



## *Perfect Weather For Ducks and Turf Research Farms*

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

It would be pretty hard to find anyone happy with the record cold and wet spring we just experienced here in Wisconsin. I may be the only one. The reason is we just seeded six new acres at the Noer Facility on May 7th and had no reasonable ways to irrigate it. It was at the mercy of the weather. The cool weather was not too conducive to germination but the daily light rains had the seed imbibed and waiting for a few heat units to initiate emergence. We finally got a couple days of warm weather ten days after seeding and whalla—germination. Then the weather went back to cool and daily rains again which nursed the seedling along just right. Now at the end of May most of the seed is at the two leaf stage. It appears the whole six acres will make it because of the spring weather we had. Knock on wood.

The first use of the land will be for expansion of the summer field day. The area will be used for additional parking and for demonstration of turf equipment. We're hoping all of you will be able to attend the field day this year. Put the date on your calendar—Tuesday, August 20th.

There are two improvements that will be made this year. First, the new land will provide room for demonstration of all types of turf equipment. You can personally demonstrate any of the exhibitor's equipment for yourself. There will be all kinds of mowers, seeders, mulchers, aerators, brush cutters, sprinklers and so much more for you to look at.

Secondly, the educational benefits will increase. The professors and assistant researchers will be out on the plots to answer your questions during the morning. This is in addition to the formal research tour in the afternoon. Bring your specific questions and get them answered, one on one, by the researchers. So come and learn from the research, get information on the latest turf products and

equipment, take home some prizes from the annual auction, and just have an enjoyable day with your peers.

In addition to the professional turfgrass field day the Noer turf group is going to hold the first ever homeowner turfgrass field day this year. We have this nice facility and it's starting to get well known among homeowners as seen by the increasing number of calls we receive daily. The new turf disease diagnostic lab has been very popular with homeowners this spring also. So we decided to show the public what the turf industry has built and hopefully give them the knowledge to maintain their turf areas better. If you know anyone who would like to attend, the date is Saturday, August 24. Call Audra at the Noer Facility for more information: 608-845-6536.

There will be tons of information at both field days from both old and new studies. Some of the new studies installed this year will investigate thatch reduction materials, demonstrate differences among turf varieties, research Kentucky bluegrass cultivars, compare crabgrass prevention materials and examine different techniques to renovate a deteriorated lawn. The "Performance-Driven Management Systems for Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens" that the WGCSA is funding will have a full time graduate student working on it this summer also.

One other note I'd like to mention (as the unofficial self-appointed spokesperson for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association) is the WTA's fall fundraising golf tournament. It has just been announced that the site will be the Stevens Point Country Club, hosted by the gracious Jeff Bottensek. Details will be forthcoming. This is a great way to show your support for the turf industry and have fun doing it. Ed Devinger of Reinders and myself are going to try to reestablish the "everyone wins" raffle that used to be a big part of the event. Monroe Miller used to organize and collect all kinds of prizes so that everyone took something home, but it became just too big of a job. If you could donate any kind of prize, be it a golf club, fishing pole, eighteen holes of golf, shirt or whatever, please find a way to get it to Ed or to the Noer Facility so that we can continue the tradition. Ask your golf pros if they can donate something.

It's been a very busy season here at the Noer Facility this spring. We're short staffed and looking forward to our school help starting. Everyone is chipping in on the workload and it's going to be our best year ever. We look forward to seeing you at field day and hope to show off the works of our labor. I wish this dang weather would warm up and stop raining, though. 🌱

### **NATURAL ATHLETIC TURF INC.**

#### **GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS**

*Specializing in Greens - Tees - Bunkers - Fairway  
Construction - Feature Shaping - Drainage Systems*

By Contract or "T & M" basis. Also Astroturf Top Dressing drag mats

**ROY G. ZEHREN** • 11040 N. Buntrock Ave.,  
Mequon, Wisconsin 53092 • (414) 242-5740