



Badger Turf and Grounds Club Kicks Butt!

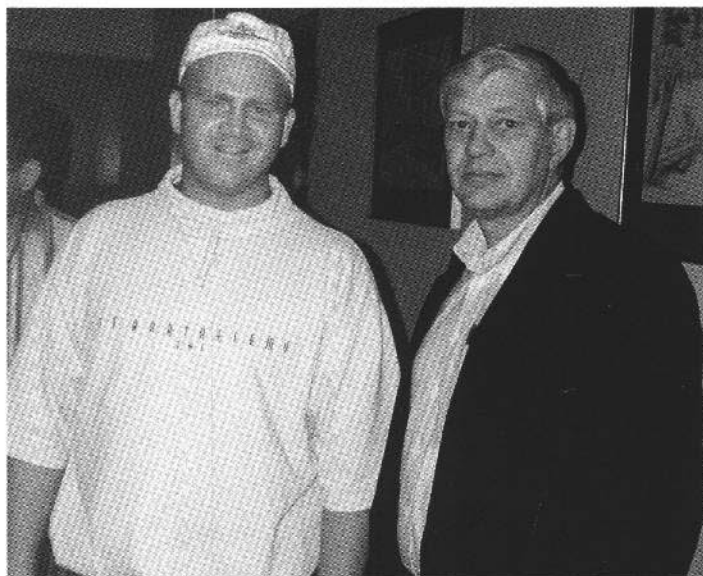
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The turf and grounds management program at the UW-Madison has long been recognized as one of the world's best four year educational programs. There are many people, events, things and victories that all Wisconsin turf managers can be very proud of, including the *Badger Turf and Grounds Club*. It was nine years ago that 13 turfgrass students, with the guidance of Dr. Wayne Kussow, formed the now world famous *Badger Turf and Grounds Club* (BTGC). The BTGC has grown in many ways in its nine years of existence.

Building on the rich tradition of excellence, thirteen turfgrass students formed the BTGC in 1987. If any of you have THE GRASS ROOTS, Vol. XIV, No. 3, May/June 1987 issue, check it out for yourselves on page 41. The founding members include: Dan Millies (secretary/treasurer), Jeff Pilz (vice president), Michael Lee (president), Professor Wayne Kussow (advisor), Lora Ripp, David Kidd, Roy Janzen, Larry Lennert, Ron McCarthy, Jeff Bahr, Gary Grunke, Mike Lyons, Todd Monge, Pat Zurawski. There have been many turfies that have since benefitted from being a part of this unique *Gramineae* family. We thank all of these founding turfies for their leadership and passion for excellence.

Today, the BTGC boasts an active roster of 30. Women now make up 21% our membership, as compared to 7% in 1987. We have 11 seniors, 8 juniors, 6 graduate students, 1 freshman hockey stud (Scott Wendels), one active alumnus (Oscar Peterson) and one cool advisor (Dr. Kussow). We meet and eat pizza at least once a month in room 270 Soils. Our agenda for the 1996 season can be remembered by the acronym "HELP", which stands for: **H**ave fun, **E**arn money, **L**earn cool stuff, **P**hilanthropy.

Have fun. The turfies kicked off 1996 with a bang and a first. The first



Chris May ('95), GCS at the Four Seasons Resort, and Dr. Kussow at Roast-A-Rama.

ever BTGC alumni social was held at this year's Turf Exposition in Madison. For those of you attended, I am sure you can say that we did indeed have fun. Look for a repeat performance at 1997's Turfgrass Exposition.

Earn money. In order for any organization to survive it must have money. Our club is no exception. We sold the first edition of "Turfgrass Disease Management" handbooks at the Expo and raised \$150. Furthermore, Blackhawk Country Club has annually given the BTGC the opportunity to aerify as a fund raiser. We thank Monroe Miller and Blackhawk Country Club for this valuable experience and generous gesture. If there are any other superintendents who wish to utilize the labor force of the BTGC for a task, please contact me, Dr. Kussow or any of the turfies.

Learn cool stuff. The Turfgrass Exposition and Turf School provided turfies with the opportunity to assist in the workshops, labs, seminars and demonstrations. We are currently scheduling guest speakers to come

ine and talk about turf related areas. Another first for the turfies is our world wide web site:

"<http://www.wisc.edu/phstest/turfclub/turfclub.htm>". Our vice president, Jon Thronson, is responsible for making us the world's first turf club on-line! You can contact every BTGC member via e-mail at this site. We are planning to get resumes and other useful information on this homepage, so look for it to expand as the season progresses. Kudos to Mr. Thronson for an outstanding job.

Philanthropy. Our goal here is to establish a new home lawn for a Habitat for Humanity project here in Madison. If anyone would like to donate some materials for this project, please contact me, Dr. Kussow or one of the turfies.

Besides the HELP agenda, we have had other successes, including the newly created **President's Travel Fund**. This fund was started by past president Josh LePine. As you may know, Josh won a President's Scholarship at last year's GCSAA

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meeting in Orlando. Josh made us all very proud by graduating with such an accolade. Josh, being the cool guy that he is, wanted to give something back to the turf program and the BTGC before he went off to Winged Foot CC in New York. Mr. LePine donated \$100 for the sole purpose of sending turfies to the next GCSAA meeting in Las Vegas. We tip our hat to our friend Josh LePine for upholding the highest ideals of Wisconsin turfhood. (Donations for this fund can be made our and sent to the *Badger Turf and Grounds Club*.)

Our most recent turfie-event was a bitter-sweet one. Tara Zabkowicz (our secretary/treasurer and favorite women's crew star) and Amy Bevington (social chair) organized and hosted the **Rossi Roast-A-Rama**. About twenty turfies came to say good-bye to Frank (including Chris May, class of '95. Chris is the super at The Four Seasons Resort in Nevis, West Indies, where his biggest problems are hurricanes, donkey damage on greens and monkeys on the fairways). It was fun seeing Frank squirm and it turned out that the only person being hard on

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Frank was himself. We wish Dr. Rossi continued success at Cornholio University. Good-bye, Frank. We will miss you.

The Badger Turf and Grounds Club is building upon the rich tradition of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For nine years now we have grown

and shared many experiences. It is the "turfies" who make this unique *Gramineae* family so special. It is the unseen things like laughter, courage, friendship, dedication and love that make us the best turf club in the world. Yes, the *Badger Turf and Grounds Club* kicks butt! 🍀

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