



Literally O.J. Noer News

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility
University of Wisconsin-Madison

We had a very interesting visitor at the Noer Facility in May. It was a mystical surprise meeting this person. A nephew of O.J. Noer stopped in to see the facility that was named after his uncle. His name was Peter Vea and his dad's sister was O.J.'s mother. Mr. Vea grew up in Stoughton where he spent lots of time with O.J. Based on the pictures that I've seen of O.J. I think the gentleman even looked like him. Mr. Vea now resides in a nursing home just 10 miles from here. I gave him a tour of the facility and although he was not from the turf profession, he was still very knowledgeable with turfgrass. He said that O.J. used to tell him to use his name any time he wanted to play golf at an elite course in his community. He never did take him up on the offer even though he was aware of the legend his uncle had in the golf turf profession.

It has been an impressive and fun spring at the Noer Facility this year. A flurry of activity occurs daily. Plots are being changed into new and better investigations quicker than Utah eliminated LA. More glyphosate has been used this spring than in my previous three summers at Noer combined, and the rototiller is being used almost daily by someone establishing a new plot. 28 of our 79 irrigated plots are in one stage or another of being reestablished. Other plots that are not being reestablished are getting more intensive treatments or observations covering them. Wayne Kussow and his crew have been installing extensive weather and environmental sensing equipment on his plots for many days this spring. John Stier has a huge crew helping him install new experiments and record data. Likewise, Jeff Gregos and his worker are establishing many new plots. Mike



Mr. Vea resembles his uncle — O.J. Noer.

Casler is installing his first trial at Noer this spring. He'll be investigating different bentgrass clones and their competitiveness with *Poa annua*. There will be so much new informa-



Peter Vea, O.J. Noer's nephew, was a Noer Facility visitor in May!

tion to report on Wisconsin's turf research efforts this year that you'll definitely want to attend Summer Field Day on August 12, and Turf and Greenscape EXPO next January.

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Roger McFarland, Wild Bill Hart and Dr. Wayne Kussow installing new environmental sensing equipment.

As a result of the furious activity, the facility is on the move again. The Noer Facility is quickly running out of plot space to install new investigations. Out of the 79 irrigated plots reported earlier, only 2 are not spoken for. We are getting plans drawn up to expand our present irrigation system but still the land to expand is very limited. There will be a new turf



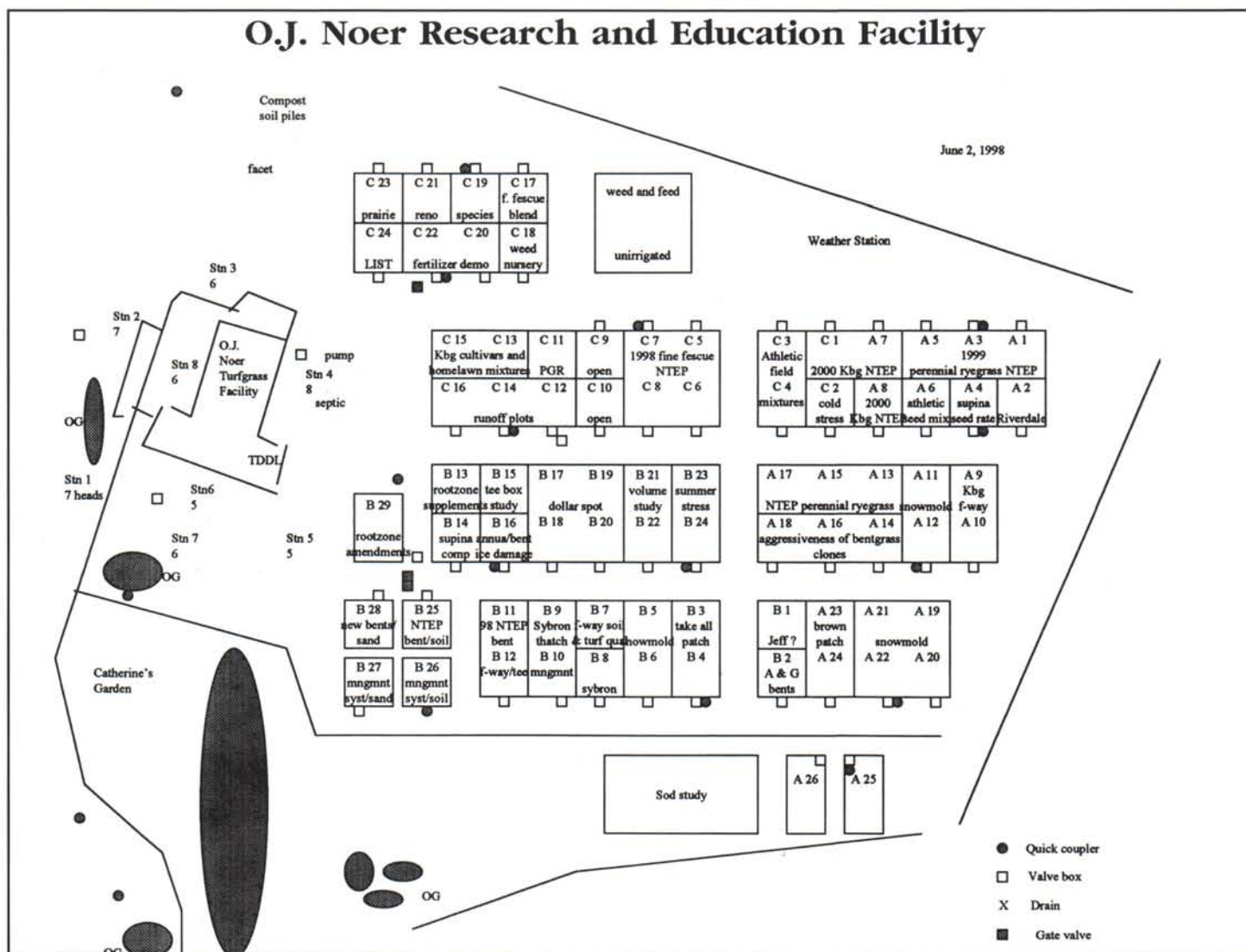
Jeff Gregos working on one of his masters degree projects.

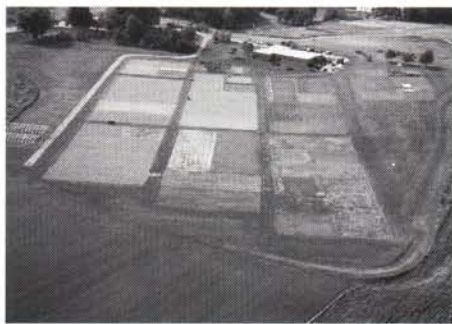
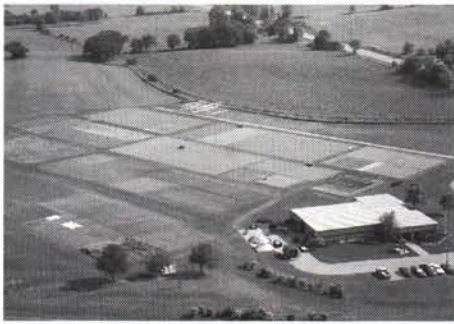
pathologist hired at the UW-Madison within the year who will also be looking for land to conduct research. Yet there is good news to report about the needed facility expansion. The land surrounding Noer will soon be in the hands of the UW-Madison Athletic Department for their plans to expand University Ridge. We have an excellent relationship with the athletic

department and already have a verbal commitment for them to grant us some new land for present needs with the idea that more land will come after they finalize their expansion plans. They like being associated with the research facility as much as we enjoy being associated with the golf course, especially with the great reviews they received hosting the 1998 NCAA Ladies Championship in May. Superintendent Jeff Parks did an exemplary job hosting the prestigious event.

WSTMA Inaugural Meeting - July 22

I reported an incorrect date in the last Grass Roots that I'd like to remedy. The date of the newly forming Wisconsin Sport Turf Managers
(Continued on page 29)





Three aerial views of renovations at the Noer Facility, looking north (1), south (2), and west (3). While in the air, we flew over our neighbor, University Ridge, and the course's photogenic 16th hole.



(Continued from page 27)

Association's (WSTMA) inaugural meeting has been changed to July 22nd, not June 24th as stated in the last issue. The location of this first meeting is going to be the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. This meeting will, among other things, observe whether there is an interest in forming this new turf organization in Wisconsin. Preliminary comments from many athletic field managers are that there is a definite need for such an organization. Benefits would be to:

- Gain information on maintaining safe, useful, and admirable sports fields
- Enhance professionalism in athletic field management
- Share ideas and expertise with peers

Basically these are the same ideas WGCSA provides to its members, only towards a different kind of turfed field. A mailing was sent out in early June with registration material for this meeting. If you know of anyone that manages athletic fields for the local schools or parks in your area or for other reasons has interest in this organization, then please inform them to attend. They may have been missed in our first attempt to compile a WSTMA mailing list. They can call the Noer Facility for registration or other information at 608-845-6536. The industry will be stronger through the addition of another branch of professional turfgrass managers. 🍷



DON'T MISS IT!
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
SUMMER FIELD DAY
O.J. NOER FACILITY
AUGUST 12, 1998