



Hot Dates

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

There are three hot dates for you to put on your calendar. These aren't the hot dates that some of the people I work around are always unsuccessfully looking for. These are dates for advancing your profession. Turfgrass education is the scope for two of the events. The other event is for recreation and raising funds on behalf of the industry that we work so dynamically in. The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association sponsors all three events - Summer Field Day, Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO, and Golf Fundraiser. They are all great events for you and the industry.

The Golf Fundraiser is the first event being held this year, scheduled for **June 5th**. Traditionally this has been a fall event but since it's going to be held in the early summer, you should start making plans immediately to attend. Registration forms should have been in your mailbox in April. The Summer Field Day is also going to be held early this year on **Tuesday, August 8th**. Previously this event was always held later in August. It was moved earlier because summer staff was leaving late in August making it harder for people to get away. The third event is the Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO, which will be held **January 9th and 10th, 2001**. If you have questions about any of these events then please call Audra, WTA administrative secretary, at 608-845-6536.

GOLF FUNDRAISER - JUNE 5TH

Pat Shaw will be the Golf Fundraiser host for this year. His course, The Bog, will provide an extraordinary venue for participants that shouldn't be missed. The day will be all-inclusive with lunch, golf, practice range, cart, prizes, and hors d'oeuvres. The fundraiser was cancelled last year because of low registration. Let's turn it around this year! Bring a group of friends and/or become a hole sponsor. Everyone will be impressed with this jewel of a golf course and at the same time will help support turf research for the future of the game. Call Audra if you need more details.

SUMMER FIELD DAY - AUGUST 8TH

The next date to remember is for Summer Field Day. The planning committee started meeting back in March because even though the golf season has just begun, we're always surprised how quickly August comes around. There will be many parts of Field Day that you are familiar with - the morning research tour, the afternoon one-on-one with researchers, the huge trade show and demonstrations, and the fabulous lunch. Other components will be new - Bruce Schweiger is dreaming up games for your entertainment, the silent auction will be larger and easier to make bids, and there will be more education. It is a challenge to top the previous year's show but the plan-



Field Day has really become the happening event of the summer.



EXPO



New and old friends alike have a great time at the Golf Fundraiser. Jeff Bottensek and Ralph Christopherson are pictured enjoying the Golf Fundraiser

ning committee is determined to make this year's event the most enjoyable and educational ever.

**TURFGRASS & GREENSCAPE EXPO -
JANUARY 9-10TH, 2001**

The other educational gathering to put on your calendar is the Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO in January. January is a long way off but since this is one of the best turfgrass conferences of the year you must make plans to attend it. Schedule that ski vacation or Caribbean golf trip some other week. The EXPO planning committee met already in March with the main goal to sign up quality speakers. Speakers have to be booked almost a year in advance because their schedules fill up that early. Some of the nationally renowned speakers being pursued are Paul Rieke from Michigan State University, A J Powell from the University of Kentucky, John Powell, Carrie Rudolf and Jeff Gillman from the University of Minnesota, and Milt Engelke from Texas A & M. Local experts include Bob Vavrek from the USGA, Raechel Saeger from the University of Wisconsin turf program, who is now in the "big leagues", and the round-table panelists. A round-table discussion with several of your colleagues is being brought back by popular demand. This will be called, "Where We've Been and Where We're Going." Additionally six University of Wisconsin-Madison green industry faculty and staff will be giving presentations and also taking part in a session called, "Wisconsin Research On Parade." If that's not enough, then note the luncheon will have a keynote speaker to entertain and educate us on turfgrass trends, which is also a popular feature that attendees wanted brought back. To top it off, the Wisconsin and Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Associations are

coordinating to provide GCSAA certification units for your attendance next year. And the trade show will continue to be second to none.

These gatherings are so educational and fun while also providing vitality to the industry that we work in. If you have ideas to improve any of the events then send those thoughts to the Noer facility and the planning committees will consider them. The committees, which are made up of several of your colleagues are extremely interested in making the events the greatest. So mark these hot dates on your calendar to take advantage of the education and to support the turf industry of Wisconsin. ♣



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