

It Had To Be The Education

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

WTA Summer Field Day on July 31st had the largest attendance since the field day that was held in conjunction with Turf Producers International six years ago. There were 287 attendees this year which was an increase of 123 over last year's show. That doesn't include 65 vendor representatives working 28 booths in the trade show. It's hard to know exactly why so many showed up this year but I'm guessing attendees heard about the great education being offered and realized they couldn't afford to miss this year's event. They were not disappointed.

Education came in the form of six general research presentations in the morning followed by a trade show around lunch time. Golf turf research and a sports turf construction tour were featured in the afternoon.

In the morning general turf presentations, Dr. Doug Soldat presented his work on reduced risk herbicides and other alternative weed control tactics. The results showed reduced risk products are not as effective as standard herbicides. But with the increased interest in the environment, many customers ask about reduced risk. Dr. Soldat's work showed those products could be used to achieve moderate weed control usually with repeat applications.

Doctoral student Brad DeBels presented work on water conservation strategies using radiometric sensing methods to measure ET use between different species and cultivars. This work will lead to better breeding selection for low input turfgrass landscapes.

Dr. Paul Koch spoke about identifying and controlling Summer Patch on Kentucky and annual bluegrass. He told of the difficulty in distinguishing Summer Patch from necrotic ring spot, brown patch, anthracnose, and abiotic stresses. He gave some tips to identify




Graduate student Glen Obear presents his research on iron layering in golf putting greens

Summer Patch and told how identification is so important because methods for managing it are significantly different than for the other diseases mentioned.

Dr. Chris Williamson's talk provided everything you need to know about two invasive insect pests; Japanese beetles and emerald ash borer. He gave many management options including products to use, best times to treat, best ways to treat, and when to fly the white flag.

Many other talks filled the day with great education. They included 'Ecological Poa Management' and 'Iron Layering in Putting Greens' presented by Glen Obear, 'Potassium Soil Test Calibration' presented by Brad DeBels, 'Environmental Regulations Update' from Jeff Saatkamp, and many more. The research presentations were not the only education at Field Day. The helpful and informed exhibitors at the trade show helped attendees with all their commercial questions. Exhibitors had information on seed, chemicals, any turf maintenance equipment you could imagine, turf nutrition, putting green materials, irrigation supplies, and more. Please see and support the 2012 Field Day Exhibitors, listed here. They help bring Summer Field Day and all its education to you every year.

It had to be all the great education that brought the crowds back to Field Day for 2012. Or maybe it was the drought and record heat of 2012 that sent everyone to Field Day for a break from this summer of stress. Whatever the reason, attendees left Field Day with many new ideas to use back on their own landscapes. The team of professors, students, guest speakers, and staff did all they could to make this year's Field Day one of the best and most educational ever. 



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NOTES FROM THE NOER



Pictures from Top to Bottom:

- Dr. Doug Soldat presenting on potassium soil test calibration.
- Dr. Jim Kerns greets attendees during the opening session.
- Dr. Chris Williamson provides updates on two Wisconsin invasive insect pests; emerald ash borer and Japanese beetles.
- Aerial of O.J. Noer Facility prior to arrival of record crowds for the 2012 WTA Summer Field Day



THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS!

- Agrium Advanced Technologies
- Arthur Clesen
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- Bayer
- Burris Equipment
- Contree Sprayer & Equipment
- Deer Creek Seed
- DHD Turf & Tree Products
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- Heritage Seed Company
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- Pendelton Turf Supply
- Purple Cow
- Reinders
- Spring Valley
- Syngenta
- The Andersons
- Waupaca Sand & Solutions
- WDATCP
- Wisconsin Turf Equipment
- XGD Systems

WTA Golf Fundraiser At Ozaukee Country Club

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

The WTA would be extremely pleased to have you attend this year's golf fundraiser scheduled for Monday, October 1st at Ozaukee Country Club. This is a classic Milwaukee area country club with lots of history and tradition. The course has hosted many major golf tournaments including the 1929 Western Open. Course superintendent Colin Seaberg, his staff, and the members of Ozaukee Country Club, welcome everyone to this year's event. Tell your friends, relatives, and co-workers to come and enjoy a spectacular round of golf as this 2012 season comes to a close.


You will be joining other golf and turfgrass industry enthusiast when you play this beautiful links style golf course designed by Langford and Moreau in 1922. Your entry fee will largely go to help promote golf turf research at your Land Grant University because of the generosity of Ozaukee CC allowing us to play there for a very low fixed cost. Proceeds from the

golf outing will be used by UW-Madison scientists to develop new techniques for managing turfgrass for the most environmental, aesthetic, and economic results.

The registration fee is \$125. For this you will be treated to a delicious lunch, practice range, and golf with a cart. After golf you'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres and hopefully go home with one of the valuable door prizes and/or golf awards. Many door prizes are worth more than the cost of registration. You may register as a foursome or by yourself. The event is a four-person best ball format. A registration form, which is included with this newsletter, is also on www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. You may pay online from the website or mail in your registration.

Your fee not only provides for a fun day of golf, but also supports the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fundraiser's long history, proceeds have gone directly to

research projects and more recently have helped fund the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Your participation will allow the WTA to add to the new Research Sustainability Fund at the UW Foundation. The difficult fiscal times have only amplified the need for quality research, and your participation at Ozaukee CC will help meet that need.

The golf outing isn't all about funding research, though. It is also about spending time with friends to enjoy a round of golf near the end of the season, and this golf course will not disappoint! I hope that you are able to attend the WTA Golf Fundraiser and play this truly outstanding course. You may contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have any questions. Whether it is your first WTA Golf Fundraiser or if you have attended them all, we hope you won't miss this one. 



Ozaukee Country Club

Top Left - Hole 1, Par 4, 438 yards

Bottom Left - Hole 2, Par 5, 505 yards

Top Right - Hole 13, Par 4, 449 yards