



The 13th International Turfgrass
Research Conference



13th ITRC Technical Tour Information Sheet

USGA Museum and Testing Center



The United States Golf Association (USGA) (<http://www.usga.org/>) Headquarters (or Golf House as it is commonly referred to) is located in Far Hills NJ. The mission of the USGA is to “*promote and conserve the true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions. It acts in the best interests of the game for the continued enjoyment of those who love and play it*”. The USGA serves (along with the Royal and Ancient of Scotland) as the ruling body for the game of golf, conducts Championships in the United States, maintains a handicapping system, tests golf equipment, provides agronomic advice to member clubs, and helps to preserve the history of the game of golf. Many of these functions are conducted or located at Golf House including the USGA Museum, The USGA equipment Research and Testing

Center, and the headquarters for the USGA Green Section.

The USGA museum (<http://www.usga.org/history/about-museum.html>) holds the nation's largest and most significant collection of golf artifacts and documents in the world. In addition, through books, videos and broadcast documentaries, the USGA tells the story of the game's development in the United States, highlighting the greatest moments in the game's history, with a particular focus on USGA champions and championships. Significant collections include housing of Championship trophies (including the Men's and Women's U.S. Open trophies) and memorabilia from some of the world's greatest golfers.

The USGA continually tests golf equipment for conformance to the Rules. Without such rigorous equipment testing and research programs, advances in technology could soon overtake skill as the major factor in success. The USGA Research and Test Center (<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/equipment-standards.html>) has the world's most advanced golf ball and golf club testing infrastructure. A few examples of equipment and facilities include a video-equipped indoor testing range and golf ball launcher, "Iron-Byron", and a USGA-developed pendulum test to determine the flexibility of the golf club face.

The USGA Green Section

(<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care.html>) runs the Course Consulting Service, provides education and outreach for turf managers as well as golfers, and funds research projects at Universities throughout the United States and Canada. Since 1920, the USGA has funded more than \$40 million in research projects in turfgrass science and management to promote the long-term viability of the game of golf through sustainable resource management and environmental protection.

Meet the USGA Staff:

Kim Gianetti is the USGA Museum's manager of marketing and outreach and will be leading part of the tour.

John Spitzer is the Managing Director of the USGA Testing Center. He has been part of the Center for 16 years after working in the Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory, General Dynamics Corporation, and Electric Boat. Mr. Spitzer will be one of our hosts for the exciting tour of this state-of-the-art research and testing facility.

Kimberly Erusha Ph.D. is managing director of the USGA Green Section. Dr. Erusha

oversees the department's administrative and service functions, which include the USGA Course Consulting Service, evaluations to help improve golf course playing quality, and environmental sustainability and economic efficiency. The work includes a multi-media education and outreach program directed to golf course officials, superintendents, golfers, environmental organizations, and regulatory officials. Dr. Erusha earned a B.S. degree in Horticulture from Iowa State University, and completed her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Nebraska, specializing in turfgrass management.