

GCSAA EDUs and Pesticide Recertification points will be applied for this event.

Event
Sponsor:

Nutrien
Solutions

Hotel Block:

Holiday Inn & Suites

Please make HOTEL reservations by **September 10 (note this date)** — see information at end of this agenda.

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Holiday Inn & Suites 4:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting (dinner follows) Board Room

Holiday Inn & Suites: Conference

Monday, October 5, 2026

7:15 a.m.

Registration desk is open and a continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **SPONSORS AVAILABLE**.

Deadline for golf tournament is 8:30 a.m. today

Silent Auction begins! *During the pre-registration time, please complete the online auction form with your donation information – see the calendar event on our website idahogcsa.org for the link.*

The Ten Things I Wish They'd Taught Me in Turf School

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Chris Carson, Superintendent Emeritus, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ and Instructor, Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program

Classroom education can only take a turf manager so far. A longtime superintendent shares the informal, real-world lessons that have helped him achieve sustained success.

Break (Bid, Bid!)

9:30 – 9:50 a.m. (Check out those auction items!)

Turfgrass Potpourri

9:50 – 10:50 a.m.

Thomas Nikolai, Ph.D., Senior Specialist, Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil, & Microbial Sciences, East Lansing, MI
Research updates focused on best management practices that include cultural and mechanical practices that minimize pesticide applications and conserve irrigation water.

Idaho GCSA Business Meeting

10:50 – 11:30 a.m.

President Paul Venable, Warm Springs Golf Course, Boise, Idaho, presiding. Alex Bliss, Nominating Committee Chairman for Board of Directors – slate TBA.

Lunch

11:30 – 12:20 p.m.

Lunch Sponsor:



Golf Outing, Pinecrest Golf Course

1:00 p.m.

Mark Spraktes, host superintendent
Golf event open to conference registrants (and spouses) only. Hole Sponsors are welcome!

Almost Season End Event

Following golf (approximately 5:00 p.m.)
Enjoy snacks and beverages at Pinecrest Golf Course hosted by Idaho GCSA, and

SPONSORS AVAILABLE:



Available Available

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

7:30 a.m.

Continental breakfast is available, co-sponsored by **SPONSORS AVAILABLE**
Silent Auction continues

Getting to Yes: Budgeting principles that can help you ask for and get the resources your course needs

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Chris Carson, Superintendent Emeritus, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ and Instructor, Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program
An overview of the principles of budgeting. I don't focus on the nitty-gritty breakdowns, but on the selling, goal setting and marketing process that many superintendents ignore.

Break (Bid, Bid!)

9:30 – 9:50 a.m.

The Mathematical Argument for the Discriminate Need of Fertilizer and Pesticides in the 21st Century

9:50 – 10:50 a.m.

Thomas Nikolai, Ph.D., Senior Specialist, Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil, & Microbial Sciences, East Lansing, MI
Topics include the history of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides and their impact on the planet over the past 2000 years. Presentation also covers resistance, regulations, GMOs, BMPs, and research on nutrient leaching and dermatological exposure.

Stories from the Course: Making it through another season!

11:00 – 12:10 p.m.

continued...

Josh Benson, Idaho Falls Country Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho; **Matt Gourlay**, CGCS, MG, Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho; **Benton Hodges**, Grand Teton Club, Teton, Idaho; **Mark Spraktes**, Pinecrest Golf Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Silent Auction

12:20 p.m. Auction ends.

Our speakers include:

Chris Carson is the superintendent emeritus at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, NJ, where he recently concluded a successful 36-year career. During his tenure, a complete master plan rebuild of the course was completed, two USGA Championships were held and 11 assistants have moved on to become superintendents. He has also spent the last 25 years teaching Professional Development and Budgeting/Planning in the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program. Carson has presented over 100 talks and seminars throughout the country and is an accomplished writer for Golf Course Management magazine with over 25 published articles, twice winning GCSAA's Leo Feser Award.

Thomas A. Nikolai, Ph.D., has been performing turfgrass research and teaching at Michigan State University since 1992. Areas of research interest include cultural and mechanical practices and their relevance to decreasing inputs. University courses Nikolai has taught include Turfgrass and the Environment, Pesticide and Fertilizer Technology, World of Soils, Turfgrass Irrigation, Turfgrass Management and Turf and Landscape Analytical Practices. Nikolai has given presentations in 31 countries, 8 Canadian Provinces, and 40 States.

**Thank you to our golf course
host, Mark Spraktes**

**Thank you
to all participants of
“Stories from the Course:
Making it through
another season!”**

Hotel Information:

**Reservations due by
September 10:**

To reserve your room, specify
Idaho GCSA

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
(208) 277-9800**

**Online link also available—visit the calendar
event on website: Idaho GCSA**

Please always note the cancellation policy
when making your reservation.

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
3005 South Fork Blvd.,
Idaho Falls, ID 83402**

Standard King or Double Queen

\$139+ taxes

(2) breakfast vouchers per room included.



Fall Meeting

and Silent Auction

October 5 & 6, 2026
Idaho Falls, Idaho

*(please register by Sept. 23 for best
conference rate)*

**Conference and Hotel Block:
Holiday Inn & Suites**
(Reserve by September 10 for our rate)

Fall Golf:
Pinecrest Golf Course
701 E Elva, St.,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Event

Sponsor:

Nutrien
Solutions