

EXPO 2003 - Something for Everyone

By **Audra Anderson**, Administrative Assistant, Wisconsin Turfgrass Association



EXPO 2003 is scheduled for Monday, January 6th through Wednesday, January 8th, 2003 at the Madison Marriott West. The EXPO Planning Committee has secured speakers from around the United States, as well as from your own University of Wisconsin-Madison, to keep you up to date on current research issues.

Monday, January 6th is scheduled for vendor set-up and workshops for early attendees. There are four workshops to choose from. They run concurrently so you can only attend one. There is a topic for just about everyone. The workshops are listed here.

- Kevin Hensler will be talking about how you can set up an Integrated Turfgrass Management program for your facility. He will explain how setting up an ITM program can benefit you, your facility, and the environment.
- Jeff Postle will be teaching Basic Spanish with an emphasis on golf course and lawn and landscape terminology. Jeff was with us last year and those who took the workshop thought the class was very worthwhile in helping bridge the communication barrier.
- Another popular workshop that will be offered again is Passing the Pesticide Applicator Test. This workshop explains everything that you will need to know to pass the Turf & Ornamental category 3.0 PAT test. Studying the manual before the class is highly recommended. The actual test is given in the afternoon by the Wisconsin

Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection.

- A new workshop that is being offered this year is equipment maintenance. Jack Hensley will teach you basic maintenance that you should be doing on your equipment. He will discuss keeping a maintenance log to help your equipment and you last longer. Answers to specific questions you have about your own equipment will be a main focus.

Tuesday, January 7th, starts off with the Trade Show opening at 8:00 am. The trade show has all the latest equipment, supplies, and advice that you have questions about. You will have time to kick tires as well.

Next for Tuesday morning is the opening session. Our first speaker is Mark Purschwitz of the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Biological Systems Engineering Department. He will talk about issues of safety on the grounds and in the shop including overall guidelines that can help you become a better manager.

Opening session will also have a keynote speaker. He is Richard Kithil, president and CEO of National Lightning Safety Institute in Colorado. Richard has written over 200 articles on lightning safety. He has appeared on Dateline, The Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and other major TV programs to discuss lightning safety. He will give you suggestions to protect your equipment, your self, and your clientele.

A scholarship and awards program happens during lunch on

Tuesday. Turf scholarships, donations, and the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association's Field of the Year awards are presented at this time. Dr. John Stier will give a brief presentation about the state of the turf industry during the lunch period also.

The education program begins after lunch. The presentations are broken down into three categories — Golf Course, Lawn & Landscape, and Grounds & Sports Turf. You can sit in on any of the presentations whether they're in your field of expertise or not. The roster of speakers is quite impressive including Karl Danneberger, Andy McNitt, A. J. Powell, Andy Hamblin, Mark Sellmann, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison professors Geunhwa Jung, Wayne Kussow, John Stier, and Chris Williamson.

Wednesday, January 8th, begins with more educational presentations and trade show time at 8:00 am. The talks continue until lunchtime. The UW-Madison professors will present their research findings from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Reports from Soils, Horticulture, Entomology, and Plant Pathology will be presented.

EXPO has always been a time to gain valuable turfgrass education, gain information for future purchases, and meet with old and make new friends. This year will be no different so make plans now to attend, January 6 - 8, 2003. It'll be here before you know it! Registration information will be mailed in November. If you have any questions, please contact Audra at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@facstaff.wisc.edu.