

# High Flying Field Day 1998

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent  
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It takes an incredible amount of effort to put on Summer Field Day. When everything works the way you planned and the attendees are pleased, then the effort is worth it. Field Day 1998 was one of those years and is the show that future field days will be modeled after. The education was bountiful, the "ask the expert" session was busy, the trade show was large, and the whole show was organized.

A group of ten individuals made up the field day planning committee. They started organizing the show early last winter. They were Jim Trzinski (chairman), John Stier (master of ceremony), Audra Anderson (office coordinator), Wayne Kussow, Tom Harrison, Amy Sausen, George

Magnin, Chad Johnson, Carl Dowse, and myself (trade show coordinator). Many other staff and volunteers contributed long hours and lots of elbow grease to make the show prosper, especially in the final weeks.

Even Mother Nature did her part to make this sixteenth annual show stand out. The Noer Facility was starting to show signs of wear from not getting any precipitation for over two weeks. Then we received 3.5 inches of rain over a three-day period the week before the August 12th show that made the facility shine. The weather was in the mid-70's on the day of the show, topping off at about 82 degrees in mid-afternoon, with a mild breeze and partly cloudy skies. The nice day may have con-

tributed to the record attendance, but we like to think that it was the great education and trade show that brought the crowds. Three hundred and fifty-one attendees walked through the registration tent. This year's record does not include speakers, workers, guests, or the almost record-number of exhibitors.

Attendees were raring to go first thing in the morning. John Stier welcomed the crowds, Assistant Dean Doug Maxwell made opening comments, and then all jumped into the major morning event — the research tour. Many topics were explored on the two simultaneous research tours. The golf turf tour topics included Putting Green Management Tech-  
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Lunch time!



Dr. Wayne Kussow on his impressive research plots.



Gregos held a grass court!

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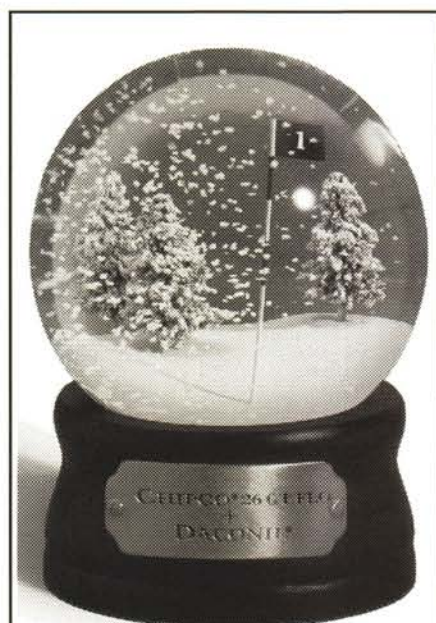


George Magnin, Dr. Leo M. Walsh (retired dean of CALS), and Bob Erickson. Walsh played a key role in the establishment of the Noer Facility.



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niques, Bentgrass Plant Growth Regulation, Chemical Methods for Control of Anthracnose Disease, and Competition Between *Poa annua* and *supina* in Fairway Turf. Subjects during the lawn, landscape and athletic turf tour were Chemical Methods for *Pythium* Control, *Poa supina* Mixtures for Athletic Fields, Lawn Fertilization, and New "Weed and Feed" Products. Additionally a presentation on Cold Temperature Hardiness of Ornamental Grasses and a walking tour of the Noer Facility's environmental stewardship efforts were offered.



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Although these presentations are beneficial for many people, this year we added an "ask the expert" session for attendees who wanted to talk one-on-one with the researchers. Many people come with their own questions that are not covered in the scheduled talks. Thus the researchers remained on the plots to help people with individual questions. I don't think Wayne Kussow got a break all afternoon as he remained on his putting green research plots talking to people until well after the field day ended. Likewise most of the other researchers had a steady flow of questions all afternoon. I would predict this session will continue again next year!

The other feature in the afternoon was the near record-size trade show. Fifty-seven exhibitors participated in the event, one less than the record set in 1996. An old feature that was attempted in past years was revived again this year. Exhibitors were given the microphone to present informa-

tion about their company, new products, or equipment innovations. They also could demonstrate the equipment in front of the crowds. Attendees seemed to like the product and equipment introduction period because the crowds stayed to the very end of the show this year. The exhibitors gave favorable comments after the show also. One vendor said he got 13 good leads for his equipment out of the show. Three other vendors told me this was the first time they participated in the WTA trade show and that they will definitely be back.

The vendors do so much to make sure the field day is a success and that money is raised for future turfgrass research. They sponsor a very successful silent auction every year that seems fun for everyone. The amount of money raised from this year's auction and from the summer field day isn't available as of this writing. Based on the large attendance and success of the vendors'



The Catherine Smejkal garden is a beautiful way to welcome visitors to the Noer Facility.



The brown patch evaluation work yielded valuable information.



An aerial view of 1998 Field Day, taken over the Noer Building by Tom Schwab in a ultra-light aircraft piloted by Dane County Sheriff Deputy Tom Kretchman. It was lunch time!



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All of the positive aspects of field day mentioned above are evidence that this year's field day was "high flying". It was also high flying for me as you can tell from some of the accompanying pictures where I got to be a passenger for a fly-over of field day. The sheriff that directs traffic at our summer field days is a friend of mine who also has an airport in Verona and a few ultralight airplanes. It's impressive to observe, from a birds-eye view, how the field day

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Dr. Maxwell and Dr. Stier opened field day with some early morning remarks and instructions.



Buzzing for pictures!



Pilot Tom Kretchman and photog Tom Schwab dressed warmly for the cool air of higher altitude.



One stop on the research tour features the Gregos' Pythium "Chamber of Death!"



Professor John Stier had everyone's attention on the research tour as he discussed Supina bluegrass.



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Doug and Martha Maxwell's farm is only a couple of miles from the Noer Facility, and even closer as the ultra-lite flies!



The day before field day included many rehearsals (and some levity by the youthful Jeff Gregos!)

## 1998 Summer Field Day Exhibitors

AgrEvo  
Anderson-Thomas  
Bayer Corp  
Century Rain Aid  
Cenex Land O Lakes  
Club Car  
Columbia Par Car  
Complete Rental  
Contree Sales  
Evergreen Sod Farm  
Ever Green Turf Equipment  
Erb Implement  
Fine Lawn  
Glenn Rehbein  
Great Lakes Golf  
Greensmix  
Growmark  
Hanley Company  
Hanson & Associates  
Horst  
Ironite  
J & K Sod Blades  
J W Turf  
Johnson & Associates  
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Lesco  
McFarlanes

Melcher Equipment  
Miller & Associates  
Milorganite  
Olds Seed  
Par Aide Products  
Pendelton Turf  
Praefke Air Cooled Engines  
Pro Greens of the Midwest  
ProGreen Plus  
Pro Lawn  
Pursell/Vigoro  
Reinders Turf & Irrigation  
Rhody's Town & Country  
Sales Midwest  
Scotts Company  
Spring Valley  
Tee Shot Marketing  
Terra International  
Trelay Seed  
Turf Partners  
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