



# WTA Golf Outing and Summer Field Day

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

Two events you won't want to miss this year are the WTA Summer Field Day and the 'Fundraiser for the Fellowship' Golf Outing. On Tuesday, August 1st, the Summer Field Day will be held at its traditional venue, the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility in Verona. The Fellowship Golf Outing will take us to one of Wisconsin's newest and most anticipated golf course openings, Erin Hills Golf Course in Hartford, on Tuesday, October 10th.

**Summer Field Day** is the premier turf research day for Wisconsin's turf professionals. This event gives the University Turf Program an opportunity to showcase the research they're doing for the Wisconsin turf industry. It's a venue for you to meet all the UW turf researchers under one roof to discuss everything related to growing turfgrass.

Some of the talks featured on this year's research tour include:

- Lengthen fungicide effectiveness by avoiding resistance
- Lessen severity of take all patch
- Management of velvet bentgrass
- Breeding turfgrasses for the future
- Eminent threat to Wisconsin forests — Emerald Ash Borer
- Rain gardens plants and turfgrass for replenishing groundwater
- Biosolid rates for turfgrass establishment
- New weedy grass herbicides for use in fine turf
- Reduction of *Poa annua* populations in athletic fields
- From gophers to voles: dealing with small animal pests
- Turf Variety Trials
- Fungicide Trials

Additionally, the researchers are there to answer your questions. They are available between talks, over lunch, or during the trade show in the afternoon. You may want to bring in turf samples and lists of questions. They will give you practical solutions to make your job easier.

That is likewise the goal of the afternoon trade show. Thirty to forty exhibitors will be there to help you with all your commercial inquiries. They have information on every product, service, and piece of equipment that you could possibly need to help you in your job. Many let you test drive equipment to compare features between different makes and models.

There is a new look to the Noer Facility that you



Joe Deschler, from Horst Distributing, is one of many knowledgeable sales representative that will be answering your questions during the trade show.



Dr. Kussow giving an informative presentation during the 2005 research tour.

will see at this year's show. Fourteen new acres of turfgrass are established for hosting the Turf Producers International Field Day in 2007. You may demonstrate mowers to your heart's content on the new acreage.

I hope you have August 1st on your calendar to make the trip to Verona for this educational and fun day with researchers and colleagues. Registration forms were sent out in June. Contact Audra if you didn't receive one or have any questions about the event at 608-845-6536 or [ajander2@wisc.edu](mailto:ajander2@wisc.edu).

The other important WTA event to have on your calendar is the - The golf outing has been held at



many of Wisconsin's finest courses. In keeping with that tradition, superintendent Jeff Rottier is presenting his brand new golf course, Erin Hills, to host the event this fall. The date for the 2006 WTA 'Fundraiser for the Fellowship' is Tuesday, October 10th.

We are very privileged to have Erin Hills as our host course this year. This is one of the most anticipated golf course openings in America. The course does not open until August, yet the USGA has already chosen it to host the 2008 Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. You know it has to be good being associated with the dynamic course design team of Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fry, and Ron Whitten. Its location likewise gives clues to the

grandeur, in Wisconsin's beautiful kettle moraine area, with its massive dune-like hills and deep glacial kettle holes formed by Mother Nature.

This course is really going to be a treat for participants. The added benefit of attending the fundraiser is to support the Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research program at the UW-Madison. These turfgrass fellowships fund specific projects that will help turfgrass managers into the future. Once a Fellowship is fully funded, it will pay for new and important turfgrass projects for generations. Three fellowships are already funded or nearly funded and producing results. Some of those results include better interpretation of soil tests, improved putting

green construction mixes, and a new study, just now initiated, will compare plants used and construction techniques in rain gardens for replenishing groundwater supply.

The registration cost for the fundraiser is \$165, which is the cost the general public will pay to play Erin Hills. But your registration will also include lunch, and door prizes, some worth the price of admission. And of course you will be supporting turfgrass research and your profession's future.

The registration forms were mailed in June to all WTA members. Once again, call Audra if you didn't receive one or have questions about the Golf Outing. This event promises to be an outstanding way to wind down your golf season for 2006. ♣

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