Inland Empire Chapter GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Fall Meeting & Trade Show

NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 2026
The Centennial • Spokane, Washington

EVENT SPONSOR: planet turf

Presented in affiliation with GCSAA Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

IEGCSA FALL MEETING & TRADE SHOW — AGENDA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026
The Centennial, Willow B

4:00 p.m.	**Board of Directors Meeting**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026
The Centennial, Riverfront A & B

7:30 a.m.	**Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.	**Putting Green Cultivation, Timing, and Recovery** *Emily Braithwaite, Oregon State University* This presentation discusses several research projects evaluating how putting green cultivation practices and timing influence turf recovery and playing conditions. Topics will include cultivation type (hollow vs solid), timing, sand topdressing, with a focus on recovery time, organic matter, infiltration, and surface performance.
9:30 – 9:50 a.m.	**Break** *Sponsored by Ridgetop Golf Inc.* **Trade Show set-up begins at 9:30 a.m. in Riverfront C & D** - exhibitors ready to show by 1:30 p.m.
9:50 – 10:50 a.m.	**Turf Removal, Landscape Conversion, and Real Water Savings** *Kelly Kopp, Ph.D, Utah State University* This presentation examines the water-use tradeoffs between removing turfgrass and installing alternative landscapes versus improving turfgrass irrigation and management. It highlights how landscape design, plant establishment needs, mature trees, irrigation efficiency, and long-term maintenance all influence whether turfgrass conversions produce meaningful and lasting water savings.
10:55 – 11:55 a.m.	**Nematode Management on Cool-Season Greens: From Diagnosis to Control** *Hannah Rivedal, Ph.D, USDA* This presentation will discuss the biology, identification and integrated management of plant-parasitic nematodes on golf courses in the Western U.S. We will discuss the typical nematode life cycle on cool-season putting greens and where management strategies best fit for the most effective control outcome. In addition, there will be a discussion about risk assessment and how best to scout for and monitor these pathogens.
11:55 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.	**Lunch** *Sponsored by Helena Agri Enterprises*
12:50 – 1:45 p.m.	**BMPs for Water Use and BMPs for Water Conversations** *Kelly Kopp, Ph.D, Utah State University* This presentation connects golf course best management practices with the communication needed to build trust with water providers, policymakers, and community stakeholders. Using the GCSAA BMP framework, it highlights practical strategies for efficient water use, documentation, drought planning, and productive water conversations.
1:45 – 2:05 p.m.	**Break** *Co-Sponsored by Redox, Wilbur-Ellis, & Harco*
2:05 – 3:00 p.m.	**Business Meeting** *Brandon Bubar, Vice President, presiding*
3:00 – 5:45 p.m.	**2026 Trade Show** Showcasing the leading suppliers and distributors of the region. Trade Show Ultimate Gold Sponsor: Turf Star Western & Pacific Golf & Turf - free food, beverages & prizes for registrants. PACIFIC GOLF & TURF TURF STAR WESTERN TSW Diamond Food & Beverage Sponsor: Golf Cars Etc. Horizon BARENBRUG

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026

The Centennial, Riverfront A & B

7:15 – 9:30 a.m.	**Trade Show Teardown** Riverfront C & D — thank you for clearing the room by 9:30 a.m.
7:15 a.m.	**Registration & Continental Breakfast**
8:00 – 8:20 a.m.	**Presentation by Wilbur Ellis** An Allied Partner Silent Auction presentation.
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	**Winter Traffic, Disease Management** *Emily Braithwaite, Oregon State University* This presentation examines the effects of winter foot traffic on putting green turf, including how traffic influences health and playing conditions during periods of reduced growth. It will also cover several major winter diseases affecting putting greens and management strategies for minimizing their impact.
9:30 – 9:50 a.m.	**Break** *Sponsored by Banana Turf*
9:50 – 10:50 a.m.	**Golf Course Construction & Design** *Connor Dougherty, Jackson Kahn Design* Have you ever wondered why a fairway line is located and placed the way it is? As architects, we shape these lines with two goals in mind: visual appeal and strategic intent. Aesthetically, the curve and flow of a line create a composition that's pleasing to the eye and sets the tone for how a hole feels from the tee box. Strategically, that same line dictates angles, risk, and reward, subtly guiding how a golfer plots their path of play. Even a slight shift in a line can change both the way a hole is played and the way it's experienced.
10:55 – 11:55 a.m.	**GCSAA Government Affairs Update** *Chava McKeel, GCSAA* The latest on laws and regulations impacting water, pesticide and power equipment use - and how to get involved in forming good policy.
11:55 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.	**Lunch** *Lunch Sponsored by Judge Netting*

Inland Empire Chapter GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

SAVE THE DATE ***— IEGCSA "Nearly" Spring Meeting***

March 16 & 17, 2027 • Wildhorse Resort • Pendleton, OR

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Emily Braithwaite

Emily is a Ph.D. student in Plant Biology & Pathology at Oregon State University, and also helps manage the OSU Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab. She received an M.Sc. in 2024 in Horticulture, and has over 10 years of research experience in turfgrass management. Her research currently focuses on optimizing surveying, collection, and management of plant-parasitic nematodes in cool-season putting greens, as well as resistance management of nematicides. Prior to starting her graduate education, she was a research technician at OSU working primarily on diseases of golf course putting greens.



Kelly Kopp, Ph.D.

Kelly Kopp is a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Plants, Soils & Climate department at Utah State University, where her research efforts are focused on landscape water conservation and sustainable turfgrass management. She serves on the Board of Directors of USU's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping and is board member and past president of the Utah Water Conservation Forum. She works directly with many of the federal, state, and municipal agencies that are working toward achieving water use efficiency in the state of Utah, the Intermountain West, and beyond.



Hannah Rivedal, Ph.D.

Hannah Rivedal, Ph.D., is a Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Her research program addresses plant pathology challenges facing the forage seed, grass seed, and hemp industries of the Pacific Northwest, with a focus on developing strategies for early and accurate disease diagnosis and detection, fungicide resistance management, and integrated pest management.



Connor Dougherty

A golf course architect with Jackson Kahn Design, whose interest in design was sparked by studying Alister MacKenzie's Pasatiempo while caddying in a US Amateur Qualifier. Following his studies at the University of Oregon, he built a foundation in golf course construction, spending two and a half years with Landscapes Unlimited and three and a half years with Greenscape Methods, working on-site across a range of high-profile projects. That field experience, combined with years spent sketching routings and design solutions, led him to join the JKD design team in December 2021, where he now works with clients to create distinctive, playable golf courses.



Chava McKeel

Chava serves as the Director of Government Affairs for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Since joining the association in December 1997, McKeel has played a pivotal role in shaping public policy and regulatory compliance strategies for golf course management nationwide. Her work focuses on navigating critical regulatory issues affecting superintendents, including environmental compliance, pesticide regulations, water conservation, and federal Environmental Protection Agency policies. In addition to her regulatory advocacy, McKeel actively engages with GCSAA regional chapters, represents the association at industry policy forums, and serves on the board of the National Alliance for Accessible Golf.


Inland Empire Chapter
GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America