

tendent on one of the three courses with the idea that they would stay three or four years and then move on to their own positions," he explains. "Of course, Medinah was a great venue for doing that because it had three golf courses."

While many superintendents want to keep good help, Danny had his reasons for setting up this system. "When you present somebody with a future, they are motivated to do a good job," he says. "The student employees behind the three superintendents knew that they would move up to superintendent and then eventually go out on their own. And I was motivated to help them find a good job when they left me because that made the good students eager to come and work for me. It really was a beneficial cycle for all."

3. Successfully hosted the U.S. Open in 1990 and the PGA Championship in 1999. "I went to Medinah in 1989 and we hosted the U.S. Open in 1990," Danny recalls. "I went there knowing I'd have to get the course ready for the Open. But I really went there for the long term, not just for the Open."

When the PGA Championship came in August of 1990, it was a hot summer. "Because of the weather and some other issues that the club wouldn't face, we had our problems. But, all in all, we got through it quite well. I look at it as a great experience and felt it was a success."

4. Founded *The Grass Roots*, the official publication of the WGCSA. "When I came to Milwaukee from Ohio in 1973, there wasn't any association newsletter. And the association was also short of funds," Danny points out. "I suggested that a newsletter would not only be a good way to communicate, but also a good way to raise some funds through advertising."

He also volunteered to start up *The Grass Roots*. "It was nothing elaborate like it is today," he says. "Monroe's passion is writing and he got 20 straight awards at the

national level and deserved them. I'm not even trying to compare what I did to what he's doing now. But it was a way to get something started for the association and a way to get a little income."

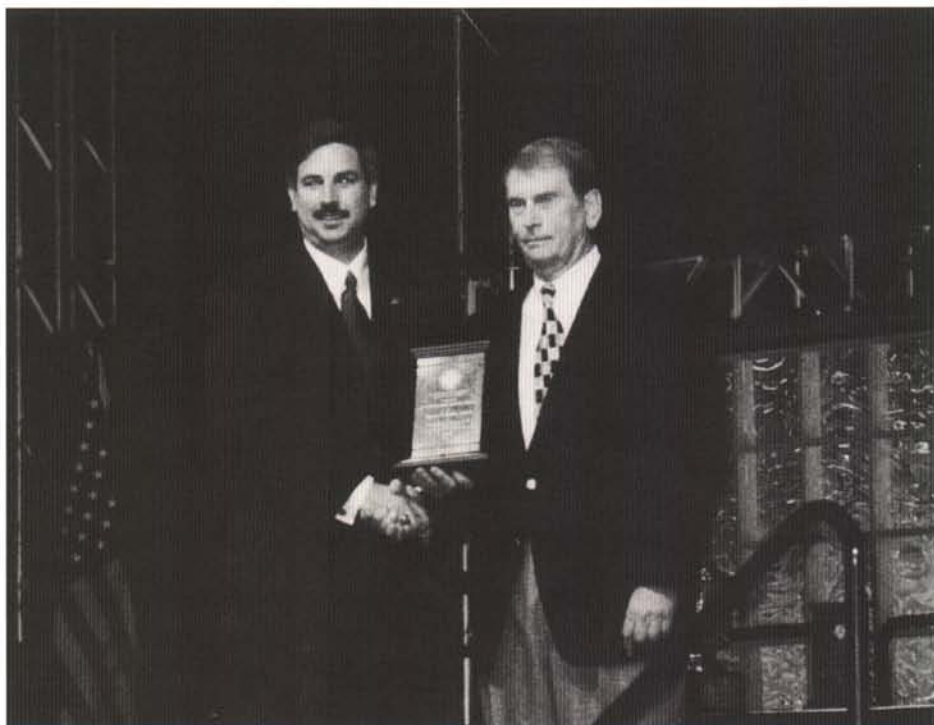
Danny recalls how the paper was put together in those early years. "I'd call Wayne Otto and Bill Douglas and buy some beer," he explains. "We'd come to the office to fold the newsletter and stuff it into envelopes and mail it. As the organization grew, it got to be more and more work. After doing it for five or six years, it was nice to be able to hand it over to Monroe."

5. Advanced the Turfgrass Information File at Michigan State University. "When O.J. Noer passed away, he left his collection of turf literature to Michigan State University," Danny explains. "They started a turfgrass library there. And Dr. James Beard, one of the foremost authorities in the country, categorized the information and put it into data form so it could be accessed by computer. That was called the Turfgrass Information File."

"The USGA had funded this project for many years, but they were getting frustrated because nobody was using it and they were going to give it up," Danny continues, adding that this was back in the era before the Internet was commonly used. "I thought this was crazy, so I volunteered to do anything to help save the TGIF." With others, they raised enough money to keep the project going over the years. Now the information is easily accessed via the Internet.

"It's especially useful for graduate students who are working on research projects," Danny points out. "They can go to the TGIF and look up previous work. The TGIF keeps people from doing duplicate research."

In the next issue of *The Grass Roots*, we'll visit with Danny some more about the DQ Open, DHD Tree Products, and the ways he might help his industry in the future. We'll also hear from some of his friends and colleagues and even his wife. Stay tuned. ♣



Danny Quast received the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award from John Maddern.

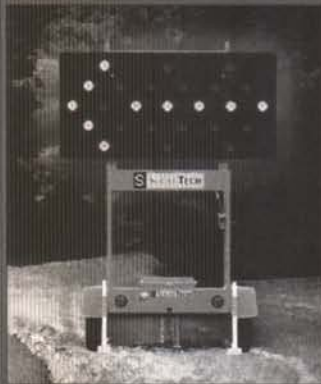


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EXPO Draws Larger Crowds For A Reason

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



The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO 2004 was held January 5, 6, and 7th. The show had many new features that brought some of the crowds from past EXPOs back into the fold. Attendance really dropped off in 2003 to 278 from the record high of 415 in 2002. This year's attendance rebounded to 332 registrants. In addition there were 107 individuals running exhibits in the trade show.

The appeal that brought the crowds back were the big name speakers and wider spectrum of education than past years. WTA president Rich Riggs went to the combined Minnesota Turf and Landscaping Conference right after he left our Wisconsin EXPO. Because Minnesota serves many organizations through their conference, they bring in thousands more attendees. But Rich stated, "The Wisconsin education was just as good or better than the Minnesota mega conference."

Traditionally EXPO has had three categories of education. Those are "Golf," "Sports & Schools," and "Lawns, Parks, and General Horticulture." This year there was a fourth category added for service technicians. This category will continue because of the educational impact it provided and from all the positive remarks.

Another feature that will continue in future years is the discounted price for additional attendees from the same organization. So in 2005, if you want to bring your assistant, mechanic, or other staff members, they will be able to register for a discounted price.

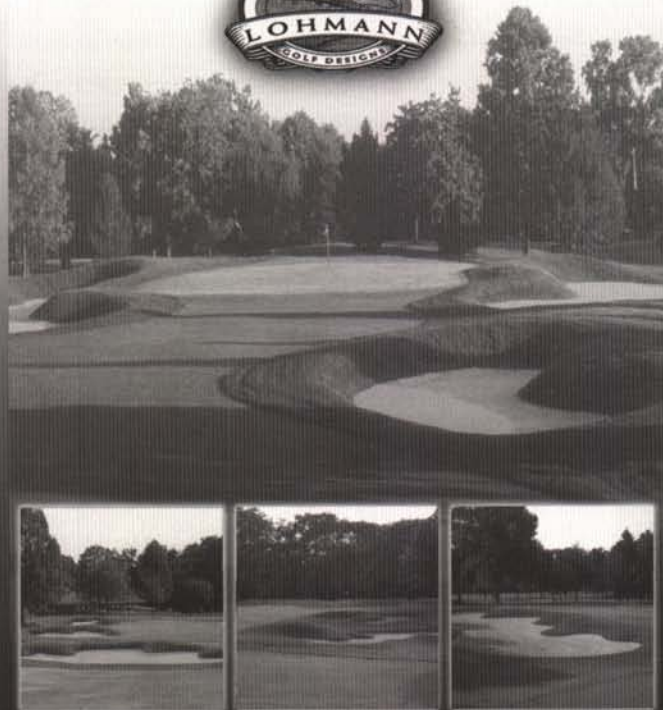
What really brought the crowds back were the great speakers and subjects. Dr. James Beard, former professor from Michigan State University and Texas A&M, is known to every golf course superintendent. They use his book "Turf Management for Golf Courses" like it was the bible. Dr. Beard gave two informative talks and one keynote address. One talk was on how environmental stresses affect turfgrass. The other traced the history of turfgrass research and management from the time sheep were used to groom turf to the present when computers sense irrigation needs.

The golf attendees also benefited from a couple talks by James Snow, who is the national director of the United States Golf Association Green Section. One talk outlined what every golf course superintendent should know about golf and the environment. John Gallus, superintendent at Devils Head Resort said, "Jim's talk was overflowing with technical data and useful information that can be used to describe many environmental practices superintendents are using today."

Another nationally renowned speaker at EXPO was Dr. Harry Niemczyk, professor emeritus from The Ohio State University. Dr. Niemczyk gave many useful strategies to protect the turf from insect infestation with the environment and safety in mind. He handed out a calendar that many in the audience will use this coming year. It predicts what time of year that different insect pests become problems in landscapes for our North Central United States region.

For the sports turf attendees there was a special treat. Former Green Bay Packer turned speaker Blaise Winter gave two talks. Both talks were motivational in nature. Their theme was: Do your best no matter what obstacles stand in your way. The sports managers were also treated to educational presentations by Raechal Volkening from the Milwaukee Brewers, and Debra

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Hauser from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

There were many more speakers for every turf manager in attendance. Many talks covered more than turf. Trees, pump stations, wildlife, and evapotranspiration were among the other talks. Turfgrass was the main subject in the presentations, but since everyone deals with more than turf in their professions, talks covered the gamut.

The show included more than the educational sessions. A huge trade show is part of EXPO every year. Many attendees make their purchasing decisions on what they see at this trade show. Displayed were product, service, supply, and piece of equipment needed to create the best turfgrass and landscapes possible. Be sure to give your business to the exhibitors that participate at EXPO. They are dedicated to Wisconsin's turf industry and to

everything you do professionally. The list of this year's exhibitors is listed on page 56 along with a short description of their business and their contact information.

One other highlight from EXPO was the award and scholarship banquet during the second day's luncheon. The list of scholarship recipients from the banquet is listed here. The banquet likewise featured individuals and companies that donated funds to the WTA. Those funds will provide for future turfgrass research and scholarships to keep Wisconsin's turf industry strong. That, after all, is WTA's primary goals.

The planning committee for EXPO 2005 has already met to discuss next year's show. They are planning ahead to continue the tradition of providing quality turf education with a first rate trade show. EXPO is such a great venue to learn new ideas in the off-season and to start planning for the wonderful new season ahead. ♣

2004 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO Research and Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship Donor	Recipient	Amount
Bayer Environmental Scholarships	Jacob Schneider	\$500
Bayer Environmental Scholarships	Zach Reineking	\$500
Chalet Nurseries	Phillip Meyer	\$500
Dave Murgatroyd Memorial	Adam Moeller	\$500
GCSAA	Jacob Schneider	\$600
J. W. Turf John Buck Memorial	Anthony Hudzinski	\$1,000
Spring Valley Turf Products	Paul Koch	\$500
WGCSA J.R. Love Scholarship	Benjamin Pease	\$1,500
The Wayne R. Kussow Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship	Steve Houlihan	Research Assistantship
WTA	Andrew Kurth	\$600
WTA	Benjamin LaBarre	\$600
WTA	Kurt Steinke	\$600
WTA	Michael Porubsky	\$600
Turf Research Donor	Recipient	Amount
Aquatrols and Horst	WTA	\$1,076
Bulls-Eye Country Club	WTA	\$1,015
DHD Tree Products	WTA	\$740
Gary Zwirlein	WI Turfgrass Research & Development Fund	\$250
Northern Great Lakes GCSA	WTA	\$500
Oshkosh Country Club	WTA	\$2,350
Reinders and Daconil Program	WTA	\$6,405
Westmoor Country Club	WI Turfgrass Research & Development Fund	\$2,600
Wisconsin Sod Producers	WTA	\$1,375

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San Diego Brings Some Enthusiasm Back to GCSAA Conference



By **Monroe S. Miller**, *Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club*

The GCSAA conference in San Diego seemed perfectly timed. It generated a lot of enthusiasm after the downturn in golf we have felt for two or three years. And it came after of couple of downer sites - dull Dallas and unsafe Atlanta. Most of those attending were anxious for a better city with better weather.

The wish was granted. I had never been to San Diego before, but I can

hardly wait to go again. It is a beautiful city and I felt perfectly safe walking around the convention center area and the downtown nearest there.

We stayed in the headquarters hotel. The room was nothing special - who really cares, anyway - but the view of San Diego harbor was magnificent. The Coronado Bridge was in full view, as was Coronado Island.

The flag of the Hotel del Coronado was visible, too. Navy ships passed through the harbor all the time; the San Diego Naval Yard is the second largest naval base in the U.S. Nuclear subs, aircraft carriers and cruise missile launchers were part of the scenery all the time we were there.

The weather was excellent and we experienced rain only one of the days we were there. We stayed for a week's vacation after conference and enjoy even more of the warm and pleasant days. California really needs the rain, too. Who could forget the evening news, night after night last summer and fall, with vivid pictures of massive wildfires. We saw the burned hillsides, mile after mile, and scarred trees and shrubs. The modest 0.2" rainfall brought the mud down the hillsides and into roads, closing some of them. Houses were flooded and other buildings were



The headquarters hotel on San Diego's harbor; the convention center is to the left of the hotel.



The famous Hotel del Coronado - The Del - on Coronado Island.



A cruise missile carrier and...



...an aircraft carrier in San Diego harbor.



The father of downtown San Diego, California and downtown Hortonville, Wisconsin — Alfonzo Horton.



The Buick Invitational was in progress during conference only a few miles away at Torrey Pines at La Jolla.



The panda bears are the most popular attraction at the San Diego Zoo

pushed to the edge. I don't know how they handle it.

I like looking for the Wisconsin connections wherever I travel, and I found some in San Diego, especially in the downtown. John Wright, son of Frank Lloyd Wright designed some buildings downtown. Alonzo Horton sketched out downtown lots beside San Diego Bay in 1867. Mr. Horton was also the founder of Hortonville, Wisconsin, the village he left to move to California.

The airport is named Lindbergh Field, obviously after Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh, of course, attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison. His plane, the Spirit of St. Louis, was built in San Diego.

La Jolla is a well-known tourist destination with lots of pricey shops and a beautiful setting on the ocean. The week of conference was also the week of the Buick tournament at Torrey Pines, just a couple of



The architecture of the Getty Museum is as interesting as the art collection.

miles north of there. I visited the course and was impressed. The day after the tourney it was open for play to the public; it is a municipal golf course.

There are so many things to see in San Diego. There is Balboa Park, left for all to enjoy after the Pan American/California Exposition of 1915. Museums are a big part of that park. Next to it is the world famous San Diego Zoo. It was everything I expected.



Entrance to the Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

The new (as in "never been used") baseball park for the San Diego Padres was literally across the street from the convention center. Nice park (even though it is named after a dog food company, Petco), no parking.

Also, after conference we drove on three of the top 25 worst roads in America - I 405/Ventura Freeway and I 405/I 10 in Los Angeles and another interstate in the San Diego area - and visited the unbelievable



Beautiful and colorful bedding plants greet you at the entrance to PGA West.



Lunch with Arnold Palmer near PGA West?

Getty Museum collection in Richard Meier's fantastic building. From there we drove northwest Simi Valley and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

A day later we headed to the golf Mecca of the Palm Springs area. We looked up many courses we'd heard about and seen on TV, especially those in the Bob Hope Desert Classic of years ago. We visited PGA West and discovered it was far more than ever expected. We saw the bronze sculpture of Sonny Bono on the main street through downtown Palm Springs and stopped at Arnold Palmer's Restaurant in La Quinta. Then we drove over the mountains and through the back-country to San Diego.

It was a little unsettling to sit down at breakfast one morning to the headlines in the paper that said, "Earthquake forecast: Hold on tight." And here I had thought about actually finding the San Andreas Fault since it was just north of I 10. The headline cancelled that foolish notion.

The convention center was very neat and clean, the lecture rooms were appropriately sized and the A/V equipment worked in every lecture I attended. The show hall itself wasn't the best - it was far too long and also too narrow. I put on a lot of miles going north and south.

I was extremely aggravated by the location of the turf school booths, which was where the USGA, BIGGA, ASGCA, et. al. were located.



A bronze statue of one of our greatest presidents.

They didn't seem part of the conference and show at that location and if I were any of them and got stuck there again, I would tell GCSAA to forget it. I'll be anxious to hear the excuse for that lousy deal.

If there was a recurring theme I picked up on, it was the same as last year's - water. On Wednesday afternoon Grimm and I each attended a different two-hour session on water supply issues and dealing with drought conditions.



My favorite sports announcer - Jim Nantz.

Both were valuable. There was time after the two water seminars to attend a tree management lecture (two hours) before GCSAA welcoming reception. Question for GCSAA: Why in the world at an international golf course conference would you offer a lecture open to all attendees, north, south, east and west, that only addressed California trees? Somebody had their head wedged in a tree trunk on that, and by the time I finally



David Feherty gave a terrific talk for those lucky enough to be invited to hear him.



Dr. Frank S. Rossi gave a lecture on Saturday, before a well earned vacation in Mexico with his family.



Two stalwarts of the WGCSA – Semler and Schaller.



Ken Blanchard gave a charged-up speech that was well received.

left, 90% of the others in the audience had beat me to it. No excuse.

I enjoyed the reception; the convention center terrace was perfect on a warm and calm evening. The event affords the opportunity to see people not seen since last conference.

For my money, the innovative superintendent session early Thursday and Friday mornings are tops. The subjects are down-to-earth, practical and the result of successful problem solving by superintendents. Jeff Rottier of Whistling Straits gave an excellent presentation on their solutions to communications among their staff members.

The opening session followed and I will always remember it for the chance to hear Jim Nantz, best known for most of us as voice of the Masters broadcasts on CBS. He was one of the best speakers I have ever heard, and the story told by the young intern working at Augusta National last year affected

me like everyone else in the audience. It was a “wow” moment I will not soon forget.

Danny Quast received his DSA and Jake Schneider, a UW-Madison turf student, earned a GCSAA Scholars Award and a nice scholarship check to go with it.

Let's be honest: the trade show is one of the primary reasons golf course superintendents attend the national. Nowhere else in the world will you see the golf course supplies and equipment selection gathered at one place and one time like this. Product comparison, pricing, availability and all the other factors that go into good buying decisions are before your very eyes. It is pure and unadulterated excitement, too. The thrill of seeing it all is still with me after all these years, going back to Boston in 1973.

The equipment show is fun, too. It is wrestling to get Jacobsen hat, bouncing a green basketball and getting a year supply of pens and key rings. It is another venue to see