



Two New Features in this issue — See pages 29 and 33.



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WTA FIELD DAY ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBERS

By Monroe S. Miller

The seventh annual Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day drew a record number of both exhibitors and participants, according to Field Day co-chairmen Tom Harrison and Tom Schwab. The field at Yahara Hills was a beautiful site to behold — dark green turfgrass, brightly colored tents and an extremely impressive array of the latest in turf machinery.

One of the main purposes of a field day is to help golf course superintendents (and others) to make their buying decisions. And what an opportunity everybody had on August 22nd! Exhibitors were on the perimeter of a substantial practice field. The interior grassed area was available for any hands-on demonstration — aerifiers, rotaries, reel mowers, tractors, sprayers, trenchers and every other kind of equipment used in operating a golf course. It was in use almost constantly from opening until the afternoon finale.

Another field day tradition in our business is the inspection of plot work by turfgrass faculty members. Professors Kussow, Newman and Worf did a splendid job with fertility and variety trials, fungicide evaluation work, a bluegrass transplant study, renovation projects and several disease control studies. All were very interesting and instructive. Professor Koval from the UW-Madison Entomology Department was there and we were fortunate to have a visit from Dr. Herb Hopen, chairman of the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture.

The WTA Field Day again this year seemed to attract rain. Four of the seven field days that have been held have seen rain either the night before



WTA Director and Camelot owner Red Roskopf.

or the day of the event. Rain fell over a good portion of the state on Monday night, but few places received as much as Yahara Hills. Ron Schara's rain gauge showed an overnight total of 1.75", despite the fact that the Madison airport received only 0.5". Fortunately the field area is well drained and the rain did little to dampen the day's activities.

What may have been dampened was the potential attendance. Rain in the morning of an event like this tends to keep superintendents close to the golf course until the weather clears or until a determination can be made about closing, golf carts and all of the other problems that crop up on a rainy morning. Sod producers have to decide whether or not to harvest and take orders. Lawn care companies and landscape contractors have to decide whether to work or send crews home. WTA directors feel the attendance would have been much higher without the rain.

But no one complained about the

moisture — recent summers have been too dry for such complaining. The standing rule for the WTA Field Day is "the show goes on, regardless of the weather."

For those who travelled to Yahara Hills, the trip was worth it. New equipment and new products, old friends and the latest in turfgrass research are always draws to really progressive golf course superintendents. And many of them anxiously await the 1991 Field Day when it will be held at the NOER CENTER.

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