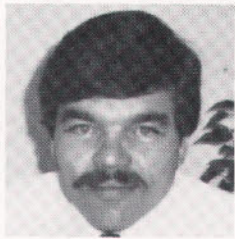


## An Architect's Opinion



### DESIGN REVIEW BEFORE RENOVATION

By Bob Lohmann

Golf is a game, but in order to survive, it must also be considered a business. Like every other business, a good golf club must have good people and a sense of purpose in order to develop a plan for the people to follow.

Because of the rapid growth of the golf industry, information on all facets of the game is becoming available to many people. Golfers are being introduced to different types of design concepts, maintenance procedures, and golf equipment.

As club members, superintendents, professionals, and managers travel throughout the area, state, and country, they not only play different golf courses, but they critique and compare them to their home course.

Most people desire to make their course one of the best in playability, variety, and playing conditions. As the playing season comes to an end in the northern climates, they should evaluate their golf course, remarking on the good as well as problem areas that were noticeable during the golf season. After the winter retreat from the golf course, the problem areas are somewhat forgotten when its time to "tee it up" in spring. Before the snow falls, the golf course should have a final critique that is recorded so it can be remembered and discussed throughout the winter months. The items to be studied should include problem areas, specific design features, and maintenance procedures that seem to distinguish the golf course.

Some of the areas to be considered would be:

1. Green and bunker design—size, shape, and location.
2. Size and condition of tees.
3. Variety and challenge of each

golf hole as well as the entire golf course.

4. Use of detailed landscape elements.
5. Amount and condition of fairway area.
6. Types, location, and condition of trees.
7. Circulation patterns.

These areas are part of what makes up the character of the golf course. Those who have studied their home golf course and other golf courses found that character is very distinguishable. It is the essential quality that makes a successful golf course a great golf course.

When remodeling is being planned for the golf course, it should be to improve or modernize some area in either design or maintenance. Remodeling that is proposed to drastically change the course to look something like a Florida resort or a Tournament Players course will affect the character and possibly do more harm than good.

Hopefully, the club members, superintendents, professionals,

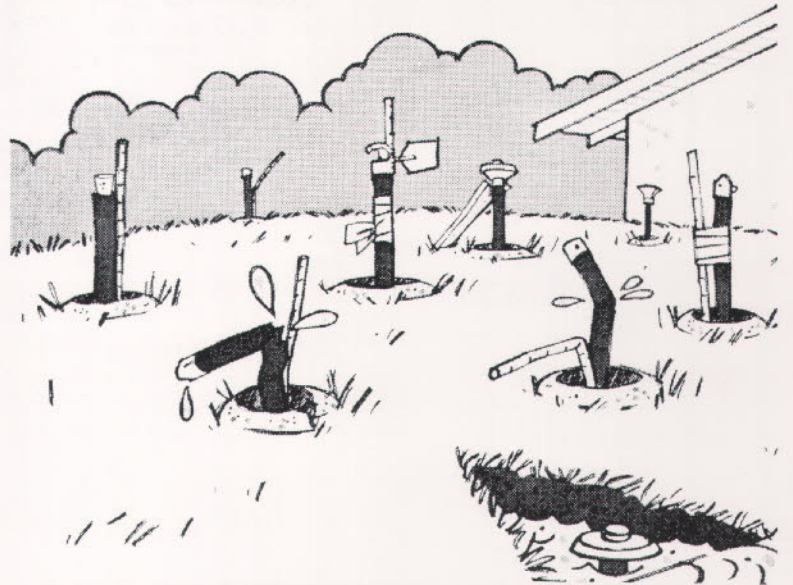
and managers realize the integrity present in their golf course and how it developed over a period of years.

All golf courses need improvement or modernization, but before any work is started, the present course conditions need to be evaluated. It is necessary to look back and analyze what is present, what needs improvement, and how to implement the improvements without destroying the wholeness of the golf course.

A successful golf club is not one that is continually changing, but one that is changing according to a plan that leaves the course playable during construction and recognizable after the work is completed. A great golf course, be it a new model or an old edition, is a creation and not a copy of good golf holes from various courses.

As we advance through this era of improved maintenance procedures and golf equipment, let's not forget about design and its importance in the development and existence of the character of every golf course.

## SPRINKLER SYSTEM PROBLEM?



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**DIRECTIONS**



**IN GOLF COURSE**  
**MANAGEMENT**

It happens every year. Attendees of the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium head home Thursday noon with the feeling that the Symposium was better than ever. The 1984 Symposium left the same impression on many.

The nineteenth annual event, dedicated to the memory of O. J. NOER, marked a departure from the format of previous years when one subject relating to golf turf management was covered in detail. The Symposium committee — Jim Latham, Bob Welch, Wayne Otto, Danny Quast, Woddy Voigt, Jim Belfield and Stan Zontek — felt that the many changes in golf course design and operations, along with new ideas and materials in golf course maintenance, demanded a reassessment by all involved in the physical and the fiscal management of golf courses. This led to a program of speakers that dealt with every im-



University of Wisconsin Professor Dr. John Harkin.

portant phase of golf course management. The theme of the 1984 Symposium was "DIRECTIONS IN GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT."

The job of setting the stage for this year's Symposium was given to Dr. Leo Walsh, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin — Madison. Dean Walsh gave an excellent presentation on the "directions" research at land grant colleges will be taking in the immediate future. He also gave emphasis to the need for private support of user groups to



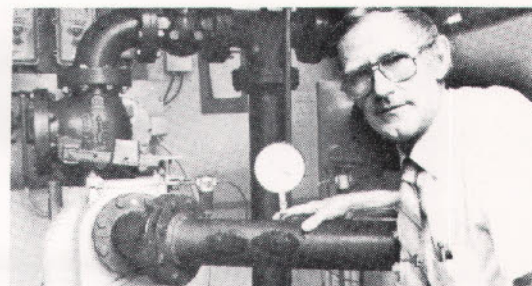
Dr. Leo Walsh, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the UW—Madison, addressed the group on "Directions in Research."

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help finance the kinds of investigations that are necessary for their industry.

Following Dr. Walsh on the podium was Dr. John Harkin, Professor of Soil Science and of Water Resources and Environmental Toxicology at the University of Wisconsin — Madison. Dr. Harkin proved to be one of the most interesting speakers at the Symposium in years. Born and raised in Scotland (what could be more significant at a golf meeting than the presence of a Scotsman?!) and



Session Chairman Roger Bell and Green Section Agronomist Stan Zontek.

educated there and in Germany, Dr. Harkin gave an extremely pointed, relevant and interesting lecture on coping with environmental regulations and activists. He coupled his timely remarks with classroom demonstrations and excellent slides that clarified much of the misinformation we all read and hear about in the use of pesticides. Everyone felt a certain amount of relief in knowing that we have an analytical and courageous person like John Harkin to help when the forces of ignorance and politics combine in an effort to undermine the use of pesticides.

The program continued with more specific information from three disciplines that have intimate involvement in the management of golf turf. Dr. Ray Freeborg, Turf Agronomist from Purdue University, presented some extremely timely information on the direction of herbicide development. Dr. Freeborg, well known in the turfgrass industry for years, had many exciting prospects to share with Golf Course Superintendents and heightened



Session Chairman Bill Roberts and Pathologist Noel Jackson.

everyone's interest in the potential products available in the future.

One of the most "comfortable" speakers at the Symposium in some time was Dr. Roscoe Randell, a professor of Entomology from the University of Illinois. Dr. Randell's talk dealt with directions in insecticide development and application movement. In addition to presenting an outstanding lecture he fielded questions from the floor on the use of insecticides and use rates on the golf course.

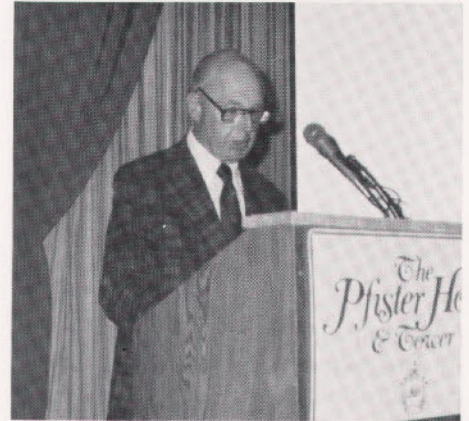
Complementing the talks dealing with entomology and weed science was Plant Pathologist Dr. Noel Jackson from the University of Rhode Island at Kingston. In addition to explaining directions in fungicide development and agronomics in disease control, Dr. Jackson clarified situations relating to changes in the names of causal organisms in turf diseases and gave emphasis to the need to use a broad base of fungicides in golf course disease control. He also expressed the wisdom for Golf Course Superintendents to continue the use of many of the "old" fungicides that



Joe Yuzzi returned to Wisconsin for a second appearance at the Symposium.

are still on the market.

Wednesday's noon luncheon was a memorable affair for everyone involved in golf. The featured speaker was Mr. Frank Hannigan, Senior Executive Director of the United States Golf Association. His insights into the world of golf interested everyone in attendance. The Symposium committee, recognizing the wide appeal of Mr. Hannigan, made arrangements for those outside of the golf course management business to attend the luncheon. It



World famous Golf Course Architect Geoffrey Cornish.



Our Luncheon Speaker, Mr. Frank Hannigan of the United States Golf Association.

was most interesting to hear some "inside" information from the world of golf and to see, in person, the man heard so often on golf telecasts.

The "golf" in Golf Turf Symposium received emphasis from one of the country's most qualified golf course architects. Mr. Geoffrey Cornish, designer of almost 200 golf courses, traveled from his New England headquarters to speak to the subject of trends and directions in golf course design. It was a special

treat for many to meet and listen to the author of one of golf's most interesting and significant books, "THE GOLF COURSE." This book, written by Geoff Cornish, has received wide acclaim and tens of thousands of copies have been purchased.

Joe Yuzzi, Director of Golf and Landscape Maintenance for the Palmaire Corporation in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, spoke on corporate ownership and multiple management of golf courses as another direction deserving attention from Golf Course Superintendents everywhere. He gave an excellent slide presentation of the Palmaire operation he has responsibility for maintaining. Joe, shivering during his entire 3 day visit to Wisconsin, frequently spoke of the sacrifice of a "family" attitude when a Golf Course Superintendent moves into the multiple course operation. This was his second appearance on the Symposium program; he was also one of the speakers in 1971.

We've come to expect nothing but the best from Stan Zontek over the years that he has been the NCR Director of the USGA Green Section, and he came through this



University of Illinois Entomologist Dr. Roscoe Randell.

year as he always has. Stan's role as wrap up and summary speaker was excellent as he delivered his thoughts on directions in golf course management. He tied together the themes presented by other speakers and developed "the big picture" in our business. No one knows or understands this better than Stan.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the O. J. NOER RESEARCH FOUNDATION. The Foundation benefits from funds generated by Symposium registra-

tions and a significant number of dollars have been put into the Foundation from the 19 Symposiums. A very significant announcement was made at the luncheon on Wednesday. Jim Latham introduced the new Research Director of the NOER FOUNDATION, Mr. Charlie Wilson. The turfgrass industry couldn't be more pleased with this development and are happy that these duties are in such capable hands. Charlie's first official act as Research Director was to accept a check for \$2,000 from Joe Yuzzi for turfgrass research. The contribution was given by the Palmaire Corporation.

Such successful programs as the 1984 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium don't just happen. They are the result of endless hours of planning to make sure every detail is handled. Not enough credit can be given to Bob Welch and Jim Latham and their support staff at

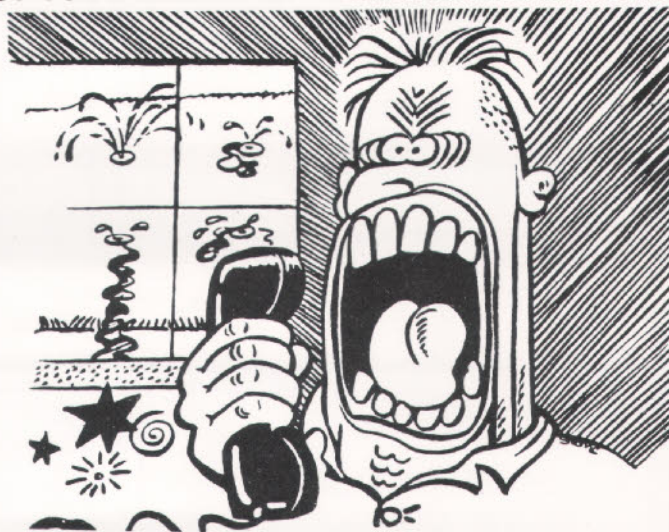
MMSD. The others on the Symposium Committee — Belefield, Wilson, Otto, Quast, Voigt and Zontek — deserve the highest praise for the work they do in ensuring that all the pieces fit.

The quality of this year's meeting has created a problem for the committee next year: how can they top this one?!



Dr. Ray Freeborg speaking on Directions in Herbicides.

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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by

Roger J. Thomas  
V.P., International Sales  
Operations  
Jacobsen Manufacturing Co.



Traveling throughout the World, it has become apparent that superintendents in some foreign countries try to bring their courses to the maintenance perfection of the American golf courses. International television of Championships played in the U.S. encourages foreign superintendents and/or greenkeepers to bring their courses to the same standards.

Some of the practices in foreign golf courses observed in recent years are following the American trend of cutting fairways closer, closer, and closer! In some areas they were cutting at 1" to 1½" on the fairway and were generally pleased with the results. But, the Championships they see played on many of our courses continuously show closely cropped fairways.

In Northern climates they experience basically the same problems that we do here in Wisconsin. Some years they experience high heat, high humidity, stress on Poa, heavy traffic, or insufficient water and sometimes all in one year!

The American superintendents generally have more **formal** education on turf subjects and receive more information from both the local chapters and the G.C.S.A.A.

American superintendents generally feel free to exchange information, visit each other's courses and, in some cases, try to help each other to produce the best turf in the area.

Some foreign Golf Associations are not that strong yet, golf clubs are geographically spread out and do not have the opportunity to exchange information **freely**. They depend on American publications, and are constantly requesting books or articles produced by American professors or publications where superintendents supply ideas that solve problems. All of this leads to the subject of a problem beginning to appear in some countries, including the U.S.

The foreign concepts seem to develop from, "now that we have irrigation, and the grass is green, we can produce golf courses just like those seen on television." "Since the fairways are green, we have to cut them lower and lower to produce the kind of turf we have seen on our visits to the U.S." In some cases, these foreign greenkeepers have placed themselves in difficult situations:

1. Cutting at 1½" on a lumpy or thatchy fairway does **not** really show up the deviations. Cutting at those heights can forgive a lot of 'sins' from showing up.
2. Passing by some of these fairways being watered, I noticed a lot of pockets of water, probably the size of dinner plates! At these lower cutting heights, these deviations really show up in a fairway when cutting low.

So, in approaching "greens-mowing cutting heights," some people do not seem to be aware of the increase in cultural practices that are necessary when you mow closer and closer.

My personal thoughts are that when fairways are cut close enough to begin to approach greens mowing heights, they are going to require similar care as that of a green. Maintenance practices such as top-dressing, overseeding, aeration, fertilization, etc., may have to be done on a regular plan to smooth out the fairways.

The speeds of the machines with which they mow may have to be reduced because traveling at 5 — 6 — 7 miles an hour to mow an uneven fairway being cut at 3/8" certainly is not going to lend itself

to a smooth finish cut. Even with machines of the triplex size, unless the important cultural practices are applied these very low cut fairways can produce problems of uneven cut.

Another thought that occurs to me is that some fairways will require substantial **preparation** for closer mowing. Surely aerification, overseeding, and possible top-dressing should be considered **before** dropping cutting heights to 3/4", 1/2", or 3/8."

The writer is fully aware that superintendents of Wisconsin know what cultural practices are necessary on turf. It would be interesting to hear your comments regarding the idea that "the closer you mow, the more important these cultural practices become." Not being an Agronomist, but being a golf club member, these closely mowed fairways are very attractive to me and other golfers. I have to wonder whether asking for such perfect fairways isn't putting a strain on both the budget and the superintendent. Yet, I see a general trend, even in the U.S., toward this effort of very close mowing with light machinery. One has to wonder if we are going back to labor intensified costs for maintenance of very closely mowed fairways. (Look at what the costs of removing clippings can do to a budget; however, if you have the budget, "go for it".)

Some "food for thought" is to wonder whether players will expect more and more in terms of grooming, but without the increase of dues or fees for larger budgets. Try on a few questions like these before lowering the cutting height on your mowers:

1. Can the grasses on my fairways withstand close mowing **through** the Summer?
2. Are my fairways smooth enough now for close mowing or will it take a period of time to prepare them?
3. Does my budget allow the extra expense of performing the **extra turf maintenance** for ½" high fairways?
4. Are we laying ourselves wide open to all the problems of stress and disease with close mowing **if** we **really** have a 'tough' Summer, i.e., high heat, high humidity, lack of water, etc.?

Please, let's ask ourselves, where this practice of low cutting

is leading; is this trip necessary; and, **where** do we go from here?

*Editor's Note: ROGER J. THOMAS is a native of Green Bay, Wisconsin. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Norbert College, and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

*He is beginning his 37th year with Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc., and has traveled throughout the World in the field of sales and service.*

*Currently, he is Vice President of International Sales and Marketing for Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc., in Racine, Wisconsin, who produce turf maintenance products.*

The selection of Jim Latham was an excellent move by the USGA. He brings along with his many years of experience the kind of formal training required of his new position — a B.S. degree and an M.S. degree from Texas A & M University. It is also a distinct advantage to us that he is so familiar with the midwest golf course industry. Beyond that, it is a pleasant thought to know we will have a good friend in this important USGA position.

Latham's absence will increase the work load at MMSD for Bob Welch, their National Distribution Manager. In addition to replacing Jim, the MMSD is interviewing for a new field agronomist's position.

## ZONTEK LEAVES GREEN SECTION'S NCR; REPLACED BY LATHAM

The Wisconsin golf community is still reeling from surprise as a result of the news that Stanley J. Zontek is leaving the North Central Region. He is moving east to assume the directorship of the Mid-Atlantic Region for the USGA.

Adding to the shock of this move was the announcement that Stan's duties in the NCR will be handled by a new member of the Green Section staff, Mr. James M. Latham. Latham's leaving his position of manager of agronomy and promotion for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to rejoin the Green Section staff. His 25 years of active participation and involvement with the MMSD was pre-

ceded by 3½ years as an agronomist with the USGA.

Very few men in the grass business could have done a better job of developing a region, of capturing the loyalties of that region's Golf Course Superintendents, and have been as influential as Stanley has. Although we are all sad to see him leave, at least we were able to learn from his advice and counsel for four years. Maybe some friendly persuasion will get him back each year for the Symposium and for an occasional WGCSA meeting. Stan, his wife Marti and son Chris plan on settling somewhere between Philadelphia and Baltimore.



Photo taken in 1960; left to right are Charlie Shiley, Ron Verhaalen, Jim Latham, John Stampfl, and Les Verhaalen. Latham joined MMSD in 1960.

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## Wisconsin Pathology Report **Snowmold—too late to treat!?!**

By A. Gayle L. Worf  
Department of Plant Pathology  
Extension Plant Pathologist

Snow may be covering your golf course by the time you read this. If so, I hope that the snowmold fungicides are properly applied and ready to do the job they are asked to do. Snowmold has been, and remains an especially important disease for us in Wisconsin—never mind what they say about the disease just a few miles south of us!

But in spite of our history with the problem, there are always some last minute questions about the “best” way to treat and prevent damage, from older as well as younger superintendents. This article is intended as a quick review of our thoughts on snowmold control, as well as some observations on possible expansion of areas where the disease should be controlled.

Many chemicals have snowmold control listed on their labels. Several of the newer chemicals, such as Chipco 26019, and older materials like Dyrene, and PMA + thiram are labeled and will do the job when pressure is not too great. But our trial results have consistently indicated that the inorganic mercuries (Caloclor or Calogran), when used in combination with either PCNB (such as Terraclor or Actidione RZ) or chloroneb (such as Teremec 65 or Proturf Fungicide II) offer the most dependable results. Rates for each chemical can be cut back from a third to a half where costs are a concern. They mix satisfactorily in the tank, and in some cases the combinations—especially with chloroneb—minimize the subtle turf damage that sometimes follows mercury and Actidione RZ treatments. Where the history of tough snowmold control exists, mid-fall treatments with Daconil or possibly some other fungicides increase snowmold control activity.

It's worth a reminder to recall that not all snowmolds are alike. In addition to “pink” (*Fusarium nivale*) and “gray” (*Typhula*), there are at least two species of the latter. *T. ishikariensis*—the one that produces pepper seed-sized



sclerotia—occurs more in the north, while *T. incarnata* predominates in southern Wisconsin. But their twains do meet, and some pathologists believe their differences in reaction to fungicides helps account for the control variation sometimes observed. At any rate, I firmly believe that it pays to have a mixture containing more than one chemical for those spots that I really cannot stand to have snowmold on next spring.

Either granular or wettable powder formulations are equally effective.

Dormant fertilizing doesn't increase snowmold. When snowmold occurs, it helps with the early spring mending process.

Timing is maybe not as critical as we used to think it was. For years, it was “known” that you had to be miserable when putting on these chemicals—you had to be doing it just ahead of the “first per-

manent snowfall.” But the plot experiences tend to question whether much is gained by waiting until late November—and taking chances with an early snow fall, to say nothing of the atrocious weather—rather than applying it on a more pleasant day earlier in the month.

It looks to me that some of our highly maintained fairways take a lot more abuse from snowmold than they really ought to. Last year, for instance, some pink snowmold holes were still evident into mid-July. And if a person were trying to minimize *Poa* encroachment, the importance of those holes become even more evident. We can't use mercuries on fairways legally, but PCNB is both legal, reasonably effective, and reasonably economical. I'm surprised that more courses are not treating their fairways this way. There's some evidence that we can enhance effectiveness by trading off a couple ounces of PCNB for chloroneb, plus a little benzimidazole (Tersan 1991, Fungo 50, etc.), or maybe Daconil. The exact rates and combinations deserve some more attention. We plan to do some of that again this fall.

October 31, 1984

## TURFGRASS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FROM THE UW—MADISON



Left to right: Brian Birrenkott; Larry Lennert; James Love, Academic Advisor; Wayne Horman; and Jerry Grzan.

Four outstanding students enrolled in the UW—Madison turfgrass management program in the Department of Soil Science were winners of scholastic awards from the turf industry. Larry Lennert is the 1984-1985 recipient of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association scholarship, and Jerry Grzan received a GCSAA scholarship. Wayne Horman has the distinction of receiving the first TUCO Turf Scholarship given to a UW—Madison student. Brian Birrenkott was chosen winner of the 1984-1985 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Scholarship.

Congratulations to these young men. They are the future lifeblood of our profession and we are particularly proud of them.

# SECOND ANNUAL WTA FIELD DAY: TWO IMPRESSIONS

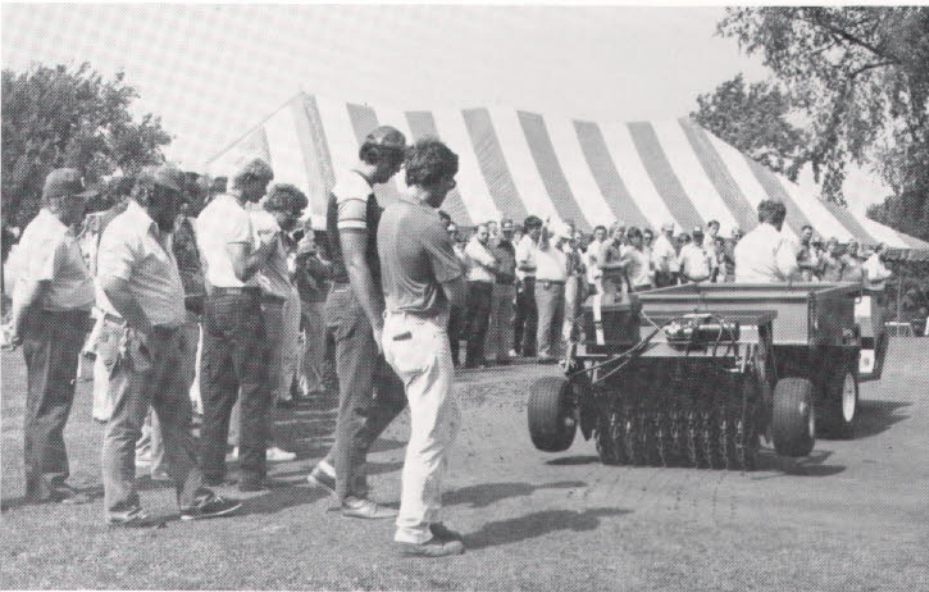
## WTA FIELD DAY BEST EVER

*By Tom Harrison*

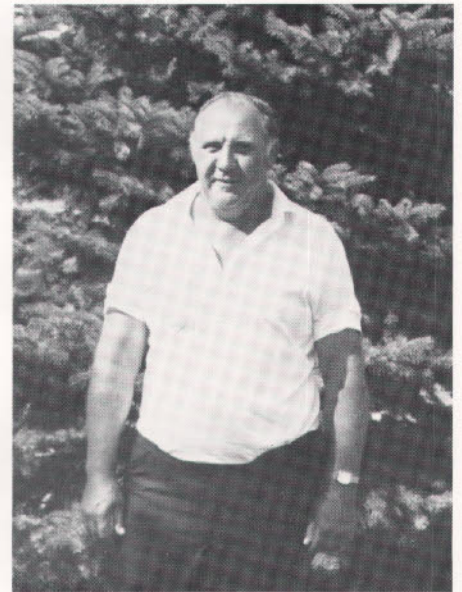
The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association held its 2nd Annual Field Day August 27, 1984 at the Oconomowoc Country Club. Over 250 turf professionals attended the popular late summer event. Visitors from seven midwestern states and as far away as Canada and California attended. WTA board member, Ed Devinger, was in charge of the day's activities and with the assistance of host superintendent Harvey Miller everyone had a very enjoyable day.

Turf equipment and irrigation demonstrations kept everyone interested throughout the day. The equipment was spread over five acres giving everyone a chance to see and test everything present. Dr. Gayle Worf, U.W. extension plant pathologist; Dr. Dan Mahr, extension entomologist; and Dr. Robert Newman, extension horticulturist, also were in attendance to discuss turf problems with the day's participants. Dr. Worf had extensive turf test plots for everyone to view. His work, planned in Feb. of '84, laid out and started in May of '84 and carefully tended throughout the summer was filled with valuable test data on many new products as well as updated information on many current materials.

The day was a tremendous success for everyone in attendance, suppliers, researchers and the WTA. Next year's field day is already in the planning stages with the hope that everyone will keep a day free to attend this interesting and informative event.



Coring demonstration.



Host Harvey Miller



Dr. Worf explains 1984 field trials at Oconomowoc CC.



WTA President Tom Harrison with Dr. Dan Mahr and Dr. Gayle Worf.





Dr. Bob Newman visits with Ric Lange, GCS of Reedsburg CC.



A full spectrum of equipment was available for inspection and demonstration.



Equipment was available for "hands on" use.



Panoramic view of group inspection of research plots.

## 1984 WTA SUMMER FIELD DAY

*By Ed Devinger*

The 2nd Annual WTA Summer Field Day was a huge success. Oconomowoc Country Club and Harvey Miller proved to be the perfect hosts for the August 27, 1984 event.

Despite the early weather problems (rain, hail, etc.), it cleared up around 8:00 A.M. and everything got rolling. Coffee and "home-made" sweet rolls were served as the people registered. At 10:00 A.M., Dr. Robert Newman gave a brief summary of what test plots there were to view. An aerification demonstration was held at 11:00 A.M. on the practice green. Lunch was served from 11:30-1:30 so it was not necessary to stand in line. After lunch, Dr. Gayle Worf gave his explanation of the extensive turf plots, on the #1 fairway, that he had been working on all season. It was evident that Dr. Gayle Worf spent many hours to set up the plots so that many products and combinations of products could be evaluated. Our thanks to Dr. Worf.

The attendance was 254 and the WTA wants to thank everyone for joining us. All of the comments were favorable. It appears that this is an annual event.

A very special WTA "THANK YOU" to each and every exhibitor. Without their support and participation, this type of field day would not be possible. Please thank them with your business.

Lastly, we are proud to announce that this event raised in excess of \$4,400.00 to support turfgrass research in Wisconsin.

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