



## Fall Activities Keep Students Busy

By **Shane Griffith**, *Badger Turf and Grounds Club*

The autumn term of 2008 is drawing to a close here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For the Badger Turf and Grounds Club this means another semester gone by of UW football and Thursday night club meetings. As a club we would like to return to having a regular column in *The Grass Roots* that alerts and informs readers to the activities and events that we have been involved with. We feel that this is an excellent way for current students to stay connected with UW alumni and turfgrass professionals throughout the state.

The turf club started the semester on a cool, breezy afternoon at Blackhawk Country Club. We assisted in the green aerification process until the evening's darkness chased us off the course. Fortunately, we have four new members that helped us with this annual tradition. The Blackhawk CC aerification continues to be the club's most reliable and anticipated fund raising opportunity. A special thanks to Monroe Miller, Chad Grimm, and the rest of the Blackhawk crew for making this opportunity possible year in and year out.

Later that week the turf club was back aerifying and top-dressing at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility. This too has become an annual event for the club. It helps orientate turf students to the research being performed at the university, while providing the club a chance to build camaraderie and funds.

Recently we were given the chance to help perform meaningful turfgrass research on local Madison courses. The turf club



**Badger Turf and Grounds Club at Lambeau Field.**

encountered Japanese beetle grubs up close and personal while assisting turfgrass entomologist Dr. Chris Williamson with some of his research. A big thank you to Dr. Williamson for his generosity in funding, and for imparting us with a portion of his vast knowledge of insects.

You may be asking, what does the Badger Turf and Grounds Club do with the funds they are raising at these events? This year the club is sponsoring the travel of eight members to the Golf Industry Show in New Orleans. In recent memory, this is the largest group of turf students attending the show from the UW-Madison. These eight students will split into two groups to compete in the annual Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition

while attending the show. Last year our team placed in the top ten out of the ninety plus teams. This year we are setting our goals even higher. Club members are also planning to attend the WTA Winter Expo in January.

While cold temperatures are here for good, the school season is just heating up with finals right around the corner. If anyone is interested in speaking at one of our monthly turf meetings please feel free to e-mail [badgerturf-club@hotmail.com](mailto:badgerturf-club@hotmail.com). We are always interested in hearing from professionals in all areas of the turf management industry. We hope everyone has the chance to enjoy the upcoming holiday season which will be here in just a few short weeks. 🌱