NYSTA–NEGCSA EDUCATION DAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2026

Crowne Plaza Hotel – The Desmond • Albany, NY

AGENDA

MORNING PROGRAM

6:00 a.m.	**REGISTRATION & COFFEE/JUICE** *King Courtyard*	
6:30 – 7:30 a.m.	**EARLY BIRD SESSION – PANEL** Maximizing Pesticide Efficacy While Minimizing Environmental Impact **Moderator:** Matt Lindner – NYSTA Board Member Kevin Collins · Ocean Organics – Maximizing Fertilizer, Pesticide & Water Applications with Surfactants Rich Buckley · Rutgers University – The Science Chris Sitko · Cornell University – The Groundskeeper Perspective *King Street 2-4*	**DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b, 25** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**
7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	**TRADE SHOW with COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS** *King Courtyard*	

GENERAL SESSION

8:00 – 8:05 a.m.	**Welcome from NYSTA & NEGCSA Presidents** Sponsored by: The Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund *King Street 2-4*	
8:05 – 8:20 a.m.	**Tom Kaplun** Empire State Golf Alliance Update & Workforce Development *King Street 2-4*	
8:20 – 9:10 a.m.	**Lisa Beirn, Ph.D.** Understanding Fungicide Resistance *King Street 2-4*	**DEC CREDITS: 0.75** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b, 25** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**
9:10 – 9:55 a.m.	**Erica Mackey – NYSDEC** Pesticide Law & Regulation Updates and How to Prepare for an Inspection *King Street 2-4*	**DEC CREDITS: 0.75** **Category: CORE** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**
9:55 – 10:15 a.m.	**NYSTA ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS** *King Street 2-4*	



EDUCATION DAY PROGRAM

Morning break and concurrent education sessions

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. | TRADE SHOW & BREAK

King Street Courtyard

CONCURRENT SESSIONS • 10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

TIME	GOLF TURF	MECH SESSION	LAWN/LANDSCAPE & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, SPORTS TURF & SCHOOLS
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	**Paul Giordano** The Root Cause: Optimizing Root Health Through Plant Protection and Biostimulation *King Street 2* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b, 25** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**	**Instructor TBA** Mechanics Session *22 High Street*	**Matt Elmore, Ph.D. – Rutgers** Herbicides & Beyond: Integrated Weed Management for Lawns, School Grounds, and Sports Fields *King Street 4* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	**Steve McDonald** 2026 Agronomic Recap for Golf Courses and High End Turf Management: Weather, Pests, Mechanics – You Name It! *King Street 2* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b, 25** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**	**Instructor TBA** Mechanics Session *22 High Street*	**Dan Gilrein – Cornell Cooperative Extension** What's Bugging Us in Landscapes? *King Street 4* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 12, 3a, 3b, 25 GCSAA Education Points: Pending**

12:45 – 1:45 p.m. | LUNCH & TRADE SHOW

King Street Courtyard & King Street 6-8
NEGCSA Raffle Drawing

EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY

Scan Link Coming Soon



AFTERNOON EDUCATION TRACKS

Concurrent sessions • Thursday, December 17, 2026

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

TIME	GOLF TURF	MECH SESSION	LAWN/LANDSCAPE & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, SPORTS TURF & SCHOOLS
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	**Rich Buckley** 2026 Golf Turf Year in Review: Pesticide Management, Turfgrass Research, & Diagnostic Research *King Street 2* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 12, 3a, 3b, 25** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**	**Instructor TBA** Mechanics Session *22 High Street*	**Nathaniel Mitkowski, Ph.D. – URI** Lawn/Landscape & Grounds Maintenance, Sports Turf & Schools *King Street 4* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

TIME	GOLF TURF	MECH SESSION	LAWN/LANDSCAPE & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, SPORTS TURF & SCHOOLS
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	**Steve McDonald** Taking a Hard Look at Fertilizer & Pesticide Use on Golf Courses: Trends over the Years *King Street 2* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b and 0.50 – 12** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**	**No mechanics session** listed for this time slot	**Bradley Park** Better Establishment Practices Can Lead To Fewer Herbicide Inputs *King Street 4* **DEC CREDITS: 1.0** **Categories: 10, 3a, 3b, 25** **GCSAA Education Points: Pending**

ANNUAL MEETING & POST CONFERENCE NETWORKING

4:00 p.m.	**NEGCSA ANNUAL MEETING** *King Street 2*
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	**Post Conference Reception (cash bar - all conference attendees welcome)** *King Courtyard*
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	**NEGCSA Holiday Party | PRIVATE EVENT · Advance Ticket Purchase Required** *King Street 6-8*



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Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund

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