

Autumn Goings On

By Tom Schwab, Manager
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) held its fall fundraising golf outing on September 25. The day turned out to be slightly windy, partly cloudy but with a mild temperature. Holding the fund-raiser in late September has always been quite precarious but this year turned out perfect. The event was, to the pleasure of all, held at the University Ridge Golf Course. Jeff Parks had his course in stupendous condition. We met at the Noer Facility afterwards to disperse golf and door prizes and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and conversation.

The day was organized by Jeff Bottensek from Stevens Point CC, with help from Bruce Worzella from West Bend CC, Audra Anderson from the Noer Facility, professor emeritus Chuck Koval, and Ed Devinger from Reinders, among others. The 64 golfers achieved their goal of raising money for turfgrass research and having fun doing it. There were also forty-one hole sponsors that we'd especially like to thank. They are listed below. Together they raised \$7000 for turfgrass research in Wisconsin.

The number of turf studies keeps expanding at Noer. Henry Berg, Amy Sausen, and Brad Smith, three of Dr. Rossi's assistants, just installed a National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) study for Kentucky bluegrass (Kbg) at 3" mowing height. This NTEP will be evaluating 110 different cultivars of Kbg. Many of the telephone questions that come into Noer ask about which cultivars of Kbg to use for different situations. We will now have local data on Kbg in addition to our NTEP trials we already have on fine fescues, tall fescues, perennial ryegrasses and bentgrass.

Dr. Rossi and Amy Sausen also have installed a study of different products that claim to reduce or eliminate thatch. Fifteen different products

will be included in the three year study. Rossi and Sausen will be reporting on the validity of the claims in future research reports.

Dr. Kussow just established a plot area to investigate another new product. This product is a catalyst activated water that claims to accelerate seed germination. Preliminary observations look favorable. Turf managers are always looking for better ways to do their jobs and Dr. Kussow will report if this new product can benefit them.

Dr. Koval, who doesn't know the meaning of retirement, is still setting up trials. Koval and his assistant J.D. Baker manually infested 400 cutworm larvae into one of the plots. They gave the larvae time to get established then applied different treatments to control them. The treatments compared low rates of synthetic pyrethroids and insecticidal soaps against a standard insecticide, which in this case was Dursban. The results will be reported in the 1995 Wisconsin Turf Research Report that will be handed out at EXPO 1996.

The Noer Turf research group has been doing many experiments away from the station also. Dr. Rossi's assistants Henry Berg and Amy Sausen have been setting up research on plant growth regulators and/or seeding rates at Blackhawk, West Bend, Ozaukee, Greenwood Hills, and Gateway golf courses. Dr. Meyer's assistant Catherine Smejkal has been setting up an organic fertilizer study at Blackwolf Run and will be doing snowmold studies at Gateway and University Ridge golf courses.

Other than the research, the routine fall maintenance around Noer has been similar to your golf courses. The weakened and diseased general lawn areas have been aerified and overseeded. The three putting green studies have been getting heavy topdressing and were aerified. Most everything got a late summer fertilizing. Some

small reconstruction projects were done. The Turf Group has been meeting regularly and making plans for next year. They've also been meeting with the University to again discuss
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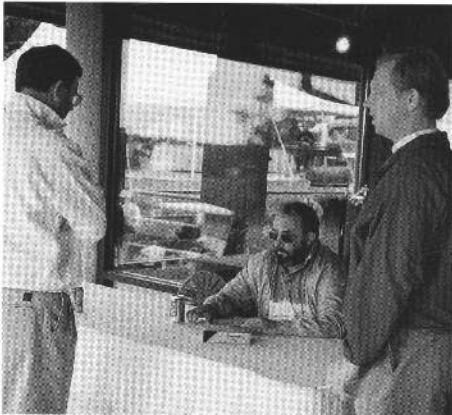
The advertisement features a central graphic with a large number '4' on the left, a plus sign in the middle, and another large number '4' on the right. To the right of the top '4' is a jug of 'chiteco 26019 Flo FUNGICIDE'. To the right of the bottom '4' is a bag of 'Alette WDG'. Below the graphic is the text: 'Outstanding, longlasting control of dollar spot, brown patch, pythium and more.' At the bottom, it lists 'RHONE POULENC AG COMPANY' and contact information: 'P.O. Box 12014, 2 T. W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, 919 / 549-2000'.

(Continued from page 35)

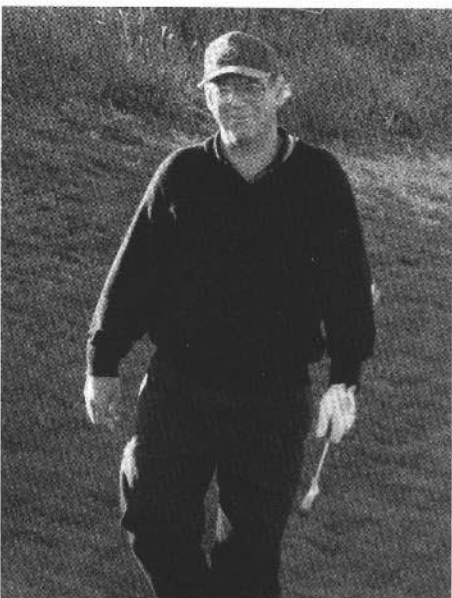
acquiring more land. I also met with my peers at our UW Agricultural Research Station fall conference. There was good news for the Noer Facility. With all the budget cuts that are happening at the University, Noer actually got a slight budget increase!

Plans for EXPO 96 are in full swing. The planning committee of Chris Wendorf from Olds Seed Company, Paul Huggett from Long Island Sod Farm, and Dr. Rossi, Audra Anderson and Tom Schwab from the Noer Turfgrass Group have been planning EXPO 96 since last March. EXPO 96 has been expanded to three days starting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 9 and going through Thursday January 11th.

The list of speakers includes pro-



Jeff Bottensek, organizer of golf fundraiser, working hard at the registration table.

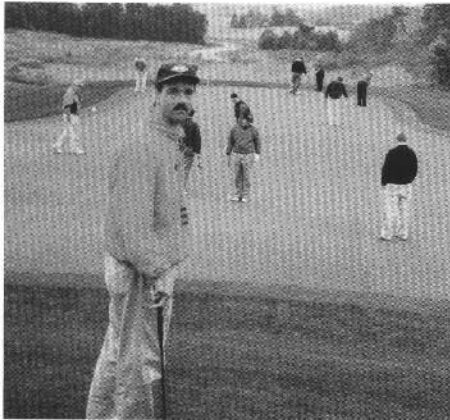


What are you doing out there in the rough Dan?

fessors from the universities of Iowa State, Ohio State, Rutgers, Kentucky, Maine and Wisconsin along with representatives from the green industry, related organizations and from our own turfgrass association. There will be talks and workshops for everyone in the green industry.

The trade show has been nothing short of spectacular. Last year's floor space was sold out and this year we have reserved one-third again as much space. We fully plan to sell out again this year. Pre-registration packets for the exciting and informational Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenspace EXPO will be mailed in November.

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association would like to thank all the golf fund-raiser hole sponsors that graciously donated to the event.



WTA president Wayne Horman heads out to practice putting.



Ed Devinger never misses the fundraiser. This year he brought his son Andy.

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Badger Backer Jerry Kershasky is also a big backer of turf research. I won't say what kind of golfer he is.