



Play A Round 4 Research

By **Jake Schneider**, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Truth be told, I would never have gone to graduate school if it weren't for the funding that was generously provided by the Terry and Kathleen Kurth Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. And, while you may not give two hoots about my rain garden project, the point is that it takes graduate students and a significant chunk of change (not to mention world-class professors) for successful research projects that have shown us how to better manage turf and have thrown a dagger in the concept that turf is an environmental nuisance.

There is no doubt that Wisconsin is fortunate to have one of the strongest turf education and research programs in the nation. With the O.J. Noer Center and a collection of young, talented professors, UW-Madison has a great thing going. At this year's Golf Industry Show in San Diego, I spoke with Dr. Zac Reicher, formerly of Purdue, who had nothing but the highest praises for our state's program. In an era when most university turf research programs have declined, it's safe to say that Wisconsin's is as strong as ever, and much of the credit for this has to go to the funding and support provided by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) and the WGCSA. With the continued push toward environmentally-friendly practices and the tightening of golf course budgets, never has the practical research that comes from the UW each and every year been more important. Last year alone, results were released that will help superintendents more effectively time their dollar spot fungicide, late-fall nitrogen, and growth regulator applications. This is the type of cutting-edge research that allows superintendents to be friendly to their budgets and to the environment at the same time.

Recognizing the challenges that Drs. Kerns, Soldat, Stier, and Williamson have in obtaining funding for their research projects, the WGCSA has launched the PAR4Research initiative to help sustain our land-grant university's proud turf research program. As you probably know, PAR4Research will be an online auction of golf rounds, merchandise, and a host of other golf-related items that will run from May 2-9. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the WTA. The WTA will then disperse the monies for appropriate research



projects. By now, you should have already received the PAR4Research literature with the March/April edition of *The Grass Roots*, and we hope that you have, or are trying to, secure a donation from your employer for the auction. Considering the savings that your club will incur via ongoing and future turf research, you can just about guarantee a positive return on your investment.

While the quality and value of your donations will ultimately drive the success of the auction, all of our efforts will be wasted if the golfing public doesn't know about this fantastic opportunity. Whether you were able to contribute to the auction or not, please take the time to tell your friends, family, and golfing clientele about PAR4Research. If you haven't already, consider hanging the PAR4Research poster that was mailed to you in your pro shop or clubhouse. When the auction begins on May 2, send an email blast to your club's members or season pass holders. Through your efforts in obtaining donations and in spreading the word about the inaugural PAR4Research auction, my fellow committee members and I are certain that we will be doing our part to keep Wisconsin green for years to come. Finally, thank you for your time and efforts to make this a success. 🌱



Bayer Environmental Science

John M. Turner
Sr. Sales Specialist - Golf
Bayer Environmental Science

Cell Phone: (630) 215-6110

Office: (630) 443-7807

Fax: (630) 443-7839

Email: john.turner@bayercropscience.com