

among those who called on Wisconsin golf course superintendents. Always upbeat and helpful, he was knowledgeable about his product line. He was a ready and strong supporter in any way he could be of the superintendent. I saw him a couple of years ago at the GCSAA conference and show. He came down on his own just to see old friends from Wisconsin. Dick's era in Wisconsin with Scotts was 1979 - 1989.

Evenson was succeeded by Wayne Horman in 1990. Wayne was a bright, enthusiastic and sincere kid who started after graduation from the UW - Madison. Like Evenson, he was warmly welcomed by superintendents all across the state and was very easy to trust. He has done well with Scotts, one of the few (maybe the only) Proturf guys still with Scotts. He now heads their seed and biotechnology operations. Wayne left in 1997.

A past president of the WGCSA took over for Wayne. Mike Semler was another trusted, intelligent, UW - Madison grad. Obviously he had the respect of his colleagues since he elected him to our highest office. Mike impressed me with how much he knew about the Scotts product line, and how he had acquired that comfort in such a short time. But then it dawned on me that he, like me, had been using Scotts much of his career as a golf course superintendent! Mike had only a brief sales career; he tried it, was good at it, but really wanted back onto the golf course. Lee Bruce and Dave Weber welcomed him back with open arms.

I've told Mike that he must have had a crystal ball or else he is one lucky dude. Since his year in 1998, I have bought Scotts fertilizer from Cubby O'Brien of Turf Partners, another good salesman who calls on me. But TP game way to Reinders in the Scotts scheme of things and recently I placed an order with Bruce Schweiger, who used to work for TP and before that...he worked for Scotts! No wonder I asked Tom Wentz who was signing his paycheck.

Any discussion of Scotts and their presence in Wisconsin has to make note of Tom Wentz. Tom is the consummate professional, always ready with help whenever you need it. I cannot count the times I have made a request from him and every one of those times he has come through. He moved to Deforest in 1982, raised his family here in Wisconsin, and has a son on the Marquette University golf team. Despite his Buckeye upbringing, he seems to love Wisconsin.

Now Scotts Proturf is owned by Andersons. And within a short time I'll bet the familiar dark green Scotts oval trademark will disappear and if you want some Scotts product, it will have to be seed or something you buy from the homeowner line at your local hardware store.

Many people in the turf industry in Wisconsin know Terry Kurth. But did you know he also worked for Scotts? Sure enough, as an excellent Proturf seminar instructor. But he bought a Barefoot Grass franchise for

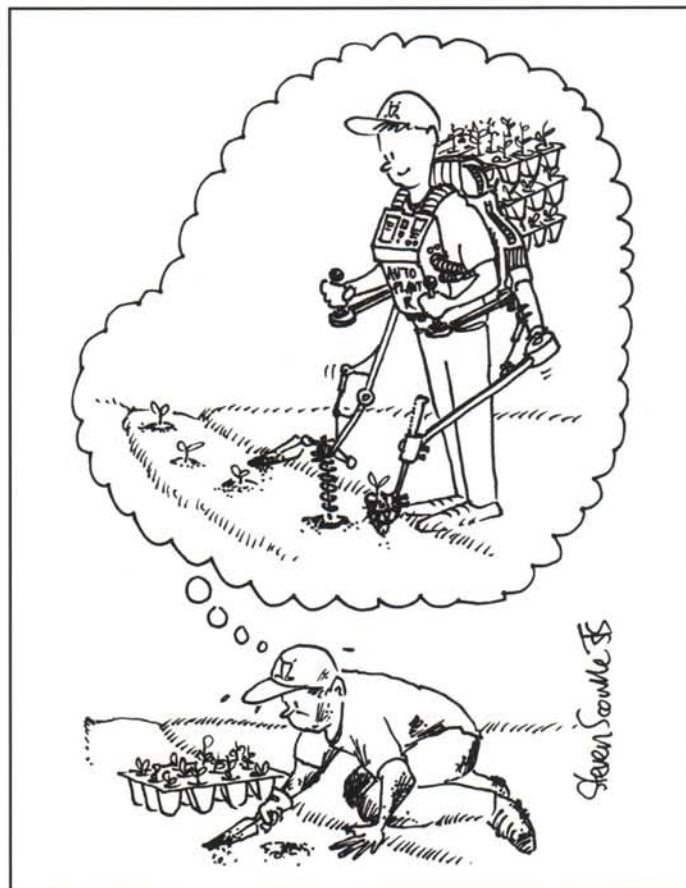
Madison, moved back, ran a successful business and ended up president of PLCAA. He is another success story for a UW - Madison turf student who to this day works hard to pay back the debt he feels for an excellent education.

The Scotts Proturf seminars were an annual affair, held somewhere in the state at no charge. The instructors, like the sales force, were excellent. I still have all the seminar manuals I received over the years.

Among my best memories of Scotts was a three-day visit to Marysville where I saw first hand the science and research that went into their products, the plants that manufactured them, and the staff behind the operation. It was unforgettable.

And now it comes to an end. I cannot say that I don't care or that I am not saddened. It seems to happen everyday in America anymore - corporate mergers and buy-outs. Someone makes big bucks somewhere along the line, and the end product will not be the same, regardless of what you will hear and hear and hear. I just hope no careers were lost or people hurt in this massive change.

But what won't change are the memories of the men and the company that have been right there at the heart of my golf course career for over 30 years. I worked for O'Donnell and both Semler and Horman worked on my staff at different times. That matters most to me. ♣



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WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2000

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Speaker/Topic</u> |
|--|--|--|
| April 24 (Monday) (Lunch) | Evergreen CC - Elkhorn, WI William Rogers - GC Supt. | Mr. Steve Quale <i>Golf Foundation of Wisconsin</i> <i>"The First Tee Program"</i> |
| May 8 (Monday) (Dinner) | Janesville CC - Janesville, WI Daniel Mosblack - GC Supt. | Mr. Jeff Gregos - TDL <i>"What is Involved in Sample Processing?"</i> |
| June 20 (Tuesday) | Foxfire GC - Waupaca, WI Steven Johnson - GC Supt. | |
| July 10 (Monday) | Olde Highlander GC, Oconomowoc, WI Daniel Shaw - GC Supt. | |
| August 8 | WTA Summer Field Day - O.J. Noer Research Facility | |
| September 11 (Monday) (Lunch) | Greenwood Hills CC - Wausau, WI Scott Sann - GC Supt. | Guest Lunch Speaker TBA |
| October 2 (Monday) (Dinner) | Horseshoe Bay GC - Egg Harbor, WI Brian Ferrie - GC Supt. | Mr. Bob Vavrek <i>USGA Green Section</i> <i>"The Year in Review"</i> |

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

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|-----------------------|--|
| May 31 | Super / Pro - Trappers Turn GC - Wisconsin Dells |
| August 8 | WTA Summer Field Day - Verona, WI |
| Oct. 13,14 | WGCSA Dinner Dance - Trout Lake Golf & CC |
| Nov. 14,15 | Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium - Brookfield, WI GCSAA Chapter Seminars - Fond du Lac, WI |
| Dec 13 | "Managing on the Job Behavior" - Gerry Sweda |
| Dec 14 | "Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control" - Houston Couch |
| Jan 9-10, 2001 | Wisconsin Turfgrass and Industry Expo |
| March 5, 2001 | Spring Business & Educational Meeting |