

Event Sponsor:



Monday, October 28, 2024

4:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Education presented in the Ballroom

7:00 a.m. Registration desk is open.

Continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **EARTH MEDICINE, STOTZ EQUIPMENT** and **BILLINGS CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY** Any changes for the golf tournament accepted until 12:00 p.m. today

8:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Wetting Agents and Their Effects on Putting Green Surfaces**

Doug Karcher, Ph.D., Professor & Chair, Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University
How wetting agents are used to ameliorate droughty turfgrass rootzones, including why they are very effective in some situations, and perhaps not worth the investment in others. This presentation will also explore the myriad of wetting agent products currently sold in the turfgrass industries, how they are classified (e.g. penetrant vs. retainer) and how they may be used beyond simply treating localized dry spots. This presentation will blend foundational knowledge, key historical research findings, and the latest research and trends. (Break during presentation.)

8:00 a.m. **Convention Center** Trade Show Exhibitor setup begins. *Please have equipment inside by 12:00 p.m. for overhead door to be shut.* Please be set up by 1:30 p.m.

10:35 – 11:35 a.m. **Updates in Irrigation Infrastructure: Considerations for Investment and Renovations**

Becky Grubbs Bowling, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist – Turfgrass Science and Management, University of Tennessee
Evolving technology can raise many questions about where investments in time, labor, and money offer the greatest resource-use efficiency and return on investment. This is coupled with difficulty garnering support for major renovations, as irrigation systems are unseen and often

undervalued by those who are not working with them every day. This talk provides an overview of the evolution of irrigation technology with considerations for practical decision-making and resources that may be instrumental in communicating the importance of maintaining and investing in these systems to those outside of the turfgrass industry.

11:35 – 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Sponsored by:



12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Essentials for Today's Modern Golf Course Superintendent and Turf Care Centers**

Tim Hiers, Director of Golf Course Operations, The Dye Course at White Oak Conservation, Yulee, Florida
Golf course superintendents have a variety of responsibilities including personnel management, public relations, agronomy, soil, water, wildlife, habitat management, resource management and many other categories. Excelling in each category can be rewarding and great for job security and competitiveness. The turf care center is the launching pad for a safe and efficient golf course management operations. The location, design, and/or renovation of the turf care center involves multiple disciplines and planning.

1:30 – 1:50 p.m. **Break**

co-sponsored by **EARTHWORKS CARBON BASED FERTILITY, MAGIC VALLEY TURFGRASS** and **WILBUR ELLIS/THE ANDERSONS**

1:50 – 2:40 p.m. **Business Meeting, includes Elections** – President Garrett Turner presiding.

Nominating chairman, Ryan Blechta, offers the following slate for your consideration: Officers: President: Ryan Knapp, Stock Farm, Hamilton, Mont.; Vice President: Pat Nowlen, Polson Bay Golf Club, Polson, Mont.; and Secretary/Treasurer: Brandon Barkley, 3 Creek Ranch Golf Course, Jackson, Wyo. Director positions: Two three-year positions are open. Nominated for the Board of Directors: (Incumbent) Cody Schulke, Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont.; DJ Woodruff, Purple Sage Golf Course, Evanston, Wyo.; Abe Coulosey, Rochelle Ranch Golf Course, Rawlins, Wyo.; and Tim Furan, Meadowlark Country Club, Great Falls, Mont.

2:40 – 6:00 p.m. **Fall TRADE Show**

Convention Center Take advantage of the knowledge present! Talk to our leading supporters —

our suppliers and distributors as they showcase their products and services! Enjoy food and beverages! Open to registrants (and families) — this event is not open to public.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

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

7:20 a.m. Continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **2M COMPANY, HARCO FITTINGS** and **REDOX BIO-NUTRIENTS**

8:00 – 8:20 a.m. **Presentation by Earth Medicine**

Leia Vaihere, Earth Medicine USA *An Allied Member Silent Auction Presentation*

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Conservation Renovation Strategies For Golf Courses**

Tim Hiers, Director of Golf Course Operations, The Dye Course at White Oak Conservation, Yulee, Florida
The goals for renovation of an existing golf course may include reductions of usage in the following areas: water, electricity, fuel consumption, labor, fertilizers, plant protectants, hand labor, and equipment usage where practical. Improvements will be made in these areas: aesthetics, turf health and resiliency, drainage, air movement, sunlight, playability, and increased speed of play. The design will accommodate players with varying skill levels, reduce liability, and increase safety for golfers and staff. The items will be addressed, as well as numerous other considerations.

9:30 – 9:50 a.m. **Break**

9:50 – 10:50 a.m. **Water x Weeds: Building an Integrated Weed Management Approach**

Becky Grubbs Bowling, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist - Turfgrass Science and Management, University of Tennessee

This presentation considers the impact of irrigation practices, rainfall, and soil characteristics on weed ecology and herbicide movement in turfgrass systems. Review how too much or too little water can lead to the spread of select hard-to-control weeds and how modifying cultural practices can significantly reduce weed pressure. There will be additional discussion on how soil moisture and post-application watering practices can influence off-target movement of herbicides through soil movement, runoff and volatilization/drift.

10:50 – 11:45 a.m. Lunch

Sponsored by



1:00 p.m. **Fall Golf Outing, Laurel Golf Club, Laurel, Mont.** Host superintendent, Bob Popp.

Thursday, October 31, 2024

7:15 a.m. Registration desk is open with continental breakfast, co-sponsored by **DESERT GREEN TURF, ENVU and HELENA AGRI-ENTERPRISES**

~ Separate registration is required for this session

8:00 – 11:30 a.m. **A Session of Lessons Learned from Experience to Benefit Both your Facility and Leadership Roles**

Lee Strutt, MG, CGCS, MS, PgDip, Director of Golf Course & Estates for Loch Lomond Golf Club, Scotland

Finding Better Solutions to Old Problems

A step-by-step process on evaluating and proposing a bunker renovation project to the course. Looking at bunker style, construction type, liner assessment and final sand selection. Finally, the process from start to finish of implementation and what was learned along the way.

Growing Pains of Grow-In

A walk through the process of building a world-class, expensive golf course — that never quite made it to the finishing line. The talk goes through the construction and grow in process in the heart of Scotland. Not only documenting the practical construction component, but the issues with team development and mental health issues. Interesting ideas and pointers that could help the listener.

In the Pursuit of Happiness

Sit back, relax and listen to a very personal story of how I managed people through my career — both nationally and internationally. We will review how my management techniques have worked well, and when they went very wrong, what I learned and how I changed things to create a very different approach. We will talk about my thoughts with multi-generational age groups within my teams.

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

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Our Speakers:

Becky Bowling, Ph.D., is an assistant professor and extension specialist at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Bowling's research program focuses on environmental turfgrass science and resource management with an emphasis on water quality protection and water-use efficiency. In her role, Dr. Bowling employs innovative strategies for engaging diverse turfgrass stakeholder audiences in education, informal learning, and workforce development. Since 2018, she has worked in partnership with national and statewide stakeholders to deliver over 300 unique extension presentations. Through Dr. Bowling's partnerships with stakeholders, she has also helped promote professional development and environmental stewardship through initiatives like the Certified Professional Turfgrass Management program, Water Efficient Recognized Green Professionals, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) BMP effort.

William T. "Tim" Hiers has been a golf course manager since 1976. His accomplishments include assisting Collier's Reserve Country Club become the first Audubon International Cooperative Signature Sanctuary Golf Course. In 2000, Tim joined The Old Collier Golf Club and led the effort to achieve the designation of first Audubon International Gold Signature Cooperative Sanctuary. This project is the first in the continental United States to use the newer variety of Paspalum grass on the entire golf course and the first in the world to irrigate solely with brackish water. Throughout his career he has been active both nationally and regionally, has spoken over 100 times nationally and internationally, and has toured over 4,500 school children in past 30 years. He is a past recipient of both the GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Award and the USGA Green Section Award. Since 2018, he has been the Director of Golf Course Operations at The Dye Course at White Oak Conservation, Yulee, Florida. The Dye Course at White Oak is a private, ecologically managed golf course that is part of a world-class retreat experience and was Pete Dye's last design. In 2022, Golf Digest awarded it as the Best New Private Course winner.

Doug Karcher, Ph.D., has been appointed as the Chair of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University since 2021. In this role, he serves the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences by facilitating the department's diverse teaching, research, and extension programs. Prior to this, Dr. Karcher served as Professor of Horticulture and Interim Assistant Experiment

continued

Peaks & Prairies GCSA

Welcome to the Peaks & Prairies GCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show

Enjoy golf at Laurel Golf Club!

Event
Sponsor:



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



Station Director at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Karcher's research background is in turfgrass soil management and cultural practices with an aim to improve turf quality while minimizing environmental impacts. He has authored/co-authored over 60 journal articles, a book chapter, and 120 other articles, which include meeting abstracts and trade magazines. Dr. Karcher was awarded two U.S. patents for inventions related to determining nitrogen levels and quality characteristics in plant systems using digital image analysis. He also authored "Turf Analyzer" software that is used by turfgrass scientists to assess turfgrass research. Dr. Karcher is a long-time teaching faculty member for GCSAA, primarily providing seminars on wetting agents and turfgrass assessment technology. He has presented extensively, nationally and internationally. He received a B.S. Degree from The Ohio State University, and Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University, all specializing in turfgrass science.

Lee Strutt, MG, CGCS, MS, PgDip, is an experienced golf superintendent and loves the challenge of both construction/grow-in and operational maintenance. He is a mentor for the Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) and an experienced inspector and examiner for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Strutt is a regular presenter on the British Turf Management Exhibition, and has presented in Australia, Asia and at the GCSAA Conference in the USA. Strutt enjoys tournament support and has volunteered at three Ryder Cups, the Scottish Open and two US Opens. He believes in sharing ideas, experiences and debates that help to make this amazing industry even better! Strutt is now the new Director of Golf Course & Estate at Loch Lomond Golf Club, Scotland.

TRADE SHOW

GOLD Food & Beverage Sponsors:

Johnson Distributing
Stotz Equipment
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Silver Food & Beverage Sponsors:

Great Basin Turf
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Big Sky Turf Supply and Power Equipment
Brandt
DBC Irrigation Supply
Desert Green Turf
Earth Medicine
EarthWorks Carbon Based Fertility
EZGO/CUSHMAN Montana
Floratine NW
Harco Fittings, LLC
Harrell's
Johnson Distributing
Masek Golf Car Co.
Midland Implement
Nutrien Solutions
Pacific Golf & Turf
Pacific Golf & Turf / Rain Bird
Simplot Turf & Horticulture
Soil Diva
Standard Golf
Steiner Thuesen, PLLC
Stotz Equipment
Syngenta
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Golf Hole Sponsors!

Hole Sponsor + Devil's Tower Golf
Pin Prize: Johnson Distributing
Stotz Equipment

Hole Sponsors:

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Barenbrug	Soil Diva
Brandt	
Masek Golf Car Company	Steiner Thuesen, PLLC
Mountain West Turf Tech.	Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons
PBI Gordon	
Redox Bio-Nutrients	

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