

431 plus 112 Add up to a Great Field Day

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



The 1999 edition of Summer Field Day will go down in the record books for attendance. Four hundred thirty-one attendees and 112 sales people enjoyed all the activity and nice weather of this year's event. It truly appears we arrived in the "Big Time" this year. The large number of attendees coupled with a fun and informative day was top notch. There were more research tour stops than ever before and they were all enthusiastically attended. The trade show received equally high marks from both exhibitors and participants.

The weather predicted for field day looked precarious at first. The preceding day's rainy weather was predicted to continue into the morning of field day, but luckily ceased the night before. By mid-morning the clouds disappeared and Mother Nature blessed us with a perfect, partly overcast, show-day.

The day started with camaraderie over donuts and coffee around the registration tent. Professor Stier officially initiated field day with some opening remarks, and then the crowds lined up for the research tour. This may have been the first year when there were more attendees in the "Lawn, Landscape, Sport Turf" tour than there were for the "Golf" tour. The Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association held their summer meeting during field day and their members showed up in force. This is not to diminish the golf segment, which traditionally dominates field day attendance. The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association cancelled their August meeting to allow more time for their members to

attend field day. These factors, combined with the growing interests of other turf professionals, are what helped set the record attendance this year.

The research tour was packed with helpful presentations for every-

one. For the golf course session there were disease presentations on evaluating different fungicide products, making decisions on spraying variables, and breeding for snow mold resistance. There were putting green talks concerned with develop-



Jeff Gregos hosts associate Dean Dentine and CALS Dean Aberle.



Dr. Wayne Kussow explains results of his research on the tour.



Professor Stier opens field day tours.



GRAVES FEICK GOLF, LTD.

608-588-7888
Spring Green, WI

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

New Course Design
Renovations/Masterplanning
Construction Management

Irrigation Design/Consulting

New & Existing Courses
System Evaluations
GPS-As Builts

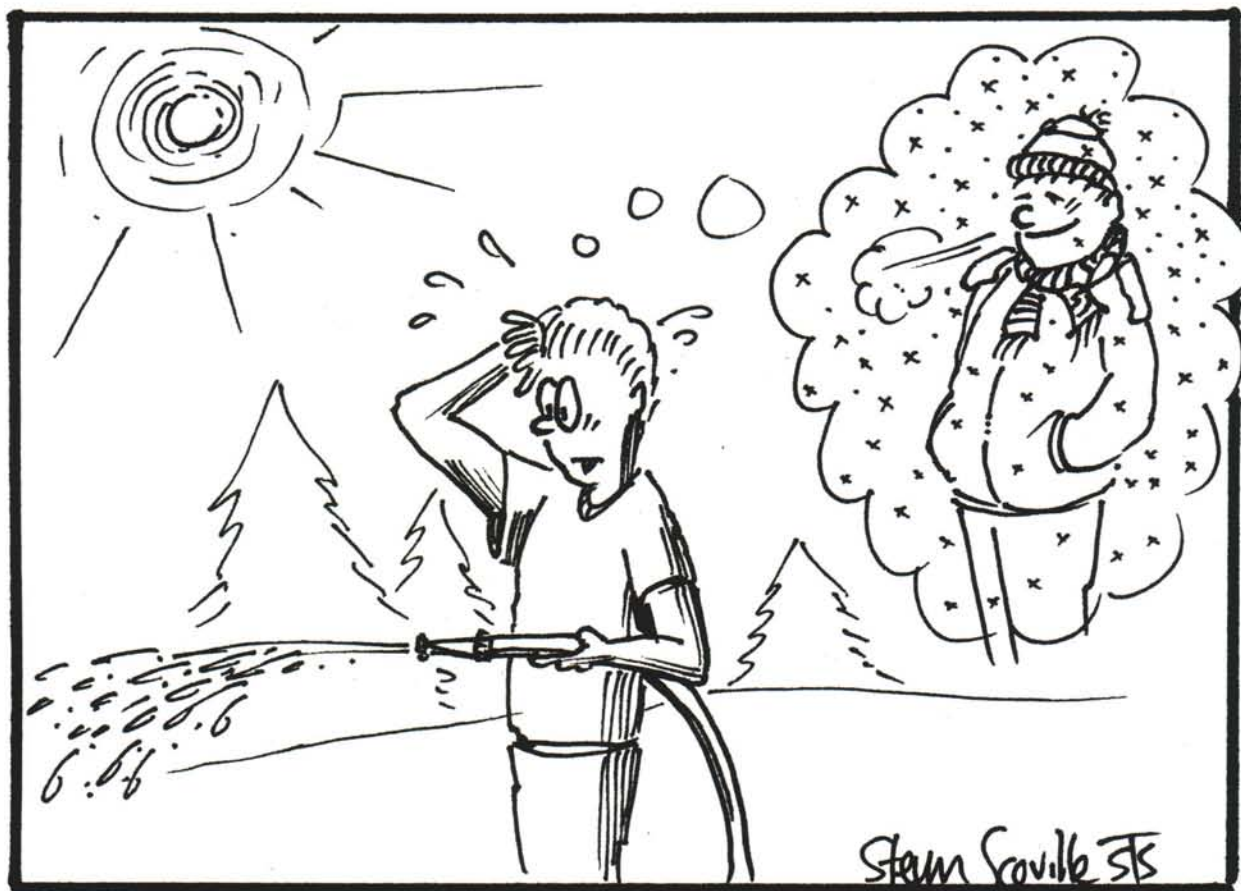
ing better root zones, evaluation of products to effect ball roll, and management of new bentgrasses and *Poa annua* reptans. There was also a fairway talk on using plant growth regulators to speed establishment and another on controlling ant mounds.

The lawn and landscape sessions included topics as diverse as insect pest control, crabgrass control product evaluations, long term evaluations of different Wisconsin sod blends, and a fertilizer demonstration. The lawn and landscape sessions also included sport turf talks on maintenance and construction of baseball and softball pitcher's mounds and home plates, and seed mixtures with Kentucky bluegrass and mixtures with supina bluegrass. To top it off, the sport turf managers at field day were treated to a clinic on painting logos on fields.

Many important University of

1999 Summer Field Day Exhibitors

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| All-American Supply | National Seed |
| Bayer | Normiska Materials |
| Beacon Ballfields | Olds Seed |
| Century Rain Aid | Olsen Distributing |
| Columbia ParCar | Pendelton Turf |
| Contree Sales | Praefke AirCooled Engines |
| Flowtronex PSI | ProGreen Plus |
| Glenn Rehbein | ProLawn Inc |
| Goossen Industries | Reinders |
| Great Lakes Golf | Rohm & Haas |
| Hanley Company | Sauk Prairie Equipment |
| Hanson & Associates | Scotts Company |
| Horst Distributing | Spring Valley Turf Products |
| J W Turf | T J Emmerich |
| Johnson Turf Equipment | Tee Shot Marketing |
| K E I | Terra International |
| Lange-Stegmann Company | Turf Partners |
| Lebanon Turf Products | Turf & Ornamental Spray Systems |
| Lesco Inc | United Horticultural Supply |
| McFarlanes | Waupaca Sand & Solutions |
| Melcher Equipment | Wisconsin Turf Equipment |
| Miller & Associates - Sauk Prairie | Wolosek Landscape |
| Milorganite | Zeneca Professional Products |



Wisconsin-Madison dignitaries acknowledged their recognition of the turf industry by attending the show. The present Dean and a former Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences were in attendance. Two Associate Deans and two department chairpersons mingled with the crowds. A representative of the UW-Madison Foundation and the current and a former director of Agricultural Research Stations also attended. The exceptional attendance and the presence of such dignitaries reflect the ever-increasing role of the turf industry in Wisconsin's economy, which is becoming more recognized.

It was fun talking with the dignitaries as well as meeting many old and new friends at field day. It is a great time to meet with colleagues, peers, and friends that we otherwise wouldn't see because of our busy lives. And it's important for our professions to learn about the latest university-based turf research. It's also important to learn about and see the latest products and equipment displayed in the trade show.

We can't forget that the exhibitors in the trade show help foot the bill to make field day first class. They buy booth space and sponsor a silent auction that purchases field day amenities and funds research projects. I hope you purchase from them throughout the year to show your appreciation of their field day support. The list of this year's exhibitors follows.

The planning committee, presenters, and many volunteers are also appreciated for generously giving of their time and ideas every year. If you think of ideas to improve field day, then please write the planning committee and address it to the Noer Facility. They are always looking for ideas to improve field day. But right now we are all thrilled with this year's sum of 431 plus 112. 🌿



NOTES FROM THE NOER FACILITY

