



We're Getting Close

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

Sometimes things move slowly at the University. Yet other times they move according to schedule. The new land development at the Noer Facility appears to be moving right on schedule. This is in large part due to generous donations from the turf industry and a potentially large grant from the University. The donations from industry and help from the University that I'm talking about are for supplies needed for the first phase of an in-ground irrigation system on the new land.

At least in my opinion the new land development is proceeding right on schedule. Dr. Geunhwa Jung may have a different opinion. He already installed two studies on the new land even though there is no in-ground system to maintain them. (You can read about his studies in the most recent issue of the WTA newsletter - winter 2003). He would have preferred to install the studies where there is a permanent system, but all the existing 128 irrigated plots already had studies on them.

So now we have to get moving before other professors need additional irrigated plots for research. This is where I hope the University comes through. The professors just wrote a grant proposal to the University for \$7,770. That is the amount needed for the remainder of supplies to install the first phase of the irrigation system. This will add 32 new irrigated plots to the Noer Facility. The University has been very generous to the turf program in the past and we remain optimistic they will come through again. They seem to be aware of how important our segment of agriculture is to the state. The state budget crises may hold back how much the University can give this year, but I'm still opti-

mistic. We will know the results of the grant by mid-January.

I feel the grant will be looked upon favorably by the University not only because the turf industry is so important to the state, but also because of donations given by several of you from the turf industry during a fundraising campaign conducted this past fall. Those donations will be considered as matching funds in the grant process to the University. Matching funds help to make a grant proposal look more favorable. The list of who donated is noted here along with the irrigation supplies cost needed for the first phase of the system.

We remain poised to start installing the first phase of the irrigation expansion this coming spring. The timeline that brought us to this point has taken place over four years. The University Foundation owned a ten acre parcel of land adjacent to the Noer Facility that we knew would be perfect for expansion if we ever outgrew our present site. Discussions started in the winter of 1999/2000 to

transfer this land to the Noer Facility. In May of 2000 we dug a new high capacity well and installed a Watertronics pump station sized with the potential to irrigate the additional ten acre parcel of land if we got it. A plan was verbally agreed upon with the University Foundation in 2002 to transfer this acreage to the Noer Facility. The only problems with the land were that it was too hilly and the soil depth too inconsistent for most turf research.

In 2002 Rettler and Associates drew up a grading and plot plan to incorporate 76 new irrigated plots on the new parcel. The Bruce Company then graded the land to a uniform 1.5% grade that same summer. In the fall of 2002 Olds Seed Solutions and Spring Valley Turf Products donated all the seed and fertilizer to establish the land. Olds and Spring Valley remain committed to maintaining the land also. Now hopefully we will be installing the first phase of the irrigation system this spring. We're getting close. ♣

Supplies Donated	Donor	Approximate Worth
2 x Toro Network 8000 satellites	Cedar Creek CC	\$1,000.00
1 x 4" Gate Valve	Watts Regulator	\$450.00
1 x Case of Sprinkler Heads	Toro	\$600.00
25,000' of Wire	Regency Wire	\$1,000.00
Fittings	Harko	\$500.00
40 x Valve Boxes	Bullseye CC	\$400.00
Cost of Irrigation Supplies Still Needed for the First Phase of Irrigation Expansion		
		\$13,470.00
Donor	Matching Funds Donated	
WGCSA	\$2,500.00	
Green Bay CC	\$1,000.00	
Dr. Geunhwa Jung	\$1,000.00	
Abbey Springs GC	\$500.00	
Eagle River GC	\$250.00	
Pendelton Turf Supply	\$200.00	
Merrill Hills CC	\$150.00	
Oscar Miles	\$100.00	
Total		\$5,700.00*
* Dr. John Stier will donate \$2,000 for student labor to help install the system in addition to the \$5,700 donated as matching funds.		
Funds Needed from UW-Madison Grant to Proceed with Irrigation System		
		\$7,770.00