New at the Show

Here are some products you'll want to see as you're walking the aisles of the Atlanta Convention Center

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR., MANAGING EDITOR

Well, we have straight from GCSAA CEO Steve Mona's mouth—attendance at next month's show in Atlanta will likely be lower than last year's in Orlando, which was crippled by the effect the Sept. 11 attacks had on the travel and tourism industry.

Mona says the sluggish economy will suppress turnout, and the uncertainty about Atlanta's weather in February may deter some from attending the show. (For the record, we wonder if anyone is asking inside the walls of the GCSAA headquarters why the association chose Atlanta as a spot when even its CEO thinks it's a bad place to hold a conference. But we digress.)

Still, a smaller turnout will have one advantage for those who do attend: Superintendents won't have to fight their way through maddening crowds to pick up their annual Pursell Technologies green baseballs.

The other advantage, of course, is that superintendents who want to see the latest products will have plenty of room to do so. Here are some of the products that people will be rolling out at this year's GCSAA Conference and Show:

Mower designs
National Mower's 8400 hydrostatic triplex mower tackles the most difficult hills, slopes, banks and edges with ease, according to the company. The 8400 includes power steering for extra control while trimming difficult areas or negotiating tight corners. The company will also highlight its 1-Stripe mower, a 22-inch walk-behind rotary mower with a powered rear roller for creating the classic striped finish. For more information, visit National Mower at booth 4046, call 651-646-4079 or visit its Web site at www.nationalmower.com.

Superintendent Tool
Par Aide introduces its Superintendent Tool. This 12-function, stainless steel multitool was created with superintendents in mind. In addition to the tools you would normally find in similar products (pliers, knife, saw, screwdrivers, bottle opener and ruler), the tool also contains four specialty tools for superintendents, including a handy ball-mark repair tool, a wire brush, an Allen wrench and a sand/dirt scraper (used to clean area on greens around newly cut cups). For more information, visit Par Aide at booth 3237, call 888-893-2433 or visit its Web site at www.par aide.com.

Golf Accessories
Standard Golf Co. introduces its new Seed and Soil Bottle Rack, designed to help superintendents solve the problem of keeping seed-and-soil bottles ready for use to fix divots. The new bottle rack holds up to 30 bottles and can be easily transported for use between the ninth and 10th greens to encourage golfers to exchange empty bottles, according to the company. It will also introduce the Heavy Duty Irrigation Head Trimmer, along with a host of accessories made from environmentally friendly recycled rubber. For more information, visit Standard Golf at booth 2537, call 319-266-2638 or visit its Web site at www.standardgolf.com.

Fungicide products
BASF is ready to talk about its new Emerald fungicide, which is currently under review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is not yet commercially available. It will also introduce a new version of its Pendulum herbicide, called Pendulum AquaCap. It features a patented microencapsulation technology that develops better performance of its pendimethalin product. For more information, visit BASF at booth 1917, call 800-645-9525 or visit its Web site at www.turf FACTS.com.

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Topdressing equipment
Turfo will introduce the multifunctional WideSpin 1530 Truck Mounted Broadcast Top Dresser. The WideSpin 1530 combines a light topdresser with technology that consistently delivers heavy applications at unprecedented widths. With a few adjustments, the WideSpin 1530 can switch from heavy to light topdressing in minutes with no attachments and no hydraulic connections, according to the company. For more information, visit Turfco at booth 4046 or visit its Web site at www.turfco.com.

Spraying units
Dakota Pest & Equipment will show off its new portable syringing unit, the GreenWave. This high-precision, metered syringing unit features a Dosamatic Advantage injector, with flow rates from .25 gallons per minute to 30 gallons per minute, making it ideal for syringing or other spot chemical treatments, according to the company. The 100-foot, 1-inch hose stores easily on a Reelcraft reel and connects quickly to any irrigation system head. This self-contained unit also features an 8-gallon reservoir for liquid chemicals and is mounted on a base that expands from 42 inches to 66.5 inches to ensure a snug fit on the back of most utility vehicles. For more information, visit Dakota Pest & Equipment at booth 4157 or call 800-477-8415 or visit its Web site at www.dakotapeat.com.

Verticutter Blades
The Toro Co. will feature an improved greens-mower verticutter using the dynaBLADE, which has carbide tips. Toro’s Helmut Ullrich says the carbide blade is superior in performance to traditional blades because it doesn’t wear and dull as fast as other blades. The dynaBLADE also removes more thatch than traditional blades and cuts very cleanly, Ullrich adds. It is an excellent tool for managing greens, especially the new cultivars. The company will also introduce e-Train for its SitePro® central controller software, the first module of its new computer-based training program. For more information, visit Toro at booth 2747, call 952-888-8801 or visit its Web site at www.toro.com.

Chemical compounds
Lesco Turf & Ornamental delivers the proven effectiveness of propiconazole at a value-oriented price with its Spectator fungicide. This new systemic product from Lesco provides preventive and curative control of 19 turfgrass diseases. The company will also feature its 18 Plus Fungicide, which is a locally systematic action for enhanced uptake and even distribution and also provides a 14-day residual. For more information, visit Lesco at booth 2235, call 800-321-5325 or visit its Web site at www.lesco.com.

Water coolers
Great Lakes Golf Course Products plans to introduce what it describes as the longest-lasting and most maintenance-free water cooler enclosure in the industry. Constructed of 98-percent high-density polyethylene, this unit reduces unnecessary maintenance expenses, freeing up valuable time for golf course personnel to perform other important tasks. This high-grade recycled plastic offers several advantages over other forms of recycled plastic because it never has to be painted. It also resists chips, peeling, discoloration, rust, rot and cracks. It also is vandal/graffiti-resistant and insect-proof, according to the company. For more information, visit Great Lakes Golf Products at booth 4019, call 800-505-7926 or visit its Web site at www.glgp.net.

Closed-case rotors
Rain Bird’s will highlight its newest closed-case, valve-in-head rotor — the Eagle 1100. It provides an easy solution for quick coupler system upgrades and is designed for larger single-row or double-row irrigation systems with sizable spacing, the company says. Company representatives will also be available to discuss Rain Bird Financial Solutions, its new financing program that offers customers flexible payment options and terms, and its Wireless Rotor, which the company says is the industry’s first rotor to communicate from a central control, handheld unit or satellite controller without the use of underground wiring. For more information, visit Rain Bird at booth 747, call 626-812-3600 or visit its Web site at www.rainbird.com.

New surfactants
Precision Laboratories is introducing Award, a soil surfactant designed for use by superintendents to manage water in both constructed and native soil profiles. Award contains ingredients that optimize soil water management and playability, according to the company. In particular, the product influences deep infiltration of water into and through the root zone and maximizes the efficiency of water and allows turf to dry more easily, the company says. Award also prevents and treats soil hydrophobicity. The formulation and application interval offers predictable performance throughout the growing season and is applied at rates of 8 ounces per 1,000 square feet every 60 to 90 days. Award is available in liquid form, with a planned release of a granular product in the summer. For more information, visit Precision Laboratories at booth 823, call 800-323-6280 or visit its Web site at www.precisionlab.com.

Poa annua control
Cropchem will debut its Nature’s Best Plus Turf Restore for Poa annua control at the show. The bacterial culture in the product weakens the Poa plants, which allows bentgrass and bermudagrass plants to compete more effectively, according to the company. For more information, visit Cropchem at booth 3982 or call 877-450-7298.

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**New turf protectors**

Becker Underwood's BioGain and Canteen work in tandem to treat newly seeded or established turf, according to the company. BioGain is designed for use in spray application programs to reduce stress and stimulate root growth through enhanced water and nutrient uptake and to correct iron deficiencies in turf. Canteen, a performance-enhanced spreader and soil penetrant, loosens compacted soils, improves seed germination, delivers pesticides and fertilizers to the root zone, and assists wetting of spray-tank mixes, according to the company. Fog Force, a low-cost and nonlethal bird repellent, and Ne-matac S, a bio-pesticide that uses a natural enemy instead of chemicals to control damaging mole crickets on golf courses, will also be shown at the show. For more information, visit Becker Underwood at booth 4421, call 800-232-5907 or visit its Web site at www.beckerunderwood.com.

**Pond aerators**

Aquamaster Fountains & Aerators will introduce its AquaAir aerator, which will provide any aquatic environment superior aeration, circulation and destratification without disturbing the natural, aquatic landscape, according to the company. It features one to six state-of-the-art dual self-cleaning membrane diffusers. For more information, visit Aquamaster at booth 4323, call 800-693-3144 or visit its Web site at www.aquamasterfountains.com.

**Powerful engines**

Briggs & Stratton introduces a new 20/50 Amp Alternator option for its twin-cylinder Vanguard engines. Located under the engine's flywheel, the new 20/50 Amp Alternator is the most powerful internal alternator available, producing 20 amps of electrical power at just 1,200 RPM, according to the company. It will also have the 2.4 horsepower Vanguard OHV, a single-cylinder engine designed to provide a lighter and smoother performance on smaller horsepower commercial applications; and the Vanguard™ 31 HP, the largest two-cylinder engine the company has ever produced, at the show. For more information, visit Briggs & Stratton at booth 2139, call 414-259-5333 or visit its Web site at www.briggsandstratton.com.

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Pond fountains

Air-O-Lator's Font'n-Aire Platinum and Gulf Stream fountains use stainless-steel water-cooled submersible motors. Fountain packages include one of eight different nozzle spray patterns, 100 feet of cord, propeller guard, ETL-list control panel with time clock and a three-year limited warranty. The company will also highlight aerators that use Franklin Electric's submersible motors, which operate a scientifically designed propeller. For more information, visit Air-O-Lator at booth 2823, call 800-821-3177 or visit its Web site at www.aiolator.com.

Leaf Blowers

Giant-Vac, a subsidiary of Simplicity Manufacturing, will show off its Whisper Jet leaf blowers, which feature smooth-operating overhead valve engines, one-piece welded construction for added strength and eight-blade cast aluminum impellers for increased airflow and quieter performance. The company also plans to have its large-area trail vacuums, which clear grass clippings, leaves and twigs from trails, paths and other areas of the golf course quickly and efficiently. For more information, visit Giant-Vac at booth 1246, call 860-423-7741 or visit its Web site at www.giant-vac.com.

Turf blankets

Profile Products introduces its Futerra revegetation blankets, which hold the seed bed in place and provide mulch that speeds grass germination, according to the company. Other features include lightweight design, soil-bonding action that prevents washouts and seed migration, complete degradation and accelerated germination than is 15 percent to 90 percent higher that alternative products, the company says. For more information, visit Profile Products at booth 4328, call 800-366-1180 or visit its Web site at www.profileproducts.com.

Golf cars

Fairway Golf Cars introduces its Freedom Power Caddy, which has smooth, turf-friendly tires and even-weight distribution to help prevent it from causing damage to turf. It is also equipped with a scorecard and drink holder, a clothes/shoes basket, an attachment point for a cooler and a ball/club washer. For more information, visit Fairway Golf Cars at booth 3379, call 888-320-4850 or visit its Web site at www.fairwaygolfcars.com.

Oh, last but not least, don't forget to stop by booth 2317. That's where Golfdom's editors will be hanging out and taking your comments, criticisms and suggestions. Stop by and see us. We'll be looking for you.