



I Hate to Talk About Winter and EXPO

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

It's hard to believe that the 2005 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO will be here before you know it. I don't like to think about winter this early, especially during the nice autumn we're having. One very bright spot about winter though is EXPO on January 11th and 12th. The roster of speakers this year is exceptional. In addition on January 10th, there will be a WGCSA/GCSAA educational seminar held in conjunction with EXPO.

The location for EXPO is its traditional venue, the Marriott West in Middleton, which has plenty of rooms for the large trade show and numerous seminars. Numerous seminar rooms are needed because three different turf presentations are held concurrently. There are talks for those in the golf industry, sports turf industry, and lawn care and landscaping industry. This is where EXPO gets exciting to talk about.

The roster of speakers is exceptional. The opening session will star recently retired UW-Madison athletic director Pat Richter. Mr. Richter was the longest tenured director of athletics in the Big Ten Conference. He took a program that was failing both athletically and financially and turned it into the nation's 10th best, according to the Sporting News in 2001. He'll have many interesting UW athletic stories that you won't want to miss.

You likewise won't want to miss the roundtable discussion about "The Phosphorus Controversy." This will occur right after Pat Richter's presentation. There will be experts from both sides of the fence discussing the issues. The roundtable will include specialists from the DNR, UW Limnology Department,

UW Soil Science Department, and US Geological Survey.

You'll be further enlightened after that by the exceptional roster of seminar speakers. The roster of speakers include Dr. Bruce Martin from Clemson University. Many of you are familiar with Dr. Martin who gives exceptional seminars at the GCSAA National Convention. He will give several presentations to include; "Rapid Blight in Cool Season Turfgrasses — A New and Unusual Turf Disease" and "Designing Summer Disease Control Programs for Managing Bentgrass".

Another veteran turf specialist is Dr. Mike Agnew from Syngenta. He is giving two important disease presentations. His talks are, "Improving Fungicide and Plant Growth Regulator Performance" and "Anthracnose on *Poa Annua* Greens".

Someone known to everyone in the sports field industry is Pam Sherratt. She is coming to EXPO from the Ohio State University where she serves as sports turf extension specialist. She writes their popular sports turf web page and speaks at many national and local conferences on sports turf issues.

The list of acclaimed speakers goes on and on. There is Dr. Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota, Bob Vavrek from the USGA Green Section, Paul Zwaska from Beacon Ballfields, Rich Riggs from Rettler Association, and many others. The UW turf program professors will also have several presentations during the day in addition to their "Research on Parade" segment.

The educational presentations are only part of what EXPO is about. There is likewise a huge trade show to experience. Over 40 vendors to



Opening Session
Keynote Speaker,
retired UW-Madison
Athletic director,
Pat Richter.

the turf industry will be there to answer all your equipment, supplies, products, and services questions. They are there to help you grow healthier grass next season.

I have to admit that I was misleading in my title. Actually, I love winter and always have. It's a time for a lighter work schedule, vacations, winter recreation, and most importantly more time with family. And did I mention EXPO on January 11th and 12th? Make plans now to attend. Your registration brochure will be in the mail in mid-November. ♣

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