

DEEP SOUTH TURF EXPO • OCTOBER 27 – 29, 2026 • BILOXI, MS

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

3 pm – 5 pm	Exhibitor Move-In	Beau Rivage-Magnolia Ballroom
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

8 am – 4 pm	Registration Open & Exhibitor Move-In	Beau Rivage-Promenade
11 am	Scramble Golf Tournament	The Preserve Golf Club
5 pm	Tailgate Celebration – <i>All attendees & exhibitors welcome!</i> Shuttle Schedule to Tailgate: Bus leaves The Beau Rivage (from the bus lobby) to The Preserve at 3:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 6:30pm Bus leaves The Preserve (from the front loop) to The Beau Rivage at 5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm	The Preserve Golf Club

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

7 am – 4 pm	Registration Open	Beau Rivage-Promenade
7 am	Continental Breakfast – Tradeshow Opens	Beau Rivage-Magnolia Ballroom
8 am – 11 am	General Session	Beau Rivage-Camellia Ballroom
GENERAL SESSION		
8 am	Preparing for the World Cup: Perspectives from the Field • Quince Landry, BrightView As the world prepares for soccer's biggest stage, discover the unique challenges and opportunities of managing turf for an international sporting event. Gain firsthand insights into field preparation, maintenance strategies, and the high-performance standards required for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.	
9 am	Turfgrass Marketing Fallacies • Dr. Travis Shaddox, Bluegrass Arts & Science Examine common misconceptions surrounding turfgrass products and management practices. Learn to separate marketing claims from research-based approaches to pesticide selection, application timing, nutrient management, and integrated turfgrass management practices that support effective and responsible decision-making.	
10 am	Managing Turf in Extreme Weather Events • Dr. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida, Dr. Scott McElroy, Auburn University and Dr. Jay McCurdy, Mississippi State University Weather extremes can dramatically influence turfgrass performance, pest populations, disease activity, and pesticide efficacy. Hear the latest university research and practical recommendations for managing turf before, during, and after flooding, heat stress, hurricanes, and winter injury through integrated pest management, sound cultural practices, and effective recovery strategies.	
11 am – 4 pm	Visit Tradeshow Exhibitors Be sure to take advantage of all activities offered during the tradeshow 11 am – 2:30 pm Silent Auction (must pay and pick-up items by Thursday am) 11 am – 4 pm Hole Challenge Contest – <i>visiting all participating sponsors</i> 12 pm Lunch – Buffet in tradeshow, seating in promenade 12 – 3 pm Beer & Wine Cash Bar Association Business Meetings 11 am Alabama Turfgrass Research Foundation Business Meeting 11 am Mississippi Turfgrass Association Business Meeting 1 pm Alabama Turfgrass Association Business Meeting 1 pm Louisiana-Mississippi GCSA Business Meeting	Beau Rivage-Magnolia Ballroom Beau Rivage – Azalea A Beau Rivage – Azalea B Beau Rivage – Azalea A Beau Rivage – Azalea B
2 pm – 5 pm	General Session	Beau Rivage-Camellia Ballroom
GENERAL SESSION		
2 pm	Automation & Robotics in Turfgrass • Josh Dyer and Dr. Scott McElroy Discover how automation and robotics are transforming the turfgrass industry. This discussion will feature industry experts sharing real-world experiences with robotic equipment, autonomous technologies, and emerging innovations. Learn about the benefits, challenges, implementation strategies, and future of automation in turf management, and gain practical insights into how these technologies can improve efficiency, labor management, and overall operations.	
3 pm	Research Update Forum: Emerging Technologies & BMPs • Moderated by Dr. Scott McElroy Presented by graduate students from Auburn University, Mississippi State University and Louisiana State University TOPICS INCLUDE: AUTONOMOUS & DRONE SPRAYERS – Explore the latest research on autonomous and unmanned aerial application systems, including equipment capabilities, application accuracy, spray coverage, calibration considerations, and regulatory requirements for pesticide applications. PRECISION PESTICIDE APPLICATION – Learn how precision application technologies can improve pesticide efficacy while reducing off-target movement, environmental impact, and unnecessary product use through improved timing, targeting, and application techniques. POLLINATOR LAWNS – Discover current research on incorporating pollinator-friendly practices into managed turf while maintaining functional landscapes. Topics include integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide stewardship, habitat considerations, and balancing pollinator protection with effective turf management. SOIL MOISTURE SENSING – Examine how soil moisture sensors can improve irrigation scheduling, reduce plant stress, and support healthier turf. Learn how moisture monitoring integrates with best management practices to optimize water use and improve overall turf performance.	
5 pm	Alabama Pesticide Sign-Out	Beau Rivage-Camellia Ballroom
4 pm – 6 pm	Tradeshow Closing – <i>Exhibitors are not allowed to move out until 4 pm</i> Dinner on your own	Beau Rivage-Magnolia Ballroom

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

7 am – 8 am	Registration Open				Beau Rivage-Promenade
7 am – 9 am	Exhibitor Move-out				Beau Rivage-Magnolia Ballroom
7 am	Continental Breakfast				Beau Rivage-Promenade
8 am – 12 pm	Breakout Sessions				
	Golf Sessions Camellia B	Sports Turf & Grounds Sessions Camellia A	Lawn Care & Landscape Sessions Azalea D&C	Sod Production Sessions Azalea B	
8 am	Tiny Bubbles – Role of Nanobubbles in Turf Management <i>Dr. Eric DeBoer, Louisiana State University</i> Nanobubble technology is gaining attention as a tool for improving water quality and enhancing turfgrass management. This session will examine current research on its effects on soil oxygenation, root health, pesticide application and efficacy, nutrient availability, and integrated pest management practices that promote healthy, sustainable turf.	Pesticide Selection BMPs Go Beyond Just Killing the Pest <i>Dr. J. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida</i> Selecting the right pesticide involves more than simply eliminating a target pest. This session will explore best management practices for pesticide selection, including understanding modes of action, application considerations, environmental impacts, resistance management, and strategies for achieving effective control while protecting turf health and surrounding resources.	Turfgrass Cultivar Showcase: New Grasses for Southern Lawns <i>Dr. Marta Pudzianowska, Mississippi State University and Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, University of Florida</i> New turfgrass cultivars offer exciting opportunities for improving lawn quality and reducing management challenges. Learn how cultivar selection impacts pest susceptibility, disease development, water and nutrient requirements, and overall turf performance while supporting integrated pest management strategies for Southern landscapes.		
9 am	Modern Technology for Mapping Soil Moisture <i>Dr. Chase Straw, Penn State</i> Precision soil moisture mapping is transforming the way turf managers make irrigation and pest management decisions. This session will demonstrate how modern mapping technologies can improve water management, optimize pesticide application timing and performance, reduce off-target movement, and support integrated pest management and sustainable turfgrass maintenance.	Managing Fields Through Heavy Traffic and Overuse <i>Dr. Barry Stewart, Mississippi State University</i> Learn how traffic stress impacts turfgrass health, pest pressure, and disease development. This presentation will discuss best management practices for field recovery, including rotational use, overseeding strategies, renovation timing, and integrated approaches that combine cultural practices with effective pest management programs.	Herbicide Programs for Home Lawns <i>Dr. Jay McCurdy, Mississippi State University</i> Develop a stronger understanding of herbicide programs for residential turf. This presentation will cover weed identification, herbicide selection, label considerations, application timing, modes of action, and resistance management strategies to improve control, enhance pesticide efficacy, and support responsible pesticide stewardship.	Nutrient BMPs for Sod Production <i>Dr. Travis Shaddox, Bluegrass Arts & Science</i> A well-managed fertility program is the foundation of healthy turf and effective integrated pest management. This presentation will discuss nutrient BMPs for sod production, including soil testing, fertilizer selection, application practices, nutrient uptake, and how proper nutrition influences turf health, disease development, pest susceptibility, and overall management success.	
10 am	Know the Enemy: Understanding Mechanisms of Activity and Application Timing of Fungicides and Nematicides <i>Dr. Aaron Tucker, Auburn University</i> Understanding how fungicides and nematicides work is essential for making informed management decisions. This presentation will examine pesticide modes of action, target pests, application timing, resistance management strategies, and best practices for maximizing efficacy while promoting responsible and sustainable pest management.	Management Practices Impacting Athlete Safety and Performance <i>Dr. Chase Straw and Ava Veith, Penn State</i> Healthy turf is the foundation of a safe playing environment. Learn how management decisions involving irrigation, nutrition, pesticide selection and application, disease prevention, and cultural practices influence turf quality, playability, and athlete safety. This session will highlight integrated pest management strategies that promote resilient turf systems.	Diagnosing Turf Problems Faster and More Accurately <i>Dr. Dave Han, Auburn University</i> Before selecting a treatment, you must first identify the problem. This presentation will provide practical tools for diagnosing turf issues, recognizing pest and disease symptoms, understanding contributing factors, and making informed management	Precision Sod Farming: Sensors, Drones, and Data Analytics <i>Amy Wilbur, Mississippi State University, Chase Straw, Penn State and Kyle Foreman, Mississippi State University</i> Precision agriculture tools are providing sod producers with new opportunities to make more informed management decisions. Learn how emerging technologies such as moisture mapping, drone imaging, AI-assisted scouting, and variable-rate applications can improve pest identification, pesticide efficiency, application accuracy, and integrated pest management strategies while promoting environmental stewardship.	
11 am	New Goosegrass and Poa Herbicides in Golf <i>Dr. Scott McElroy, Auburn University</i> Stay ahead of challenging turfgrass weeds with the latest research on goosegrass and Poa management. This presentation will discuss new herbicide technologies, modes of action, application timing, resistance management, and integrated weed management strategies to improve control and support responsible pesticide use.	Insights into Managing Sports Fields <i>Quincy Landry, Brightview</i> Effective sports field management requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond routine maintenance. Learn how proper cultural practices, pest identification, pesticide selection and application, disease prevention, and integrated turfgrass management strategies can improve field quality, athlete safety, and long-term turf health.	The Curious Case of Yellowing Centipedegrass <i>Dr. Aaron Tucker, Auburn University</i> Not all yellowing turf is the result of the same problem. This presentation will examine the diagnostic process for identifying the causes of yellowing centipedegrass, including insect pests, diseases, nutritional issues, and environmental stresses. Learn how accurate identification supports proper treatment selection, responsible pesticide use, and effective integrated pest management programs.		
12 pm	CEU & Pesticide Sign-out and Expo Adjournment Pesticide recertification points for Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee CEUs for GCSAA, CCA, PGMS and ASBA				Beau Rivage-Promenade

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