

# 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

12 pm	DSTE Board Meeting	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
4 pm – 6 pm	Large Equipment Move-In	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
7 pm	DSTE Board Dinner	Beau Rivage

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

8 am – 4 pm	Registration Open & Exhibitor Move-In	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
9 am – 3:30 pm	Alabama Ornamental & Turf Exam Review	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
11 am	Scramble Golf Tournament	The Preserve Golf Club
5 pm	Tailgate Celebration • <i>All attendees &amp; exhibitors welcome!</i>	The Preserve Golf Club

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

7 am – 4 pm	Registration Open	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
7 am	Continental Breakfast	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
8 am – 11 am	General Session: Keynote Speakers	Mississippi Coast Convention Center

### GENERAL SESSION

8 am	<b>How has the Resist Poa project improved <i>Poa annua</i> control and management?</b> • <i>Becky Grubbs Bowling, Ph.D., University of Tennessee</i> In 2018, a team of 16 university scientists spanning 15 institutions embarked on a \$5.6 million project ('ResistPoa') to limit the impact of annual bluegrass ( <i>Poa annua</i> L.) in athletic, golf, lawn, and sod farm turf. The team's multifaceted approach, funded by USDA-NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI), had several objectives including characterizing the nationwide distribution of herbicide-resistant <i>P. annua</i> populations, identifying potential weaknesses in the weed's biology and growth characteristics in order develop non-chemical control strategies, identifying socio-economic constraints that may affect control strategies and stewardship of herbicide technologies, and developing and delivering best management practices (BMPs). This talk will provide an overview of key project findings and implications for the industry and future research.	
9 am	<b>The Future of Drones and Precision Application Technology for Pest Management</b> • <i>David McCall, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University</i> Rapidly evolving technologies are changing the ways we manage turfgrass systems. The incorporation of GPS technologies into sprayers improves application accuracy, which reduces overspray and misses, chemical inputs, and associated costs of each application. Drones can be used to map and predict pests and other stressors across turfgrass systems, and even for making targeted spray applications in hard-to-reach areas. The audience will learn ways to use GPS technology and drones for targeted pest management.	
10 am	<b>Contemporary issues around pesticide use</b> • <i>Travis Gannon, Ph.D., North Carolina State University</i> Herbicides are commonly and effectively used to manage weeds in various agronomic systems including turfgrass systems. However, devising and implementing comprehensive weed management programs is an intricate process. It is complicated by many agronomic and other issues. This seminar will highlight many of the contemporary issues around pesticide use in turfgrass systems today, including what's involved in pesticide registration, off-target movement, and resistance.	
11 am – 5 pm	Tradeshow Grand Opening	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
11:30 am	Lunch	Mississippi Coast Convention Center – Tradeshow Floor
12 pm – 3 pm	<b>Annual Business Meetings</b> 12 pm Alabama Turfgrass Research Foundation 1 pm Alabama Turfgrass Association & Mississippi Turfgrass Association 2 pm Louisiana-Mississippi GCSA	Mississippi Coast Convention Center
3 pm – 5 pm	General Session: Panel Discussions	Mississippi Coast Convention Center – Tradeshow Floor

### TRADESHOW TALKS

3 pm	<b>Robotic and drone technology for turfgrass and landscape management</b> • <i>Bryan Unruh, Ph.D., Amy Wilber, David McCall, Ph.D.</i> Robotic and drone technology is rapidly evolving and its use in turfgrass and landscape management is increasing. A panel discussion will focus on how this technology can be adopted and will include the pros and cons of using it in the turfgrass and landscape management industry.	
4 pm	<b>The reality of synthetic turf adoption and the limitations of natural surface fields</b> • <i>Barry Stewart, Ph.D., Scott McElroy, Ph.D., Mark Langner, David Han, Ph.D.</i> Sooner or later a sports administrator is faced with a decision on the type of surface to be used at a new or renovated field. Synthetic surfaces are sold as being a panacea of unlimited use with minimal maintenance. This is not the case, and more maintenance is required on synthetic surfaces and use must be limited or the field will fail. It is accepted that natural grass surfaces will require use limitations and vigorous maintenance to maintain a quality playing surface. This discussion will cover the pitfalls that come with synthetic grass surfaces and provide insights into the limitations of natural grass surfaces.	
5 pm	Alabama Pesticide Sign-Out	
5 – 6 pm	Tradeshow Closing & Exhibitor Move Out	
6 – 8 pm	DSTE Softball Game <i>Dinner on your own</i>	Gulfport Sports Complex

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.DEEPSOUTHTURFEXPO.ORG](http://WWW.DEEPSOUTHTURFEXPO.ORG)

7 am	Continental Breakfast			Mississippi Coast Convention Center
8 am – 12 pm	Breakout Sessions			Mississippi Coast Convention Center
	<b>Golf Sessions</b>	<b>Sports Turf &amp; Grounds Sessions</b>	<b>Lawn Care &amp; Landscape Sessions</b>	<b>Sod Production Sessions</b>
8 am	<b>Maximizing Spring Dead Spot Management</b> <i>David McCall, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University</i> Spring dead spot is among the most challenging diseases to manage on hybrid bermudagrasses that experience winter dormancy. Strategies for managing range from preventative suppression to recovery strategies, often with no one strategies being sufficient. This presentation outlines strategies to manage the disease and predict where outbreaks are most likely to occur.	<b>Annual Bluegrass Control – What Have We Learned?</b> <i>Jay McCurdy, Ph.D., Mississippi State University and Scott McElroy, Ph.D., Auburn University</i> Our experts will share results of the USDA-NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative being conducted by a national team of scientists. The “ResistPoa” project has set ambitious goals to characterize the nationwide distribution of herbicide-resistant annual bluegrass populations.  Annual bluegrass is not solely controlled with synthetic pesticides. Scientists are using the weed’s natural biology and growth characteristics to develop non-chemical control strategies. Those strategies include clipping removal during seed production, fraze-mowing, and alternative pesticides.	<b>Landscape Fertilization Practices: Are We Missing the Mark?</b> <i>Bryan Unruh, Ph.D., University of Florida</i> The landscape industry is driven by routine applications of inputs including water, nutrients, and pesticides. However, these inputs may or may not be necessary and may negatively impact the environment. A review of landscape fertility practices will be provided along with an overview recommended changes in fertility practices.	<b>Prepare to Answer: A Comprehensive List of Arguments Against Synthetic Turf</b> <i>Barry Stewart, Ph.D., Mississippi State University</i> This talk will arm sod producers with information to use when talking with stakeholders in the synthetic plastic grass turf vs natural grass turf debate. Maintenance, water, surface heat, injuries, heavy metals, micro-plastics, will be addressed.
9 am	<b>Bermudagrass Putting Greens: a Closer Look at Aerification Practices</b> <i>Marco Schiavon, Ph.D., University of Florida</i> Aerification may be the most important cultural practice for a golf green other than mowing, and it is used to ameliorate soil physical properties (e.g., air and water infiltration), manage thatch layer, relieve soil compaction, and overall improve long term turfgrass health. The presentation will cover different methods to aerify bermudagrass greens and their effect on turfgrass quality and soil characteristics.	<b>Optimizing Landscape Resilience for Weather Extremes</b> <i>Becky Grubbs Bowling, Ph.D., University of Tennessee</i> It is more important than ever that landscapes are designed and maintained to withstand extreme heat, cold, drought, and rainfall events. To achieve this, practitioners must have the resources needed to make and justify informed decisions related to plant selection, site preparation, and management. Turfgrass is a major component of these greenspaces, capable of offering numerous social, environmental, and economic benefits when managed appropriately. This talk will explore key considerations for plant and turfgrass selection, the importance of appropriate soil preparation, and other best practices to encourage more resilient turfgrass capable of performing well under growing social and environmental pressure.	<b>Doveweed, Torpedograss, and Other Growing Weed Problems</b> <i>Scott McElroy, Ph.D., Auburn University</i> Torpedograss and doveweed have traditionally been coastal weeds, however in the past 20 years they have spread north into different turf environments, requiring updated management conditions. In this seminar, we will discuss these weeds and others that have increased as turf problems, as well as the management practices that can be used to control them.	<b>Changes in Bermudagrass Cultivar Selection for Sports Turf Management</b> <i>David Han, Ph.D., Auburn University</i> Is the reign of Tifway finally over for Southern bermudagrass sports fields? The answer is, “it depends.” While new bermudagrasses offering a variety of improvements have become the norm at the pro and college levels over the past decade, many schools and parks still use good old “Tifway.” What is holding back wider adoption of new bermudagrasses, and what is the future of bermudagrasses for the masses?
10 am	<b>Water Budgeting and Drought Contingency Plans</b> <i>Becky Grubbs Bowling, Ph.D., University of Tennessee</i> Drought, whether short-term or long-term, is inevitable for most turfgrass systems. Good preparation is key. In this talk, we will explore the importance of developing a water budget to understand course water use patterns and watering requirements. We will then leverage this knowledge and other critical resources toward the development of thoughtful plan of action for those times when drought (and associated watering restrictions) may hit.	<b>The Uncommon Diseases You May be Overlooking</b> <i>David McCall, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University</i> Despite the introduction of new, highly effective fungicides into the turfgrass industry, adequate disease management can still be challenging. While we have a grasp on managing many common diseases, there are a number of hidden pest stressors that are difficult to diagnose and complicate providing ideal playing surfaces. This presentation will provide an overview of some of the less common diseases and disorders that frustrate turfgrass professionals with solutions to increase management success.	<b>Getting the Most Out of Preemergence Herbicides</b> <i>Travis Gannon, Ph.D., North Carolina State University</i> Pre-emergence herbicides are commonly used to manage weeds in established turfgrass systems. While pre-emergence herbicides are one component of comprehensive weed control management programs, it’s imperative that turf managers understand various factors that influence pre herbicide efficacy. Product selection, application rates, and application timings, among other factors, will be discussed. Participants will have a better understanding of pre-emergence herbicide efficacy and will be able to devise more comprehensive weed management programs.	<b>New Cultivars are Making an Impact</b> <i>Bryan Unruh, Ph.D., University of Florida</i> A number of new turfgrass cultivars are entering the marketplace. The merits and anticipated availability of the new grasses will be discussed.
11 am	<b>Optimizing Herbicide Applications on the Golf Course</b> <i>Travis Gannon, Ph.D., North Carolina State University</i> Herbicides are commonly used to manage weeds on golf courses. While herbicides are one component of comprehensive weed management programs, it’s imperative for land managers to understand how to optimize herbicides without adversely affecting human or environmental health. Understanding biological and chemical attributes of herbicides and how they behave after application allows superintendents to optimize weed control while minimizing off-target movement and injury. Seminar discussions will focus on specific examples of off-target injury and failed herbicide applications. Overall, participants will have a better understanding of herbicide fate and behavior and will be able to devise best management practices to minimize off-target herbicide injury and maximize efficacy.	<b>Managing Bermudagrass Areas When Irrigating with Reclaimed Water</b> <i>Marco Schiavon, Ph.D., University of Florida</i> Irrigation is the single most important maintenance practice to keep turfgrass alive. However, with water restrictions being progressively enforced and rising water costs, sufficient irrigation may not be available during the growing season. The presentation will discuss use of alternatives to potable water irrigation on bermudagrass fairways and will cover the challenges and advantages of using reclaimed water for turfgrass irrigation.	<b>Soil Surfactants – What, Where, When?</b> <i>Barry Stewart, Ph.D., Mississippi State University</i> Soil surfactants are regularly used in golf and athletic fields to improve the uniformity of turf. Soil surfactants could do the same in lawn turf. What are soil surfactants? How and why should they be used? Where and when should they be used? This talk will provide insights into the use of soil surfactants in the home lawn setting.	<b>Linking Diversified Lawn Care and Sod Production – Is There a Market?</b> <i>Jay McCurdy, Ph.D., Mississippi State University</i> There is plenty of interest in biodiverse turf-forb ground covers, but practical establishment techniques are scarce. For instance, seeded establishment of many native forbs is hindered by the availability of germinable seed, and even more troubling is that there has been very little work evaluating forbs for persistence and ecosystem services in maintained turfgrass. This presentation cannot solve all these problems, but it is the start of a conversation regarding how sod producers may enhance their product for certain market scenarios. Dr. McCurdy will discuss the rationale for biodiverse turf-forb lawns, the potential markets for product, and some of the challenges (and potential solutions) for production.
12 pm	CEU & Pesticide Sign-ins and Expo Adjournment			