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## ABOUT THE COVER

The name Audubon has long been associated with bird life in America. In more recent years, it has become linked with environmentalism. And the last few years have seen Audubon's good name tied to our country's golf courses.

Jennifer Samerdyke's interpretation of John James Audubon's bird art and a cameo sketch of him complement a piece in this issue that tries to tell us who this man was.

*My eyes closed, the breeze took me back  
Took me back to another home, another time  
Early spring, gentle rolling dairy state farms*

*Brilliant blue sky behind slowly rolling cumulus*

*The rain spots shining along pavement's side*

*Gentle glacier cut valley, bluffs in beauty  
Below the earth sleeps ahead of spring's*

*coming thaw and planters' seed  
High upon the wide sky geese come home,  
home again.*

*Where does this breeze come from, down  
from Canadian north bound train upon  
an arctic blast racing down the smooth  
prairie and humble hills that offer no  
resistance from winter's chill.*

*But oh God, upon closed eyes, that breeze  
lifts up, refreshes and invigorates my  
slumbered soul and body's night.*

*Sweet Wisconsin rolling through my minds  
content*

*Small burgers nestled still, offered a home to  
this weary rootless traveler in search of  
my past and of an America gone.*

MY WISCONSIN  
By Michael Finch

## THE GRASS ROOTS

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER  
Monroe S. Miller  
Blackhawk Country Club  
P.O. Box 5129  
Madison, WI 53705  
groots@globaldialog.com

EDITORIAL STAFF AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
Dave Brandenburg  
P.O. Box 314  
Theresa, WI 53091



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# Quality Time

By Scott Schaller, North Shore Golf Club



As you read this message, the 70th annual GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show will be complete. Each year I look forward to attending the national convention. Always just before I am leaving for home, I am thinking about how all of this was put on for our professional improvement. It's amazing to participate in the educational opportunities, the trade show presentations,

the camaraderie among golf course superintendents and all the information that is shared at one of these conferences. Hopefully, all the WGCSA members who attended the conference this year benefited from it.

This year I took my family with me to the show and I extended the time away from home an extra week for a vacation in Orlando. It was great to spend some QUALITY TIME with my family. I use the words "quality time" because this is a term that I hear very often around the Schaller household. Probably too often.

What does it mean? For me personally, it means to

spend time, especially quality time, with the ones you care about the most. My children are seven, five and three years old. I confess, my family is young and this time spent made me realize I need to make much more time like this in the future. It is easier to do these types of things in the off season, but I need to do it more during the golf season. Before I know it, they will be grown up and gone and I will have missed my opportunity.

Speaking of quality, our "Grass Roots" magazine shares with all the WGCSA members quality information on a bimonthly basis. Editor Monroe Miller did it again, for the 15th consecutive year, the "Grass Roots" has won BEST in its category. This award is given annually by the GCSAA. Monroe, you continuously succeed with this publication and members of the WGCSA appreciate all you do to put out this outstanding product. Congratulations!

Well, the waiting game for spring will soon be over and the 1999 golf season will be upon us. I am hoping each and every member of the WGCSA gets off to a good start and ends with a great golf season. Take care and I hope to see you soon at one of our monthly meetings.





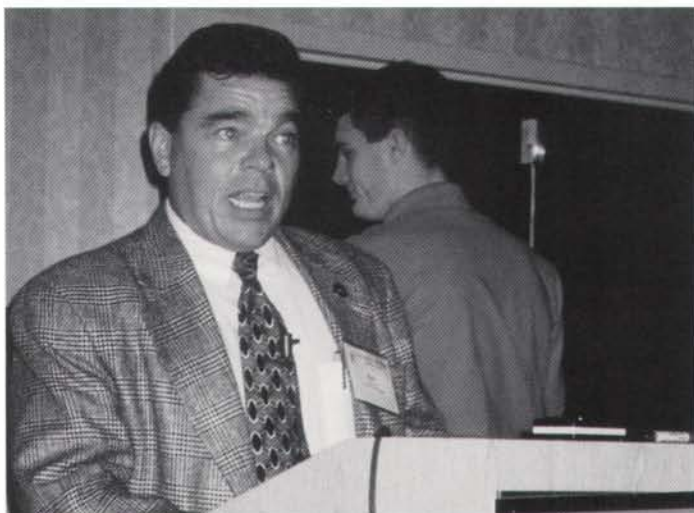
# EXPO- What a Way to Start the Year!

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

The WTA Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO is always a wonderful way to start the New Year. The 510 people attending this year's event gathered new ideas and gained new enthusiasm about the industry. The 510 people included 343 attendees and 167 sales professionals. They were all treated to great educational presentations on past successes and future trends. The trade show was equally superior, with 63 exhibits of turf-care equipment and products. Finally, EXPO provided a great meeting place for friends and peers to share their business and personal adventures in the off-season.

This was the 16th annual winter conference hosted by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the 6th time it has occurred at the Madison West Marriott location. The planning committee of Chris Wendorf (chairman), Paul Huggett, Audra Anderson, Jeff Gregos, Rich Riggs, John Stier, Wayne Kussow, and myself invested many hours organizing this year's show. The first order-of-business was to gather speakers with important information for three different audiences: athletic field, lawn care/landscape, and golf. Local experts as well as speakers from Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, and Washington were met with enthusiasm from the audience.

The educational talks occur during three concurrent sessions, which makes it impossible to attend all the talks you want to hear. I've included a short summary from some of the presentations that I attended, although these represent just a sample of the variety and high quality of this year's show.



Among the speakers was the president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects—Wisconsin's own Bob Lohmann.

\* Elton Aberle (Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and keynote speaker at the opening session) - A major effort is underway to increase the University's budget, including adding 100 to 150 new faculty positions. The Dean also mentioned that he would like to be an active partner in the Pesticide Use in Schoolyards Programs, Food Quality Protection Act, and Wisconsin Strategic Information Project.

\* Dave Mellor (Milwaukee Brewers) - Think about safe fields first, healthy turf second, attractive patterns third. Syringing, rolling, and use of iron enhances striping patterns. Always take lots of pictures to document your efforts. Athletic field patterns can be art.

\* Bob Lohmann (Lohmann Golf Designs) - Design a signature hole near the entrance/exit road to excite customers as they are arriving and to remind them to come back as they are leaving. Wide fairways are in because they speed play, allow golfers to use their drivers more, and make golfers think more strategically

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about where to place those drives. The trend for new golf course design is back to the way old golf courses were designed.

\* Brian Swingle (Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection) - WDATCP is dedicated to maintaining consistency, integrity, and validity in the pesticide applicator certification process. He clarified commonly asked questions about posting landscapes after spraying and described a national initiative to raise standards for pesticide certification and training for the 21st century. He also told a funny story about his brother having a bumper sticker that read "Avoid Pesticides - Eat Organic Food." Brian countered by finding a more balanced bumper sticker that read "Get Your Priorities Right - Hug a Kid, Not a Tree."

\* Todd Edlebeck (Lambeau Field) - Weather stations are a great tool. Evergreen tarps, for seed germination, are also great. A winning season for the Packers can double the number of media cameras to cover a game and double the number of volunteers for snow removal. It takes about 120 gallons of latex paint to prepare a field for a game. Heating systems are not a cure-all for late season football games because often times ice will still form under tarps. That ice has to be broken and removed, and then the field needs to be repainted to be ready for players by 9:30 am.

\* Eric Nelson (Jacklin Golf) - New cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass (Kbg) have better pest resistance, shade tolerance, color, low height-of-cut tolerance, and denser growth than older ones. Kbg fairways provide more color contrast with the putting green than bent-grass fairways. Fairway contours can be changed on an impulse when fairways and roughs are planted to the same cultivars of Kbg.

\* Tom Smith (Grass Roots) - The true cost of labor for an \$8/hour employee is around \$35/hour when factoring in worker efficiency, cost of materials, equipment, and overhead. We have to learn how to market and sell IPM as an entity in itself.

\* Wayne Kussow (UW-Madison, Soils Department) - Use fertilizer with at least 35% slow release nitrogen. Fertilizers that rely solely on moisture for nitrogen release are only recommended on areas that receive lots of supplemental irrigation and not for the homeowner. Proper fertility will significantly help turf out-compete weeds.

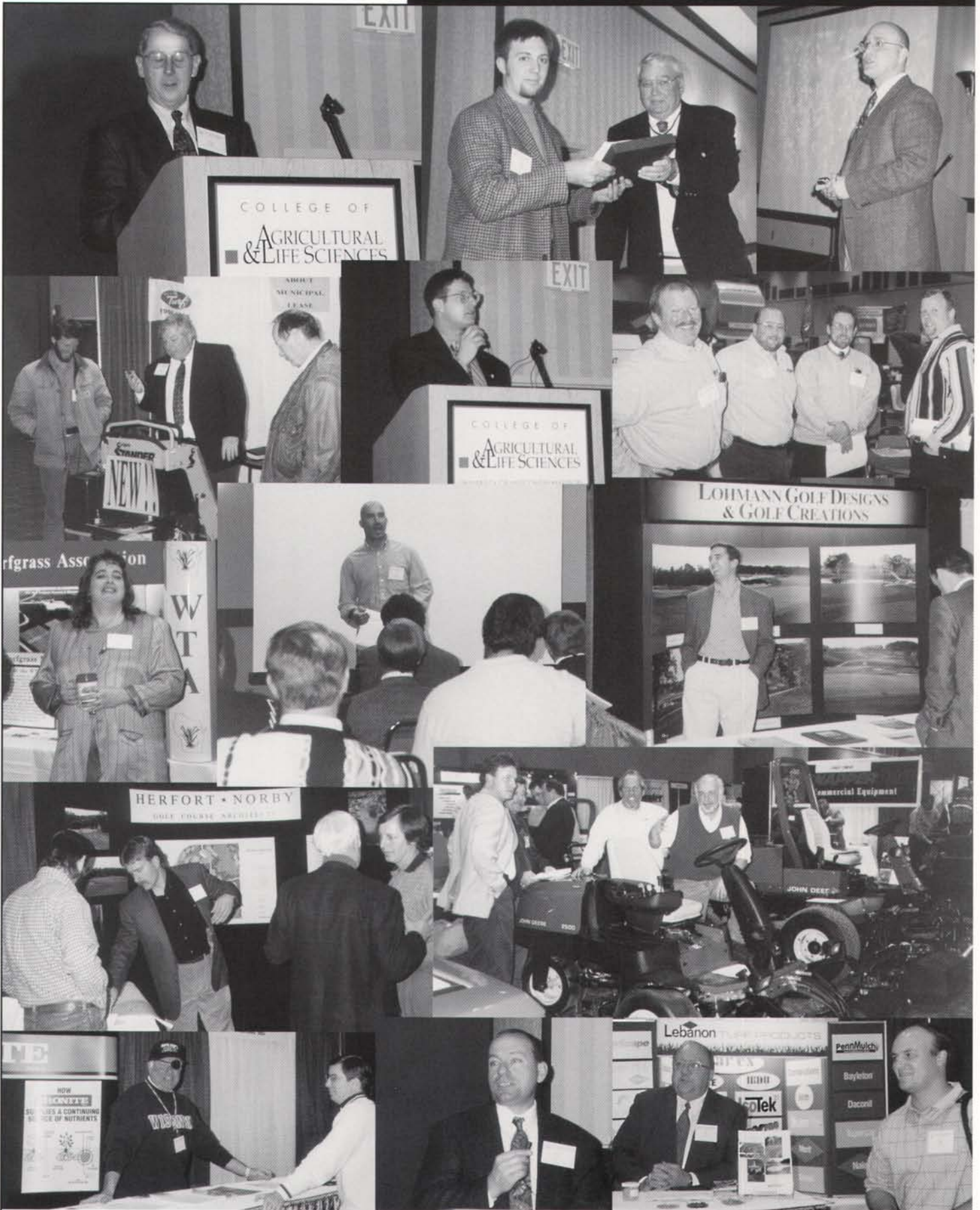
\* Mike Boehm (Ohio State University) - Compost could be used to improve soils, suppress disease, and improve turf health. Compost should be checked for nutrients, heavy metals, and weed seed content before using. Aerification should always precede top-dressing of compost.

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NOTES FROM THE NOER FACILITY



## NOTES FROM THE NOER FACILITY



\* Bruce Branham (University of Illinois) - Annual grass herbicide degradation is generally due to microorganisms, not climatic conditions. The best kind of annual grass preventer is one that also controls summer annual broadleaf weeds. Late fall is the best time to control broadleaf weeds because they are actively growing and the herbicide will transport with food reserves that are being stored for winter. Also the winter annual weeds that germinate in the fall will be controlled. Use ester formulations of broadleaf herbicides only in the fall.

\* Dave Minner (Iowa State University) - Certain conditions and situations in athletic field maintenance could result in lawsuits. Keep current on the best safety practices of your profession. Develop a safety check-off list and correct dubious issues. Allow peers or consultants to inspect your fields for liability issues and keep records of those visits.

From what attendees told me, there were so many other good presentations. It is unfortunate that there is not enough time to attend them all. On top of that, there was the huge trade show to attend. With 63 exhibits, the trade show was one booth short of the all-time record for EXPO. The vendors working the exhibits were very helpful and informative in presenting their latest products and equipment. In addition the exhibitors help defray the costs of offering this excellent conference.

A list of 1999 exhibitors follows. They are there throughout the year to inform you about their latest

wares, and to give you the most for your money. The EXPO program gave a summary of each of their businesses along with their telephone numbers. Audra can get you a new copy, if you lost yours, by calling her at 608-845-6536. These exhibitors give much to the turf industry in Wisconsin, so I encourage you to pay them back by purchasing their products throughout the year. They have everything you could ever need for your landscapes.

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- Century Rain Aid
- Cleary Chemical
- Chipco
- Columbia ParCar
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 Wolosek Golf Course Mix  
 Zeneca Professional Products

There were a couple annual meetings held during EXPO that you may have attended. One of those was that of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. At that meeting Dan Barrett and Jeff Bottensek were both reelected as WTA Directors for two-year terms. The yearly financial statement was handed out and discussed. The WTA endowment fund, Noer Facility expansion, golf fundraising event site, and summer field day were also discussed. Lastly John Stier gave a brief update on some of his research efforts.

The other annual meeting held during EXPO was that of the newly formed Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association (WSTMA). Bob Erdahl, WTA president, gave the opening remarks saying he was glad to have another group of turfgrass professionals to ally with in Wisconsin. John Stier addressed the group about some of the management tools that will be available to sports field managers in the future. Rich Riggs,

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