

**Event Sponsor:**  
**Turfstar**  
**Western Equipment**



**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

3:30 p.m. **Board Meeting,**  
**Marcus Whitman Hotel (Board Room)**

**Monday, March 10, 2025**

**Walla Walla Country Club (no jeans, collared shirts)**

7:15 a.m. Please sign in at registration desk. Continental breakfast available and co-sponsored by **RIDGETOP GOLF, EARTHWORKS CARBON BASED FERTILITY** and one break co-sponsor is available!

**SILENT AUCTION** begins. Please give your auction donation to Mike Bednar

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

**Turfgrass EcoSystem Services (Carbon Sequestration and Temperature Mitigation)**

This presentation will highlight the effects of irrigation rates and frequency, as well as the lack of irrigation and turfgrass removal on various ecosystem services. Highlighted ecosystem services will include carbon sequestration, temperature mitigation and nutrient use efficiency. Take-home points will include the optimum irrigation rates for maximizing the ecosystem services of rough height and lawn turfgrass.

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

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

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Tourney Time – Rules, Hazards, and Tournament Turf**

This section discusses hazards, penalties, and rules, particularly for tournaments. Turf managers must work with golf associations, committees, and officials to properly set up a course for tournament play.

**Ross Niewola, CGCS, Consulting Agronomist, West Region USGA**

10:35 - 11:30 a.m.

**Environmental Predictors and Cultural Practices to Mitigate Winter Kill**

This presentation will evaluate the environmental predictors associated with various winter biotic and abiotic turfgrass stress/injury. The solutions proposed will include cultural practices for mitigating snow mold and winter kill. These practices include topdressing, snow removal, and fungicide selection.

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

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

Lunch Sponsor:



1:00 p.m.

**Spring Golf Outing**

Walla Walla Country Club

Host Superintendent: Jeff Blanc, CGCS

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

**Walla Walla Country Club (no jeans, collared shirts)**

7:15 a.m. **SILENT AUCTION** continues. Continental breakfast available, co-sponsored by **SYNGENTA, PACIFIC GOLF & TURF** and one break co-sponsor is available!

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

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

**Redox Bio Nutrients**

(an allied auction presentation) Trey Whitaker

8:25 - 9:25 a.m.

**Tech and Tools from the USGA**

Take a look at some of the tools the USGA offers and utilizes to assist turf managers. We'll delve into the GS3 ball and explore some innovative instruments. Additionally, we'll discuss current technology, Deacon, and how it all works together to help turf managers.

**Ross Niewola, CGCS, Consulting Agronomist, West Region USGA**

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

**Recruiting Employees to Our Field**

Finding the right individuals to fill a role for your organization can be a challenge. Let's brainstorm recruitment strategies to meet your employment needs. We will also address the educational opportunities to train new employees or provide skill upgrades to existing employees.

**Karlee Pruitt Larkin, M.S.**

**Agriculture / Turf Science Instructor**  
**Walla Walla Community College**

10:00 - 10:20 a.m. Break **BID! BID!**

10:20 - 10:30 a.m.

**Distinguished Service Award**

Presentation of Distinguished Service Award to **Jeff Blanc, CGCS, Walla Walla Country Club**

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

**Efficient Mondays: High impact maintenance in a limited window at The Golf Club at Black Rock**

Presented by The Club at Black Rock Staff

11:05 - 11:35 a.m.

**Higher Education at a Distance – Challenges and Successes**

This presentation focuses on how working profes-

sionals can maintain a career while working on a college degree. A typical question I receive from incoming students is how do they manage time, family, work, and school? The idea to begin a college degree while balancing the other aspects of life can come with great risks and great rewards. There is a way to find balance and complete a degree. All from the comfort of your own home.

**Karlee Pruitt Larkin, M.S.**

**Agriculture / Turf Science Instructor  
Walla Walla Community College**

**11:45 a.m. Silent Auction ends and  
conference ends. Travel safely!**  
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*(Please stay here if reserving a hotel room to help us  
meet our financial obligation - Due by FEB 12)*

**Marcus Whitman Hotel**

**Tele: (866) 826-9422/(509)525-2200**

6 West Rose St., Walla Walla, WA., 99336

**Standard King or Double Queen: \$139.00+tax**

Rooms amenities include \$15 daily food credit, complimentary internet, in-room coffee maker, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, enjoy a fitness center and free parking

**Specify Inland Empire GCSA when making  
your hotel reservations to receive this  
reduced rate — remember to reserve by  
February 12, 2025**  
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### ***Our Speakers***

**Alec Kowalewski, Ph.D.**, received his Masters and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Prior to joining Oregon State University, he taught at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and worked as a research scientist at the University of Georgia Turf Breeding Program in Tifton, Georgia. Kowalewski has also served as a Briggs & Stratton Yardsmart Expert and Operational Consultant at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing,

China. In 2012, he joined Oregon State University as the Turfgrass Specialist, holding a teaching and extension-based appointment. His current research and extension interests include improving the environmental and economic sustainability of turfgrass management.

**Ross Niewola, CGCS** has over 15 years of working in golf course maintenance, most recently, Niewola was the golf course superintendent at Walla Walla Country Club in Washington before joining the USGA in 2024. A Penn State grad originally from the East Coast, Niewola has lived and worked in Virginia, Colorado, Arizona, New Jersey, Washington, and Northern and Southern California. He has experience with both warm- and cool-season grasses and has worked at both public and private facilities. Throughout his career, Niewola has had the privilege of working on and hosting 13 tournaments for the PGA Tour, the LPGA, and the USGA, and has achieved the Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation.

**Karlee Pruitt Larkin** obtained her master's degree from the University of Arkansas in horticulture in 2020. There she studied the efficacy of biological pesticides on two-spotted spider mites, powdery mildew, and gray mold in strawberry production in high tunnels. After completing her graduate studies, Pruitt transitioned into education, serving as a program manager for the developing turf management program at North Arkansas College. Her next endeavor was spent as a horticulture instructor at the College of Western Idaho. Finally, she landed in Walla Walla, Wash., where she is the current Ag Science / Turf Management Instructor at Walla Walla Community College. Pruitt Larkin teaches several topics, including turf management, insects and diseases, pesticide safety, plant science, soil science, irrigation and sustainability. Pruitt Larkin's goals for the program are to increase online content and to increase enrollment in the program.

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

**Inland Empire GCSA  
March 10 & 11, 2025**

# **“Nearly’ Spring Meeting**

**EDUCATION, GOLF &  
SILENT AUCTION:**

**Walla Walla Country Club  
Walla Walla, Wash.**

**Hotel:**

**Marcus Whitman Hotel  
Hotel Reservations due**

**Event  
Sponsor:**

