

There were a few tense moments getting the guys to the Cadbury. They were suspicious, especially Bogey Calhoun.

"Why do we have to wear a coat and tie to some amateur hour play?" he wanted to know.

Even Tom was curious. "I can't believe you don't even know the name of this show Freddie is in."

I dismissed them with a "quit whining" and hoped they'd all be with me when the curtain rose. It seemed that then they wouldn't dare bail out for fear of hurting Fredrick's feelings. The time before the curtain rose could be tense, however.

Fred had the lead role in Puccini's opera *Turandot*. Puccini wrote some of the world's best known operas - *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, and *Madame Butterfly*, for example. And he was no 17th century composer; he lived from 1858 until 1924. Although not as well known as the three operas noted above, *Turandot* is always among the 100 most frequently performed operas in the world. And the music is tremendous.

The opera is set in Peking in legendary times. Princess Turandot has agreed to marry any noble suit-or who can answer three riddles she poses. Anyone who fails in that attempt pays with his life. Many have died in the effort to win the beautiful Princess.

Enter Fred, as the Unknown Prince. He is smitten by her beauty and strikes a gong three times, indicating he wants the challenge to win her.

In Act II, the Unknown Prince answers the three riddles correctly. Princess Turandot is a poor loser and tries to beg out of the deal. The Unknown Prince is confident he can win her with his charm, so he offers a riddle to her: if she can discover his name before dawn he will forfeit his life. The crowd cheers him for his generosity.

Act III is great opera. There is a frantic effort to learn the Unknown Prince's name. There is a courageous act of love. Princess Turandot fears the prowess of the Unknown Prince and he causes her to cry. When he has clearly won (again!), he gives her the gift of his life by revealing his name - Calaf, son of Timur.

She appears before the crowd with him and he tells her to announce his name and take his life. Instead she says his name is Love! The crowd cheers and hails love as the light of the world.

One of the most beautiful pieces of music ever written was sung by Fredrick Swenson - golf course superintendent by day and this night the Unknown Prince - in Act III. His tenor voice was near perfection as he gave us *Nessum Dorma!* The York community orchestra sounded, to my ears, as good as the James Levine conducted New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. And the choir - breathtaking!

The verses, sung by Fredrick in Italian, brought tears to my eyes.

None must sleep! None must sleep (Nessum dorma! Nessum dorma!)

And you, too Princess,

in your cold room,

look at the stars

which tremble with love

and hope!

But my mystery is locked within me,

no-one shall know my name!

No, no, I shall say it as my mouth meets yours when the dawn is breaking!

And my kiss will dissolve the silence which makes you mine!

(No-one shall know his name, and we, alas, shall die!)

Vanish, o night!

Fade, stars!

At dawn I shall win!

The guys, I could tell, were inspired, even stunned by the music. And the emotion of the performance had touched them, too. Even Bogey. "Wow," was the comment Calhoun could manage.

Fennimore couldn't believe the lead player in *Turandot* was cutting cups when we saw him earlier at the course.

And Middleton, almost with guilt in his voice, said his respect for Fred, already high, was through the stratosphere. Tom simply said, "he's a talented man in lots of different ways."

We met Fred after the performance and talked about the opera and other roles he had played. On Monday we attended the meeting, still finding it difficult to believe the role he had played the night before. Fred told us that God had given him his singing voice, and he greatly enjoyed entertaining others. "I guess that is why I don't play a lot of golf," he said. "I can sing better than I can hit a driver."

For that we were thankful. ♣

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431 plus 112 Add up to a Great Field Day

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



The 1999 edition of Summer Field Day will go down in the record books for attendance. Four hundred thirty-one attendees and 112 sales people enjoyed all the activity and nice weather of this year's event. It truly appears we arrived in the "Big Time" this year. The large number of attendees coupled with a fun and informative day was top notch. There were more research tour stops than ever before and they were all enthusiastically attended. The trade show received equally high marks from both exhibitors and participants.

The weather predicted for field day looked precarious at first. The preceding day's rainy weather was predicted to continue into the morning of field day, but luckily ceased the night before. By mid-morning the clouds disappeared and Mother Nature blessed us with a perfect, partly overcast, show-day.

The day started with camaraderie over donuts and coffee around the registration tent. Professor Stier officially initiated field day with some opening remarks, and then the crowds lined up for the research tour. This may have been the first year when there were more attendees in the "Lawn, Landscape, Sport Turf" tour than there were for the "Golf" tour. The Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association held their summer meeting during field day and their members showed up in force. This is not to diminish the golf segment, which traditionally dominates field day attendance. The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association cancelled their August meeting to allow more time for their members to

attend field day. These factors, combined with the growing interests of other turf professionals, are what helped set the record attendance this year.

The research tour was packed with helpful presentations for every-

one. For the golf course session there were disease presentations on evaluating different fungicide products, making decisions on spraying variables, and breeding for snow mold resistance. There were putting green talks concerned with develop-



Jeff Gregos hosts associate Dean Dentine and CALS Dean Aberle.



Dr. Wayne Kussow explains results of his research on the tour.



Professor Stier opens field day tours.



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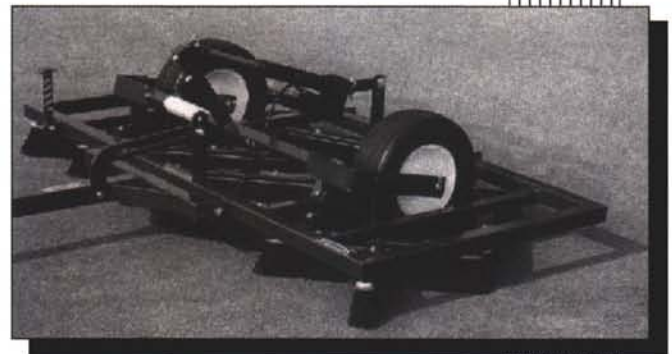


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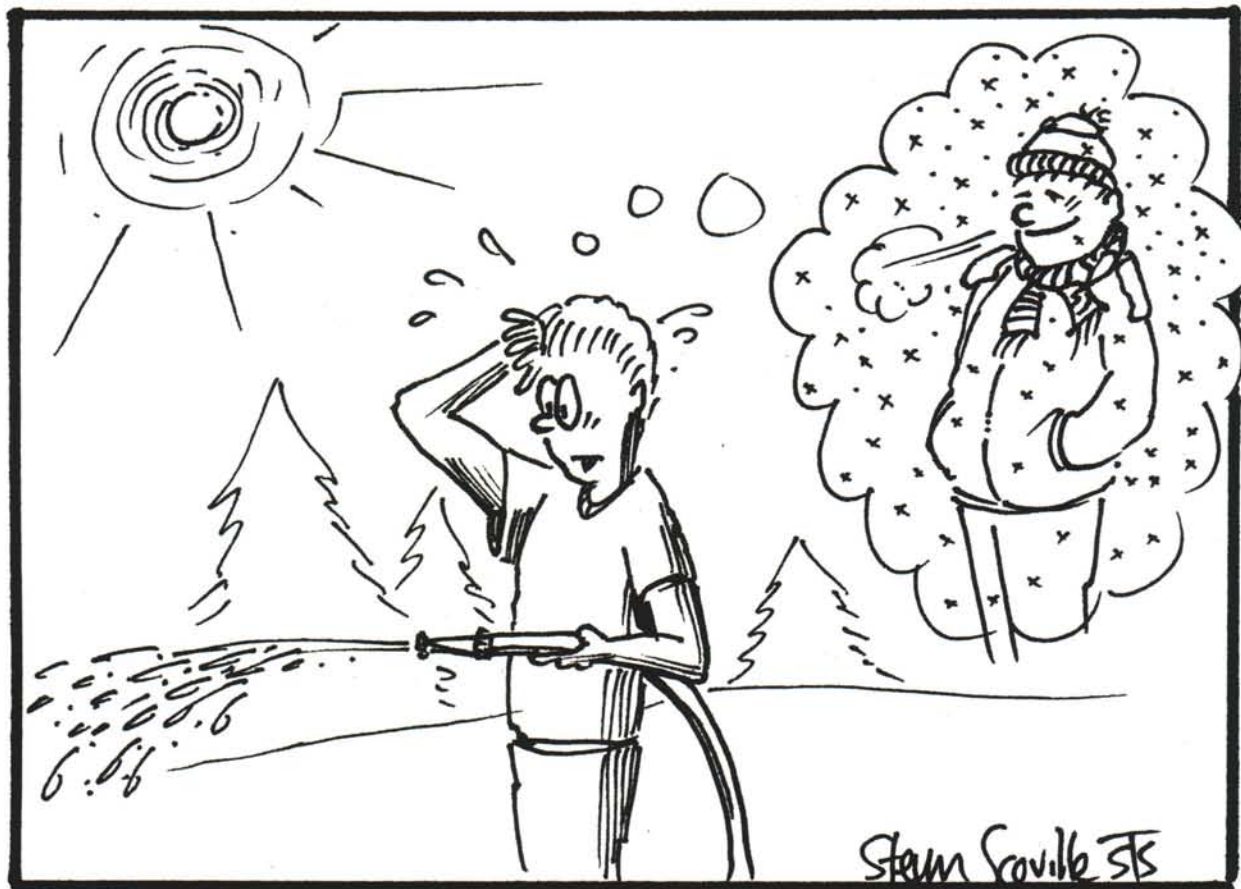
ing better root zones, evaluation of products to effect ball roll, and management of new bentgrasses and *Poa annua* reptans. There was also a fairway talk on using plant growth regulators to speed establishment and another on controlling ant mounds.

The lawn and landscape sessions included topics as diverse as insect pest control, crabgrass control product evaluations, long term evaluations of different Wisconsin sod blends, and a fertilizer demonstration. The lawn and landscape sessions also included sport turf talks on maintenance and construction of baseball and softball pitcher's mounds and home plates, and seed mixtures with Kentucky bluegrass and mixtures with supina bluegrass. To top it off, the sport turf managers at field day were treated to a clinic on painting logos on fields.

Many important University of

1999 Summer Field Day Exhibitors

- | | |
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| Melcher Equipment | Wisconsin Turf Equipment |
| Miller & Associates - Sauk Prairie | Wolosek Landscape |
| Milorganite | Zeneca Professional Products |



Wisconsin-Madison dignitaries acknowledged their recognition of the turf industry by attending the show. The present Dean and a former Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences were in attendance. Two Associate Deans and two department chairpersons mingled with the crowds. A representative of the UW-Madison Foundation and the current and a former director of Agricultural Research Stations also attended. The exceptional attendance and the presence of such dignitaries reflect the ever-increasing role of the turf industry in Wisconsin's economy, which is becoming more recognized.

It was fun talking with the dignitaries as well as meeting many old and new friends at field day. It is a great time to meet with colleagues, peers, and friends that we otherwise wouldn't see because of our busy lives. And it's important for our professions to learn about the latest university-based turf research. It's also important to learn about and see the latest products and equipment displayed in the trade show.

We can't forget that the exhibitors in the trade show help foot the bill to make field day first class. They buy booth space and sponsor a silent auction that purchases field day amenities and funds research projects. I hope you purchase from them throughout the year to show your appreciation of their field day support. The list of this year's exhibitors follows.

The planning committee, presenters, and many volunteers are also appreciated for generously giving of their time and ideas every year. If you think of ideas to improve field day, then please write the planning committee and address it to the Noer Facility. They are always looking for ideas to improve field day. But right now we are all thrilled with this year's sum of 431 plus 112. 🌿

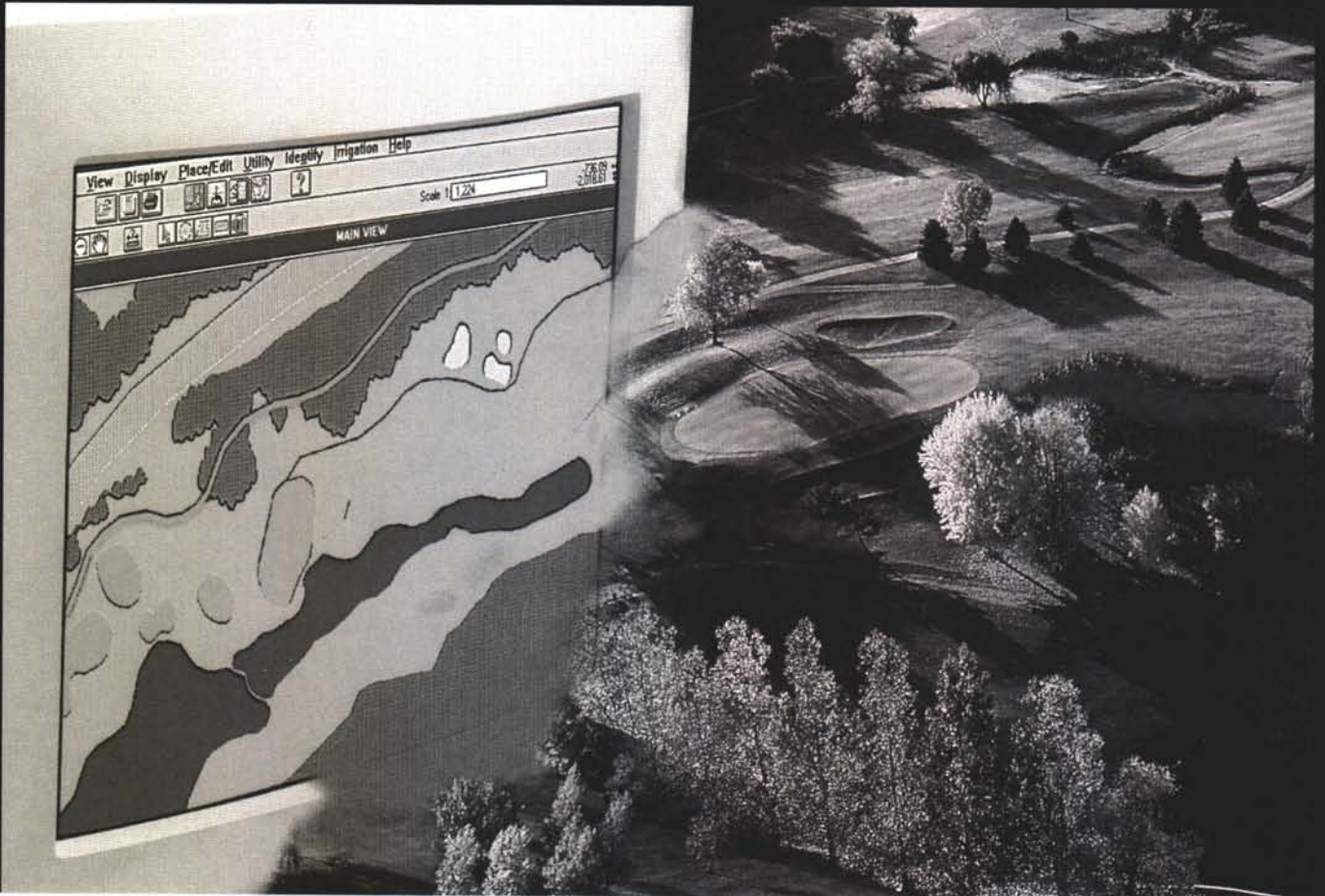


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WGCSA Gathers at Bull's Eye CC for July Meeting

By Mike Lyons, Golf Course Superintendent, Old Hickory Country Club

Mark Kienert, immediate past president of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, hosted 84 WGCSA members and guests on July 26th in Wisconsin Rapids. We were treated to a great lunch, an educational session by Steve Davis, and golf.

Mr. Davis' topic was on winter topdressing. It was well prepared and very informative. Like all the educational sessions this season, we left with some interesting thoughts and ideas.

The golf event was a two-man bestball of four using the Schneid system. The first place winners

were Dave Berg, Dale Marach, Derek Kastenschmidt and Scott Thompson. Fourth place went to Kendall Marquardt, Steve Meyer, Denny Meng, and Marty Ohlsen. Eighth place went to Dan DeVault, Grant Mortimer, Mark Schwarting, and Karl Stewart. There were four flag events: closest to the pin - Sheri Swonger and Dennis Dary, closest to the pin off the green - Steve Schmidt, and long drive - Brian Schmidt.

I know I am repeating myself, but like all the other sites we have played this season, Mark and his staff had the course in great shape.

We have truly seen some great golf courses this season. It will continue in September at Washington County Golf Course and the season ending meeting at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha. ♣

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