

FIELD DAY '95 - A DAY TO REMEMBER

By Monroe S. Miller

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association staff who picked August 15th for this year's WTA Field Day must be clairvoyant. Although the selection was made close to a year ago, they seemed to know the 15th was a day of relief every turfgrass manager in Wisconsin would need.

For one day, the heat abated, the humidity dropped a bit, and it was entirely pleasant to be outside, among friends and colleagues. The Noer Turfgrass Research Facility was a great spot to spend that day.

As I drove over, my spirits grew by the mile. The Badgers were in the middle of their many practice sessions at the Holy Name Seminary, only a couple of miles from the Noer farm. The golden rod was in bloom, adding color to the rural roadside and fence rows. The ears on the unusually tall corn stalks were big and heavy, and already the angle between the ears and stalks was opened halfway. You couldn't miss the fact that lots of plants had three ears instead of the normal two. You knew fall wasn't too far away and that thought added to the anticipation of Field Day.

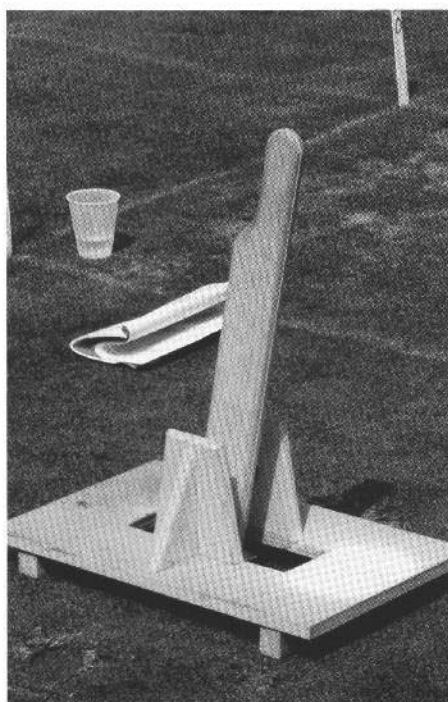
I wasn't the only one excited to be there. Attendance set a record, pushing on the 700 mark. People gathered around the booths and visited with vendor personnel. They sat at the tables under the blue and white bigtop canvas tent to drink coffee and catch up on the news. Some nosed around the research areas even though formal tours weren't held until after lunch.

The refinement of details over the years has led to a hassle-free experience for attendees. Parking has smoothed out and is quick, thanks to Maple Bluff CC assistant superintendent Gary Richards. Registration is easy and efficient. The bigtop is now at the north end of the farm and exhibitors are in the southeast corner. The arrangement seems perfect.

The tours were hosted by Wayne Kussow, Tom Schwab, Frank Rossi, Steve Millett, Emily Buelow and Chris Kerkman. Root zone mixes, NTEP



Wisconsin manufacturers were present in full force — 1. John Deere of Horicon, 2. Jacobsen of Racine, 3. Ransomes of Johnson Creek, and 4. Toro of Tomah.



Implement used to create consistent divots so recovery factors can be studied.

| Sand Matrix Putting Greens | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------|------------------------|-----|
| | Quality Putters 8-15-95 | | % Algae Coverage | Localized dry spots | |
| Towa peat | 8.375 | 7.775 | 6 | 69 | No |
| Reed sedge | 8.50 | 7.50 | 6 | 50 | No |
| Wisconsin peat | 8.275 | 7.25 | 7 | 47 | No |
| Mich sphagnum | 8.225 | 7.55 | 18 | 64 | No |
| Janesville sand | 8.125 | 7.40 | 10 | 69 | No |
| Bottom ash | 8.075 | 7.65 | 11 | 98 | No |
| Canadian sphagnum | 8.075 | 7.475 | 3 | 66 | Yes |
| Rice hulls | 7.775 | 7.35 | 8 | 65 | Yes |
| Insul-ite | 7.975 | 7.10 | 32 | 96 | Yes |
| No amendment | 7.90 | 7.375 | 7 | 61 | Yes |

Interesting data from Dr. Kussow's green mix amendment study. Everyone was dealing with localized dry spots.

bentgrass putting green plots, and the putting green management study areas were particularly popular among Wisconsin golf course superintendents.

Every event has highlights, and this one did, too. Professors emeritus Gayle Worf and Robert Newman spent the day with us, as did just-retired Professor Chuck Koval. And John Osborn sang the national anthem as well as most had heard it.

There were extra activities that added to the fun and the fund raising. Bob Erdahl ran a putting contest, the live auction was held as it has been for a number of years, and a silent auction was offered.

The entire issue of THE GRASS ROOTS couldn't record all that was presented at the 1995 Field Day. You had to be there. If you weren't, make sure you don't miss in 1996. My guess is it will be even bigger and better!

1995 FIELD DAY EXHIBITORS

The following organizations made it possible for the 1995 Field Day to be so successful. Our thanks to them:

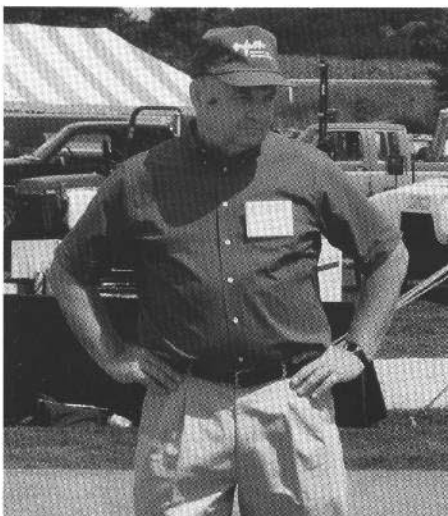
AgrEvo USA
 American Sod
 Badger Plastics & Supply
 Bayer Corp/Miles
 Cannon Turf Supply
 Cenex Land-O-Lakes
 Central Wisconsin Evergreens
 Chipco
 Ciba Turf & Ornaments
 Conserv F/S
 Contree Sales
 Didion Inc
 E-Z-Go Textron
 Finn Corp
 Greensmix
 Growmark Inc
 Hanley Co
 Hanson & Associates
 Horst Distributing
 HSK & Associates
 JW Turf
 Johnson & Associates
 KEI
 Kellogg Inc
 Kohler Company
 Knox Fertilizer
 Lebanon Chemical
 LESCO
 McFarlane Implement
 Mechanical Soil Technology
 Medalist America
 Melcher Equipment
 MidAmerco Inc
 Milorganite
 Milwaukee Ford Tractor
 Olds Seed Co



Chris Kerkamn, grad student of Dr. Wayne Kussow, joins Marsh Finner, Steve Millett and Dr. Doug Maxwell.

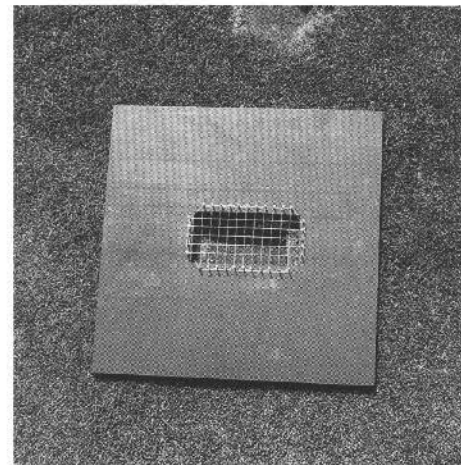


Noer Facility Manager Tom Schwab in one of his roles at the UW — educator!



A great advocate of the turfgrass industry in Wisconsin. Dr. Larry Binning, chairman of the Horticulture Department.

Par Aide Products
 Pendelton Turf Supply
 Precision Laboratories
 ProGreens of Midwest
 Pro Lawn Inc
 ProGreen Plus
 Pug Inc
 Reinders Irrigation
 Reinders Turf
 Rohn & Haas
 O.M. Scott Co
 Spring Valley
 Teal Inc
 Temporary Rain



Gauge used to measure divot recovery.



Frank Rossi stood in the middle of auction donations to give instructions for the Tour.



Emily Buelow explained details of the divot study. She is Frank Rossi's graduate student.

Terra International
 Tillmann Wholesale
 Tiziana Golf Car
 Turf Supply Co
 Tyler Enterprises
 Uniroyal Chemical
 Vigoro
 WDATCP
 Wisconsin Turf Equipment