



Even The Weather Was Perfect This Year

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

The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO has become the premier green industry educational conference in the Midwest. That is, if the weather cooperates and you can get to the meeting. Every year EXPO week seems to be plagued with the coldest weather of the season coupled with several inches of new snow. A big change occurred in 2000. The roads were clean and the weather was sunny and mild. Attendees were pleased to finally have nice weather for EXPO. The other talk from attendees centered on how valuable the education was.

There were thirty presentations in three different categories offered over the two-day event. Additionally, an opening session featured the University of Wisconsin-Madison turfgrass research team who presented

findings from last season's investigations. Last but not least, the commercial members of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association offered a trade show that was second-to-none. Every product, service, or piece of equipment that can be used in turf management was on display and those exhibitors had tons more information to share with attendees.

Attendance topped all of the previous sixteen winter EXPOs sponsored by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA). There were 405 attendees, 140 salespeople, and numerous volunteers, speakers and students. The good weather may have been responsible for the record attendance, or maybe it was due to the hard work of the EXPO planning committee. Chairperson Chris Wendorf along with Paul Huggett,

John Stier, Jeff Gregos, Rich Riggs, Chris Williamson, Wayne Kussow, myself, and especially Audra Anderson put untold hours into the success of the show. They are always striving to improve on the success of the previous year's EXPO, so if you have suggestions in particular for future speakers give one of them a call.

Several associations conducted annual meetings during EXPO to keep members abreast of their association's business. The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association, and Wisconsin Sod Producers each had many members attending EXPO, thus it was a natural to hold annual meetings. There were new board members appointed, financial statements dispersed, meeting sites discussed, research ideas mentioned, and future directions explored at these annual meetings. Each association is fortunate to have dedicated members give constructive suggestions, lend a hand with association business, and help out on their boards of directors.

One presentation at Opening Session crossed the boundaries of all turf professions. Golf course superintendent Jerry Kershasky talked about a new WTA initiative to support turfgrass research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This summer he is starting a pilot program, which will place donation boxes and turf research pamphlets at a select number of golf courses, garden centers, and sports fields. The pamphlets will describe to end-user the importance of turf research in keeping Wisconsin's turf areas beautiful, functional, and environmentally sound.

Another function at Opening Session is the awarding of scholar-

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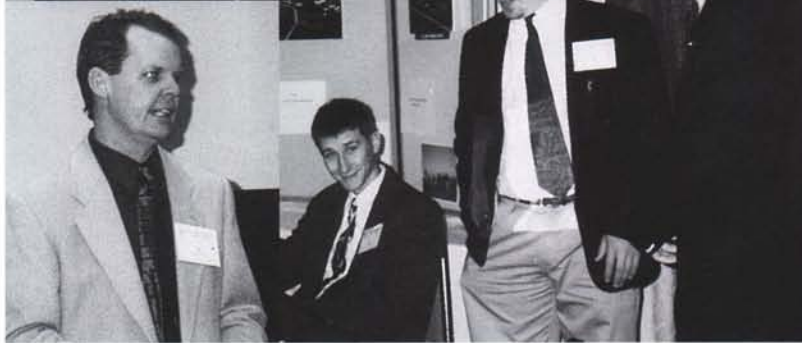
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Wisconsin Turfgrass Association



ships to UW-Madison turf students and the presentation of donations to WTA so that the association can fund research, educate students and members, and advance other turfgrass issues within the state. All of us in the turf industry would like to thank these donors and congratulate the scholarship recipients. The list of donors and recipients are listed in the adjacent box.

There were so many exceptional presentations that I attended, and many others that I'm sure were great, but I couldn't attend because of scheduling conflicts. Golf course architect Mike Hurdzan presented what he thinks the next century in golf course management will look like. He packed the room with superintendents and others that were nodding in agreement with his views on the environment, equipment, maintaining good employees, and so much more.

Turfgrass disease management was thoroughly explored during the golf sessions. David Williams from the University of Kentucky covered cultural management of disease. Randy Kane from the Illinois Golf Association talked about biological disease controls. Zac Reicher from Purdue presented disease control research using the "BioJect". Jeff Gregos from the UW presented results from some of his snowmold research. Turf loss should be held to a minimum this year armed with the information presented by these gentlemen.

The audience in the golf session was inspired on a variety of other subjects. Chicago area superintendent Dan Dinelli described his experiences incorporating yard waste compost and biosolids into his turf program. Some positive results on his golf course include improved soil structure, enhanced turf density and color, dollar spot suppression, thatch reduction, increased earthworm activity, and advanced turf establishment. Wayne Kussow, John Stier, and Chris Williamson rounded off the golf session speaking about soil chemistry, federal legislation affect-

ing golf management, and insect issues respectively.

Lawn care providers and landscapers likewise experienced a variety of presentations. They learned about management of insect and disease pests. A discussion about turf recovery after a drought was another timely presentation. Other interesting talks included hiring and maintaining good employees, and utilizing new and unique woody ornamentals.

The grounds and sports turf managers of Wisconsin have been attending EXPO in increasing numbers over the last couple years. Their roster of presentations was equally impressive. Topics included turf species choices, management practices, nutritional needs, irrigation practices, mowing, modifying soils, and painting of athletic fields. Many of the topics discussed in those presentations were also addressed in another talk about how

to develop an Integrated Pest Management Program for a school. And lastly, the supervisor from the State Capitol grounds in Madison, Bill Beckman, discussed management of his showcase grounds.

The education, trade show, professional development, and camaraderie make EXPO the perfect event for everyone that works with turfgrass in Wisconsin. We were fortunate that the weather even cooperated this year.

To finish I would like to thank all of the exhibitors at EXPO 2000. They are such a vital part of the success of the conference that I encourage you to pay them back by purchasing their products. Audra Anderson compiled a resource that you can use throughout the year listing the exhibitors, their contact person, and a description of their products. (See page 35)

Scholarship Donor	Recipient	Amount
WGCSA J.R. Love Scholarship	Joe Sabel	\$500
WTA	Dan Harrier	\$600
WTA	Aaron Goninen	\$600
WTA	Eric Counselman	\$600
WTA	Joe Sabel	\$600
Aventis	John Berge	\$500
Aventis	Tomara Smith	\$500
Bayer	Seth Petersen	\$500
Spring Valley	Doug Soldat	\$600
Turf Research Donor	Recipient	Amount
ProGreen Plus and Flex Program	WTA	\$774
Horst and Milorganite Program	WTA	\$2,458
Wisconsin Turf and Milorganite Program	WTA	\$1,060
Reinders and Daconil Program	WTA	\$6,465
		(donation over 12 years = \$70,052)
Turf Partners	WTA	\$341
Bulls-Eye Country Club	WTA	\$1,295
Zeneca	WTA	\$200
TJ Emmerich and Associates	WTA	\$100
John Turner	WTA	\$600
Wisconsin Sod Producers	WTA	\$875
Dave Mergatroyd Memorial from Horst and National Mower	WTA	\$150
Westmoor Country Club	WI Turfgrass Research and Development Fund (WTRDF)	\$2,440
Gary Zwerlein	WTRDF	\$300
Lake Wisconsin Country Club	WTRDF	\$350
WTA	WTRDF	\$18,100

ABT (Formerly Peterson Seed)

Jeff Curran (608) 781-4848
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Aitkin Agri-Peat

Kerry Glader (612) 441-1100
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Aquatic Biologists Inc

Robert Langjahr (920) 921-6827
Fond du Lac WI
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Bayer Corporation

John Turner (630) 443-7807
Elburn IL
Fungicides and Insecticides - Bayleton, Merit, Tempo, and Dyllox.

Century Rain Aid

John Markestad (608) 742-0377
Portage WI
Irrigation supplies.

Cleary Chemical

Tom Doyle (314) 909-1725
Crestwood MO
Fungicides and specialty products for the turf and ornamental markets.

Contree Sales Inc

Kevin White (920) 623-3508
Columbus WI
Manufactures and distributors of professional lawn spraying equipment service and repair.

F S Turf

Bruce Weatherly (309) 559-6173
Bloomington IL
Turfgrass seed, chemicals, fertilizers and tools.

Feick Design Group

Dan Feick (608) 588-2567
Spring Green WI
Golf course architects, irrigation consultants, construction management services.

Flowtronex PSI

Mike Green (262) 971-0626
Muskego WI
Pump stations.

Goossen Industries

Layton Stern (800) 228-6542
Beatrice NE
Vacuum systems & debris.

Hanley Company Inc

Loyd Cook (608) 837-5111 ext 304
Sun Prairie WI
Mowing equipment, sod cutters, aeration, mat handling, off road vehicles.

Herfort - Norby Golf Course Architects

Kevin Norby (612) 942-0266
Eden Prairie MN
Golf course architecture and land planning services.

Horst Distributing Inc

Grant Mortimer (920) 849-2341
Chilton WI
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J W Turf Inc

Scott Allsup (608) 444-7227
Marshall WI
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Johnson Turf Equipment

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Top dressers, aerifiers, brooms, Hover mowers, Spiker seeders and ARS saws.

KEI (Kujawa Enterprises Inc)

Rick Rollo (414) 744-7646
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Prairie du Sac WI
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Milorganite

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Milwaukee WI
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National Seed

Dan Biddick (208) 890-4453
Cambridge WI
Turfgrass and related products.

Nature Safe

Ken Quandt (606) 781-2010
Cold Spring KY
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Novartis

Brian Anderson (616) 682-0108
Ada MI
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Olds Seed Company

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Waterford WI
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Pro Greens America

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ProGreen Plus

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Superior Tech Products

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United Horticultural Supply

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Waupaca Sand & Solutions

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Wisconsin Turf Equipment Corp

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