

Event Sponsor:
Turfstar
Western Equipment



Sunday,
March 10, 2024

4:30 p.m. **Rainer Room, Hilton Garden**

Monday, March 11, 2024

Yakima Country Club (no jeans, collared shirts)

7:15 a.m. Please sign in at registration desk. Continental breakfast available and co-sponsored by **PLANET TURF, RIDGETOP GOLF** and **EARTHWORKS CARBON BASED FERTILITY** **SILENT AUCTION** begins. Please give your auction donation to Mike Bednar

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Navigating the Challenges of Managing Root Diseases

Root diseases can cause widespread destruction to amenity turfgrasses if not properly managed. Root pathogens infect the turfgrass plant underground and aboveground. Symptoms are often similar between different root diseases, making proper identification challenging. To add insult to injury, management of root diseases is also extremely difficult. This presentation will take a look into both the basics and complexities of root diseases in turfgrass. We will discuss summer patch, take-all patch, necrotic ring spot, and many more. The biology, epidemiology, and management (both cultural and chemical) of many key root diseases will be the main emphasis of this presentation. My hope is that you will walk away with a greater confidence in combatting these hidden dangers beneath the surface—root diseases.

Wendell Hutchens, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

9:15 - 9:30 a.m. Break **BID! BID!**

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Interseeding Success, Improve Your Course with Reduced or No Closing

Turfgrass breeders develop new cultivars with improvements in quality and disease resistance. In order to take advantage of new genetics you need strategies to introduce new species or cultivars with minimal or no closing to maintain revenue. Various strategies on timing and methods both based on research and actual superintendent success stories will be presented.

Leah Brilman, Ph.D., Director of Product Management and Technical Services for DLF-Pickseed USA, Corvallis, Oregon

10:35 - 11:30 a.m.

Using Emerging Technologies to Map and Manage Turfgrass Pests

Emerging technologies such as drones, GPS-guided sprayers, various sensors, etc. have become commonplace in agriculture. This presentation will highlight some of the practical uses for these technologies in managing pests (diseases, insects, weeds, etc.) in turfgrass. Building pest maps from drone imagery, developing predictive models through targeted sampling, early detection of pest pressure through remote sensing technology, and much more will be covered. The goal of the presentation is for turfgrass managers to understand the practicality of some of the latest and greatest technologies on the market.

Wendell Hutchens, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

11:30 - 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

Lunch Sponsor:



1:00 p.m.

Spring Golf Outing

Yakima Country Club

Host Superintendent: Mitchell Larson

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Yakima Country Club (no jeans, collared shirts)

7:15 a.m. **SILENT AUCTION** continues. Continental breakfast available, co-sponsored by **SIMPLOT TURF & HORTICULTURE, SYNGENTA** and one sponsorship is available

7:55 - 8:00 a.m. - Golf Wrap Up

8:00 - 8:20 a.m. (an allied auction presentation)

Special Presentation by Planet Turf

8:25 - 9:25 a.m.

It's all About the People

This talk focuses on ways to motivate your employees and to improve leadership skills.

William Griffith, Retired Director, Agriculture Center of Excellence, Walla Walla

9:25 - 9:45 a.m. Break **BID! BID!**

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Fungicide Alternatives for Disease Control in Turfgrass

Disease management has historically relied predominantly on one thing—fungicides. Although fungicides are usually fantastic at what they do (suppressing diseases), relying solely on fungicides for disease management is a mistake. An integrated approach to managing turfgrass diseases is a much more sustainable solution. Integrating cultural practices such as proper fertility, cultivation, irrigation, etc. is paramount in a successful long-term disease management program. Also, fungicide alternative products such as biologicals, iron sulfate, and even wetting agents can be great tools for managing pesky turfgrass diseases. With that in mind, how does a golf course superintendent build an effective disease management program from the ground up integrating fungicides, cultural practices, and fungicide alternatives? This presentation will help answer that question.

Wendell Hutchens, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.

10:50 - 11:50 a.m.

Breeding Turfgrass for Sustainability

Turfgrasses bring many benefits to the environment including carbon sequestration, moderating temperatures, reducing water runoff, and cleaning water and air. In order to take full advantage of the benefits we need to reduce any negatives from turfgrass maintenance for increased sustainability. Among the targets for more sustainable turfgrasses are cultivars that require less water while staying green, and require less mowing and less fertility and other inputs for environmental benefits.

Leah Brilman, Ph.D., Director of Product Management and Technical Services for DLF-Pickseed USA, Corvallis, Oregon

12:05 p.m. **Silent Auction ends and conference ends. Travel safely!**

Our Speakers

Leah A. Brilman, Ph.D., is the director of research and technical services for Seed Research of Oregon. She holds degrees from California State University-Bakersfield and the University of Arizona. Brilman's research interests include turfgrass breeding and genetics as well as the utilization of new cultivars and management changes. Her excellence in the turfgrass industry has been well-documented through the many awards she has received, including a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, the Association of Commercial Plant Breeders Award for Industry Breeder and being named a Fellow in the Crop Science Society of America. She has received the Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award from the Turfgrass Science Division of CSSA. In addition to participation in state and regional turfgrass conferences around the United States, Brilman has lectured in the United Kingdom, Russia, Australia, Japan, and Korea on various topics related to turfgrass cultivars. She has been a GCSAA faculty member and co-coordinator of the GCSAA Turf Bowl and the STMA Student

Challenge competitions for many years and she enjoys quilting, genealogy research and working as a volunteer with Special Olympics of Oregon in her spare time.

William (Bill) Griffith was appointed as the Director for the Agriculture Center of Excellence in August of 2013 and retired December, 2017. Prior, for 20 years Griffith was the instructor and program coordinator of Walla Walla Community College's long-running and successful Turf Management program. Griffith has 15 years of direct industry experience as a golf course superintendent at courses in Oregon and Washington. He has led many professional organizations and boards over the past 30 years serving golf courses, Washington Associations, and instructing students at a postsecondary education level. Griffith served on the Inland Empire GCSA Board of Directors for 25 years and is a past president. Griffith has also served twice as the president of the Northwest Turfgrass Association. In recognition of Griffith's contributions to the turf industry, the William Griffith Distinguished Service Award is awarded in his honor for outstanding contributions to the Inland Empire GCSA.

Wendell Hutchens, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of turfgrass science in the horticulture department at the University of Arkansas. His main areas of expertise are turfgrass pathology and precision management of turfgrass pests using emerging technologies. Hutchens' research program is centered around maintaining healthy turfgrass and combating turfgrass diseases with traditional cultural and chemical practices as well as with cutting-edge new technology such as drones and GPS-guided sprayers.

Thank you to all who donated and all who bid at our silent auction.

Please participate in the Summer Outing and the Crew Tournaments this summer!

Inland Empire GCSA
March 11 & 12, 2024

Spring Meeting

Yakima Country Club
Yakima, Wash.

Hotel:

Hilton Garden Inn
Downtown

Hotel Reservations due
February 9

Event
Sponsor:



Inland Empire Chapter
GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America