



# THE GRASS ROOTS



an official publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume XVI, No. 2

March/April 1989

## “BEST EVER” WTA Conference Held in Waukesha!

By Monroe S. Miller

It was at least a consensus, if not an outright unanimous opinion — the 1989 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Winter Turfgrass Conference and Annual Meeting was the best ever sponsored by the WTA. It was the 7th consecutive Winter Conference held by the association.

The rave reviews were in no way meant to diminish previous meetings. The same emotions seem to prevail after each one — “they keep getting better.” Such comments demonstrate that the conference planning committee takes lessons learned from the previous year and applies them to the next one.

This year’s committee deserves a standing ovation. Wayne Otto, Gary Zwirlein, Dave Payne, Bill Vogel and Ed Devinger decided to take a bold step and move the program to a two-day format for the first time. There simply wasn’t enough time in previous years to attend the educational sessions, visit the product displays, go to the annual meeting and visit with colleagues all in one day. And the day was significantly shorter for those with a long drive.

The second change initiated by the committee was a site change. The move from the Waukesha County Expo Center to the Country Inn was timed perfectly. The Country Inn is a beautiful facility, seemingly planned just for our meeting. Many took advantage of the situation and stayed overnight. The food and service were both outstanding; the location is very convenient for travelers. The meeting



Professor Chuck Koval’s return to the WTA podium was very welcome.



Guest speaker and former Milwaukee Brewer pitcher Pete Vukovich. He made a lot of new friends on that Wednesday. He is flanked by Terry Kurth (L) and Gary Zwirlein (R).

rooms were comfortable (even if too small for at least one lecture!) and the table top display room met every need.

The most important reason to attend a meeting like the Winter Conference, however, is still education. The program was excellent, headed by our faculty and staff from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Wayne Kussow, Dr. Chuck Koval and Jana Stewart from the UW were joined by Dick Schneider from the Milwaukee County UW Extension office. The USGA’s Jim Latham gave his usual superb presentation. Industry experts on the program included Brady Surrena from Fermenta, Mark Grundman from Northrup King, John Turner from NOR-AM, Christine Madderom from Waupaca Materials and John DeMatteo from the Loft Seed Co.

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