

Event Sponsor:



Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Education presented in the Stillwater/Boulder

7:00 a.m. Registration desk is open. Continental breakfast is available co-sponsored by **STOTZ EQUIPMENT, MAGIC VALLEY TURFGRASS** and **HELENA AGRI-ENTERPRISES**

8:00 – 9:15 a.m. Basic Turfgrass Growth and How it Impacts Management Practices *Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*
Explore the growth response of cool season turfgrasses to optimum temperatures, sub-optimal and supra-optimal temperatures. We will focus on turfgrass development phases and management practices that can be predicted using temperature. Topics will include cold stress, plant growth regulators.

8:00 a.m. Trade Show Exhibitor move in - *Convention Center* (equipment must be set in place by 12:30 p.m.)

9:20 – 10:20 a.m. Potassium Nutrition in Turfgrass and its Affects on Disease and Winter Injury *Chas Schmid, Ph.D., Turfgrass Research Associate, Oregon State University*
Discuss the relationship between potassium nutrition and turfgrass diseases, including anthracnose, dollar spot and microdochium patch. Understand the effect of potassium fertilization on winter injury of golf course putting green turf and learn about the recommendations for both annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass.

10:20 – 10:40 a.m. Break

10:40 – 11:40 p.m. Instill a Culture of Excellence in Your Agronomy Team *Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, Executive Vice President, Denehy Club Thinking Partners,*

Missoula, Mont. Gain insight into how to develop a high performing agronomy team. From hiring, setting goals and providing continued feedback to your team, you will learn different skills and methods to accomplish this.

11:40 – 12:40 p.m.
Lunch *Ballroom*



12:45– 1:40 p.m.

Business Meeting: Updates and elections. **President, Ryan Blechta, Spanish Peaks Mountain Golf Club, presiding. Nominating chair, Rick Hathaway Officer Slate:** President, Garrett Turner, The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, Big Sky, MT; Vice President Ryan Knapp, Stock Farm, Hamilton, MT; Pat Nowlin, City of Polson, Polson, MT. **Director Slate:** Derek Hofer, Green Meadow Country Club, Helena, MT (Incumbent); Russ Grover, Buffalo Hill Golf Club, Kalispell, MT; Mike Kelly, Olive Glenn Golf & Country Club, Cody, WY

1:40 – 2:00 p.m. Break co-sponsored by **2M COMPANY, ENVU,** and **HERITAGE PPG**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Turfgrass Seeding, Establishment, and Renovation

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio Topics in this discussion include the basics of the genetic makeup of seeds and how that influences the use of blends, mixtures, or single cultivars. The establishment of turf through proper renovation procedures and the likelihood of success are discussed. Interseeding procedures are covered for converting an existing turf into one with newer cultivars.

3:00 – 6:15 p.m. 2023 TRADE SHOW! *Convention Center* Take advantage of the knowledge present with this multivendor event showcasing their products and services to aid your facility! Enjoy food and beverages for registrants (and families) - this event is open to outside attendees after 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

7:00 - 10:00 a.m. Trade Show Exhibitor move out

7:20 a.m. Continental breakfast is available **SYNGENTA, WILBUR ELLIS / THE ANDERSONS,** and **HARCO FITTINGS**

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
That's Got Carbon In It!?!?
Allied Member Silent Auction Presentation Ben Pease, PhD, Turfgrass Agronomist, The Andersons will cover fertilizer and soil amendment offerings that utilize the power of carbon and how these carbon products can benefit your turfgrass agronomic program. The Andersons has been harnessing carbon technology before carbon was cool.

8:25 - 10:20 a.m.
Healthy Teams, Healthy Greens
Kee Dunning, MS, MEd, LCPC, LMFT, and Dunning Counseling and Consulting, Inc.; Stacy Stellflug, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC, Montana State University College of Nursing; with Peter Grass, CGCS, Hilands Golf Club, Billings, Mont. Having a healthy team is a critical component of fostering an environment of growth both for the team and for the golf course. Explore how the way you think influences the way you respond and communicate. In addition we will teach participants how to integrate the Kee Concepts of Communication © in to their daily life to have a daily positive influence both on and off the course.

10:20 – 10:40 a.m. Break

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.
The Use of PGR from a Historical Perspective *Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio* Cool season turf use of PGRs began in the late 70s and 80s, consisting of one or two applications per year. From those beginnings, we have seen PGRs become an important part of any management program. We will look at the evolution of

PGRs not only for suppressing growth but its role in both plant health and turfgrass species composition.

11:40 – 12:40 p.m. Lunch *Ballroom* 

12:40 – 1:40 p.m. Backpack Sprayers 101: Unleash Their Full Potential *Chas Schmid, Ph.D., Turfgrass Research Associate, Oregon State University* This presentation will cover ways a backpack sprayer can be used on a golf course. It will also cover what features should be considered when purchasing a backpack sprayer (both manual and electric), and how to modify the spray wand to improve calibration accuracy. Methods on how to calibrate a backpack sprayer for broadcast or spot applications will also be covered.

1:40 – 2:00 p.m. Break co-sponsored by **NUFARM, TURFMEND** and **PLANET TURF**

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. A Medley of Best Practices for Longterm Success *James Prusa, James Prusa Associates, Philipsburg, Mont.* Don't miss this informative, entertaining and fast-paced session for all in the golf profession. With an extensive career in golf that has taken him around the world, Prusa even has a tie to our association's beginning. Prusa was the GCSAA associate executive director from 1982-1987 and assisted our association's leaders (Dane Gamble, Don Tolson), in achieving its chapter affiliation status. Now retired to Montana, he welcomes the opportunity to share "critical information that I wish I had when I first started my career." Topics will include turfgrass nutrient management and the real cost of fertilizers; irrigation management and the impacts on the quality of golf course play conditions; professional tour event championship preparation and management — lessons learned; training your staff to be professionals in hospitality service — peak performance; and an overview of the Mega Trends that impact us in the golf business here.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Fall Meeting's Own 19th Hole Social *Food and beverage sponsored by our*

Fall Meeting 19th Hole Sponsors (hole sponsor signs displayed): **PLUS cash prize drawing: Johnson Distributing and ENVU!** *Additional sponsors:* Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons; Steiner Thuesen, ASLA; Simplot Turf & Horticulture; Masek Golf Car Company; Helena Agri-Enterprises; Granite Peak Pump Service; 2M Company

Thursday, November 9, 2023

7:15 a.m. Registration desk is open with continental breakfast co-sponsored by **EARTHWORKS CARBON BASED FERTILITY, DESERT GREEN TURF** and **BILLINGS CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY**

~ Separate registration is required for this session

8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Biostimulants, What do We Know? *Adam Thoms, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Commercial Turfgrass, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa* Biostimulants are all over the turfgrass industry as new products hit the market everyday, and yet little is often known about them. We will examine the origins of biostimulants and then dive into the specifics of what makes up this broad class of products. Common biostimulants often contain plant hormones, bacteria, vitamins, amino and humic acids, sea kelp, and the list goes on. You can find them at every trade show. Examining how these products work will also be key as to why you might see a difference on your golf course, and why you may not in every case. Digging deeper, we will look into how to read the research that is presented, as well as what is a valid set of results based on the scientific method and what is not. Discussions will also take place on how to run a trial on your golf course to test these products to see differences for yourself in your setting. Finally the presentation will cover some of the studies conducted at Iowa State and how some products have performed.

11:30 a.m. Lunch sponsored by  (included in your registration)

Peaks & Prairies GCSA 

Welcome to the Fall Meeting & Trade Show!

November 7-9, 2023

**Billings Hotel & Convention Center
Billings, Montana**

Event Sponsor: 

*Peaks & Prairies GCSA is
dedicated to furthering the education
of our members for the betterment
of golf and its environment.*

Peaks & Prairies Chapter
 **GCSAA**
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Our Speakers:

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., is professor of Turfgrass Science in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University. His research has primarily focused on turfgrass ecology and management. During his tenure, he has developed mathematical models that predict the occurrence of turfgrass diseases on a global scale, and used molecular tools to measure population shifts in turfgrass communities and for cultivar identification. Danneberger teaches turfgrass courses in the area of turfgrass physiology and management, and in the history of golf course design. He also developed The Ohio State University online Golf Course Management Certificate Program. Danneberger has received numerous awards including the Fred V. Grau Award and the Fulbright Senior Specialist title. He is also the founder of the GlobalTurf Network that provides turfgrass information to end users in seven languages. Danneberger received his B.S. degree in agronomy from Purdue University, M.S. degree in horticulture from the University of Illinois, and Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Michigan State University.

Kee Dunning, M.S., MEd, LCPC, LMFT, is a therapist in Billings, Mont., who has owned and operated her own practice for 20+ years. Dunning grew up and graduated from high school in Lander, Wyo. After graduation, she went on to Casper College where she earned an Associate of Liberal Arts, followed by a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Social/Political Science, a Master of Education and Professional Counseling, plus a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies – all from Eastern Montana College/MSU Billings. Dunning worked as a teacher and coach before becoming a counselor. Her work has been featured in the Ken Burn's documentary, "Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness." Dunning has worked on and around golf courses throughout her adult life. She has an appreciation for what it takes to tend a golf course and create an environment for all to enjoy.

Patrick Finlen, CGCS, is the vice president of Denehy Club Thinking Partners and has been in the golf business for 40 years. He has managed private

and public clubs in various leadership capacities, mastering the core disciplines of club management including agronomy, golf operations and club management. Finlen's professional background includes rising through the ranks at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, California. During his tenure from 2002 until 2019, Finlen served as the club's director of golf course maintenance operations and director of golf, and was named general manager in 2013. Under his professional guidance, the club hosted the US Junior Amateur, US Amateur, US Open and US Four-Ball Championships. He also negotiated the contracts for the 2023 US Woman's Open, the 2028 PGA Championship, and the 2032 Ryder Cup for the club. Prior to The Olympic Club, Finlen was a golf course superintendent in Kansas City, Virginia Beach, and Monterey. Most recently, he was the general manager at Winchester Country Club outside of Sacramento. Finlen served on the GCSAA board of directors from 2006-2014 and was president in 2013. Throughout his career, he has spoken on club management throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe. A native of Washington DC, Finlen is a graduate of Rockhurst College in Kansas City with a degree in business administration.

James Graham Prusa has spent over 50 years in the business of golf, with a substantial amount of time spent in Asia. Describing himself as a "hands-on executive" in many facets of hospitality, recreation and event management, he is first and foremost a third-generation greenskeeper. In 1977 he became the superintendent of Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz, Calif., implementing major plans to restore the Alister Mackenzie course. In 1982, he was hired as the GCSAA director of education, was an instrumental contributor to GCSAA's major programs and served as the COO. Over his career he has prepared courses for notable televised golf championships, taught college courses in hospitality management and golf course management, was the director of agronomy for two of the largest ranked golf course management companies in the world, and worked as a chief executive for various trade associations. With strong ties to the USGA, Prusa was a rules official for 14 US Open Championships. He holds numerous

degrees, is a published author, and being a professional scuba diver is just one of his many interests. Prusa is now retiring to Montana.

Chas Schmid, Ph.D., is a research associate in the turfgrass program at Oregon State University where he conducts applied turfgrass research and teaches undergraduate and PACE courses. Schmid is a South Dakota native who received his B.S. in horticulture, his M.S. in agronomy from the University of Nebraska, and his Ph.D. in plant biology and pathology from Rutgers University. His research interests include the management of organic matter in putting greens, the impact of cultural management practices such as soil nutrition and soil pH on anthracnose disease of putting greens, and turfgrass cultivar evaluations.

Stacy Stellflug, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC, is a nurse practitioner and professor of nursing at Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing. She grew up and graduated from high school in Glasgow, Mont. She attended Carroll College where she earned a Bachelor of Psychology and earned both a Bachelor and Master of Nursing from Montana State University Bozeman. Stellflug earned a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Colorado - Anschutz Medical Campus. She currently practices one day a week in private practice and is a researcher at MSU where she studies rural healthcare workforce and how to improve health care in rural settings. She enjoys travel, reading, photography, and golf.

Adam Thoms, Ph.D., is an assistant professor specializing in Commercial Turfgrass Management, Iowa State University, Department of Horticulture, Ames, IA. Thoms received his B.S. from Iowa State University, and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in plant sciences and plants, soils, and insects from the University of Tennessee. His research interests includes golf, athletic field performance and safety, residential, commercial and municipal turf applications, and sustainable turf management. Thoms is the turfgrass extension specialist for Iowa. He is active in the turf industry not only in Iowa but also nationally.