



SUMMER FIELD DAY AND MORE

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent
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March was a big month for planning Wisconsin Turfgrass Association education and outreach activities. I'm going to summarize some of the decisions that the various committees determined from those meetings. Hopefully this will help you plan to get the most out of your attendance. Contact the various planning committee chairpersons below if you think of additional ways to improve the meetings. Those chairpersons for each event are: Summer Field Day (Jim Trzinski - 800-537-1796); Winter Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO (Chris Wendorf - 800-356-7333); and the Wisconsin Sport Turf Managers Association Inaugural Meeting (Rich Riggs-715-341-2633).

You are familiar with the first two meetings, Field Day and EXPO, but probably not with the Wisconsin Sport Turf Managers Association (WSTMA) because that association is in the beginning stages of forming a Wisconsin chapter. You probably understand the need for establishing

such an organization. Many of you who are on golf courses have been consulting your local schools and parks departments about improving their athletic field conditions. It's now time those field managers form a specialized group and gain the benefits of association with peers. This will, in turn, strengthen the WTA with another branch of turf experts. More on their inaugural meeting later.

First some details about the approaching Summer Field Day planned for Wednesday, August 12. The field day is made up of a research tour that looks at the current projects being studied at Noer, and a trade show that allows attendees to comparison shop all the products available to the turf industry. The consensus from the planning committee was to provide as much of both activities as possible. The tour will provide more by having the conventional research tour in the morning followed by less formal discussions and observations with researchers on the plots the whole afternoon. The

trade show will provide more by having organized demonstrations of equipment in the late morning and continuing after lunch. Areas will be provided to test almost any type of equipment you'd like. There is a commitment to make all of the fine details of field day, such as signs, parking, auction, lunch and registration, the best they can be.

So mark your calendars and tell a friend about Field Day — Wednesday, August 12. It will be a week earlier than traditionally to make it easier for turf managers to attend before they lose their summer help. The WTA will be offering an incentive to recruit new members in 1998 also. One free registration to Field Day is included with every new member who joins WTA. Tell your friends that have never belonged to WTA to join this year.

The other conference that you are familiar with is the Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO planned for January 12th and 13th, 1999.

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Speakers have to be booked now even though the conference is still far away. You will recognize the names of many of the excellent presenters we are contacting. They will continue the educational excellence that you've come to expect from EXPO. Some of the speakers that we are contacting (although not all of them are yet confirmed) are Minner, Lohmann, Rossi, Dipola, Landschoot, Doak, Vargas, Riggs, Edelbech, Mellor, Nelson, and Branham. With expertise like these (and more), you won't want to miss EXPO. Call us if you can think of a subject or someone else that you'd like to hear. The site will remain the same at the Marriott Madison West, because they have such nice accommodations for presenting the large trade show and numerous seminar sessions.

The third educational conference is not directly for you in the golf business, but you may know of someone

who will want to participate at this inaugural meeting of the Wisconsin Sport Turf Managers Association. Tell your local school's and park department's athletic field managers about this meeting planned for June 24th. The specific time and place has not been confirmed. The national STMA started in 1981 when a group of athletic field managers believed that sports turf could be improved through the sharing of knowledge and experiences. These managers can maintain better and safer fields by incorporating professional ideas into their maintenance just like the golf industry is better through its professional organization. The turf industry in Wisconsin will be stronger with the addition of more professional turf managers. You can have interested athletic field managers call Rich Riggs (committee chairperson) at 715-341-2633 or call me at 608-845-6895 for more details which we will have after April 22nd. The inaugural meeting will include

education and future education planning, as well as choosing a board of directors and discussing a dues structure. Future educational subjects could include:

- * Technical advances in sports turf
- * Staff motivation
- * Pesticide issues around the schoolyard
- * Field maintenance techniques
- * Field painting and striping
- * Managing multi-use fields

WTA exists to improve education and research in the state. The education from WTA combined with the scope from WGCSA provides us all with a considerable amount of professional development each year. The planning committees for this education put significant energy into these events, and your attendance will make the work worth it. 🌱

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