



Wisconsin Loses Another Leader in the Turf Industry

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

This year became a very sad one for Wisconsin's turf industry. First we lost Dr. Bob Newman earlier this spring. Now we hear of the passing of Dr. Charles Koval. These two men were two of the cornerstones of the University of Wisconsin-Madison turf program. They influenced and helped so many of us to manage our landscapes with the most current research and advice coming out of our University.

On August 3rd, 2009, Dr. Koval lost his long fought battle to multiple myeloma. He was only 71 years old. I remember when I first ran into Chuck after he was diagnosed: he and his wife Patricia were enjoying the Saint Patrick's parade in downtown Madison. That was almost 13 years ago, and the diagnosis was not good. But Chuck was enjoying the parade and told me about some of their future travel plans. He was always upbeat and a joy to talk to. He truly enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest.

Chuck and Patricia would have celebrated 52 years of marriage on August 24. They raised three children and enjoyed their nine grandchildren. Chuck was raised on a family farm in northern Wisconsin. He married Patricia and then attended Northland College where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology. This was followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in entomology. Chuck enjoyed a long, fulfilling career as a professor and administrator at UW-Madison. He particularly enjoyed traveling the state and working with students, faculty and community members.



Dr. Koval addresses the crowd at the O.J. Noer Center at the 1992 field day.

Once he was diagnosed with cancer, Chuck became an activist in advocating for more research initiatives and forming patient support groups. To this end, he was a tireless researcher and mentor to other patients and their families.

Chuck will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, especially his family. I will never forget his friendly conversations when I saw him at work, at Badger games, or at the Saint Patrick's Day parade. He was a leader and one of the best human beings who lived life to the utmost and a person anyone would be proud to call a friend. 🌿

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