

Wisconsin's Turf Industry Loses A Good Friend



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

John Buck, owner of J.W. Turf Equipment, lost his life to liver cancer on March 26, 2001. I first met John at the John Deere Golf Championship that he hosted at Monroe Country Club where he was so enthusiastic about it becoming a premier event in the state. The tournament flourished and my friendship with him did also. My team won the event that year and we spent time together at the national tournament in California. He was so gracious to our team and wanted to make sure we had a memorable event.



Whenever I talked to him since then he was always willing to help out with my turfgrass needs. He's been a big donor of turf equipment to the Noer Facility since I moved here and he always enjoyed participating in the

Summer Field Day and Turfgrass EXPO. His sales people and mechanics have also been so helpful to me, which I'm sure is a characteristic that John nurtured in his employees. He was always a gentle man when I talked to him. Outside of his business he seemed to have many interests also. He really liked to golf, collected old cars, and loved his family and friends.

I'm sure there is so much more to tell about him but he lived a state away from me, ran an extremely successful business, and I only saw him at an occasional golf outing and the WTA educational events. At 61 he was way too young to pass from this world. I, like many of you, am going to miss his friendly manner. Our prayers are with him and his family. ♣

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