkin. Our super-serious moderator, Mike Semler, presented these three gentlemen with ten different prepared questions concerning pesticides and their use in Wisconsin.

Much to the surprise of all present, there was very little controversy and nary a voice raised in anger as these three discussed the pro's and con's of pesticide use. All three were reasonable in their arguments, with only good natured bantering back and forth among the speakers.

It is too bad that the fourth panelist could not attend the meeting. Carryl Terrell of the Sierra Club was scheduled to be the fourth voice on the podium, but for whatever reason, could not attend. It is regrettable that she wasn't there. Attendees were most interested in hearing her viewpoints. It would have been good for her to hear our opinions also.

The major theme of the discussion was that through communication and open-mindedness pesticide use and other environmental issues can be discussed in a rational, productive manner. These discussions are becoming more commonplace as people learn that professional user groups such as the WGCSA are indeed interested in protecting our natural resources.

Following a hearty luncheon, the Spring Business Meeting of the WGCSA convened. Items of interest were as follows:

- President Bruce Worzella gave us all an inspirational message on the value of the WGCSA and of being a participating member.
- Secretary Mark Kienert reviewed BOD actions since fall '92. Kienert is one thorough dude — I'd forgotten most of what he mentioned.
- Treasurer Tom Schwab presented a '92 financial statement and a '93 operating budget. No problem there whatsoever.
- Vice-President Mike Semler stated in no uncertain terms that membership applications must be completely filled out—no more SAME scrawled across the application. Those who fill them out in that manner in the future will have that simple word printed across from their name in the directory.



Talk about a group of veterans—25 year plaques were presented to L to R: Jeff Bottensek, Wayne Otto, Larry Karel and Tom Harrison. Congratulations!

- Twenty-five year members recognized at the meeting included Larry Karel, Wayne Otto, Jeff Bottensek, and Tom Harrison. All four had to be helped to the podium and propped up in order to take their photograph. Roll on, senior citizens!

- The S&R committee presented the 1993 scholarship and research proposal for membership approval. The disbursements, passed by the WGCSA membership, are as follows:

Wisconsin AgriBusiness Council dues	\$200
J.R. Love Scholarship.....	\$500
WTA Contribution	\$8,000
<i>(This represents a \$1,000 increase over '92 spending—it's earmarked for golf turf research at the O.J. Noer Center)</i>	
USGA Research Fund.....	\$1,000
O.J. Noer Foundation	\$1,000
WTA Golf Outing Hole Sponsorship	\$100
FRoWT Donation.....	\$800
TOTAL	\$11,600

- The membership voted on and approved a \$10 annual dues increase for all membership categories to be effective when paying '94 dues. Considerable debate preceded this vote—it was not done in haste.

In summary, the Spring Meeting was great. If you missed it you a) were truly too busy to attend the meeting, or b) are just a deadbeat who doesn't want to be active in this association. Take your pick.

Thanks to the speakers, the Education Committee, and those members in attendance for helping get this WGCSA meeting season to a really great start! 🙌



The audience at the environmental forum was formidable in size, indicating serious concern.



Forum participants were, L to R: Dr. John Harkin, Tom Dawson, Dr. Frank Rossi and Mike Semler.