



Another Successful Performance in New Orleans

By **Bill Kreuser**, Badger Turf and Grounds Club

It has been a busy spring semester for the members of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club. The activity started well before the first day of class at the WTA Winter Expo. Several turfgrass students, studying both Soil Science and Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, received scholarships from the turfgrass industry. We would like to thank all of the scholarship donors for their continued generous support of turfgrass education at the UW. We are all grateful that the industry is willing to support its future members so adamantly.

The 'spring' semester started like it does every year in Wisconsin; cold and snow covered. In addition to studying for classes, many club members were actively studying for the Turf Bowl. Every year the turf program sends at least one team of four to the Golf Industry Show to compete in the annual Collegiate Turf Bowl. The Turf Bowl tests students' knowledge of all aspects of turfgrass science and business management. Club fundraising over the past year allowed the Badger Turf and Grounds Club to send two teams to participate. We are proud to inform the Wisconsin turfgrass industry that our team has placed in the top ten for the second year in a row. We would like to thank everyone that has helped and supported us to prepare for our success in the Turf Bowl.

All of the members that attended the show also enjoyed the educational and cultural experience that New Orleans provided. Members were present to celebrate Monroe Miller's 2009 Distinguish Service Award at the Opening Session. We also saw the newest products,



Badger Turf and Grounds Club members that attended the GIS in New Orleans.

The testing room after the four hour Turf Bowl examination.



Pat Bastron mans the clubs booth at the GIS.

ideas, and technology in turfgrass science on the trade show floor; including a robotic greensmower. Attending the show is always such an eye-opening experience. The cultural experience the city of New Orleans provided was equally eye-opening. We ate gumbo, oysters, and po'boys at the famous Johnny Po'boys. Mardi Gras excitement could be heard buzzing in the air while drinking a Hurricane at Pat O'Brien's on Bourbon Street. The trip benefited all of us professionally and personally.

Now that spring break is over the turf students are preparing for exams and the transition from the classroom back to the field. As the temperature outside continues to warm, the excitement to finish class and get back on to the course grows. We are sure that many of you feel the same. The Badger Turf and Grounds Club would like to wish everyone in the turfgrass industry a successful 2009 season.

More information can be found about the club at www.soils.wisc.edu/~turfclub/about.html 