

varieties Penncross, Penneagle, Pennlinks. This suggests that the *R. zea* isolates are weakly pathogenic.

It is imperative to correctly identify the *Rhizoctonia* spp. responsible for a turfgrass disease prior to implementation of control measures. Otherwise, control may be ineffective, since these fungi have been found to be differentially susceptible to prescribed fungicides (10). There are many contact and systemic fungicides that are labeled for and provide good control of *Rhizoctonia* blight, especially when applied on a preventive schedule. Care should be taken when choosing a fungicide because PCNB, chlorothalonil and iprodione have been observed to have activity against *R. solani*, *R. zea* and *R. oryzae*, whereas benzimidazole type fungicides, such as benomyl and thiophanate methyl, are efficacious only on *R. solani* (10).

Today we know that the evil Rhizocids that attack turf include *R. solani*, *R. zea*, *R. oryzae* and *R. cerealis*. *Rhizoctonia solani* is Wisconsin's most aggressive Rhizocid while the others are either mildly aggressive or undetermined. What will the next century's scientists tell us about these fungi? Hopefully advancements will be made in our understanding of these fungi and the diseases that they cause so that fungicide usage on golf courses will decrease. Unfortunately, until we learn more about these evil villains they will continue to cause damage.

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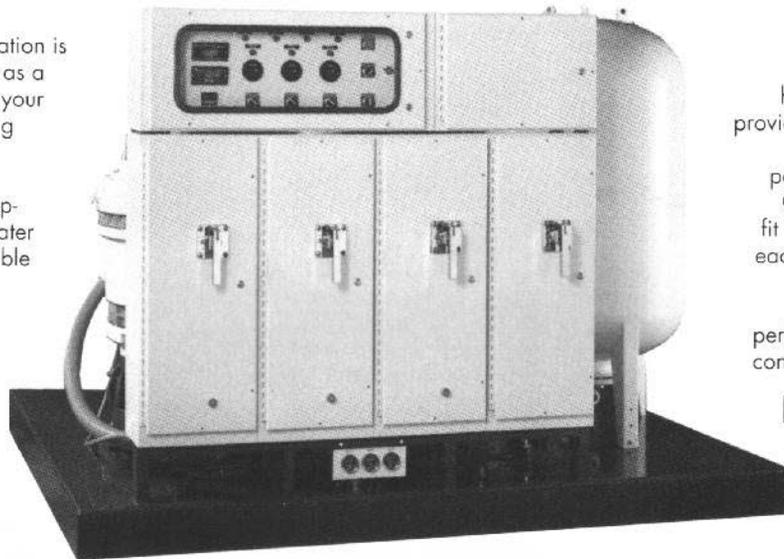
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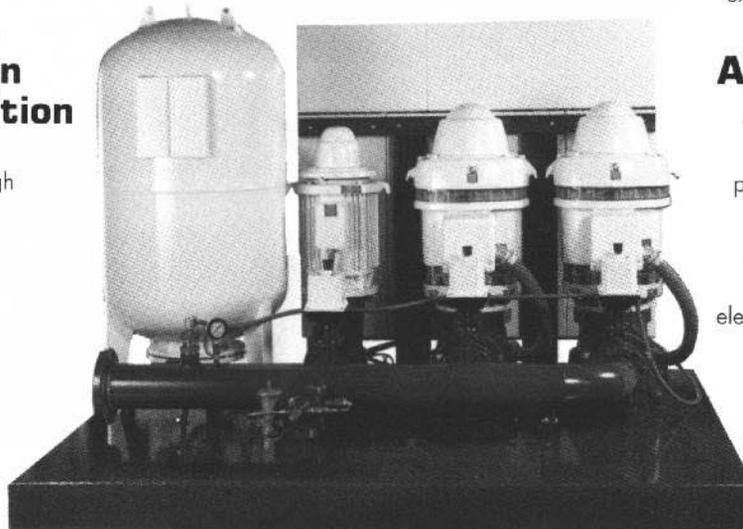
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HALLOWEEN at the COUNTRY Clubs

By Monroe S. Miller

"Heh. Heh. Heh." Pee Wee Ellis chuckled to himself as he tapped the last hinge pin into the steel door of the new rest station at Holstein Hills Country Club in southwest Wisconsin. Pee Wee's glee had less to do with the satisfaction that the new rest station would be appreciated by the players at HHCC, and more to do with the simple fact that the Huffland boys wouldn't be able to tip it over on Halloween.

Johnny Huffland and his three sons were the friendly competition over at the Golden Guernsey Golf Club a few miles away. The Ellis' and the Hufflands had been friends for years, as long as the kids could remember and for as long as John and Pee Wee had owned these two golf courses. Both men had been born on farms in this driftless, unglaciated hilly part of Wisconsin and loved living there. Neither, however, enjoyed all the work involved with a dairy herd—milking twice a day, every day of the year—and had found owning and operating a golf course a reasonable compromise.

Make no mistake about it—these two golf clubs were "country" clubs through and through. They are, literally, in the country, surrounded by contoured fields of corn and oats and alfalfa. A look in any direction from any green on either golf course yields a view of red barns and blue silos and herds of dairy cattle—Guernseys and Jerseys and Brown Swiss and Holsteins (and even a herd of Ayrshires at the Noble farm just east of GGGC).

Out here, country club has a more literal meaning. For example, denim attire by patron golfers was common and, at a time when many country clubs ban denim, both Pee Wee and John viewed it as the best wear for outdoor activity. "We don't even look down on a golfer who happens to wear bib overalls," Pee Wee said. "At

least as long as they are clean," John added.

Green fees are five bucks at both places for 18 holes of golf, and carts are eight dollars for a full round. Score cards are bare bones, as is most of the tee and green equipment. Signage is mounted on steel fence posts, ballwashers are found only occasionally and water coolers do not exist. Sometimes during the season, when they are really busy on the golf course, charges are on the honor system: "Leave the money in the empty golf ball box in the pro shop," the handwritten sign instructed.

Both of these country clubs are clean and neat and well kept; simplicity seems their guide. Landscaping is natural and low maintenance. Flowers are plentiful but consist of old fashioned varieties like hollyhock, morning glory and big, bright and bold sunflowers.

But course conditions are really good, especially the greens. Green speed isn't an issue, so heights are at 3/16" (or more during stress periods). There is little disease, and when there is an outbreak, only those infected areas are treated. Golf courses and golf course management are really different in the country.

Pee Wee and Johnny work together all year long, or almost all year long. They share aerifiers and a couple of crew members when that time rolls around; if one experiences a breakdown of any sort, the other is there to help; and supplies are swapped back and forth as they might be needed.

But all cooperation and communication are out the window when the middle of October rolls around. For generations out in that neck of the Wisconsin woods, neighbors and friends were all looking over their shoulders with suspicious eyes when Halloween was around the corner. Halloween has no philosophical or

patriotic background like most holidays do. It is a risky holiday in rural communities, however, when being a little bit naughty is perfectly okay. A lot of creativity has gone into that naughtiness over the years.

(Continued on page 25)

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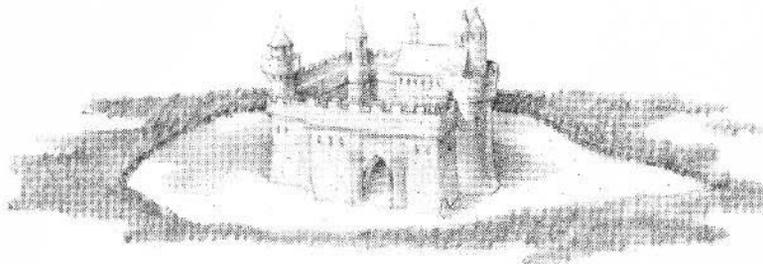

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(Continued from page 23)

Everybody has heard how, years ago when outdoor privies were common, most of them were tipped over at Halloween. John and Pee Wee had, during their younger years, tipped over their share. That is why Pee Wee was so happy with his new outdoor privy—no more standing it back up and cleaning it on November 1st.

Ellis and Huffland had white washed dairy cattle on Halloween, cattle that had been locked in barns for safety; that had only made the challenge greater! Trick or treat! They had cleaned out pumpkin patches, let the air out of tires on farm equipment in the old neighborhood, and a thousand other tricks that would ring familiar with anyone who grew up on a farm.

Funny thing—when they became golf course owners instead of farmers, the Halloween holiday traditions stayed the same; only the tricks were different.

There was the time, for example, when Pee Wee sneaked over to the Golden Guernsey golf course at 2:00 a.m. Halloween night with his kids. They had several bags of Sacrete, some water, trowels and empty pails. Using the smallest flashlight to get around the course, in two hours they had carefully and neatly cemented every flagstick into the cup on all 18 greens on the course and the 9 half cups on the putting green. They all giggled on the way home, proud of their coup over the Hufflands. They got home, slept a few hours and went to work on their own course.

The first thing they found was their shelter house on its side. "Damn that Johnny Huffland," Pee Wee grumbled.

Another year, the Hufflands had saved bulky trash for the whole year—fertilizer bags (they used Milorganite, so they had lots of them), boxes that everything thing from Banner fungicide to Titlist golf bags had come in, 2 1/2 and 5 gallon plastic jugs, and hundreds of one gallon milk cartons. You name it and they had probably saved it. "This has been a real pain in the neck," Johnny complained with a smile as he and the boys loaded the whole collection into their pickup truck, one-ton Ford dump truck and the chopper boxes they had borrowed from their neighbors.

At the stroke of midnight the cara-

van of trash sneaked over to Holstein Hills. One of the boys went ahead, scouting the route and reporting back over their Motorola radios. They quietly and carefully dumped it all at the entrance to HHCC, thinking it their best all-time Halloween pimp on Pee Wee.

Until they got up the next morning only to find the Ellis' had loaded it all up and hauled it back to their shop yard! They hadn't been nearly as neat as the Hufflands—it was a holy mess!

One cold, rainy Halloween two years ago the weather was so miserable that the Hufflands had let their guard down and gave up their plans for any trickery at Holstein Hills. "It is just too lousy out," John said to the boys, subconsciously thinking Pee Wee would look at it the same way.

He was wrong, very wrong. Pee Wee had spent a couple of days lining up a loader tractor, a 100 h.p. tractor that could handle a 240 bushel PTO manure spreader. Until this rain it had been dry, opening the door for Pee Wee's plan to fertilize the Golden Guernsey roughs. "It wasn't that bad," Pee Wee said later. "The big Ford I borrowed had a cab and a heater and I was toasty warm while watching the spreader beaters cast fresh cow manure between fairways! And it was from a herd of Holsteins!" He loved

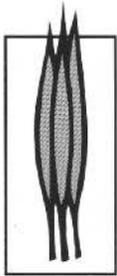
his victory and the thought of the fresh country air golfers would experience the last few days of the golf season pleased him endlessly.

Over the years these two families tried everything at Halloween. Ponds on the courses had been dyed odd colors, and the greens had also. Huffland had wired a 4-wheel flatbed trailer to an old woven wire fence in Ellis' shop yard and when PeeWee hooked up to it the next morning he pulled 16 rods of that old fence out! Pee Wee had stuck John Deere decals on all of Johnny's Ford equipment, making him madder than a wet hen. They had tied women's underwear to flagsticks, pulleyed pieces of equipment into trees, and somehow gotten sod pallets on top of the barn that served as a shop. The air had been let out of every single tire of an entire golf car fleet, and the next year it became a copy cat trick!

Which all brings us back to Pee Wee's new shelter house and Halloween this year. The Huffland boys had the last laugh. True, they couldn't tip it over like they had the old one so many times in the years before. But a steel door, a steel door frame, and portable welder and a generator...

Happy Halloween from the COUNTRY clubs! ♣





NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

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

The planning committee for the WTA Summer Field Day made a big attempt to attract more attendance and make the day more informative for the 1997 show. Some things worked, other things didn't. The biggest change was to try a two-day format for the first time since the show started in 1983. Another change was to move the trade show to the new six-acre addition of the Noer Facility. Simply outgrowing the previous location mandated that change. The last big change was on the educational tour. More signage and marking paint were used on the plots than ever before. The tour also returned to a more formal schedule with each stop given a set amount of time to keep the crowds flowing in an organized fashion.

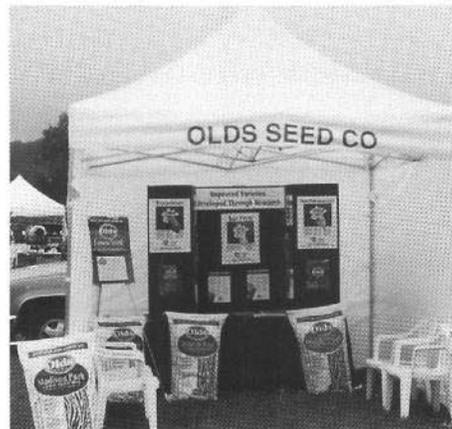
The attendance was only slightly less than previous years. 445 people came when counting both vendors and attendees, which was 31 short of last year. Onsite registration may have been less because the weather was less than ideal. The temperatures stayed in the 60's and some annoying sprinkles occurred both days. Other than that, everyone was puzzled as to why attendance dropped.

The display of research covered more subjects than previous years. There were specific studies for sod growers and athletic field managers along with the golf and general turf culture studies. The vendors put on an awesome trade show as usual. They offer such a great opportunity to compare products side by side and have so much information to help you do your job better.

The two-day format was tried so that if a person had a conflict making the show on one of the days there would be another optional day to attend. The same information was presented both days but at different times of the day. The first day was more of an afternoon show and the



It was all there at the 1997 Field Day!



Olds Seed was present, as they always are.

second day was a morning one. The different times of day were planned to also try to fit people's schedules better.

Some attendees and vendors liked the two-day format but most people didn't. We know most people didn't from the responses received from the post conference questionnaire. Many responses were very constructive and will help in planning future field days. A grouping of the responses are shown below. The planning committee used those responses and



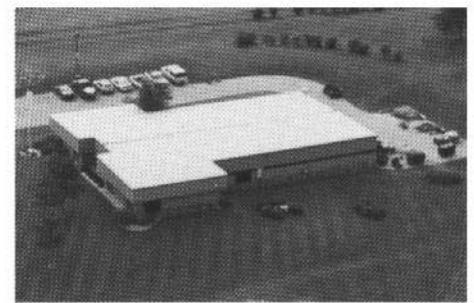
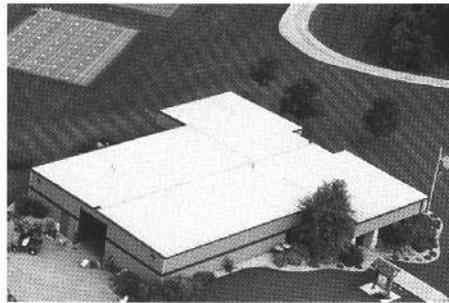
A line-up of the latest in grass machinery.

their own observations to already make plans for 1998. Future plans are discussed below also.

The categories of the responses are in bold. An asterisks means their was more than one of the same comment. Here are a few of the constructive questionnaire responses.

Research Tour

- Spend more time on the plots *
- Go back to one day but have two research tours in that one day *
- More on chemicals and diseases



Three different aerial views of the Noer Facility just immediately prior to Field Day.

- More herbicide trials
- More pest identification
- More on turf and weed identification
- Need more Kentucky bluegrass, and tall fescue cultivars trials
- Have research on ball mark and divot repair techniques
- Need more comparisons between the different turfgrass mixtures that are sold in the state
- Enjoyed different bentgrass cultivar trials and their different mowing heights
- Greens construction and their different organic matter contents was interesting



College leaders — Assoc. Dean Doug Maxwell, Acting Dean Neal Jorgensen, and Department Chair Larry Binning.



A hydraulic fluid recovery study whose results can help almost all of us.

Trade Show

- One day only *
- Condense exhibitor space *
- Enjoyed more spacious area, easier to move around in *
- Need more attendees *
- Have food tent in the center with vendors around it
- Mow the general trade show turf shorter and let demos mow at 2-2.5 inch height

Equipment Demos

- Would like to demo equipment at green and tee height *
- Don't need equipment demos
- Have each vendor demo one machine or product and give a short presentation on it.

Auction

- Need more items such as golf packages
- Need more smaller items
- Auction should be under a tent and have a permanent attendant to answer questions *
- Great, get more stuff
- More space and have placards for company donating items

Other

- Should be one day *
- Change date (two to three weeks earlier). Summer employees leave

- around field day *
- Have field day in late September or early October
- Better placement of and more porta potties and trash cans
- To get larger crowds need to combine with other shows (landscapers, grounds maintenance and lawn care professionals)
- Need more attendees *
- Have more and better tour guides
- Have door prize to give away something like a 27 inch TV to get attendance up
- Give prizes to people that visit X number of vendors
- Need more attendees, maybe try combining field day with a golf outing afterwards *
- Have vendors donate \$25 to give away in a drawing to attendees that visit all booths
- Adding a second day and dinner was great
- Ask the attendees in the survey whether the trade show is still important to them
- More breakfast rolls and coffee
- Don't conflict the dates with surrounding state's field days
- Hand out or post agenda of the days events
- Have open house inside the facility

- Turf plots get better each year
- Send out reminder cards
- Would like to hear from other turf professionals to see how they view each growing season
- Have safety class for equipment operators

We will be doing our best to mold these responses into a field day that is ever more educational and will draw greater attendance. The changes that have already been decided on are to go back to a one-day show. We are also changing the date to a week earlier. The date has always been the third Tuesday of August. It will be the second Wednesday of August next year which should proceed the loss of everyone's summer help and yet will be late enough for the researchers to have results from their summer's work.

We will take many of the other suggestions into account next year also. Write me if you have more suggestions or if you would just like to add your vote to one of the above. They can be anonymous or not. I'll get the suggestions to the planning committee. We'd like to hear all your

(Continued on page 29)



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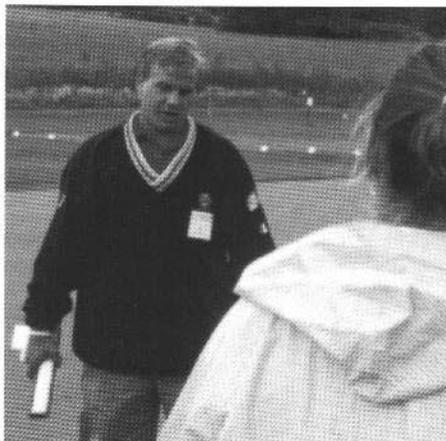
suggestions because "nothing ventured, nothing gained." The two main suggestions we are looking for are how to improve your educational benefit from Field Day and how to increase attendance. Other ideas are important also. Send them to Tom/Noer Turfgrass Research/ 3101 Hwy M/ Verona, WI/ 53593. Let me know if you would like to help plan or work during the field day also. You may be just the one needed to make the day even better. You could help on the planning committee, help publicize the event, be a tour guide, work the auction, help the vendors and demos, organize parking, or help inform attendees about the day's agenda.

Listed below are the 1997 Summer Field Day exhibitors. They do a lot to make the field day a success every year. Please show them your gratitude by giving them your business throughout the year. Thank you.

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- Terra International
- Tiziani Golf Cars
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Jeff Gregos, TDDL director, visits about the newly constructed pathology plots.



Dr. Wayne Kussow holding court on bentgrass plots at Field Day.



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