



# Turf Club Stays Busy as Semester Ends

By **Patrick Bastron**, *Badger Turf and Grounds Club*

Final exams are just around the corner here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which means more time in the library. I think it is safe to say that most of us in the Badger Turf and Grounds Club are looking forward to summer vacation, and with it internships and research.

Turf club members will be working at golf courses throughout the state of Wisconsin and the nation. We are all excited to learn new skills and pick the brains of the talented superintendents who will be leading us. In addition, several graduate and undergraduate students will be hard at work at the O.J. Noer Research facility starting new projects or continuing existing ones. The Badger Turf and Grounds Club had one of their members selected for a USGA internship this year. As the individual selected I will travel with Mr. Bob Vavrek for a week of site visits to regional golf courses. I am looking forward to this opportunity and the learning experience it will provide.

We have also been involved in some community and campus events this year. As we have for the past couple of years, our turf students attended the Madison Lawn and Garden Expo. This event, held in February, has several hundred attendees. We fielded many questions and offer turf advice to homeowners looking to improve their lawns. More recently, the turf club participated in the 2009 Science Expedition held on campus. This was the first year we participated in this event and plan to make it a yearly event for the club. In addition to providing lawn care advice for those who stopped by our booth, we also had materials available for kids to grow their own turf plants as well as samples of various turf species to look at. We all enjoyed interacting with the kids and the consensus was that this event was a big success!

Finally, because this is the last article of the academic year, I would like to take the chance to thank some people for their contributions to the Badger Turf and Grounds Club over the past year. First, thank you to Aron Hogden at University Ridge for taking a Friday afternoon to speak with us about winter damage. Second, a big thank you to all the great guest speakers we have been lucky to have at this year's club meetings. We had a great group of experts cover a wide array of topics and we could not have asked for anything better. Third, thank you to all the turf club members who participated in the various events of the past year and made them all a great success. Last but certainly not least, immense thank you to our wonderful advisers

who have helped guide us through the year, providing us with invaluable counsel.

On behalf of the Badger Turf and Grounds Club, I would like to wish everyone great success this golf season. 🌱



**Club Member Pat Bastron interned at Interlachen Country Club, Edina MN**



**Turf Club Members at a community event.**