



And You Thought Last Year Was Fun!

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

Field Day 2000 had everything. There was great education, a huge trade show, and presentation of the first WTA Turfgrass Research Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. Attendees also enjoyed the fundraiser putting contest, dunk tank, and auction. Crowds were large. Lunch was superb. The weather was even cooperative. Well, Summer Field Day 2001 is stacking up to be all that and more.

The date is August 14th and the site is, as always, the OJ Noer Facility in Verona. So much has been happening at the Noer Facility and in Wisconsin's turf industry on the whole that you'll want to get the latest news during Field Day. Results from the Wisconsin Turf Survey will be summarized so you can learn what an important impact you make on Wisconsin's economy. Get the latest perspective from the professors about the DNR NR151 Regulations for non-point pollution and how it will affect your business. You can also find out about the Noer Facility expansion. Learn what additional research will be conducted, or give your own input on projects you'd like to see performed when the available research land is doubled.

Not that the current 105 research plots aren't producing great information. The current investigations are producing superb information and that knowledge will be shared during the Field Day research tours. Field Day starts out with two different research tours. One focuses on golf subjects and the other is for lawn care, sod, and sports turf interests. The tours will make every effort to present talks that you want to hear about, not just ones that are presently located

at the facility. Here is a preliminary list of some of the presentations:

1. Putting green management issues.
2. Management of the homelawn.
3. Control of troubling turfgrass diseases.
4. Control of troubling turfgrass insects.
5. Using plant growth regulators in athletic field management.
6. Contributions of lawn care pesticides and fertilizers to urban runoff.
7. Using Kentucky bluegrass for golf course fairways.
8. Strategies for growing turf in the shade.
9. Maintaining ornamental grasses.
10. Audubon sanctuary tour.
11. There will be more presentations also. The professors and graduate students are still determining what would be the most beneficial to present come August.

If you have topics for this year or the future that you'd like to see presented, then please call the Noer Facility and let us know at 608-845-6895. In addition to the tours, the researchers will make themselves available all afternoon to answer your individual questions one-on-one under the ask-the-expert tent.

The research tour is the highlight of the Field Day, but there is also much more! There is a huge trade show featuring over 50 companies that supply every turfgrass piece of equipment, product, or service that you would ever need. Many of the vendors let you test drive and compare their mowers and other vehicles during the trade show hours. Or if you prefer, sit back and take notes during the equipment demonstration period where factory representatives demonstrate all the latest features of their equipment.

The vendors also sponsor a silent auction where attendees can bid and get deals on needed supplies with the proceeds going to support



Dr. Stier speaking to large crowds on the virtues of *Poa supina*.



Dr. Kussow entertains and educates another group of interested turf managers.



The huge trade show with attendees lining up for the delicious lunch.

turf research. The auction is going to have a new feature this year. Your name will be entered in a drawing for \$200 cash every time you place a bid. And remember that if your auction bid wins, you can pay later. You don't have to bring cash to the show. The fun doesn't stop with the auction. There will be a putting contest and a radio controlled off-road toy truck race with the winners taking home other prizes.

If that isn't enough fun and education, then come to one of the afternoon workshops. Immediately after lunch there will be a workshop on pregerminating seed and one demonstrating painting equipment for striping athletic fields and installing logos.

Lastly, don't forget the lunch. The lunch is always superb and almost worth the admission price in and of itself. Lots of good networking and comradeship is shared over lunch and throughout the whole day. And speaking of the admission price, it can be waved by becoming a new WTA member. Every new member in 2001 gets free admission to the show. WTA memberships cost \$125. Call 608-845-6536 for more information.

Here is a recap of the highlights and the reasons why you must make plans now to attend this important event in August:

- Coffee, juice and donuts at morning registration.
- Between 8 to 10 presentations

- during the research tour.
- Lunch that will make your mouth water.
- Two afternoon workshops.
- Ask-The-Expert tent (one-on-one discussions with the researchers).
- Equipment demonstrations (on your own or with factory representatives).
- Huge trade show.
- Auction with \$200 cash drawing.
- Games with valuable prizes for the winners.
- All proceeds go to turf research at the UW-Madison to benefit your profession.

- Free registration to new WTA members.

It's really a fun day and well worth the small registration cost. Also try to bring a friend who hasn't ever attended Field Day before. They will be impressed. Field day chairperson Jim Trzinski and the rest of the planning committee guarantee that the weather will be warmed up by then. Contact Audra at 608-845-6536 or by email at ajander2@facstaff.wisc.edu if you have any other questions. Anyone else on the UW Turf Team would also be glad to answer questions you may have and we all hope to see you there. ♣



**Ed Witkowski
Mike Kozlowski**

**Full Line of Turf Products
Chemicals
Competitive Pricing
New Product Information
Satisfaction Guaranteed**

**805 Ela Avenue
Waterford, WI 53185
262-534-3334 • Fax 262-534-2990**