

MGCSA Presents: The 2021 Professional Turf Forum

November 17, 2022

Mendakota Country Club

Host Superintendent Tom Schmidt

Dodging “bullets”, seemingly targeting the golf turf management industry, continues to be more challenging. Attend this program to discover three different perspectives on how to reduce a superintendent’s vulnerability through enhancing soils naturally, reducing the use of most toxic chemistry and how to host a First Green Program on your course.



7:30 Registration

- 8:00 - 8:50 Dan Ament - Using the Soil as an Ally not a Foe
- 8:55 - 9:45 Chris Aumock - Going Green(ish) in Minneapolis
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 -11:30 Dr. Koch - Reduced-risk management: The What, the Why and the How.
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 - 1:30 Panel Discussion with Dan, Chris, and Dr. Koch
- 1:45 - 2:15 Steve Randall GCSAA update
- 2:30- 3:30 Nikk Dickerson/ Steve Randall- Coordinating and Executing a First Green Field Trip

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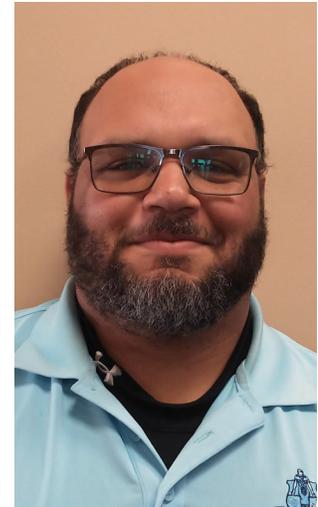
Our Presenters:

Nikk Dickerson, Superintendent at Owatonna Country Club

“Hosting a First Green Field Trip”

Looking back over the past three years and all the steps, hurdles and blunders that I took to eventually getting to host the first “First Green” Field Trip in Minnesota.

I have been in the golf industry for 20 years working on courses in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Florida. The 2021 golf season brought about my 13th season at Owatonna Country Club. I’m happily married and have 3 amazing kids that keep me moving all the time. 2020 brought about big changes in my life as well as everyone else’s with the pandemic, but I stepped up to serve as the Grassroots Ambassador for MN-01 and then also volunteered to serve on the MGCSA Board of Directors 2021. These past two years have been eye opening for me to say the least but one thing that I haven’t lost is my excitement to share new things about the golf course and nature to anyone who will listen.



Chris Aumock Golf Course Superintendent- Meadowbrook Golf Course

Going “Greenish” in Minneapolis

A reduced use approach to chemical programs with consideration of a potential organic future. Implementing simple changes to efficiently maintain fine turf areas for MPRB.

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Our Presenters:

Dan Ament, Golf Course Superintendent for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) at Hiawatha and Fort Snelling Golf Courses. He has been in this position since 2019 and previously spent 9 years as an assistant superintendent at multiple facilities. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from the University Of Minnesota, and has taken concepts from his days farming and applied them to his turf maintenance program.



Maximizing your underground workforce and Organic Turf Management Update

Dan Ament provides a look into the world of organic turfgrass management, and whether it can be used to provide acceptable conditions for golf courses. He will explain the pros and cons to going organic, and what he has learned these past two years conducting the trial. Dan will also speak about using what is in your soil and how to maximize the soil food web.

Steve Randall – GCSAA Director of Chapter Outreach



Randall, a native of Wahpeton, ND, received his bachelor's degree in business/communications from St. John's University in Minnesota and a masters degree in mass communications from the University of South Dakota. Randall has worked in golf administration since 1993 when he was asked to coach the South Dakota State University men's and women's golf teams while working in the sports information department. Randall also worked for four years at the Minnesota Golf Association in junior golf, media relations and regional affairs and was the executive director of the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association (the regional golf association for New Mexico and West Texas) prior to joining GCSAA.

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Our Presenters:

Paul Koch

Paul is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and has been with UW in various roles since 2005. Paul's research focuses primarily on developing precision disease management strategies for snow mold and dollar spot in turfgrass and investigating the fate and impact of turfgrass pesticides in the environment. Paul also oversees the University of Wisconsin's Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab and the UW Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program.



Reduced-risk pest management: The What, the Why, and the How.

Pesticides are a vital piece of an effective pest management plan, but their use is coming under increasing scrutiny and pesticide-free alternatives have yet to provide commercially viable alternatives. In this seminar we'll discuss the science behind implementing a reduced-risk pest management program and strategies that you can employ to reduce risk in your own pest management plan using our work at Theodore Wirth Golf Course as a case study.

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