

Turf Information Arms Attendees for Upcoming Season



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

The Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO 2005 was held January 11th and 12th. The wonderful accommodations of the Marriott Madison West served as the conference headquarters. The education was plentiful and pertinent, and attendees gathered lots of new information to arm themselves for the coming season, which will be here before you know it.

Attendance fell well short of the record 415 attendees and 107 trade show representatives from 2002. This year there were only 262 and 128 respectively, in part due to the impending poor weather predicted for those days. Many potential attendees were at home dealing with the icy roads and mixed snow and rain for the first day and record rainfall the second. The trade show exhibitors were there despite the lagging attendance. Fifty companies were represented, up from 34 last year, but well short of the record 64 from 1998.

Whether you came for the huge

trade show or great education, you were not disappointed with EXPO. The conference started out with keynote speaker Pat Richter telling interesting stories about his years playing for the UW football team and later years taking the helm as athletic director for his alma mater. He deserves much of the credit for the Badgers' most impressive rise in success. He took a failing program and turned it into the nation's 10th best, according to the 'Sporting News' in 2001. He also told many interesting stories about when he played for the Washington Redskins under the legendary coach Vince Lombardi in the early 1970s.

That was just the beginning of EXPO! Next came the very current discussion of 'The Phosphorus Controversy.' Jerry Kershasky from Westmoor Country Club moderated the knowledgeable round-table panel of Richard Lathrop, UW-Madison Limnology Department; Herb Garn, US Geological Survey; Roger Bannerman, DNR; and Dr. Wayne

Kussow, UW-Madison Soils Department. A lively and very informative discussion followed, including many well thought out questions from the audience.

A golf cart maintenance workshop for shop personnel was held at the same time as the phosphorus round-table. Everything you need to know about golf cart maintenance was presented. New information was learned by even the most experienced mechanics.

The huge trade show came next. An hour before and after lunch were provided for trade show only time, with no conflicting educational seminars. Everything needed to maintain turf areas was on display and the educated vendors were enthusiastic to talk about all their latest products and services. The list of 2005 EXPO exhibitors is listed on page 28 to tell you who to call when you need anything for your landscapes. These EXPO exhibitors are the ones most willing to help with all your commercial needs throughout the season.



Mark and Peggy Schneider visited EXPO to see their son Jacob receive the WGCSA James R. Love scholarship.



Carol and Wayne Kussow received recognition for Wayne's years of service to the Wisconsin turfgrass industry.

A wonderful lunch occurred in the middle of the trade show, where turf student scholarships were presented during an awards program. Many research donations were likewise presented at this time. The list of scholarship recipients and donators is listed below.

One other award was presented during the luncheon. Monroe Miller from Blackhawk Country Club, on behalf of the WTA, presented a travel voucher to Dr. Wayne Kussow to thank him for 20 years of service to the turf industry. Dr. Kussow will be retiring this summer and from the resounding applause he received from the audience, he will surely be missed by his friends in the green industry. Mike Lyons, golf course superintendent at Old Hickory Country Club and VP of

the WGCSA, made a similar presentation to Dr. Kussow from WGCSA members.

The concurrent educational seminars began in the afternoon after the trade show only time. Excellent speakers presented insightful information for three concurrent sections. The sections were for the golf industry, sports industry, and lawn and landscape industry where attendees were treated to two days of presentations for their specific occupation.

The lawn and landscape folks heard from experts such as Scott Craven, John Stier, Chris Williamson, Kurt Steinke, Geunhwa Jung, and Mirrel Ingram from the UW-Madison, in addition to Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota. The golf attendees heard from Mike Agnew

from Syngenta, Wayne Kussow and Steve Abler from the UW-Madison, Bruce Martin from Clemson University, and Bob Vavrek from the USGA. The sports turf attendees heard from Pam Sherratt from The Ohio State University, Bob Cross from Pumpstation Professionals, Rich Riggs of Rettler Corporation, Paul Zwaska from Beacon Ballfields, and again from Brian Horgan and John Stier from U of Minnesota and the UW-Madison.

So many subjects were covered that they all can't be described here. Suffice it to say that all attendees will be on top of their games this coming season due in part to what they learned at EXPO.

Enjoy more photos from EXPO on page 34. ♣

2005 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO Research and Scholarship Donors

Scholarship Donor

Bayer Environmental Scholarships
 Bayer Environmental Scholarships
 Dave Murgatroyd Memorial
 J. W. Turf John Buck Memorial
 Spring Valley Turf Products
 WGCSA J.R. Love Scholarship
 WTA
 WTA
 WTA
 WTA

Recipient

Michael Boettcher
 Steven Sartorius
 Benjamin Pease
 Zachary Reineking
 Michael Upthegrove
 Jacob Schneider
 Timothy Adas
 Anthony Hudzinski
 Paul Koch
 Adam Moeller

Amount

\$500
 \$500
 \$500
 \$1,000
 \$600
 \$1,500
 \$600
 \$600
 \$600
 \$600

Turf Research Donor

Gary Zwirlein
 Westmoor Country Club
 Aquatrols and Horst
 Bulls-Eye Country Club
 DHD Tree Products
 Oshkosh Country Club
 Wisconsin Sod Producers
 Reinders and Daconil Program

Recipient

WI Turfgrass Research & Development Fund
 WI Turfgrass Research & Development Fund
 WTA
 WTA
 WTA
 WTA
 WTA
 WTA

Amount

\$300
 \$2,560
 \$1,733
 \$810
 \$750
 \$2,160
 \$1,375
 \$5,530

(Total Reinders/Daconil WTA contribution to date - \$104,242)

2005 Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO Exhibitors

- Aquatrols**
Produces cutting-edge new chemistries to help maximize winter management and overall turf health.
- BASF**
Full line of plant protectants.
- Bayer**
Full line of plant protectants.
- Champion Greens Sales & Service**
Wiedenmann and SISIS dealers. Aerification contract service. Verticutting rentals.
- Cleary Chemical**
Turf & ornamental plant protectants.
- Commercial Irrigation & Turf**
Golf course irrigation installation.
- Contree**
Custom built sprayers, parts and service.
- CPI**
Commercial lawncare equipment, chainsaws, blowers, seed, etc.
- Custom Manufacturing**
Custom designed bridge kit for courses and trails. Arch and flat design with horizontal or vertical railings or just curbs.
- DHD Tree Products**
Fertilizer, plant protectants, tree supplies, greens roller.
- Dow Agrosiences**
Ornamental and technical products. Offers 17 high-quality insecticides, herbicides and fungicides to professionals in lawn care, golf course and nursery business.
- Ero-Tex**
Turf reinforcement mats, bunker liners, greenjacket covers & porous pavement geoblocks.
- Frontier FS**
Full line of turf supplies. Seed, fertilizer, pesticides and erosion products.
- Geese Police**
Environmentally safe Canada Goose control using working border collies.
- Glenn Rehbein**
A total service provider for golf courses, athletic fields and stormwater management.
- Herfort Norby G C Architects**
Golf course design, practice facilities, irrigation, renovations, restorations.
- Horst Distributing**
Turf maintenance equipment and supplies.
- Johnson Turf Equipment**
Line painter, groomers, mowers push & hover, pruning tools.
- Lebanon Turf**
Superior quality fertilizer, grass seed and PennMulch seed accelerator.
- Lesco**
Full line of supplies to the green industry.
- Long Island Farm**
Sod and tree needs.
- Midwest Curb**
Install continuous concrete curb on new or existing golf cart paths or parking lots.
- Midwest Turf Products**
Turf products for the green industry.
- Miller & Assoc - Sauk Prairie**
Manufacturer's representative of Park and Play Equipment. Including shade systems, shelters, playground equipment and surfacing, site amenities, drinking fountains and so much more.
- National Golf Graphics**
Golf course signage, accessories, laser measuring and scorecards.
- National Seed**
Seed, fertilizer, chemicals, erosion control and mulch sales.
- Nature Safe**
Natural & organic fertilizers made from animal proteins not waste by-products or manure.
- Olds Seed Solutions**
All your seed needs.
- Pendelton Turf Supply**
Plant protectant materials, seed, fertilizer, tee and green.
- ProGreen Plus**
Fertilizers, aquatic supplies, hydro seeding suppliers, seed and chemicals.
- ProSource One**
Providing quality fertilizer, seed, and plant protectants for the turfgrass and ornamental industry.
- Reinders**
Distributor of commercial turf equipment, fertilizer, grass seed, herbicides, fungicides, irrigation products, landscape supplies and ice control salt.
- Reister & Schnell**
John Deere turf equipment and One Source supplies.
- Rettler Corporation**
Landscape architecture, civil engineering, golf course architecture, land surveying, site maintenance and irrigation design.
- Spring Valley**
Formulator of quality fertilizers, complete line of plant protection products and grass seed.
- Sports Turf Specialists**
Syngenta Full line of plant protectants.
- Tee Shot Marketing**
AerWay aerators and other supplies for the green industry.
- TIP**
Specialty turf equipment.
- The Andersons**
Fertilizer, control products, spreaders.
- Tiziani Golf Car Corp**
Club car golf & utility vehicles.
- Verdicon**
Pesticides, fertilizers and seed.
- Waupaca**
Supplier of quality topdressings, mixes, bunker sands, decorative stone, cobbles, infield dirt and cart path materials.
- Wisconsin Turf**
Golf and turf maintenance equipment and supplies. Custom deep-tine aerification.
- Wolosek**
Golf Course Materials.
- WSTMA**
Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in Wisconsin.
- WTA**
Dedicated to better turf through research and education.
- Yamaha Golf Cars**
Golf Cart Sales.



Wisconsin Legislators Encounter the Green Industry

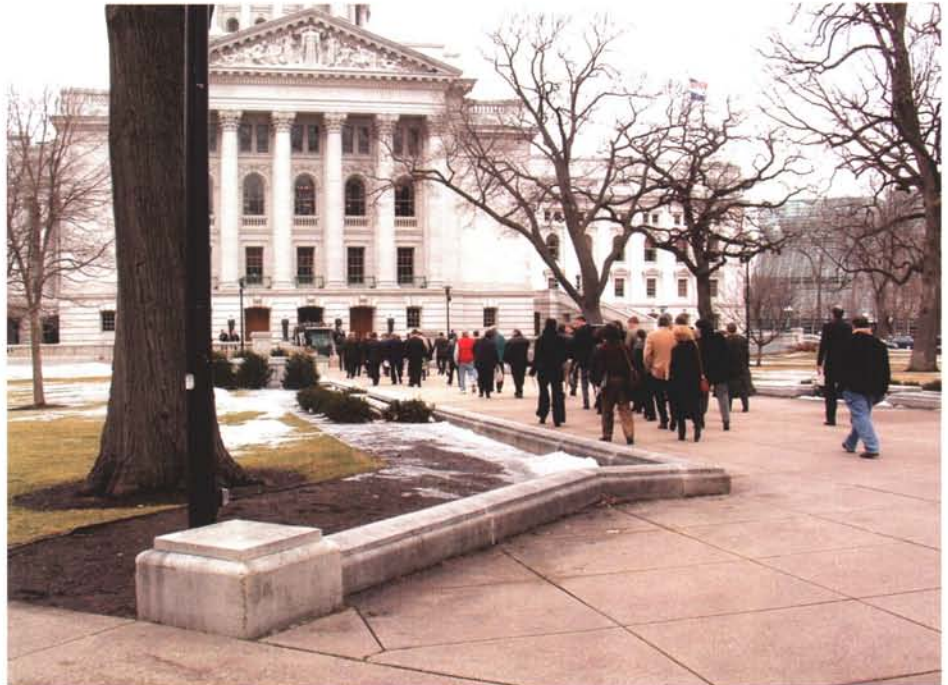


By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Over two hundred representatives of Wisconsin's green industry converged in Madison on February 15, 2005 to meet with state legislators for the first ever Wisconsin Green Industry Day on the Hill. The representatives were comprised of business owners, workers, enthusiasts, and educators who wanted to impress upon Wisconsin's lawmakers the impact our industry makes in Wisconsin's economy. They also wanted to impress on them that, while making this large economic impact, they remain true stewards of Wisconsin's environment.

We started by meeting at the Inn on the Park Hotel in downtown Madison. After several presentations, we walked across the street to the State Capitol to meet face-to-face with our state legislators. The 200 plus participants broke into small groups of 5 to 10 people to meet the senators and representatives. But because the senate and assembly were in session on February 15th, many of the groups met with their legislator's staff. We were assured that the staff get the attention of the legislators and will surely pass on our messages. Several of our small groups were able to meet with the legislators who, despite being in session, came out to speak with the industry. A file was given to each legislator or staff that was met which presented our important issues.

Issues discussed with the legislators and presented in the file included statements about pesticide and fertilizer products, land and water use, invasive species, health care, immigration and labor, environmental protection, and more. The main message, though,



The Green Industry heads for the State Capitol for the first ever Green Industry Day on the Hill.

was the economic information compiled in the recently completed Wisconsin Green Industry Survey.

This independent and unbiased survey, conducted by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, found Wisconsin's green industry annually contributes over \$2.7 billion and provides over 43,000 jobs to the state's economy. The survey also found there are over 4,700 businesses doing work in Wisconsin's green industry that have strong ties and commitment to our state's agriculture and its future.

The day was coordinated by Brian Swingle, the executive director of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation. Brian brought together 19 different green industry associations, listed below, to take part in the event. Additionally, he brought in several speakers including politicians,

Thank You to the Following Green Industry Groups Participating in the Day on the Hill

- American Society of Landscape Architects-Wisconsin Chapter
- Associated Landscape Contractors Association
- Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin
- Gardens Beautiful Garden Centers
- Grounds Management Association of Wisconsin
- Midwest Hardware Association
- Northern Great Lakes G.C. Superintendents Association
- Professional Landcare Network (PLANET)
- Professional Landscape Contractors Association of America
- Wisconsin Arborists Association
- Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association
- Wisconsin Golf Course Owners Association
- Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association
- Wisconsin Landscape Federation
- Wisconsin Nursery Association
- Wisconsin Sod Producers
- Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association
- Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
- Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Florists Association

Wisconsin Green Industry Day on the Hill participating associations and organizations



This group got the chance to meet with Michael Bruhn of State Representative Scott Gunderson's staff. (L to R) Wade Hummer (Treescapes), Mike Schuster and Heather Schuster (Terra-Firma Landscape), Michael Bruhn (Representative Gunderson's staff), and Jeff Millies (Edgewood Golf Course).



Representative Honadel (R-21st District) addresses the group on becoming involved in government through events like the Day on the Hill.



Day on the Hill coordinator, Brian Swingle of the Wisconsin Green Industry Foundation, poured his all into the event.



Over 200 participants gathered for the first ever Wisconsin Green Industry Day on the Hill.

agriculture representatives, and educators who spoke about issues important to agriculture and the green industry.

State Senator Ted Kanavas (R-33rd District) was one of the first to speak to the crowd. Ted serves as the chairman of the Senate Committee on job creation, economic development and consumer affairs. He also has first hand knowledge of the green industry, as his brother George Kanavas owns a landscape company. He acknowledged the exciting growth potential and positive impact to business and the environment that the industry contributes.

State representative Mark Honadel (R-21st District) spoke next. Mark is also familiar with the green industry being a former garden center owner. He was impressed with the large number of people that came together for the Day on the Hill. He said lawmakers will listen to groups that take the time to be involved with their government through events like this.

Dr. Laura Jull from the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture was the driving force behind the Wisconsin Green

ARMOR
ACCESS BOXES™
 FORMERLY AMETEK® ACCESS BOXES
 Manufactured in
 Sheboygan, Wisconsin
 Specify **ARMOR ACCESS BOXES™**
 – A Wisconsin Product!



Industry Survey. She made the comment that the green industry ranks #2 for agricultural crop cash receipts in Wisconsin. The only crop which exceeds in receipts is corn — (Green Industry - \$2.7 billion/ Corn \$5.65 billion). But she further clarified that those numbers only include product sales and that if the green industry included services and resales to their value, they would rank as the #1 agricultural crop in the state.

Other distinguished speakers that spoke to the industry included Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Secretary Rod Nilsestuen, former Governor of Wisconsin Martin Schreiber, and UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Elton Aberle. Dean Aberle was given a surprise before he took the podium to speak. Brian Swingle presented him with a "Friends of Wisconsin Green Industry" plaque in appreciation for all he's done in support of the industry as Dean of the College.

After this, Brian was surprised himself. Bill Vogel, the president of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation, said some nice words about all the work and expertise Brian put into the Day on the Hill. The surprise was the response from the green industry that followed. A long and sustained standing ovation was given Brian for all of his work. He was truly touched but could only thank his staff for all their behind-the-scenes work and additionally thanked the Board of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation who helped with this vision.

In closing Brian asked the audience if they felt the day made an impact on legislators and will help when important industry issues are being discussed by legislators. Every hand went up in agreement. ♻️



UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Elton Aberle was presented a 'Friend Of Wisconsin Green Industry' plaque by event organizer Brian Swingle.

Green Industry Day on the Hill Participating Associations:

- American Society of Landscape Architects-Wisconsin Chapter
- Associated Landscape Contractors Association
- Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin
- Gardens Beautiful Garden Centers
- Grounds Management Association of Wisconsin
- Midwest Hardware Association
- Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Professional Landscape Contractors Association of America
- Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Florist Association
- Wisconsin Arborists Association
- Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association
- Wisconsin Golf Course Owners Association
- Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Wisconsin Green Industry Federation
- Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association
- Wisconsin Nursery Association
- Wisconsin Sod Producers
- Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association
- Wisconsin Turfgrass Association



BOB F.

BRETT

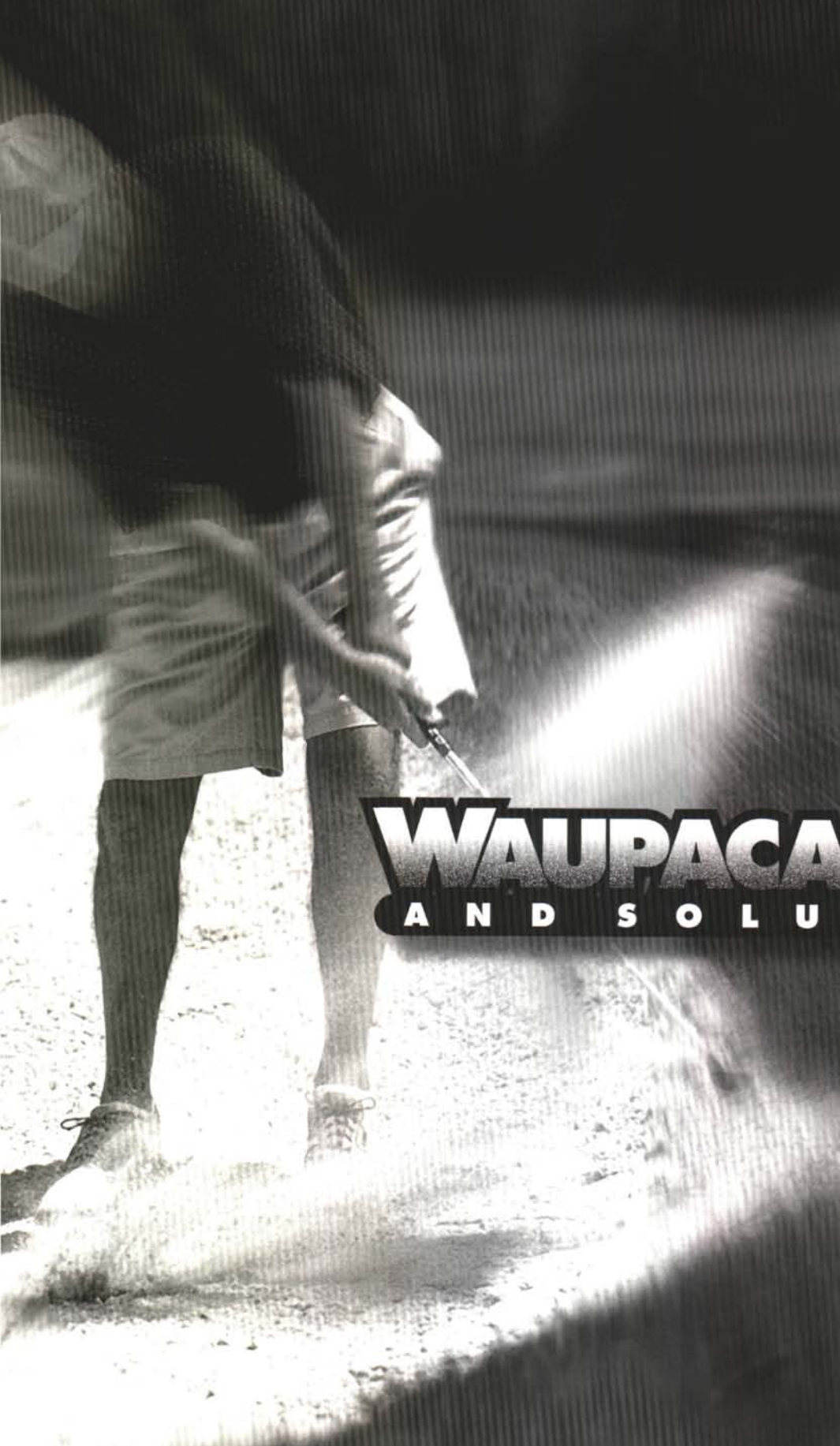
CHRISTINE

JEREMY

KARI

BOB M.

SHARON



**SAME GREAT
PEOPLE.
SAME GREAT
SERVICE.
MORE
EXCELLENT
PRODUCTS
THAN EVER.**

**FINES FREE
TOPDRESSING®**

**NORTH FACE
BUNKER SAND®**

7:2:1® BLEND

WAUPACA SAND AND SOLUTIONS

CART PATH GRANITE

NITROGREEN SAND®

BEST BUNKER SAND

CUSTOM MIXES

info@waupacasand.com

(715) 258-8566

GCSAA Conference Signals Renewed Optimism

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



Most golf course superintendents know who have experienced the GCSAA Conference and Show are excited by the prospect of attending the next one. Once we get past Christmas, I think about conference all the time and can barely wait to get going.

In my career, I have never missed one. What a tribute to my employer; Blackhawk has always trusted I would get good value for the cost. And what a compliment that is to GCSAA. The organization has created an event that I would nearly be afraid to pass on, fearful I might miss something important. It was kind of cool to raise my hand when, at the BASF/LESCO meeting a few weeks ago in Sheboygan Falls, Joe Vargas asked if anyone had attended the GCSAA conference in Boston in 1973. I did, and I loved it. But was it ever cold!

The trip to conference is, for me, enhanced in those years when I can drive. That leaves out places like Anaheim and San Diego, but with so few other venues left - Orlando, New Orleans and Atlanta - the trip by car is very reasonable and affordable.

Driving can be a pain in the neck, however. Bad weather, traffic, car hassles and all the rest require some patience. But the payoff is big, really big. Primarily, I have been able to see golf courses I would never have seen otherwise. And, after all, that's our business. On top of that you can plan a route that takes you past some of America's great historical sites. Those many stops over the years have been exciting, too.

There are a couple of negatives I can think of, however. The GCSAA conference conflicts with the

Greater Madison Farm Toy Show in Verona and I hate missing it. I once thought of formally petitioning Steve Mona to get GCSAA to change conference dates, but it seems unlikely he would do that. I would prefer not to have to give up two weekends in the winter. Weekends don't exist for too much of the year as it is and they are precious during the winter season. But in life we have decisions to make that are not always easy!

I find it curious that some of us were actually complaining that conference was "back in Orlando so soon." Is that progress or what? It is one of the great vacation spots in the country and certainly a great venue for a convention like ours. But that attitude only amplifies the saw, "familiarity breeds contempt."

So we drove to Orlando again this year. There were three of us — Chad Grimm and Aaron Goninen and me to share driving and to split expenses. With three travelers, there are no tie votes on restaurants, stops, hotels or anything else. Once in awhile there might be a sore loser, but mostly we were in full agreement all of the time.

We drove east first and then headed south to Florida. Our trip

plan took us south out of Wisconsin to Bloomington, east through Indianapolis and Columbus and a fuel stop a New Concord, Ohio. Not exactly coincidentally, New Concord was the boyhood home of astronaut John Glenn. He spent his childhood in a modest house on Main Street of New Concord. It is the kind of home millions and millions of kids grow up in, and that shows you one of the great things about America - greatness so often comes from humble beginnings.

We continued on through Wheeling, passed south of Pittsburgh (and wished we had time to go Steve Scoville and his family; Steve is our official Grass Roots cartoonist), and drove past dark to get to Bedford, Pennsylvania. Bedford is a historic old town that goes back to pre-revolutionary wartime. Washington commanded a unit of troops that camped in Bedford in the 1700s.

The next day, after an evening of some snow, we pushed on to Lancaster, the home of President James Buchanan. President Buchanan, who preceded Lincoln in office, is buried in a cemetery in downtown Lancaster and his home



James Buchanan's burial site is in Lancaster, PA.



The distinctive wicker basket flagstick makes it clear you are at the Merion Golf Club.



Chad Grimm and Aaron Goninen were excited to visit Merion Golf Club despite the cool temperatures.

Wheatland is located on the west side of the city. We walked through considerable new snow to be able to stand at the foot of his grave. Visits to final resting places like this one never leave my memory and I have only a few presidential gravesites and homes left to see.

We left Lancaster and drove out on Highway 30 to Highway 41 to Highway 1, leading us east into Philadelphia. Highway 1 becomes Baltimore Pike Road somewhere along the way into Philly and it took us past the entrance to the famed Longwood Gardens. I've wanted to see Longwood Gardens since the time I took Dr. Ed Hasselkus' woody ornamental classes decades ago. But it is winter - not much to see - and



The cool winter day was a perfect day to grasp the full effect of the Korean War Memorial-poncho-clad GIs dealing with bad weather. The Lincoln Memorial is in the background.



The new WWII Memorial is a must see in D.C.

Longwood wasn't on our mission list this year. So we drove past there and past the USGA Green Section office that houses the Mid-Atlantic region. When we reached Highway 452, we pulled into a parking lot and called Stan Zontek. He and Marti got on their speaker phones and talked us through the best way to the Merion Golf Club. Their instructions were flawless.

Merion has been on my list of courses to visit for years. That interest goes back a long time to a lunch I had at the Symposium with Richie Valentine. Richie was the golf course superintendent at Merion for many years and had succeeded his father Joe. Joe Valentine was a legend and the Penn State Turfgrass Research Station is named after him. Richie was in Wisconsin as a Symposium speaker. Merion is a golf course

with a rich history and tradition and the site of many national tournaments over its long history. The 2005 U.S. Amateur is sited at Merion this summer and that was the catalyst to make an effort to at least get a feel for it. As Stan said, "it's a special place."

Matt Schaffer was already in Orlando when we stopped, playing in the GCSAA tournament I suspect. We always go to the golf shop, introduce ourselves and ask permission to look around. The assistant golf pro was exceptionally friendly and helpful. I left my business card for him to give Matt and we checked Merion out, at least to the extent possible in winter in Philadelphia. It is the quintessential private course, located right in the middle of an older neighborhood of very nice homes. There are two courses at