



Fall 2012

**Upcoming
Event:**

2012 IGCSA Annual
Education Confer-
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and Golf Tourna-
ment:
October 10-11, 2012
Wendover, Nevada

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Cultivating New Ideas

By Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.
Cornell University

There are few maintenance activities that frustrate golfers more than our cultivation programs. Yet, we have learned over the years there are important benefits to conducting these operations.

For many the late season is when most of the cultivation practices are now relegated to as a result of continued golfer pressure to minimize disruption of play. Still, with the variety of implements now available, different grasses and of course different management leading to greater organic matter accumulation, it seems time to rethink our cultivation programs.

Pulling a Coring

Much of the early cultivation research was conducted on native soil

growing medium. It was also conducted when we were topdressing infrequently with sand and peat and soil mixes. Several studies found in later years showed that hollow tine cultivation could lead to increases in organic matter levels over time.

A careful review of the historical literature would leave the average person wondering why anyone uses hollow tine cultivation. Having questioned that practice only in these pages over the years I can say I received my share of repudiation as a malcontent, locked in a ivory tower, and simply unaware of practical golf turf management.

I realized that in spite of the research and the colossal frustration of golfers, golf course super-

intendents observed a benefit. Furthermore, they would often try and not hollow tine cultivate (or cultivate of any kind) and would say, "my putting surfaces were never as bad as when I stopped cultivating."

As the fervor died down many began to wonder about the need for hollow tine cultivation. In addition, when looking back in the studies, solid tine cultivation (again on native soils) often provided little benefit. But now that times have changed and we have sand and more ways to make a hole, and bent-grass growing in the south and high density grasses and practices designed to promote rooting, it is time to consider simply making a hole.

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Brian Cloud - Cedar Hills
Tom Rhodes – Jeremy Ranch
Other _____
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**If you are unable to attend the annual meeting
please use this as a proxy ballot and mail to the IG-
CSA office by 10/9/2012.**

President's Message

To All,

As of this writing, we are a couple of weeks away from our fall conference. We hope to see you in Wendover for our education conference, trade show, and season ending golf tournament. There are some good speakers with great topics lined up, and a larger trade show. Come out and spend some time with your peers & friends and increase your knowledge and experience. We also need some more volunteers to run for the Board of Directors. There are many great superintendents out there that could be a help to the association. Please consider running for the IGCSA board. It is a great experience and a good opportunity to help our association and profession. Our chapter is in good shape financially. We have been frugal with resources, cut areas that were not used or critical, and have only held activities and events that we

could pay for. A huge thanks to all of our sponsors and commercial members. We have had an increase in the number of commercial members, and that has made a big difference. Thanks to our longtime supporters who have stuck with us, and welcome to others who have returned or are new to our group. We couldn't do it without your support. Thank You!! Thanks to Jeff Murdock and his staff at Purple Sage for hosting our tournament in September. The course was great (what was that pin position on hole 3?), and it was a great day for golf and networking with others. It is fun and educational to see what other superintendents are working on and doing to improve their courses. Thanks to Great Basin for sponsoring the event and providing lunch.

The Chapter Delegates meeting will be held in Kansas City in a couple of weeks (Oct. 5-7). If there is any-

thing that you have as a GCSAA member that you would like to have addressed or brought up, please let me know. There are some questions that have been sent out to the delegates to consider, and also each chapter.

- As a member, what are the top 5-10 services that GCSAA provides?

- As a Chapter, what are the top 5-10 services that GCSAA provides?

- What services should GCSAA be providing? To members? Chapters? Any comments or feedback regarding these points would be greatly appreciated.

I hope that everyone has had a successful season. Have a great fall and hope to see you all in Wendover.

President,
Brian J. Roth CGCS
Oquirrh Hills G.C.

“Our
chapter is in
good shape
financially”

-Brian Roth

Cultivating New Ideas

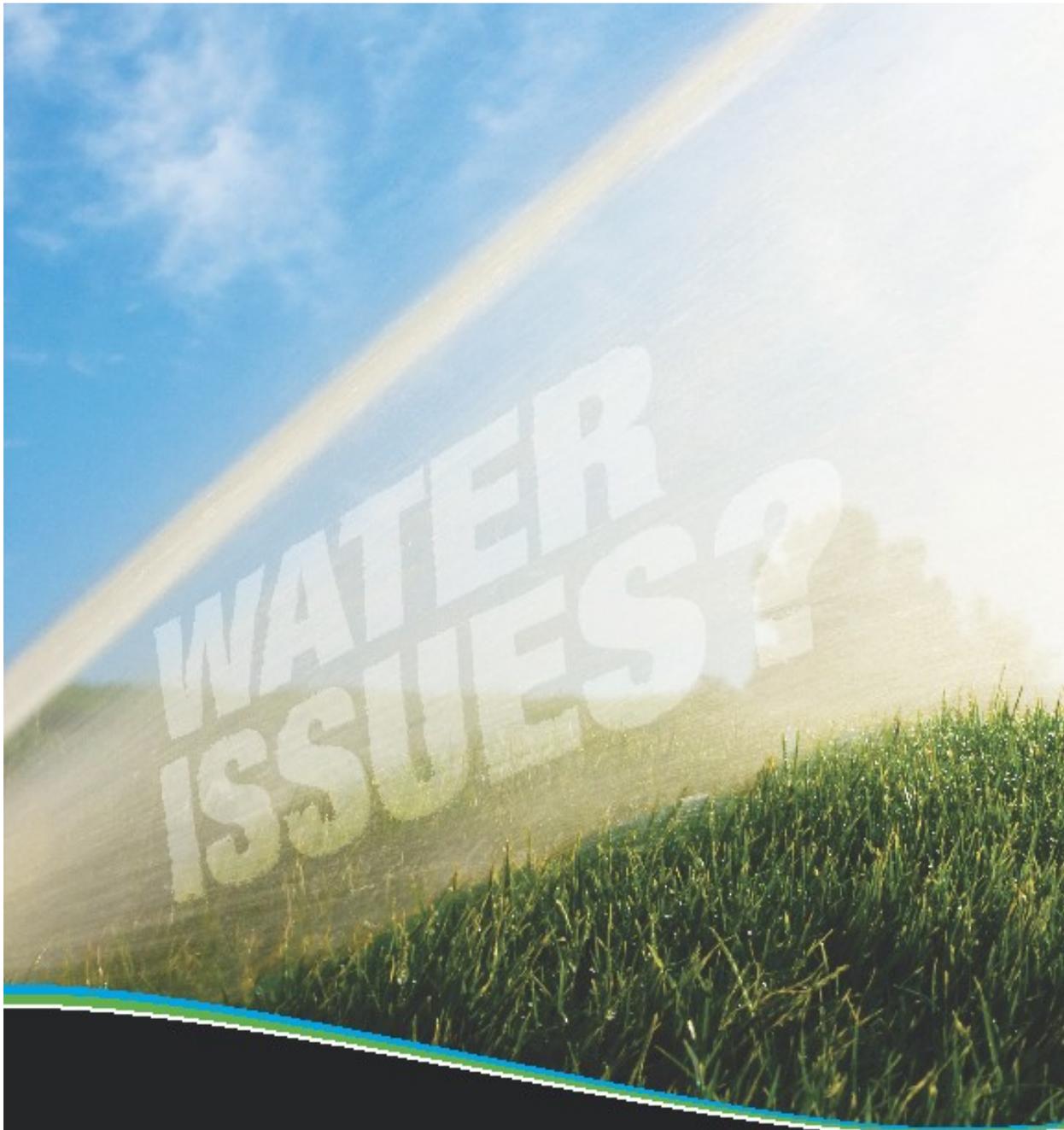
(Continued from Page 1)
Poking a Hole

Studies conducted in Arkansas and Nebraska are investigating cultivation programs. First we must consider some differences from the classical research.

Most importantly the latest research is conducted on sand based putting surfaces and designed to investigate organic matter management not compaction. Also, the studies now all include light frequent top-dressing as well as heavy

top-dressing at the time of cultivation. Therefore, these studies are conducted under what would be considered standard practices.

(Continued on page 16)



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*The IGCSA Chapter
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*Superintendent
Highlights*

2012 IGCSA Chapter Championship

2012 seemed to be the perfect year to hold the first ever IGCSA Chapter Championship. It was held at the beautiful Riverside Country Club in Provo, Utah.

We are proud to announce your 2012 IGCSA Chapter Champion—Mr. Jeremy Tye, Assistant Superintendent from Stonebridge Country Club. He shot a round of 66 to capture the crown by four shots over his boss—Matt Isbell. Jer-

emy received the IGCSA traveling trophy and paid entry into the 2012 UGA Tournament of Champions held in July where he represented us well.

During the lunch hour, GCSAA Northwest Field Staff Representative, Mr. David Phipps educated us on “Telling your Environmental Story.” Thanks to Dave for his expertise and knowledge! Also, a special thanks to Greensource,

L.L.C. for sponsoring this event and Ryan Standifird and his staff for offering their great course! They made this another great event with their support and dedication.

Thank you to all the participants that came out to this initial event. We hope to see you next year where Jeremy will be eager to defend his crown!

Superintendent Highlight (Private Course)

Ryan Standifird, golf course superintendent at Riverside Country Club in Provo has nearly 20 years experience working on a golf course. What started out as a great summer job with golfing privileges, turned into a passion and a career. Although Ryan considers those early years at Alpine Country Club an education he could never

duplicate, Ryan furthered his education and graduated from Kansas State University in Golf Course Management in 2008. While in school, Ryan worked as the Assistant Superintendent at Colbert Hills Golf Course. As part of his education Ryan also interned at Cherry Hills County Club in Denver, and at The Olympic Club on the prestigious

Lake Course, where he prepared the course to host the 2007 U.S. Amateur. After graduation Ryan worked at Sienna Golf Course in Las Vegas, Nevada, and then relocated back home to Utah in 2010. Ryan is currently a member of the GCSAA since 2006 GCSAA and has been a member of the IGCSA since 2010.

Superintendent Highlight (Public Course)

Brian Cloud began his golf course maintenance career at Stonebridge Golf Club as a summer hire. He enjoyed the work so much that he decided he would pursue a career in the industry.

Choosing a school was an easy task considering he was born and raised in Ohio and is a loyal Buckeye fan. After

graduating with a BS in Turfgrass Science and a minor in Business from The Ohio State University, he then accepted a position as the Assistant Superintendent at Sleepy Ridge Golf Course during its grow in. Shortly after the course opened, Brian was promoted to Head Superintendent and worked in that capacity for three years.

For the last few years Brian has been working as the Superintendent at Cedar Hills Golf Club, where he has enjoyed each of the challenges that this course brings.

Brian and his wife Jami have two daughters and two sons, which also keep him busy, ranging in ages from 5 to 13.



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- 62% learned a practice or technique that could result in a cost savings for their facility

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Another PTS..... fact sheet



WINTER DESICCATION OF TURF

Insights for winters with little snow cover

By Adam Van Dyke, MS
Turf Scientist

Background

Periods of inconsistent snow cover during the winter months may extend the playing season, but turf managers should stay attuned to weather conditions as some factors may pose threats to turf health during these times.

Things to consider

- **Atmospheric** desiccation occurs in dry, windy conditions where soil remains moist but ground is frozen inhibiting water uptake. Symptoms appear as dry, brittle leaves.
- **Soil** desiccation occurs when precipitation is lacking (rain or snow) and soil is dry and humidity is low imposing drought-like symptoms on the turf.

- Annual bluegrass is most commonly affected, and severity varies with location and site conditions.

Management options

1. Use moderate nutrition during the season.
2. Manage thatch and relieve compaction.
3. Avoid late-season aeration – filling holes with sand makes little difference.
4. Use turf covers or apply heavy top-dressing materials such as organic mulches.
5. Apply irrigation with portable systems at small amounts and when temps are above freezing during times of low soil moisture.
6. Possible use of ultra-low rates of PGRs in late-fall for carbohydrate storage.

Online Resources

- Beard, J. B. 1972. Ten years of research on winter injury on golf courses: causes and prevention. *USGA Green Section Record*. November. 10(6): p. 3-8. <http://turf.lib.msu.edu/gsr/1970s/1972/721103.pdf> verified Jan. 27, 2012.
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- Moeller, A. 2010. Core cultivation: timing is everything. *USGA Green Section Record*. March/April. 48(2): p. 32-33. <http://turf.lib.msu.edu/gsr/2010s/2010/100332.pdf> verified Jan. 27, 2012.
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- Skorulski, J. 2002. The greatest challenge. *USGA Green Section Record*. September/October. 40(5): p. 1-6. <http://turf.lib.msu.edu/2000s/2002/020901.pdf> verified Jan. 27, 2012.
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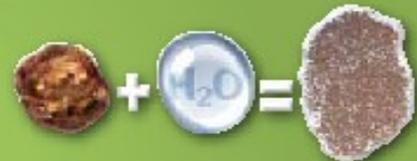
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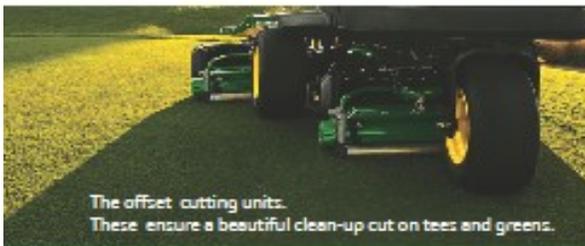
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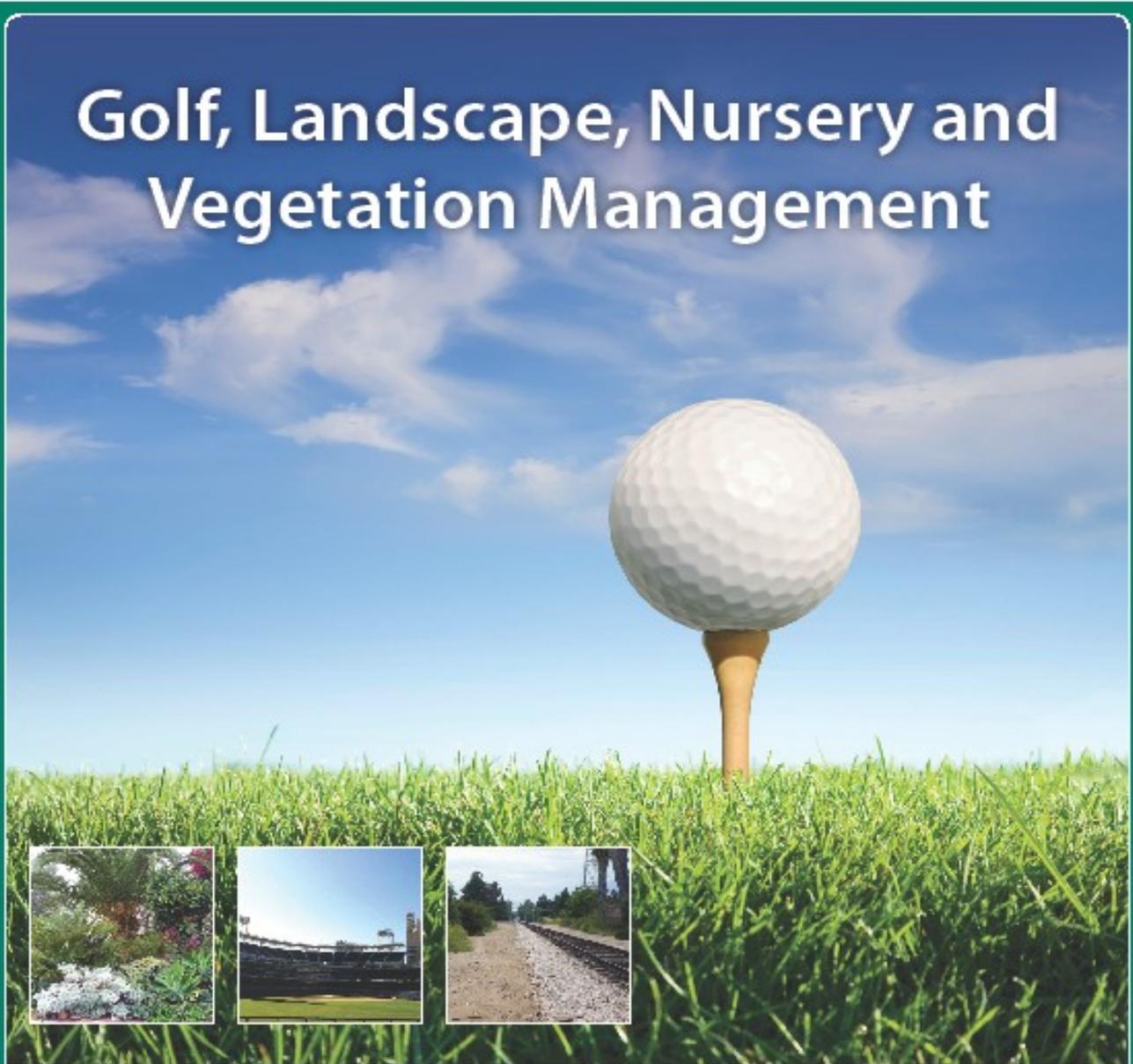
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Cultivating New Ideas

(Continued from page 3)

There were stark differences among the treatments and a clear benefit of aggressive scarification, i.e., the 3mm knives provided the greatest reduction in organic matter. However these treatments also were least efficient in removing material as a high percentage of material removed was likely sand and not organic matter. In addition, the scarification treatment took more than two months to reach full recovery.

The tightly spaced 0.25-inch hollow tines set to a 1.5-inch depth seemed to provide the most efficient and overall least disruptive treatment. Organic matter levels were significantly reduced compared to most treatments and plots fully recovered within 10 days. The two questions that lingered for me were infiltration levels (not reported to date) and what would solid tine cultivation have done?

The Nebraska study conducted by Chaz Schmid under the direction of Professor Roch Gaussoin compared hollow tine and solid tine cultivation with various types of less invasive cultivation methods

(LIC) i.e., Hydroject, PlanetAir, quad needle tine, bayonet tine, or no LIC treatment. All treatments were light and frequently topdressed as well as topdressed at the time of aerification.

Data from the first year showed there is no difference in organic matter levels between hollow tine and solid tine aerification, but both treatments accumulated less OM than no aerification. No differences in OM accumulation were observed among LIC methods but the hydroject and needle tine treatments had higher infiltration rates compared to other LIC treatments regardless of the aerification treatments.

This study shows clearly that there appears to be little benefit from pulling a core in sand-based systems, rather there appears to a premium placed on making a hole. The benefits of overall organic matter reduction can be realized with solid-tines and sand topdressing and infiltration maintained during the season with less invasive cultivation.

Our ability to produce high quality turf is constantly improving. A result is that organic matter accumulation and

reduced infiltration in sand based systems, trump older concerns of compaction in soil-based systems. Simultaneously, it is vital to keep the golfer's needs in mind especially during difficult economic times by minimizing the frustration of hollow tine cultivation. Finding a cultivation strategy that meets all these criteria is in fact a concept that "needs holes."

"This study shows clearly that there appears to be little benefit from pulling a core in a sand-based system, rather there appears to a premium placed on making a hole"

Frank S. Rossi, Ph. D

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Annual Conference Presenters

David Phipps, *NW Region Field Staff Representative for Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

David is considered one of the Northwest's leaders in golf course environmental stewardship and innovation and has received national recognition for his efforts. David's recognition includes appearances on The Golf Channel; CNBC's People, Planet, and Profit; Oregon Public Broadcasting's Think Out Loud; Oregon Field Guide and Portland's KGW News. He has received numerous awards including the GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, multiple GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. He is a two-time winner of the Oregon GCSA's Richard Malpass Distinguished Service Award. Phipps was also honored as the 2004-2005 Cooperator of the Year by the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition to several regional public course awards, Stone Creek was named to Links Magazine's top 10 eco-friendly golf courses in 2009 and 2012. David received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Oregon State University in Horticulture, Turf and Landscape Management. He continues to serve on Oregon State's turfgrass industry advisory panel and worked to secure a faculty position dedicated to turfgrass science. He teaches a turfgrass management class at a local community college and also developed a community outreach class utilizing local superintendents to provide lawn care advice to homeowners. David is a regular columnist in GCSAA's Golf Course Management magazine. He has recently taken a position with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America as the NW Region Field Staff Representative.

Jim Kerns, *PhD, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Jim is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His program focuses on the biology and management of fungal diseases of cool-season turfgrass, specifically dollar spot, snow molds, summer patch, and rust. Currently the program has three graduate students, two research technicians and numerous undergraduates working to refine fungal disease management. Each year, Jim's program conducts 20 to 30 different fungicide efficacy trials and his program also houses the Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab. The diagnostic lab receives 200 to 400 samples per year from all over the US. Jim is also the lead instructor for Pesticide Applicator Training for Turf and Landscape professionals in Wisconsin. Each year Jim gives 40 to 50 talks on turfgrass disease management throughout the US and occasionally outside the US.

Tod Blankenship, *CGCS, MS, Superintendent at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin*

Tod is the certified golf course superintendent at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., and has been at the course since the spring of 2011. His work experience, however, includes 15 years in the turfgrass industry at various golf courses throughout the country. Tod received his Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture, with an emphasis on turfgrass management from the University of Wisconsin in 1999. He earned his CGCS designation in 2004. In 2012, Tod received his Master of Science degree in Horticulture from Oregon State University, where he implemented a large-scale research project that evaluated cool-season turfgrass water use and how it is impacted by nitrogen fertility and mowing height.

Adam Van Dyke, *MS, Owner of Professional Turfgrass Solutions, LLC*

Adam is the founder and owner of Professional Turfgrass Solutions located in Salt Lake City, UT. Adam conducts numerous scientific studies each year on actual golf courses, to gain knowledge that is applied in nature, and relates directly to local issues. The majority of his work focuses on efficacy trials for herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and surfactants, but also consists of work on plant nutrition, plant protectants and organic management. He uses the information gathered from his work to provide unbiased education to superintendents in the Intermountain West. Adam has published many articles about his research including being featured in GCM, the Green Section Record, Golfdom, and Applied Turfgrass Science. Adam frequently presents his research to turf groups in Utah, and has spoken at various agronomic meetings around the country. Adam is a former golf course superintendent. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture, with a turfgrass management emphasis from Utah State University in 2002, and a Master of Science degree in Plant Science with a minor in Soil Science in 2008, studying the effects of humic substances on the water holding capacity of putting green rootzones.

Adam will be joined in his talk by Curtis Hirase, Superintendent at South Mountain Golf Course in Draper, UT, who provided the test green on his course, and technical assistance during the study.



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- * Par Aide/Standard
- * Rahn Groomers
- * Progressive
- * Graden
- * Golf Lift
- * Allen Hover Mowers
- * Seago/Atom
- * Lely
- * Otterbine/Barebo
- * Watertonic Pump Stations
- * Lasco PVC Fittings
- * Harco DI/HDPE
- * Matco DI Valves
- * Centennial AG.
- * TFS Injectors
- * Amiad Filters
- * Regency Wire
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- * Leemco DI
- * PVC/HDPE Pipe

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