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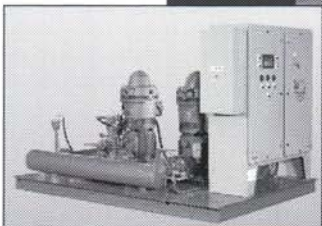


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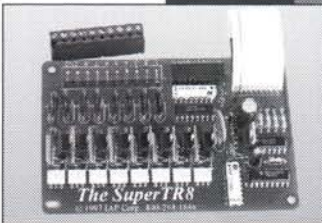
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ships to UW-Madison turf students and the presentation of donations to WTA so that the association can fund research, educate students and members, and advance other turfgrass issues within the state. All of us in the turf industry would like to thank these donors and congratulate the scholarship recipients. The list of donors and recipients are listed in the adjacent box.

There were so many exceptional presentations that I attended, and many others that I'm sure were great, but I couldn't attend because of scheduling conflicts. Golf course architect Mike Hurdzan presented what he thinks the next century in golf course management will look like. He packed the room with superintendents and others that were nodding in agreement with his views on the environment, equipment, maintaining good employees, and so much more.

Turfgrass disease management was thoroughly explored during the golf sessions. David Williams from the University of Kentucky covered cultural management of disease. Randy Kane from the Illinois Golf Association talked about biological disease controls. Zac Reicher from Purdue presented disease control research using the "BioJect". Jeff Gregos from the UW presented results from some of his snowmold research. Turf loss should be held to a minimum this year armed with the information presented by these gentlemen.

The audience in the golf session was inspired on a variety of other subjects. Chicago area superintendent Dan Dinelli described his experiences incorporating yard waste compost and biosolids into his turf program. Some positive results on his golf course include improved soil structure, enhanced turf density and color, dollar spot suppression, thatch reduction, increased earthworm activity, and advanced turf establishment. Wayne Kussow, John Stier, and Chris Williamson rounded off the golf session speaking about soil chemistry, federal legislation affect-

ing golf management, and insect issues respectively.

Lawn care providers and landscapers likewise experienced a variety of presentations. They learned about management of insect and disease pests. A discussion about turf recovery after a drought was another timely presentation. Other interesting talks included hiring and maintaining good employees, and utilizing new and unique woody ornamentals.

The grounds and sports turf managers of Wisconsin have been attending EXPO in increasing numbers over the last couple years. Their roster of presentations was equally impressive. Topics included turf species choices, management practices, nutritional needs, irrigation practices, mowing, modifying soils, and painting of athletic fields. Many of the topics discussed in those presentations were also addressed in another talk about how

to develop an Integrated Pest Management Program for a school. And lastly, the supervisor from the State Capitol grounds in Madison, Bill Beckman, discussed management of his showcase grounds.

The education, trade show, professional development, and camaraderie make EXPO the perfect event for everyone that works with turfgrass in Wisconsin. We were fortunate that the weather even cooperated this year.

To finish I would like to thank all of the exhibitors at EXPO 2000. They are such a vital part of the success of the conference that I encourage you to pay them back by purchasing their products. Audra Anderson compiled a resource that you can use throughout the year listing the exhibitors, their contact person, and a description of their products. (See page 35)

Scholarship Donor	Recipient	Amount
WGCSA J.R. Love Scholarship	Joe Sabel	\$500
WTA	Dan Harrier	\$600
WTA	Aaron Goninen	\$600
WTA	Eric Counselman	\$600
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Reinders and Daconil Program	WTA	\$6,465
		(donation over 12 years = \$70,052)
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Zeneca	WTA	\$200
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John Turner	WTA	\$600
Wisconsin Sod Producers	WTA	\$875
Dave Mergatroyd Memorial from Horst and National Mower	WTA	\$150
Westmoor Country Club	WI Turfgrass Research and Development Fund (WTRDF)	\$2,440
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WTA	WTRDF	\$18,100

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A Day in the Life of a Diagnostician

By Jeff Gregos, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin - Madison



Recently, I read an article in *Wisconsin Golfer* titled "The Winter Question" by Monroe S. Miller (yes Monroe, we do read your articles every once in a while). This article reminded me of the question that I get from time to time: "what do you do with much of your time?" The person that I hear this from most would be Oscar Peterson, so this article is dedicated to him. I tell everyone, I have more duties than just diagnosing samples. In this article I would like to highlight many of the additional projects I am involved with.

As you probably know, much of my salary is derived from contracts to the TDDL, so it is only fitting that you know how your money is being invested. In order to describe my job responsibilities, a day wouldn't suffice, so I have included many of the important activities during a typical year.

As with most jobs, I have an annual review. However, within the University System it is a complex process, and this past year I had to develop an eight-page report. Many of you might think this is excessive. However, this is the only way that staff members have to convey their activities from the previous year to a merit review committee. This process also enables one to reflect on the previous year's accomplishments and disappointments (but we know those never get published). I view this article as an opportunity for you to have a review process of your own, since many of you contribute to the TDDL.

January

With the WTA Turfgrass and Greenscape Expo, the beginning of the month is spent putting finishing touches on presentations and assisting in preparations

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for Expo. Another major undertaking this month is processing contracts. Contracts received are entered into a database and sample submission boxes are sent to the lab's clientele. Additionally, there are several studies underway in both the lab and the greenhouse which require constant attention.

February

As in January, we are still heavily involved with laboratory and greenhouse research which continues until the snow melts sometime in March or April. This month is also the beginning of my travels for the year. The first trip of the year is usually to the GCSAA Conference. This is an important trip because this is where I set up most of my field research for the year, as many of my chemical representatives attend the meeting. Following GCSAA, the next task is assisting with Turfgrass Management School. Even though this is only one day of teaching, there is a fair amount of preparation required. This includes handouts and presentation preparation, along with fungi cultures and plant material for the lab section. I also spend a fair amount of time praying that we will have a long winter so that we have a good crop of snow mold this year.

March

This is the time of year that we all start to think about getting back out into the field. It also means that the snow is starting to melt and I am back on the road again. Usually, the first trips are to Regional Turf Expos. This accounts for about a week of time traveling around the State. But this is just the beginning. With the snowmelt it is time to get up north to rate snow mold research plots. This spring means rating 17 studies or about 3,000 individual plots, and as you know from my reports these plots are rated several times in the spring.

April

Most of April is dedicated to snow mold, with the possibility of two snow mold field days, one at the Noer and another at Sentryworld. After several trips north, a few days are spent analyzing the data and preparing the field day booklet. It is also time to start preparing research plots for the summer. This often entails establishing new plots at the Noer. Another question that Oscar asks is why I have two assistants? The simple answer to that is that the Turfgrass Pathology Program has multiple projects running concurrently, requiring the need for assistance. For example the TDDL maintains around two acres of research plot space at the Noer alone. With three-fourths of an acre maintained at greens height this can be a very demanding task. You must also consider that these are research plots and ratings are taken on a regular basis. In fact this past year the TDDL conducted over 30 research studies.

May

The first rush of samples to the lab usually occurs sometime in May, which means it's time to put two hats on, one for a diagnostician and another for researcher. Also, during the second week of the month the TDDL usually hosts the last snow mold field day at Gateway Golf Club in Land O' Lakes. The first summer disease studies are initiated sometime in May. Take-all patch treatments are applied once the soil temperatures reach 55°F, and the first applications for dollar spot are soon to follow. We are also busy growing in any new plots that we established earlier. Another important task in May is preparing research reports for the chemical companies who help support much of the research done in the Turfgrass Pathology Program.

June

The diagnostic lab is now in full swing, diagnosing samples on a regular basis. We can easily have several samples a day, on top of the research responsibilities in the field. Now that the warmer weather has arrived, it is time to initiate several other summer disease

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studies. In the past couple of years, brown patch has been active by the end of June. Anthracnose studies are also initiated at this time. By the end of June, every summer disease trial has begun, with the exception of *pythium* blight. Because all of my student workers are turf students, I like to help broaden their experience by involving them in projects at the Noer. For example, this may include assisting other researchers in installing or repairing irrigation. Because many of these students may be lacking knowledge in these areas, some supervision may be required.

July

This is another extremely busy time, just like rating snow mold plots and snow mold field days in the spring, establishment of snow mold plots in the fall, and preparing for the WTA Expo. July is busy because we usually have around 15 studies running concurrently. The most time consuming of these studies is *pythium*. Even though the study runs 14 days, the greenhouses need to be covered the week before, and

during the trial, the greenhouses are "baby-sat" from sun up to sun down. In the lab we can easily process 100 samples during this month. We have even seen 10 or more samples in a day during July. At the end of the month research reports must be written for the field day booklet, as it is only a couple of weeks away. That also means that it is time to put the finishing touches on the Noer Facility.

August

Field day, need I say more? I think the best analogy for field day is either a member-guest event or the men's invitational at your course, and you know what is required in preparation for those events. We realize that you are scrutinized everyday of the season by your golfers. So it is only fair that you have one day a year where you can critique others. Field day takes several weeks to get everything prepared. Last year we had around 500 signs to make and 13 plots to paint. I am also a believer in paying attention to details, so my staff maintained the intermediate cut around all of the fairway height and greens height



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