

Sunday, March 2, 2025

4:30 p.m. - Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025

7:00 a.m. Registration desk open. Please sign in at the registration desk. Continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **EARTHWORKS CARBON BASED FERTILITY, WILBUR-ELLIS / THE ANDERSONS** and **JOHNSON DISTRIBUTING / NOTE:** Please bring your silent auction donations you have committed to donating, and give to Craig Ross.

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

“Measuring and Managing Putting Green Organic Matter”

This talk will cover the latest on sampling and testing for organic matter in putting greens. We will also discuss the measurement of putting green firmness, and how topdressing decisions affect putting green performance.

Doug Soldat, Ph.D, Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

9:20 - 10:20 a.m.

“USGA Update on Water Resiliency”

We'll explore water sustainability in golf course irrigation management, focusing on reducing chemical use. Correct water management decreases disease and pathogen occurrences, leading to a healthier course with improved playability and consistency, with fewer chemical inputs. We'll discuss new research and innovative projects reducing water use, as well as practical short-term solutions like improved irrigation techniques and soil moisture monitoring, which can be implemented immediately to improve water efficiency. We will cover long-term strategies like advanced irrigation systems and water recycling efforts, which promise substantial long-term benefits.

Matteo Serena, Ph.D., Senior Manager of Irrigation Research and Services, USGA

10:20 - 10:40 a.m. Break (Auction - Bid! Bid!)

10:40 - 12:10 p.m.

“Wage and Hour Overview”

A brief overview of wage and hour topics such as overtime, leave policies, and salaried employees. The presentation will be tailored to recreational facilities such as golf courses. There will also be a brief discussion on child labor standards.

Theresa McGowan-Sroczyk, Compliance Bureau Chief
Tina Hetley, Business Compliance Specialist
Montana Department of Labor & Industry

12:10 - 1:10 p.m.

Lunch sponsored by:



1:10 - 2:10 p.m.

“Tech and Tools from the USGA”

A look at some of the tools the USGA uses and provides to turf managers. Exploring the GS3 ball, as well as some new instruments. We'll also discuss current technology, Deacon, and how it all works together to help turf managers.

Ross Niewola, CGCS, Consulting Agronomist,
West Region USGA

2:10 - 2:30 p.m. Break co-sponsored by

2M COMPANY, SYNLAWN MOUNTAIN WEST
and **SYNGENTA** (Auction - Bid! Bid!)

2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Business Meeting presided by President

Ryan Knapp, Stock Farm, Hamilton, Mont.

3:20 - 4:20 p.m.

“Enhancing your Operational Efficiency with AI”

Artificial intelligence (AI) is not just a trend but a powerful tool that can revolutionize the way you maintain your course. From predictive tools to more efficient communication, AI offers insights that can save time and cut costs. This talk will show you how learning to leverage AI can give you a competitive edge, ensuring your course stays in peak condition while maximizing your resources.

Doug Soldat, Ph.D, Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison,
Madison, Wisconsin

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

“Bozeman Banter” and Silent Auction

Group discussion moderated by Jason Lamb,
Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont.

9:30 p.m. “Auction Ends”

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

7:20 a.m. Continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **STOTZ EQUIPMENT, MAGIC VALLEY TURFGRASS,** and **SIMPLOT TURF & HORT**

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

“Redox Bio-Nutrients”

Presentation by Trey Whitaker

(An Allied Member Silent Auction Presentation)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

“Things to Consider to Optimize Pesticide Applications on the Golf Course”

There are many reasons pesticides do not meet expectations, including human errors in application timing, method, understanding product design, or using the wrong product. We'll cover PRE and POST emergence herbicides, their intended functions, and reasons for non-optimal performance. Additionally, we'll discuss herbicide resistance, its occurrence, and strategies to prevent or manage resistant weed biotypes.

Travis W. Gannon, Ph.D, Professor of Turfgrass Science, North Carolina State University,
Raleigh, North Carolina

9:30 - 9:50 a.m. Break

9:50 - 11:10 a.m.

“We Made it Through 2024”

Stories from your peers, ranging from challenges to successes to projects to pretty much anything!
Jeffrey Korff, Cottonwood Hills; Jason Lamb, Sidney Country Club; Mark Lyon, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club; Dustin Nelson, Buffalo Hill Golf Club; and Shawn Stutzman, The Golf Club at Devils Tower

11:10 - 12:10 p.m.

“Spray Masters: Making the Most Out of All You Apply!”

Applications of plant protectants through turfgrass sprayers are crucial to golf course management. Product selection involves safety, efficacy, and turfgrass tolerance. However, formulation, mode of action, and application factors like nozzle selection, spray volume, and water quality also matter. This session covers improving product performance by extracting information from labels, considering nozzle selection and spray volume, and testing pH and water quality. These factors can significantly impact success, especially in areas with poor-quality groundwater or reclaimed water.

Travis Gannon, Ph.D., Professor of Turfgrass Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

12:10 p.m. Lunch

Sponsored by  **Harrell's**
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Travel safely!

Our Speakers

Travis Gannon, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at North Carolina State University. He leads a research program focused on pesticide environmental fate and weed control in turfgrass systems. Gannon also has extensive experience with herbicide and plant growth regulator efficacy in all sectors of the turfgrass industry

Tina Hetley, is the Business Compliance Specialist with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Employment Standards Division. She has been with the Department since July 2022. Prior, Hetley worked in civilian law enforcement rolls for over 20 years, working in jails, alternative sentencing units, and records. She lives in Helena with her husband and two of her three children.

Matteo Serena, Ph.D., joined the USGA in 2022. As Senior Manager of Irrigation Research and Services, Serena is an important part of the Green Section research team. He's currently working with superintendents, researchers, allied golf associations, and other stakeholders to advance water conservation on golf courses. Serena has over two decades of experience researching turfgrass irrigation and water conservation. He received his

Bachelor's and Master of Science degrees from the University of Padua in Italy, and earned his doctorate in Plant and Environmental Sciences from New Mexico State University. Before joining the USGA, Serena was at the University of California in Riverside. He currently lives near Los Angeles, California.

Theresa McGowan Sroczyk, is the Compliance Bureau Chief with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry Employment Standards Division. After serving in the Air Force for 20 years, she retired in Montana and began working with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry as a Wage and Hour Investigator. She then worked as a mediator with the Department, mediating labor relations, wage and hour, and workers' compensation issues. She moved into her current position in December 2022. McGowan Sroczyk is a native Montanan.

Ross Niewola, CGCS has over 15 years of working in golf course maintenance, most recently, Niewola was the golf course superintendent at Walla Walla Country Club in Washington before joining the USGA in 2024. A Penn State grad originally from the East Coast, Ross has lived and worked in Virginia, Colorado, Arizona, New Jersey, Washington, and Northern and Southern California. He has worked with both warm- and cool-season grasses and at both public and private facilities. Throughout his career, Ross has worked on and hosted 13 tournaments for the PGA Tour, the LPGA, and the USGA, and has achieved Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) status from the GCSAA.

Doug Soldat, Ph.D., is a professor and turfgrass extension specialist in the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Soldat completed his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Soil Science from UW-Madison and earned a Ph.D. in Plant Science from Cornell University. His research and outreach programs are focused on improving turfgrass nutrient and water use efficiency. Soldat teaches courses on turfgrass management and general soil science at the University of Wisconsin.

We appreciate our member volunteers participating at this meeting!

“Almost”

Spring Meeting and Silent Auction

March 3-4, 2025

GranTree Inn
Bozeman, Mont.

Event Sponsor:

* Make hotel reservations by
February 11, 2025
to receive *VERY* reduced rates

* Register by February 20, 2025
to receive registration discount



Peaks & Prairies Chapter
GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America