**TURF MANAGEMENT PROFESSORSHIP ENDOWMENT:**

**July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 Report.**

**Alec Kowalewski, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor, OSU Turfgrass Specialist**

**Accomplishments since hire (Dec 2012)**

* Funding Generated: $4,402,724
* Stakeholders Reached: 18,328
* Presentations:326
* Publications: 254
* Press Releases: 60
* Site Visits: 106
* Scientific Presentations: 44
* International Presentations: 21
* Graduate Students: 7

[alec.kowalewski@oregonstate.edu](mailto:alec.kowalewski@oregonstate.edu)

The Turfgrass Management Professorship Endowment supports the sole turf faculty position within the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. The turf position is a two-way, 9-month appointment, and reflects the land-grant mission of Oregon State University. This endowment funds the summer portion of my salary, which is the time of year when the majority of efforts will be directed toward research.

The Turfgrass Management Professorship Endowment funds have allow the OSU Turf Program to focus on research and grow exponentially. The OSU Turf Program currently also includes Senior Research Assistant **Brian McDonald**, Research Associate **Dr. Clint Mattox**, Research Assistant Emily Braithwaite, Masters of Science Candidate **Alyssa Cain**, Postdoctoral Scholar **Dr. Ruying “Wrennie” Wang**, and Research Assistant **Dr. Chas Schmid.**



**Brian McDonald, Senior Research Assistant**

As a Research Assistant at Oregon State University, Brian has been with the program for 20 years and has his office on-site year-round overseeing the day to day operations, conducting research trials, and supervising the undergraduate student workers. Brian’s primary research focus has been on annual bluegrass disease management, and National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trials.

**Dr. Clint Mattox, Research Associate**

Clint completed his Ph.D. in Horticulture at Oregon State University in 2020. Clint’s M.S. and Ph.D. research focused on alternative methods of controlling turfgrass diseases, notably Microdochium patch on Poa annua putting greens. In 2020 Clint joined the undergraduate teaching staff at OSU taking over the online version of “Principles of Turfgrass Maintenance”. Clint is also leading the development of an online Professional Development and Continuing Education (PACE) Turf Certificate.

**** **Emily Braithwaite, Research Assistant**

Emily joined the OSU Turfgrass Management Program in 2017. Her work has been critical to ensuring the success of 2 multistate grants funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. These grants are titled 1) Low-Input Turf - Fine fescue, and 2) Annual Bluegrass Herbicide Resistance. Emily has also been instrumental in completing a series of field trials on Turfgrass IPM, also funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

**Alyssa Cain, Graduate Assistant**

The objective of Alyssa’s M.S. dissertation is “Managing Herbicide Resistant Annual Bluegrass”. For this project Alyssa collected annual bluegrass samples from 52 different location in the Central Oregon area. These samples are being screened for herbicide resistance. Data from this project will allow stakeholders to selected herbicide that the weed is not resistant to for effective control. In the spring of 2019 a series of field and greenhouse experiments were initiated to explore the effects of turfgrass allopathy, irrigation and fertilization practices on annual bluegrass encroachment.

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**Dr. Ruying “Wrennie” Wang, Postdoctoral Scholar**

Dr. Wang has 10 years of research experience in turfgrass science. Prior to joining OSU in 2020, Ruying completed an undergraduate degree in Crop and Soil Science at Michigan State University, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Biology at Rutgers University. Ruying’s Ph.D. projects focused on understanding the endophyte interaction with strong creeping red fescue host using molecular tools. Dr. Wang’s current rearch is exploring alternative disease suppression using a new naturally occurring endophyte strain isolated from hard fescue.

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**Dr. Chas Schmid, Research Assistant**

Chas has a B.S. in Turf Management from The University of Nebraska. Chas also has a M.S., and Ph.D. in Turfgrass Management from Rutgers University. Chas’s Ph.D. research focused on the effects of soil nutrients on cool-season turfgrass diseases. Dr. Schmid’ current research is focusing on the effects of plant growth regulators on aerification recovery, and the long-term effects of cultivation method and topdressing on annual bluegrass aesthetics and playability.

**Recent Publications:**

Braun, R.C., A.J. Patton, E.T. Braithwaite, and A.R. Kowalewski. 2020. Establishment of Low-Input Turfgrass from Seed Using Patch and Repair Mixtures: Mulch and Starter Fertilizer Effects. Crop Science. https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20266

Barnes, M.R., K.C. Nelson, A.R. Kowalewski, A.J. Patton, and E. Watkins. 2020. Public land manager discourses on barriers and opportunities for a transition to low-input turfgrass in urban areas. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening. 1-24 doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2020.126745

Reicher, Z.J., M.D. Sousek, A.J. Patton, A. Van Dyke, W.C. Kreuser, J.C. Inguagiato, K.M. Miele, J. Brewer, S. D. Askew, A. Hathaway, T.A. Nikolai, A. Kowalewski, and B. McDonald. 2020. Adding a Late Fall Application of Proxy (Ethephon) Before Two Traditional Spring Applications Improves Seedhead Control of Annual Bluegrass. Crop Forage and Turfgrass Management. 2020:1-18. DOI:10.1002/cft2.20031.

Blankenship, T., J. Lambrinos, L. Brilman, A. Kowalewski, R. Golembiewski, B. McDonald, C. Mattox and M. Dumelle. 2020. Water Requirements Influenced by Turfgrass Species and Mowing Height in Western Oregon. Crop Forage and Turfgrass Management. 2020:1-9. 2020:DOI:10.1002/cft2.20020

**Recent Extension Bulletins:**

Kowalewski, A. 2019. Weed Management: Section U: Turfgrass. Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks. March 2020. U1-U24.

**Recent Press Releases produced by the OSU Turf Program:**

Spring and Summer Lawn Care Tips and Tricks. Grass Seed USA. April 24, 2019. <http://weseedamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Grass-Seed-USA-Spring-Summer-2019-Infographic.pdf>

Lawn Care Tips. BYU Radio. April 22, 2019. Retrieved April 22, 2019.  <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/966-the-lisa-valentine-clark-s-30182945/episode/lawn-care-tips-earth-day-having-30859001/>

Root of the Problem. Lawn & Landscape Magazine. Retrieved April 24, 2019. <https://www.lawnandlandscape.com/article/spring-prep-playbook-022719-weed-pressure/>