

## Sunday, March 1, 2026

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

## Monday, March 2, 2026

7:00 a.m. Registration desk open. *Please sign in at the registration desk. Continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **WILBUR-ELLIS CO., STOTZ EQUIPMENT** and **MAGIC VALLEY TURF-GRASS*** NOTE: Please bring your silent auction donations you have committed to donating, and give to Dustin Nelson. Online donation form is available on calendar event ppgcsa.org.

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

### “Updates in Irrigation Infrastructure: Considerations for Investment and Renovations”

*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.*

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

9:20 - 10:20 a.m.

### “Effects of Vehicle and Cart Traffic During Frost Conditions”

*This presentation will discuss the effects of foot traffic, roller traffic and cart traffic applied to various golf course surfaces (greens, fairways and roughs) with sand-based and native soil systems. Factors that will be presented will include relationships between traffic damage and surface temperature, soil temperature, soil moisture and freezing surface and soil conditions.* **Alec Kowalewski, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University**

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

10:40 - 11:40 a.m.

### “Tips for Success from a Tenured Superintendent”

*This presentation is designed for anyone seeking to remain relevant and thrive in the golf course management profession. A 36-year member and past president (82nd) of GCSAA, Darren Davis has served as superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club since 1992. Davis considers himself fortunate to have discovered this career path and will share the principles, decisions, and habits that have contributed to his longevity and success in the industry.* **Darren J. Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, Florida**

11:40 - 12:40 p.m.

Lunch sponsored by:



12:40 - 2:20 p.m.

### “We Made it Through 2025”

*Stories from your peers, ranging from challenges to successes to projects to pretty much anything!*

**Ryan Blechta, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club; Matt Fregley, Big Sky Resort; Caleb Johnson, Canyon River Golf Club; Mark Lyon, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club; and Dustin Nelson, Buffalo Hill Golf Club**

2:20 - 2:40 p.m. **Break** co-sponsored by

**SIMPLOT TURF & HORTICULTURE, 2M COMPANY,** and **SYNGENTA** (*Auction - Bid! Bid!*)

2:40 - 3:00 p.m.

### “GCSAA Program Update”

Dave Phipps, Northwest Field Staff, GCSAA

3:05 - 3:45 p.m.

### Business Meeting (inc. proposed dues increase)

presided by president Pat Nowlen,  
Polson Bay Golf Course, Polson, Mont.

6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

### “Hot Topics at the Hot Springs” and Silent Auction

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

8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

### “Conversations and bidding!”

*Note - pool is open until 10:45 p.m.*

## Tuesday, March 3, 2026

7:20 a.m. Continental breakfast available.

Sponsored by **Nutrien**  
Solutions

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

### “New Tools and Technology in Golf Course Management”

Presentation by **Brent Radford, Wilbur-Ellis**  
(An Allied Member Silent Auction Presentation)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

### “Water x Weeds: Building an Integrated Weed Management Approach”

*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.*

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

9:30 - 9:50 a.m. **Break— silent auction ends at 9:45 a.m.** (Reminder - we appreciate donations from companies, course facilities, and individual members! We have an online donation form link available on the calendar event registration page.)

9:50 - 10:50 a.m.

### “How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry: Beyond Agronomy”

*Through personal stories and real-life examples, this presentation highlights the value of communication, professionalism, and self-promotion as tools to differentiate*

*yourself and advance in the golf industry. Attendees will explore actionable strategies to elevate their personal brand, present themselves at the highest level, and truly become the "author of their own destiny."* **Darren J. Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, Florida**

10:55 - 11:55 a.m.

### **"Preventing and Managing Winter Kill"**

*This presentation will highlight the various causes of winter kill (fungal diseases, ice encasement, crown hydration, desiccation, etc.). New research findings from Central, Oregon relating to winter temperatures and snow cover removal will be presented and discussed. Discussion time will be provided for exploration of methods used to mitigate winter kill such as fungicide applications, sand topdressing, and snow/ice removal.*

**Alec Kowalewski, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University**

11:55 a.m.

Lunch Sponsored by  **Harrell's**  
Growing a Better World™

Travel safely!

### **Our Speakers**

**Becky Bowling, Ph.D.,** is an assistant professor and extension specialist at the University of Tennessee. Her research program focuses on environmental turfgrass science and resource management with an emphasis on water quality protection and water-use efficiency. In her role, Bowling employs innovative strategies for engaging diverse turfgrass stakeholder audiences in education, informal learning, and workforce development. Through 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 GCSAA BMP effort. She completed her B.S. and M.S. in horticulture at Texas Tech University in 2010 and 2013 respectively before completing her Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences at the University of Georgia in 2017.

**Darren J. Davis, CGCS,** has been the superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Florida, since 1992 and is the president of Darren J. Davis Agronomic Consulting, LLC. A dedicated leader in the profession, Davis was elected the 82nd President of the GCSAA in 2018 and remains deeply involved in the association. He currently serves as the Chair of the GCSAA Centennial Celebration Committee until September 2026. Davis has earned recognition at both the state and national levels. He is a two-time recipient of the GCSAA Leo Feser Award and was honored with the GCSAA National Environmental Steward Award in the private course division. Davis graduated with highest distinction in 1991 from Penn State Turfgrass. He also earned an A.A. from Tallahassee Community College in 1987, and a B.A. in communication, Summa Cum Laude, from Florida Gulf Coast University in 2007.

**Alec Kowalewski, Ph.D.,** received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Michigan State University. After finishing his schooling at MSU, Alec worked as a professor, teaching at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia. In 2012, Kowalewski joined the Oregon State University Department of Horticulture with extension, research and teaching responsibilities in turfgrass and landscape management. His current role is focused on researching sustainable landscape management practices and preparing undergraduate students for careers in landscape management.

**We appreciate our member volunteers participating at this meeting!**

**We appreciate Jason Lamb getting the conversation started at the evening session.**

**Thank you to all participants of "We Made it Through 2025."**

**Ryan Blechta, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club**

**Matt Fregly, Big Sky Resort**

**Caleb Johnson, Canyon River Golf Club**

**Mark Lyon, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club**

**Dustin Nelson, Buffalo Hill Golf Club**

# *"Almost"* **Spring Meeting** and **Silent Auction**

**March 2-3, 2026**

**Fairmont Hot Springs**  
**Anaconda, Mont.**

**Event Sponsor:**

*\* Make hotel reservations by February 10, 2026 to receive VERY reduced rates*

*\* Register by February 18, 2026 to receive registration discount*

**STEINER  
THUESEN  
PLLC**

**GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE  
IRRIGATION DESIGN  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**



**Peaks & Prairies Chapter**

**GCSAA**

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America