

TALK TURF

Official publication of the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

Volume 15 Issue 1 | Spring 2014

2014 SPORTS FIELD TOUR

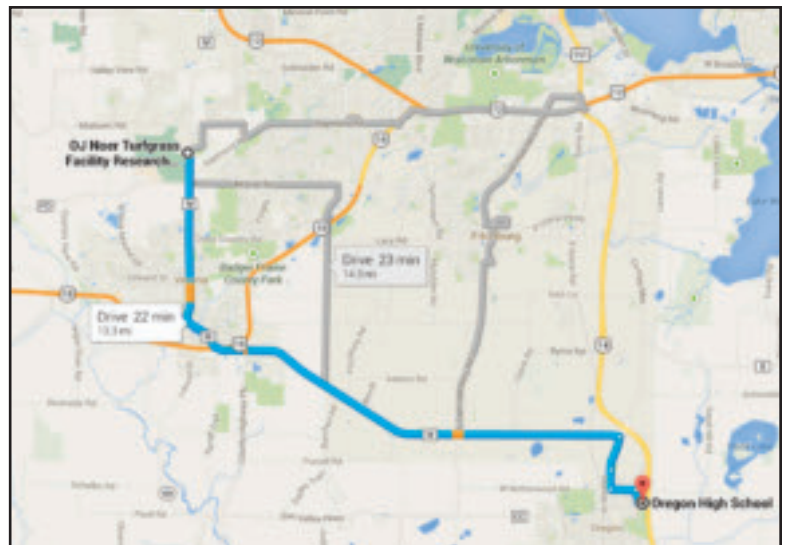
OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ron Novinska of the Oregon School District, will have a complete field renovation of over 15 acres of sports fields including baseball, softball and soccer fields in progress this summer. The project includes, regrading, improving drainage, irrigation and lighting and building a central press box/restroom facility.

Register and participate in morning events and lunch at the Wisconsin Turfgrass Summer Field Day at the OJ Noer Research Facility (not required but highly recommended!)

Join us after lunch on July 29, 2014 for a tour of the project and to hear from Ron and others involved in planning and overseeing the project. They'll share their experiences getting the project to this point and what's still to come.

We will meet at the Oregon High School athletic fields at 2 p.m., 456 N Perry Parkway Oregon, WI 53575. Full details regarding the 2014 Summer Field Day and registration are on pages 10-11. ♦



DIRECTIONS

- From the OJ Noer Facility take county highway M south approximately 10 miles
- Take the first exit at traffic circle and exit onto Co Rd MM
- Turn left on Netherwood St
- Turn right onto N Perry Parkway. The Oregon High School is at 456 N. Perry Parkway.
- Continue past the high school, past the tennis courts and past the varsity baseball field and you will find the project site.

Also inside...



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It finally appears that summer has arrived, but not without some challenges. What a brutal winter and spring we experienced this year. Trying to get spring sports fields playable was a challenge. If you did get the games in it was a team effort by coordinating with the administration, coaches, players, working long hours with your staff, and shuffling game dates to make it work. It's a TEAM effort to make it work. "Together Everyone Achieves More".

That is how I view the WSTMA. We are a team and it takes everyone to make it successful. We have an extensive network of vendors that continually go above and beyond to support and promote us. We are extremely fortunate to have UW-Madison and UW-Extension for us to utilize with their outstanding professors and the research they are providing for our industry. We have a strong national organization that provides unbelievable resources to our chapter. We have members that are open to expanding their knowledge of sports turf issues by attending educational seminars which makes our profession stronger. Our board members are dedicated to our organization and donate their time and talents to connect all these entities together and share that message through newsletters, our website and conferences. Collectively we have put together a strong TEAM!!

In the pages ahead you will see several great opportunities for our members. The first is visiting National STMA Field of the Year winner at the Oregon School District the afternoon of Field Day in Madison. Another exciting opportunity comes in August or September where we will have the privilege of touring Lambeau Field.

Also, please take some time to explore our website. It's a great resource and provides members with the ability to connect with peers and discuss industry topics in the chat forum. Check it out and see what's going on!

I hope your team has a wonderful summer and that our paths cross soon.

Chris Brindley

WSTMA Contact Telephone Numbers

Mid-AM | Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show | www.midam.org

PLANET | Professional Landcare Network | 800.395.2522

STMA | Sports Turf Managers Association | 800.323.3875

TPI | Turf Producers International Field Day | 800.405.8873

WGCSA | Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association | 920.643.4888

WSTMA | Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association | 608.845.6895

WTA | Wisconsin Turfgrass Association | 608.845.6536



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CHAPTER MANAGERS REPORT

Brett Grams

Well although the official start of summer is actually June 21st as I am writing this report it sure feels like summer has already begun. At times this spring I really felt like the warmer weather and sunny days would never arrive. A few nice days and then more cold and rain with even some snow mixed in. Central WI had the coldest recorded March temperatures ever this year. I did not even realize it was happening as it was warmer than the brutal January and February temperatures. Thankfully reports across our great state were that overall turfgrass did quite well compared to our counterparts in N. Illinois. We finally have some good growing weather and I hope you will soon recover from any winter damage that you may have encountered.

Spring sports were again a challenge. I was able to watch many of our local HS baseball games this spring and I saw firsthand the challenges many of you face daily trying to get fields in good condition with Mother Nature throwing plenty of curve balls your way. If it was not rain, cold, and cloudy conditions it was cold and windy. If you were like us here you also endured plenty of canceled games and/or delayed games that once again made the end of the season really busy for teams and those of us who manage the playing fields. I tip my hat to all of you who somehow always make the fields as playable as possible for all our athletes.

I will use these newsletters to report on association business and provide you with timely updates. We have some very positive things happening as well as some challenges as we hit our stride in the 2014 season. I hope you like the new look of the newsletter. I am happy to report that our

board leaders have found layout/editor leadership within our organization. I am excited to be working with Ainsley and Eddie Warczak. Ainsley has experience in graphic design and layout and with her husband Eddie being a continuing leader of the WSTMA, this should make for a good fit in helping communicate and educate with our newsletters. The plan is to have three newsletters again in 2014.

Another positive was the great day of education and networking at the Winter Turf Conference. I must admit I was quite nervous when we had to postpone the event due to bad weather. However we saw a very large majority of people who were still able to make the second date. We had good participation of the vendors, members, and even some guests of the association attend. We were treated to a very nice venue at Fox River Stadium home of the WI Timber Rattlers. The room was a great size to host our meeting and to learn from our great lineup of speakers.

Some of the challenges that we face are consistent with what the leaders have seen the past few years. Our membership levels have decreased from those in years past. We also have members who have yet to renew your membership. I will be calling! We are only as good as our membership levels. With more members we receive more support from the vendor companies. Sadly, we have again seen a decline in vendor support this year. Please review those who have advertised in this newsletter. Thank them for the support. Let them know you make your buying decisions with WSTMA support as a consideration. If you see a supplier or company that you do business with that is not advertising please contact me so I can follow up or

let them know to contact me. Ad revenue and company sponsorship of events helps defray membership costs and registration fees at our meetings. We simply would not be able to afford services without the help of the member companies!

I am excited to see many of you attend the annual UW Summer Field Day being held July 29, 2014 at the beautiful OJ Noer Research Facility. I am sure we will have a great day of education at the Summer Field Day, a fantastic lunch and networking time and then a great tour in the afternoon. Please pre-register as you can!

In closing, I am here to serve all members. If I can ever be of any help please let me know. I have included my contact information as I am only a phone call or email away. Thanks for being a valued member and important part of the WSTMA. Please let any other sports turf managers in your area that we would LOVE to have them join our association. If you prefer to let me contact them direct just give me the names and phone numbers!

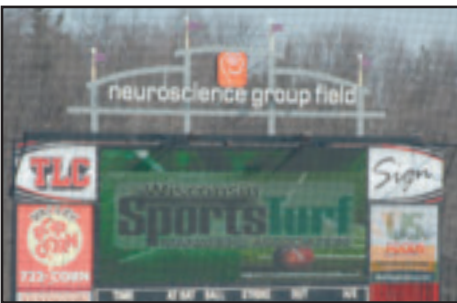
I wish you all a fantastic start to the growing season... BG ♦



Brett Grams
Chapter Manager

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WINTER CONFERENCE RECAP

Kim Tiber

Although Mother Nature decided to throw us a curveball in February that caused some last minute re-scheduling, the 2014 Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association Winter Conference was worth the wait! The predicted super storm never quite lived up to the hype in most parts of the state, but the board felt that the safety of our members, vendors and guest speakers traveling to attend the conference was important enough to warrant rescheduling the event.

The Conference was finally held at the beautiful banquet facilities of the Fox Cities Stadium, home of the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers on Tuesday March 18th. Many thanks go out to the staff at Fox Cities Stadium and all of our vendors and speakers who were all extremely accommodating throughout the rescheduling process.

Once again this year the WSTMA was able to partner with the UW-Extension Pesticide Applicator Training Program and the Wisconsin Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection to offer a review session and the opportunity to take the Turf and Landscape Category 3.0 pesticide certification exam at the conference as an alternative morning session track. We hope to be able to continue to offer this opportunity each year at the Winter Conference so keep this in mind if you or any of your staff need to take the test next year.

To start off our morning session Dr. Doug Soldat provided a report from the UW-Madison OJ Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility. Doug provided an update on current staffing, funding, trials and research happening at

the facility. Doug shared details and results from some trials and research of particular interest to sports turf managers. Dr. Soldat shared his observations of drought damage throughout the state over the past two summers and how those observations align with ongoing research at the OJ Noer Facility on various turfgrass species in different fertility conditions. He also walked the group through the USGS Web Soil Survey website, providing an overview of how to navigate the site and how the site can be a resource for sports turf managers.

To wrap up the morning session we heard from Matt Cavanaugh from PBI Gordon Corporation with an overview of herbicides most relevant to sports turf managers, who are often limited

Continued page 7

www.wstma.org



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Continued from page 6

by re-seeding intervals. Matt's presentation began with a review of the important differences in the life cycle of perennial weeds, winter annuals and summer annuals. Matt also reviewed the differences between ester and amine herbicide formulations before moving into a discussion of specific herbicide recommendations for common sports turf problem situations.

After a wonderful lunch prepared by the Fox Cities Stadium catering staff, Michael Boettcher, Director



of Grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers presented a discussion of "Managing and Molding Tomorrow's Field Managers Today." Michael asked each of us to reflect on the kind of manager we are and the kind of impact we have on all those we manage. Michael shared his experiences as he started as intern himself to being a mentor and providing internship opportunities for others today. It was interesting to see the number of conference attendees who can list an internship with Michael and the Brewers on their resume. Michael also shared with us examples of those who mentored and positively influenced him in his career and asked us to reflect on those people who have mentored and influenced each of us in our careers. Michael asked each of us to consider how we are helping develop the sports turf managers of tomorrow, whether that means offering internships, student

employment or seasonal positions. Above all Michael emphasized the importance of making sure that we all remember to have some FUN with what we do!

Our last presentation of the day was from WSTMA Chapter President, Chris Brindley and new Chapter Manager Brett Grams. Brett and Chris provided an overview of the Chapter Managers role, which is to manage the business aspects and facilitate and assist the President, Officers and the Board who are responsible for leading the Chapter. Other updates including directing member to the new WSTMA website: <http://www.wstma.wildapricot.org/> The new website will allow visitors to apply as a new member or re-new existing memberships online. The website also has an online forum where members can seek input and ideas from other members or post employment opportunities. Brett and Chris also discussed our current challenges including growing our membership numbers, which have been on the decline.

To wrap up the conference Chris stressed that Chris, Brett, and all of the Officers and Board Members are looking for input from the members. We want to hear from members about what they liked or did not like about this event, what type of future events they'd like to see and topics they'd like to see at future events.

Please contact any member of the WSTMA leadership is comments, suggestions or ideas. We want your input! ♦



WINTER CONFERENCE

In Photos




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WSTMA PROVIDES EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Peter Bemis

One of the main goals of the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association is to promote and provide educational opportunities for our members. Many members may not realize that additional education is available from a number of resources close to their homes.

The Wisconsin Technical College System is comprised of 16 colleges, located at numerous facilities across the State of Wisconsin. Many, but not all, of these campuses offer continuing education opportunities for our members. The programs can range from an associate degree, to a technical college degree, to a certificate, or, just single classes. Teachers in the technical college system must not only have achieved their academic degrees, but must have years of experience in the field in order to be hired to teach at a technical college. This ensures that there is academic knowledge plus practical experience in the field.

A number of the technical colleges offer a class entitled Turfgrass Management, or a similar title to their class. After researching the websites 12 colleges offer such a class. These colleges include: Western Technical College in La Crosse, Southwest

Technical College in Fennimore, Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland/Sheboygan, Madison Area Technical College in Madison, Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids, Milwaukee Area Technical College in Milwaukee, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, and Southwest Technical College in Fennimore.

Each college also offers a large array of courses that may be of interest to our members. Some of these courses include: Horticulture Soils, Identification of Woody Trees and Shrubs, Survey of Herbaceous Plants, Plant Health Care (including the Pesticide Applicator Training within this course), Irrigation installation and maintenance, Landscape Maintenance, and Landscape Design courses. Every college has a different selection of courses, so it is best to check all your options and have a conversation with one of the teaching staff.

Another terrific resource for education is the national SportsTurf Managers Association website. Anyone can go to the

STMA website and select the 'Knowledge' button. Under this button are a variety of resources to explore, thirteen topics in all. Some of the topics that I have investigated include; Turfgrass, Environmental Stewardship, Cultural Practices, and Continuing Education. I enjoy the opportunity to review presentations made at the 2011, 2012, and 2013 national meetings. There are well over 100 presentations at your fingertips!

Another topic located under the 'Knowledge' button is the University Publications topics. Here you will find listing of over 100 articles, neatly classified under general topics such as Soil Testing, Watering, Maintenance Calendars, Construction/Establishment/Renovation, Weeds, Diseases, Insects, and Calculations and Calibrations. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel, utilize this great resource of information. Many times the information will include something new, but at other times it is valuable to not learn anything new and to reinforce that you are following the best possible procedures.

Expand your knowledge of sports turf management by utilizing all these resources. ♦

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THE BEST INDUSTRY NEWS BEGINS WITH YOU

We want to keep the information coming, but we need your help! Each issue, chapter members and board members provide profiles, articles, and event coverage to provide the latest industry news. To continue providing our chapter members with current, valuable information from the field we need to hear from you. Have an article topic? Want to learn more about a company's service? Want a behind-the-scenes look into one of Wisconsin's fields?

Short on time, but still want to share your experiences? We'd also love to see what you're up to! Share photos from events, severe weather (tarp pull anyone?), or anything that your peers would appreciate experiencing through the lens of a camera. Contact Brett Grams, Chapter Manager at bgrams@wstma.org.

Seeking newsletter editor

Want to get more involved in the chapter? We're also looking for a newsletter editor to assist with article ideas and to assist in proof reading. Minimum workload required, approximately 5-8 hours per year (only 3 issues per year!).

Anyone interested in assisting as newsletter editor or sharing article ideas and interests, please contact Brett Grams, Chapter Manager at bgrams@wstma.org.



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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT WSTMA.ORG

STMA members can renew their 2014 membership and WSTMA memberships online.

Login to the members only page located at the left side of the page at wstma.org. Once logged in, a link to renew your membership will pop up. Click on the link and easily renew your STMA national and chapter memberships for 2014. A receipt is sent automatically to your inbox making it easy for you to print and provide for employer reimbursement.

Have questions? Contact your chapter manager at 920.643.4494 or bgrams@wstma.org.

Wisconsin Turfgrass Summer Field Day

Tuesday, July 29th 2014



at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona, WI



The O.J. Noer Facility in Verona is where you need to be on July 29th to learn all the latest turf management innovations coming out of the UW Madison. **Morning talks will focus on lawn-care, sports, & general turf tips, and afternoon will focus on golf turf research findings.**

What you will learn: Factors affecting weed control, Calibration of spreaders and sprayers, Seed selection, Japanese beetle life cycle, Managing rust disease, Tree and shrub applications, Recovery from harsh winters, Reduced risk disease control measures, Soil testing for potassium, Cooling your turf with fans and syringing, and so much more.



Fun and education for all. There will be turf tips and research findings for anyone working in lawn care, sports field management, sod production, and golf course management. Great lunch and camaraderie are included.



The trade show will have a huge variety of equipment and turf supplies/services to help you improve your maintenance program. Get expert advice from the many helpful exhibitors.

Registration Form and additional details on back or go to www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org to register and pay online

Questions - Contact Audra Anderson, WTA administrative assistant, at (608) 845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu

Field Day Schedule

8:00 – 9:00	Attendee Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Session
9:30 – 11:00	Lawn Care & General Turf
11:00 – 1:30	Trade Show Only Time
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00	Golf Turf
All Day	Trade Show

Registration Includes

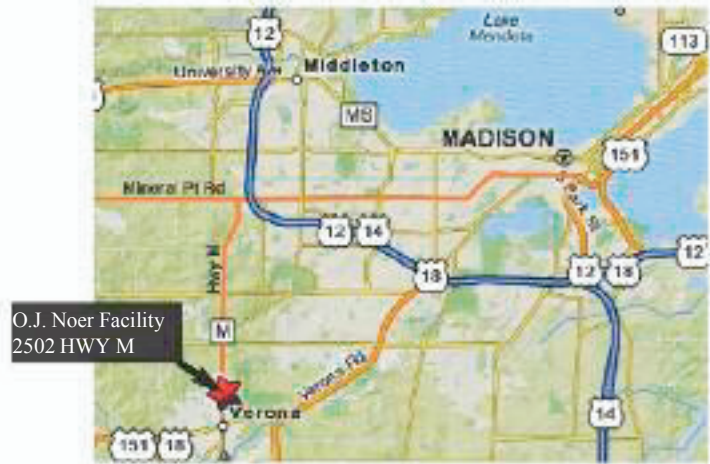
- Donuts & coffee at registration
- Morning and afternoon turf education
- Wisconsin style cookout for lunch
- All day Trade Show
- Become a new WTA member and receive free admission to Field Day 2014. Contact Audra for details ajander2@wisc.edu or 608-845-6536

Lawn Care / General Turf 9:30 – 11:00

- Factors Affecting Weed Control
- Sprayer & Spreader Calibration
- Grass Selection in Seed Science
- Japanese Beetle Life Cycle
- Managing Rust on Lawns
- Tree & Shrub Ornamental Applications

Afternoon Golf Turf 1:30 – 3:00

- Water Volume with Nozzles
- Recovery From the Harsh Winter
- Reduced Risk Disease Control
- Soil Testing for Potassium
- Cooling Turf with Fans & Syringing



- From Madison Beltline US-12/US-18
- Take Mineral Point Road exit
- Go West on Mineral Point Road 7 tenths of a mile to Pleasant View Road roundabout
- Exit roundabout onto South Pleasant View Road
- Continue 2.5 miles to O.J. Noer Facility



Registration

Mail registration form and check payable to WTA by July 22nd to O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility / 2502 Highway M / Verona / WI / 53593. Or register online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. **Prices are for pre-registration if postmarked by July 22nd. Add \$5 after July 22nd and for on-site registration.**

Name of all employees _____

Company _____ email _____

Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____ phone _____

Non WTA member - Employee # 1 X \$40 _____ Additional employees @ \$30 each X _____ = _____

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WTA membership @ \$125/person _____

Grand Total \$ _____

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