

# Action Packed EXPO

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

The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO over-I flowed with valuable knowledge during this year's conference. There were useful tools and techniques presented over the two day conference from both local and distant experts. In addition to the local experts from the University of Wisconsin who you already know, there were other locals including Neil Radatz from Hawks Landing Golf Course, Raechal Sager from Miller Park, and Michael Koran from the Department of Agriculture. Experts from outside Wisconsin included John Donahoe (University of Illinois), Dr. Paul Rieke (Michigan State University), Dr. Jon Powell (University of Minnesota), Nicole Mason (Mark M. Holeman Inc.), and Connie Rudolph (Saint Paul's Midway Stadium). The useful knowledge from the expansive roster of speakers will allow every attendee to approach this upcoming season with an armload of fresh ideas.

The conference started out with reflection into the UW-Madison Turf Team's past year of work during the 'Wisconsin Research on Parade' session. Drs. Kussow, Jung, Stier, Williamson, and Casler presented some of their year 2000 findings or gave an overview of where they've been and where they're going with their important turf research programs. Next at the podium was Jeff Gregos who demonstrated the new format of this year's Wisconsin Turf Research Report. The report is now on electronic CD-ROM, which might

make it the first turf program in the country to offer their report this way.

Attendees headed off to the trade show after 'Wisconsin Research on Parade.' The trade show had been open all morning, well before 'Research on Parade', but took off full force after the morning session. Participants flooded the vendors with questions. Although the enthusiasm was great, the trade show was smaller this year for some reason. Maybe this was due to industry mergers or maybe the industry has taken a small downturn like the stock market cycle we're in. There were only 48 different booths compared to 56 last year, and the all time record 64 from three years ago.

Overall attendance was down this year also. There were 368 attendees and 121 salespeople in contrast to last year's record 405 and 140. The planning committee knows how to improve attendance and will be starting the plans for the 2002 EXPO this month. Contact someone on the planning committee if you have suggestions for speakers, subjects, or improvements for future shows. The planning committee includes Rich Riggs (chairman and WTA representative), Paul Huggett, Audra Anderson, Jeff Gregos, myself, and all the professors. Most of the comments we heard so far have been positive, but there's always room to tweak the program.

# The Milletts Are Returning to Wisconsin!

Dr. Steve and Debbie Millett are returning to Wisconsin! Debbie assumed the duties of press secretary for Gov. Scott McCallum on March 13 and Steve begins his job in the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in early May.

Steve will travel to Toronto this summer to present a paper at the International Turfgrass Conference. This is the fourth paper from his PhD thesis from the UW-Madison, leaving only one chapter left to publish!

While in the Columbus, Ohio area this past year, Debbie returned to radio broadcasting. In fact, the world learned of their career changes over the air as her colleagues bid her farewell!

Whatever his role, Dr. Millett's return will be welcome. He made wonderful contributions during his PhD years in Wisconsin and I expect to see more of the same from him.

Welcome home!

Many of this year's positive comments focused on the high quality of speakers and education. There were twenty-four presentations in the three concurrent sessions. The ones I attended were extremely informative. It's unfortunate that you can't attend them all since they are occurring simultaneously. The golf presentations included information on new turfgrasses, fungicide and insecticide optimization, soils cultivation, topdressing, drainage, and regulatory agency compliance. Lawn and landscape subjects included more on regulations compliance, sprayer calibration, exploring why some fungicide applications fail, ways to improve turfgrass through genetics, and challenges in setting up an IPM program. The grounds and sports turf session had presentations on field construction, management of sports field soils, setting up fertilizer/ pesticide and other cultural practice programs, infield maintenance, and scheduling field use to ease turf stress. That may sound like a lot, but there's even more.

The second day of the conference had round-table discussions in all three concurrent sessions. Each session had the same subject, 'Where We've Been and Where We Need To Go.' Audience participation was energetic in each one. The panels and chairpersons conveyed many years of experience and knowledge to everyone's delight. The panels were comprised of veterans from each of the three professions and the audience learned lots from their vast experience.

Another thrill from EXPO was to have a keynote speaker during the first day's lunch. Professor emeritus Paul Rieke from Michigan State University gave the keynote expounding on his years of research in a talk titled, 'Maintaining Healthy Soil.' As you can see there was tons of great information to absorb from this year's EXPO.

Even the weather was fabulous again this year. Temperatures were in the upper 20's and the roads were dry. That makes two years in a row where it wasn't in the negative digits and snowing, which is usually the norm for EXPO week. The trade show exhibitors are really the ones that appreciate good weather. Every year they drive their trailers of equipment on the snowy roads, unload all that equipment in the freezing temperatures, and clean off the snow and road salt to present a great trade show. Many of them attend not only to sell their wares but also to help support turfgrass research. Part of their registration fee goes to support research at the University of Wisconsin. They also expound lots of good information for us to use in our professions. Please show them your appreciation by purchasing your supplies from them this year. The list of the exhibitors is shown on page 74 for you to clip out and hang on your wall as a reference.

Many other supporters of turfgrass research and scholarships were recognized during the show. Numerous presentations of money were made between lunch and Dr. Rieke's keynote address during a short

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awards session. There were ten recipients of scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. In addition sixteen donors gave a total of \$18,726 to the WTA for turf research. and the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association gave \$2010 to support the UW-Madison Turf Diagnostic Lab. The donors and recipients of scholarships and research grants are also listed here. The Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association also took this time to present their first ever 'Field Of The Year' awards to the two school districts. Waunakee Schools received the 'WSTMA Football Field Of The Year' award and the Sheboygan School District received the 'Soccer Field Of The Year' plaque.

The sports field managers also took advantage of the conference to conduct their annual meeting. EXPO is a great venue to hold annual meetings since many of the members are at the site already. WTA and the Wisconsin Sod Producers also held annual meetings. There were new board members announced, financial statements dispersed, meeting sites discussed, research ideas mentioned, and future directions explored at these annual meetings.

So much occurs at the Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO that it's really become the 'must attend' event of the year. It's full of activity every year no matter what reasons you come for. It may be for education, to shop for supplies and equipment, to conduct association business, to socialize, or to escape work and get a good lunch. Whatever your reasons, EXPO never falls short.

Scholarship Donor	Recipient	Amount
WGCSA J.R. Love Scholarship	Douglas Soldat	\$500
WTA	Paul Blumke	\$600
WTA	Robert Lisi	\$600
WTA	Phillip Spitz	\$600
WTA	Nathan Uselding	\$600
Aventis	Aaren Goninen	\$1,000
Bayer	Jason Grode	\$500
Spring Valley	Brian Pyska	\$600
Dave Murgatroyd Memorial Fund	Brandon Burns	\$500
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CONTACT
Clark Rowles - Nakoma Golf Club - 608-238-2033

Turf Research Donor	Recipient	Amount
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Wisconsin Turf and Milorganite Program	WTA	\$1,050
Reinders and Daconil Program	WTA	\$7,560 (donation over 1
Bulls-Eye Country Club	WTA	\$1,265 years = \$77,612
Riverview Country Club	WTA	\$923
Stevens Point Country Club	WTA	\$975
James Kellog	WTA	\$100
Paul Swain	WTA	\$100
Andrew Heistad	WTA	\$80
Lee & Fay Melville	WTA	\$75
Charles Helling	WTA	\$100
Dave Andrews Golf Shop	WTA	\$75
Wisconsin Sod Producers	WTA	\$1,375
Westmoor Country Club	WI Turfgrass Research and Development Fund	\$2,670 (WTRDF)
Mike Lee	WTDRF	\$50
Lake Wisconsin Country Club	WTDRF	\$350
WI Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.	Turf Diagnostic Lab	\$2,010



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#### Johnson Turf Equipment

Vince Johnson 920-293-5131 Topdressers, brooms, spiker seeders, Hover mowers, Amazone grounds keepers, athletic field maintenance products, sod cutters & stump grinders

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#### Lesco Inc

Rob Wasser 262-249-8928 Equipment, fertilizer, control products for turf, seed, & irrigation equipment

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### Milorganite

Jan Vogt 414-221-6814 Organic nitrogen fertilizer

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#### **Olds Seed Company**

Chris Wendorf 608-249-9291 Grass seed for all needs

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Dan Brown Tee and green supplies

#### Pendelton Turf Supply Inc

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#### **Premier Irrigation Inc**

Patrick Lynch 651-480-8857 Irrigation installation services for golf courses

#### **ProGreen Plus**

Mike Akin 262-242-9100 Grass seed, erosion control products, landscape supplies etc

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#### Reinders Inc

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Bob Emmerich 262-966-1051 Irrigation design and consulting services

#### Tee Shot Marketing Inc

Paul Jones 218-836-2307 Aerators for golf courses, and sports fields

#### The Andersons

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#### Turf & Ornamental Spray Systems

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#### Wisconsin Turfgrass Association

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