

One Year Down; Many To Go

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

It's been exactly one year since I've become manager of the Noer Facility. It's been an interesting change from being a golf course manager at Monroe Country Club. Some of the changes have been great. In many other ways, I miss being on the golf course. I'd like to jot down some of these thoughts, both positive and negative.

- I miss creating that most beautiful of landscapes: a golf course.
- In many ways I miss being the only one in charge. Taking all the credits and/or blames, for the golf course was good for the ego. Working in a team with professors, technicians and students isn't as personally rewarding but this team-work approach is able to serve the whole industry better.
- I'm stuck in the office more. Working outdoors made me feel more productive because you can see your accomplishments.
- The hours and thus family life are better now, though.
- The UW-Madison Department of Agricultural Research Stations is a great group to work for.
- There are no more reels to grind.
- The amount of pesticide spraying is slightly less.
- I still have to pinch a penny but not nearly as bad as my old golf course. The budget at the Noer is only possible because of the unbelievable generosity of the turf industry, with their gifts of both hard and soft goods, to the Noer.
- It's great working at a top notch facility. I've only seen a couple other turf research facilities. From what I've seen and also heard, through the industry, the Noer is one of the best of it's kind. This is due to the great professors, both past and present, and the strong Wisconsin turfgrass industry.

- It's harder to hide from Miller at the Noer when he wants GRASS ROOTS articles written. I could hide from him and didn't write many articles when I was in golf. It does make you feel great when you turn in that article, though. It would be valuable if more of you wrote down some of your turf tips or told about some of your projects for the publication. This will keep the GRASS ROOTS the nation's best.

The early winter this year caught us, at the Noer, with our pants down. I applied snowmold material later than I ever have because of the early snow that came and stayed. It wasn't until November 20 that I applied any fungicide. This may not have even been possible if plant pathology technician Gary Gaard hadn't shown up to help me shovel off the remaining snow on the plots that day. The application I used was a combination of Penstar 75WP PCNB @ 6oz/M, Chipco 26019 Flo @ 4oz/M, and Daconil 2787 Flo @ 8oz/M. I'm not endorsing any of these products. I was just using some materials that have been on our shelves the longest. The actual fungicide trials from the facility did finally get applied in the incimate weather however. Thanks go to Henry Berg and Amy Sausen for installing these trials, despite the weather. Professor Doug Rouse will be analyzing the results next spring, comparing a great variety of different fungicide products and rates.

The end of an era happened this fall. The WTA retired the Turf Truck that they purchased in 1984. This vehicle was purchased for the professors to get to their research



Gary Gaard chips in to remove the last bit of snow.



Steve Milliett delicately prepares his plot for trial.

throughout the state. The need for the truck has diminished lately. The building of the Noer allows the professors to do more research while traveling less. The professors also seem to use their own department vehicles lately when they work on their remote plots. Before the facility was built they could not have gotten along without the truck. I have some fond memories of seeing Gayle Worf show up at my golf course in that shiny brown WTA Turf Truck.



Now that the WTA's truck is at the end of its useful 12-year life, Dr. Worf returned the keys to Tom Harrison!

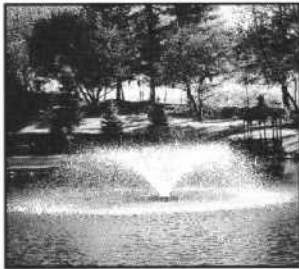


Thomas Harrison presenting keys to Dr. Worf in 1984. Both of these men have aged very gracefully!

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I hope you and yours had a wonderful, relaxed, and blessed holidays. I hope to see you at the 1996 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenspace EXPO on January 9, 10, and 11 in Madison. Call us at the Noer if for some reason you didn't get the information: 608-845-6536. 🍷

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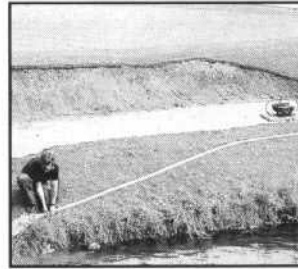
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