



April  
2014

# Grass Clippings

## A Great Opportunity Designed for You

The excitement level is elevated this time of year as courses are operating in high gear preparing great course conditions. Keep that energy going by strengthening your key employee team when you play in the 18th Annual Super/Pro Golf Challenge, May 29.

Enjoy a beautiful setting at Sun Valley's Trail Creek Course, a Robert Trent Jones Jr. course designed in 1980. Golf Digest has recognized the course as one of the top 75 resort courses in North America. Our host superintendent is Shawn Aicher and the host professional is Jeff Peterson.

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The Super/Pro Golf Challenge is the only Idaho GCSA event between now and the Fall Meeting. Benefit from this opportunity to talk with your peers and support your association. Protect the date on your calendar and show your management skills by planning around the event.

Everyone is welcome to play, and we offer two flights to accommodate all teams: **1st Flight** will consist of one of the following combinations from the same facility: Head Supt./Head Pro, Head

Supt./Asst. Pro, Asst. Supt/ Head Pro, Asst. Supt/Asst. Pro, **2nd Flight** will include all other combinations.

Hole sponsorships are welcome. Please contact Shawn Aicher with your commitment (208) 309-1870.

## Website Update

We have all missed the Idaho GCSA website. And we are happy to report the new site will be launched soon. We experienced unexpected delays, and we have appreciated your patience. The new website will keep you up to date with current events and information, and will once again house the job announcements in one place. The next step will be to improve the site with online registration.

When the website is ready for you, you will be notified via email blast.

### Upcoming events:

#### Super/Pro Golf Challenge:

May 29, 2014, Sun Valley Resort

#### Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting:

October 6 & 7, 2014, Idaho Falls, Idaho

## Support the Future of Golf

May 16 is the 18th annual Idaho Jr. Golf Auction. The future of the game tomorrow is dependent on the junior golfers of today! Support the Jr. Golf Program by attending the event at Eagle Hills, Eagle, Idaho. Cocktails and the auction are from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner and live auction from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by contacting Katrina at 208.342.4442 x 3.

## Tweet with Us

Many in the turf industry are turning to Tweeting as a fast and easy form of communication. Many people are drawn to information that is easy to consume when offered in short bites. Whether you are already tweeting, or you make that move in the future, we invite you to follow @IdahoGCSA. Don't forget Facebook!

## Repair Winter Damage

Zac Reicher, Ph.D., featured speaker at our 2013 SM, offers the following guide to help you with winter recovery:

For those starting to see damage from winterkill, the University of Nebraska just posted a comprehensive winterkill guide at <http://turf.unl.edu/>. This publication covers everything from the how's and why's of winterkill; reseeding strategies; choosing species/mixes for reseeding; controlling in seedling turf; and much more. The exact link is <http://turf.unl.edu/2014/MarchCompWinterkill.pdf> but they have much more information on winterkill and other turf management aspects on the rest of their web at <http://turf.unl.edu/>

## Platinum Sponsors

Our 2013 Platinum Sponsors were introduced at the 2014 Spring Meeting in Boise. Each of these companies strongly supported the association during the past year and for their support, we are grateful. The companies of our Platinum association member sponsors are listed on page 18 & 20.

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Lori Russell, Executive Director

*Grass Clippings* is published  
three times a year. Our newsletter is  
not copyrighted, but we would  
appreciate credit for original material.

## ***Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!***

#### **Bennett, John (FM)**

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Cell: (9208) 983-4198 jbennett@idfg.com

#### **Buchen, CGCS, MG, Terry (D)**

#### **Golf Agronomy International, LLC**

1284 W. Lago Bello  
Eagle, ID 83616-7041  
Cell: (757) 561-7777  
TerryBuchen@earthlink.net  
(Golf course consulting agronomist - 3rd  
party independent)

#### **Feider, Jory (C)**

Osprey Meadows at Tamarack Resort  
311 Village Dr. Tamarack, ID 83615  
Cell: (208) 469-0867  
jfeider@tmaidaho.com

#### **Holsten, Tye (C)**

Fore Golf Inc  
\*840 Park Ln Pocatello, ID 83201  
Cell: (208) 589-0439  
tyeholsten@yahoo.com

#### **Laidlaw, Bud (D)**

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alott@whitetailclub.com

#### **Madden, Michael**

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1327 Lakehurst Dr. NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
Cell: (360) 460-1275  
turfcommander@gmail.com

#### **McJunkin, Randy (F)**

City of McCall G.C.  
\*P.O. Box 393  
Council, ID 83612  
randymcjunkin155@msn.com

#### **Mendenhall, Spencer (C)**

Burley Golf Course  
P.O. Box 1090 Burley, ID 83318  
SpencerMendenhall@gmail.com

#### **Sorensen, Gregg (D)**

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#### **Stahman, Jeff (SM)**

2801 Indiana Ave Baker City, OR 97814  
Cell: (541) 519-6347  
stahman@gmail.com

#### **Thornock, Kip (C)**

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kenthornock@gmail.com

#### **Weitz Mark (SM)**

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Cell: (208) 320-2045  
mweitz29@gmail.com

#### **Woodworth, Charles (C)**

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\*550 W. Park American Falls, ID 83211  
Cell: (208) 705-6930  
cawoodworth2@hotmail.com

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#### **Lori Russell, Executive Director**

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[www.idahogcsa.org](http://www.idahogcsa.org)

***"The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to helping its members provide the best playing conditions in an environmentally friendly manner."***



# President's Message

Adam Bagwell, CGCS

Crane Creek Country Club, Boise, Idaho

For most of us, spring has arrived...finally. The grass is greener, trees are budding, and my allergies are killing me. I'm running around like a chicken with his/her head cut off, and enjoying every minute of it.

Competing for my attention on the course this year is a major renovation on the front nine starting in September. Quite a bit of planning is taking place concurrently with course prep, and as my GM has mentioned, doing both well is imperative. One strategy he suggested was logging hours spent on project planning, vs. hours spent on managing 18 holes. At the very least, I'll have an idea which part is getting neglected more!

Two things stand out:

\* Delegation will be exceedingly important this year; but, the most important part is done - having hired a top-notch managerial staff. Having the right support system makes a mole-hill

out of a mountain.

\* Personal stubbornness and stupidity. My response to the GM as he suggested the hour-logging idea was, "Superintendents don't need to do stuff like that. We just work extra hours to cover any neglect. There's 24 hours in a day!"

As we are all flying around this spring, evaluate how well you delegate tasks to your staff, no matter what the size. Realize that long hours equals inefficiency, and, more importantly, family neglect. Take a minute to consider how much work was achieved in the current day (you should be proud of the amount), and realize tomorrow will accomplish that much more. And lastly, take a quiet moment to look around and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of spring. We are a lucky bunch...

I write quite often about the importance of not working too much, etc. I do this for selfish reasons—if I absorb 1% of what I write, I'll be a better person because of it, and my family will benefit. I apologize for the next 99 articles with similar topics!

Adam Bagwell, CGCS, [adam@crancreekcc.com](mailto:adam@crancreekcc.com)  
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## About an Allied Partner

### AquaTechnex

Golf course superintendents go to school to learn how to care for and maintain turf and landscapes. Golf course designers and real estate developers often blend in a significant number of water features. A property on a lake can often fetch the developer considerably more than property on the fairway. Lakes are strategically placed to enhance play and challenge the golfer. Lakes are often the focal point view from the clubhouse and adorn the course's signature hole. These acres of water on the course are totally different ecosystems and age rapidly. They can go from being a stunning asset to an eyesore as nutrients flowing into the lakes drive excessive aquatic weed and algae growth.

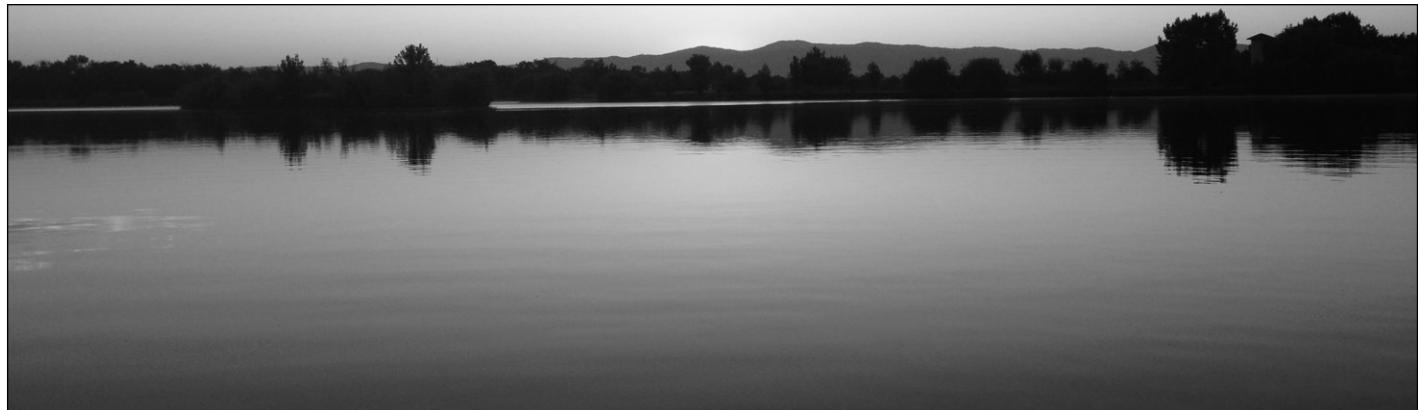
The aquatic biologists from Aquatechnex have been helping superintendents throughout the western United States manage their water bodies since 1980. The company's principal, Terry McNabb, was asked to teach GCSAA's Lake and Aquatic Plant Management Seminar in 1996 and offered that course for the association for 11 more years. The objective of that effort was to give a solid understanding of the biological processes that drive problems in lakes and the tools that help the superintendent mitigate these issues. When superintendents don't have the time to fight these problems, our team often is asked to step in and help protect these liquid assets.

While our team regularly works in North Idaho from our Medical Lake facility, in the spring of 2013 we placed Brandon Watson in Idaho's Treasure Valley. Southern Idaho is brimming

with residential and golf course waterscapes; many of them impaired by invasive aquatic species such as Eurasian Milfoil or problem algae species. Many of the more nutrient rich systems in the Valley are starting to see a shift toward toxic blue green algae blooms.

Brandon is set up to assess and diagnose water quality problems and develop integrated lake management programs to restore or protect the regions' ponds and lakes. Our services include lake mapping, showing bathymetry, bottom sediment composition and aquatic plant biovolume. This is often a key missing information piece. Our lab can analyze water quality and develop prescriptions based on conditions present. We feel that lake aeration plays an incredibly important role in maintaining a balance and we have teamed with AquaMaster to bring systems to the market that work and have the longest warranty in the business. We are also a service center for this equipment.

We have a number of new technologies that can really help lakes. Our company brought Phoslock, a phosphorus sequestering technology, into the United States and have used this to reduce the carrying capacity of lakes to develop problem algae blooms. We work with a number of new herbicide technologies that do not impact the use of the lakes as an irrigation source. We are licensed and equipped to deploy these technologies to maintain water quality. ([www.aquatechnex.com](http://www.aquatechnex.com)).



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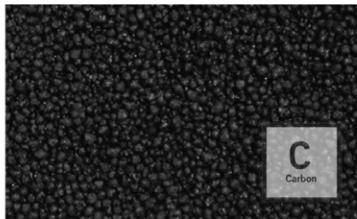


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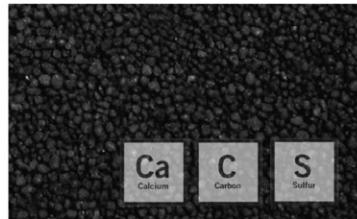
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*One of the most common outcomes in the strategic plans in which I have participated is the need to improve attendance at chapter events. I would like to share this article that was written by my good friend and fellow field staff representative, Brian Cloud. Brian is from the South Central Region and resides in the Dallas Fort Worth area. He has stated the “dos and don’ts” of attending meetings and has made it about as simple as can be. This has to be one of the quickest and easiest articles I have written, but I feel compelled to share this with you because it is done so well. Please take some time to sit down and read Brian’s article and see how you may apply some of this wisdom to your local chapter event.*

*Sincerely, David Phipps, GCSAA Field Staff Northwest Regional Representative*

## How to Make the Most of Chapter Meetings

**Brian Cloud,**  
GCSAA Field Staff  
South Central Regional  
Representative

Seems like an easy deal: sign up, show up, hang out, tee it up and head home. But if that is your game plan for attending your local GCSAA-affiliated chapter event, you are really missing out on great opportunities to broaden your horizons. Think about it, a full day to interact with your peers in a relaxed atmosphere that typically includes a great educational program, a nice meal and an opportunity to experience golf at one of the finest facilities in your area. You can probably increase your value to your employer more in a single day than you can in months by making the most of your opportunity.

Following are a list of what to do, and what not to do to maximize your chapter meeting experience. The most common reasons chapter members say they don’t attend meetings are cost, travel distance, and time away from the job. This article addresses some of these concerns and offers tips to reduce these hurdles, whether you are a superintendent, assistant, affiliate member or any other member who wants to attend meetings and make the most of your time, effort and money.

**Do: Register early.** Your board of directors and chapter executive work very hard to make sure all of the details for each meeting are organized and first-class. Knowing how many people are going to attend is always a mystery and makes arranging menus, room setup and golf format a challenge. When you see a meeting announcement you know you want to attend, sign up early. Don’t put that meeting announcement in a pile on your desk or in a folder in your email. If something comes up and you have to cancel your registration, it is no big deal. Just let chapter leaders know as soon as you can.

**Don’t: Wait until the last minute to cancel your registration.** If something comes up and you have to cancel your registration, let chapter leaders know as soon as you can. A last-minute cancellation can really throw a wrench into best laid plans. If you have ever had to rearrange a four-person handicapped scramble tournament at the last minute with four last-minute cancellations, two no-shows and three new players, you’ll know exactly why this is important. It’s the nature of the industry to have last-minute things come up, so sometimes it’s impossible to avoid, but please be courteous to your chapter leaders who are working hard to make the events run smoothly.

**Do: Support your organization.** Part of your association’s commitment to providing great education and member services depends on good meeting attendance. At most courses, the financial liability and risk for securing a meeting site are significant. Your attendance and registration fees help cover the costs of speakers, refreshments and more. The better the attendance, the more easily your association

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Dave Phipps (above) Brian Cloud (below)



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## Make the Most

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can provide exceptional member services and programs. Many members find a way for at least one person from their operation to attend each event. Chapters benefit greatly when courses and companies adopt that goal.

**Do: Bring a guest to a meeting.** Most chapter meetings have room for members to bring guests. That is a great opportunity to demonstrate the professional nature of your group and to show a general manager, golf professional, or club official how important it is to attend meetings. Meetings are also a great incentive or reward for assistants or crew members for a job well done. This can be a great way to do some team-building in a productive way. Don't forget non-members. Inviting them as guests is a great way to show them the benefits of belonging to the association and helping your chapter grow. Make sure to check with your chapter for their guest policy ahead of time.

**Do: Invite a fellow member to a meeting.** Pick up the phone, send a text or email and invite a fellow member to a meeting. Think what it would mean to a new member to be personally invited to be a part of the group. And it doesn't have to be a newcomer; some members just get out of the habit of attending meetings and an invitation to attend may be just the nudge needed to get them back in the swing of things. Most members work within a few miles of several other courses or members, while some meetings could be more than 100 miles round trip, depending on your location. Sharing a ride is a great way to reduce expenses and spend extra time with your local peers. For vendors, inviting customers (or potential customers) to meetings is a great way to show your appreciation for their business and build relationships. Inviting a member and offering to cover his or her entry fee is as good or better an investment of your company's money than taking someone to lunch or the ball-game, and it's a much more productive and industry-related method.

**Do: Prepare to be gone for the day.** Anyone can always come up with a hundred reasons why they can't be away from the job for even a day. But the truth is most operations can survive just fine even with the superintendent gone, provided everyone is prepared. Make sure the right people at your course know where you are going and exactly what is expected to be accom-

plished while you are gone. Plan for these days well in advance and things will go smoothly. You will only be a phone call away, and most issues can wait until you return the next day.

**Do: Arrive early.** Some of the best opportunities to meet people and network come before the actual agenda starts, when the crowd is smaller and people are relaxed. Usually, meetings are packed with activity, and it helps when everyone arrives a little early so everyone can get registered and the event can start on time. Make sure you have clear directions, especially in an area you are not familiar. And, if you haven't noticed, traffic is more unpredictable than Mother Nature, so plan ahead.

**Don't: Skip the education and lunch.** Most chapters offer members the option to participate in only the education and meeting portion. It is a great option if it is not possible to be away from the course all day or other commitments prevent you from playing golf into the afternoon. However, if you skip the education and only make the golf, you are definitely missing the best opportunity to gain important knowledge from the program. If the education doesn't pertain to your current situation, it is very likely that it may someday.

**Do: Meet new people.** Just look around and you are sure to find someone new to introduce yourself to at a meeting. Most people gravitate to those they already know, but everyone benefits from meeting new members in this setting. Set a goal for each meeting to shake three to five new hands. It is always amusing to hear longtime members say they don't recognize all the new people. Well, there is an easy remedy for that. Golf tends to mix members up so you will always meet someone new or get to know others better. Make sure you take the time during your round to really get to know your playing partners.

**Don't: Worry about your golf game.** There are many really good golfers in golf course management. But the majority of members are just out for a good time and have a golf game that leaves a lot to be desired. Most members have a handicap closer to 18 than single digits. So, don't worry about your ability or how you stack up with the rest of the group. Most golf formats take handicap into consideration, so you won't be at a disadvantage if breaking 90 for you is rarer than a Tiger Woods 3 putt. All members of all abilities are welcome and encouraged

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## Make the Most

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to participate in all golf events. Besides, if your score is high enough, you will probably get the ultimate compliment about your golf game — “You’re working too hard.”

**Do: Share with your peers.** Please come to the meetings ready to share your troubles, your successes and even your failures. Chapter members have always been supportive of each other, are always ready to share information and are prepared to extend a helping hand. Nine times out of 10, you will find someone who has faced the same issues you are battling and is willing to share their experience. Participate in meetings by asking questions or providing insight. Chapters have a priceless database of a massive amount of information that is very useful, if everyone is willing to participate by contributing.

**Don’t: Only talk about business.** Believe it or not, there is more to life than the weather, growing grass and golfers who are driving you crazy. Get to know some of your fellow members on a different level by talking about their families, hobbies, sports or anything other than golf and growing grass. You’ll find out that they are a pretty interesting bunch, and it helps to find common ground with your peers.

**Do: Welcome affiliate members who participate.** Affiliate members make up about half of most chapters’ total membership and contribute very generously with their membership, participation at meetings, and sponsorships. Affiliates are a very valuable component to the success of chapters and deserve the right to participate. Just like superintendents, they have a job to do, and building relationships with their customers is a very important part of their jobs. So, don’t be offended if an affiliate member introduces themselves and leaves you with a business card. Associations recognize the value of all of their members, and all members should share in that spirit.

**Don’t: Hesitate to pat the host superintendent on the back.** Hosting a meeting is a very stressful endeavor, and superintendents should be praised for inviting their peers to inspect their work with a fine tooth comb. A thoughtful comment or compliment to the host can go a long way to relieve that stress. Not everyone works with the same budget or under the same circumstances, so it helps to let the host know that you recognize the job being done with the resources available.

**Do: Enjoy yourself in a responsible manner.** You are representing your place of employment, your association, and your profession when you are in public at chapter functions. Your reputation depends on the way you dress, your language, and above all, your actions. Superintendents are now considered a leading professional in the golf industry and should be aware of that when visiting host clubs. Don’t you want the host club personnel and members to have a great impression of your group?

**Do: Follow up.** With email and text messaging, it couldn’t take a whole minute to write a quick thank you to the host superintendent or a greeting to playing partners or someone new you

met. If you have more time, pick up the phone or leave a message. Those kinds of efforts are really appreciated by the recipient and will help you build that all-important network that will benefit you and your career in the future.

**Do: Let your supervisor know about the event.** Make a habit of letting your supervisor know what type of education was presented, what you learned from playing the course, who you met, etc. He or she is probably the person writing the checks to pay for the meeting, so you want to make sure that person knows the facility is getting its money’s worth and your attendance at future meetings is a value. It can be as simple as a quick conversation over a cup of coffee or a written report, depending on your situation. Keeping your supervisor informed will help justify the costs associated with meeting attendance.

**Do: Provide feedback to your chapter.** Your chapter leaders are always working to make your meetings enjoyable and productive. In order to accomplish this, feedback from the membership is necessary and important. Take the time to let them know what you enjoyed or appreciated, and also let them know if you have any suggestions or constructive criticism about how the meetings can be made better.

Hopefully, these suggestions will give you a few things to think about when it comes to chapter meeting attendance. So, make plans today to attend an upcoming event and make the most of your experience.

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## **Spotlight on Assistants**

### **Jon Atkins**

#### **Sun Valley Resort - Elkhorn Golf Club, Sun Valley, Idaho**

In recent weeks, I have been reviewing my experiences over the last year and thought it fitting to maybe share some of my reflections. Looking back, 2013 started for me when I agreed to serve as the Assistant Liaison to the Board for Idaho GCSA. Since assuming my duties, I have had the pleasure of attending the Board Meetings at both the Spring and Fall Meetings, as well as the Strategic Planning Session that preceded the former. Not only were these meetings enlightening to me as I got to know the individual board members a little better, but I also found opportunities to plug in and help out with the needs of the association by volunteering my time. Whether it was helping to upgrade the Idaho GCSA brochure, volunteering at the Silent Auction at the Boise Open, or connecting with all our Allied members to put together the Silent Auction at the Fall Meeting, these experiences were beneficial to me in ways that I cannot even begin to quantify. I feel that through these experiences I have had opportunities to network that might not have been possible otherwise. Consequently, I feel that I am more connected as a professional in the turfgrass industry, both locally and nationally. For instance, my time serving with Idaho GCSA also provided the impetus for my invitation to serve on the 2013 Assistant Superintendent Committee with GCSAA, as well. This was another great experience for me as I got to join eight other assistant superintendents from around the nation at the GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. During this meeting we had the opportunity to discuss at length, as well as provide our personal input, how GCSAA can better serve our needs as professionals. Moreover, the members of this commit-

tee were given the opportunity to write an article to be published in the Assistant Section of GCM. My piece ended up being published in the October edition last year.

I am writing this recap of my last year to encourage, especially assistants, to consider getting involved with the association. While



eventually there may be an opportunity to serve as the Assistant Liaison like I have been able to do, getting involved does not always have to be so formal. More often than not, there will be an opportunity to help out for a few hours at a fundraiser where you will have the opportunity to represent the association and tell people about all the great things that we get to do each day on the job. Not only does it provide for great networking opportunities, but also once you are willing to just throw yourself out there, you never know what other possibilities might come of it.

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# Taking Notes, Ed

## Mark Spraktes Golf Course Superintendent

### Pinecrest Golf Course, Idaho Falls, Idaho



*Above is the brouhaha causing picture*

I don't know about the rest of ya, but the amount of knowledge that passes through our heads every day is more than one thousand times the amount that did just fifteen to twenty years ago. I think it is staggering. To keep my mind clear of unnecessary information, I have compartmentalized the things I use and the things I don't. The information that's not being used can come at strange times.

As I sat watching Enders Game with my son last fall, my stupid smart phone began to vibrate indicating a message had been sent to my Facebook account. I assumed someone invited me to play some stupid game, tagged a new photo, or something. Although curious (as everyone likes to see stuff about themself), I waited for the show to end to follow up on the event. In the meantime, I felt another vibration - another post. Cool, this was going to be good. After the movie, I saw Lori had posted a photo of the McCall meeting from Monday morning, during the second speaker. In a group photo, she tagged

Not being the Internet guru my son is, I play around on the web out of boredom. Thanks to that stupid smart phone, I tend to connect more often

than desired. I

Dave Phipps and me. That's cool, but looking down at the comments, my old friend has posted an observant message indicating my lackluster expression. So I posted back, "Taking notes, Ed."

Later that evening while sitting in a board meeting, that smart phone started buzzing again. Hmm, I still had an hour in this meeting, and this phone kept talking to me. Of course, I had to wait for the meeting to end, but that buzzing kept messing with my head. New posts. By the time I checked in, everybody I knew had started razzing me for napping on the job. Lori even wrote back, jumping to my defense. I chuckled and realized how social media can keep you in touch with old friends so easily. I wouldn't see or hear from so many of my old friends without these new tools. It was kind of cool. I even felt sorry for Lori a bit cuz she didn't realize the repercussion of my expression. But, I thought it was great - funny stuff that happens at chance.

The power of social media is always surprising to me. I probably had close to twenty responses with that post. My friends have now been exposed to the Idaho GCSA Facebook page. Maybe one or two actually looked at the account and have a little more understanding of our jobs. Responses from people both in and outside of the association are good indications this Internet media has a vast range of exposure. We can reach people who might not care what we do, as well as those who do. And, maybe if they didn't care before, they do now.

Thanks for the good times this year in McCall, and I hope to see everybody again, soon. I appreciated the speakers and thank the education committee. Bill Brown knows what he is talking about when it comes to exposure to the masses. Thanks, also, to Lori for organizing these opportunities to meet and even learn about how to incorporate these powerful social media tools in our profession. And, even create the chance for someone to get a poke or two.

So, I write to defend my honor. Really Ed, I'm taking notes.



*GCSAA 2014 Chapter Leadership Symposium  
Mark Spraktes, (IDGCSA), Jason Busch (PPGCSA),  
Brian Woster (IEGCSA) and Lori Russell*



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# Grass Notes

Pete Grass, CGCS,  
Hilands Golf Club, Billings, Mont.



Whether you like it or not, or I may go so far as to say, whether you even realize it or not, you are part of a really BIG thing, GOLF. The entire industry is a \$68.8 BILLION dollar economic engine in the United States. If you are reading this, you are a contributor to that figure.

As a superintendent or maintenance staff team member, you typically work managing your facilities greatest asset (in real dollars and player perception), the golf course(s) itself. As

a Golf Professional, GM/Manager, F&B Manager, Chef or other employee at a golf facility, you are there as a result of there being a golf course(s) as the core reason for that “business” to exist. If you are an owner, city/county/parks council member, club director/committee member, you have direct influence over the dollars spent to operate your golf facility. If you are a golfer, you are the true “root” of the entire industry; without you, none of this would exist. You pay green fees, memberships, buy golf equipment, eat and drink at your facility, you spend \$\$, which, in turn, provides the capital for the facility to operate.

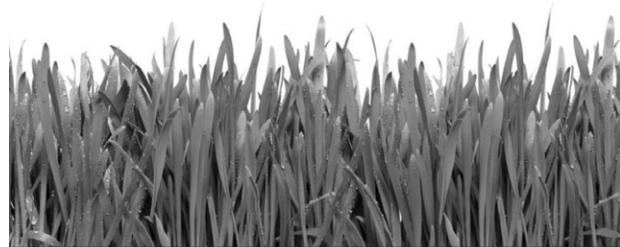
You may say, just like my non-golfer father-in-law, how could it really be \$68.8 billion? My answer to him and you is this: think about how much your individual facility spends. Add up the operating and capital budgets for the golf course, clubhouse and any other areas that are part of your operations due to golf being involved. Include payroll, maintenance/pro shop/ F&B inventories and purchases through the year down to the least obvious expenditures such as utilities and property taxes. Add up the numbers from just our area and then think about the areas of the country that have thousands of courses and 12 month seasons. It is then easy to see how that number comes about.

In my mind, it does not matter if your facility creates \$1 or \$5 million as a result of being in existence, you are a part of the overall total. When the We Are Golf coalition goes to Washington DC in May each year for National Golf Day (GCSAA typically has the largest delegation), we are able to tell a great story. When you are able to say that our industry creates right around 1 million jobs, \$68.8 billion in economic impact and allows for \$3.9 billion to be raised for charitable contributions, that opens eyes and provides opportunities to have our issues heard.

The responsibility that comes along with being part of such a large industry is to help carry the load. There are several

continued page 16

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# Ramblings of a Tired Superintendent

**Adam Bagwell, MPS, CGCS,  
Crane Creek Country Club, Boise, Idaho**

In my President's Message I mentioned delegation as an important part of a super's job. Taking that a bit further, and struggling to write this as usual, my kids came up and asked, "What are you writing Daddy? A Story?" What follows is delegation at its finest! I didn't give them much instruction. They sat down and typed their own words, so you get what you get...

I'm Xiola Bagwell. Daddy's work makes it hard for us to go on trips and spend time with him, especially during summer when we don't have school. Playing golf is the best part. If I had to be a superintendent when I grow up, I'd be nice, play golf a lot, be a good boss, and have Daddy as my assistant. I love my Daddy, but I wish his work wouldn't keep him away from us so much.

*(My favorite topic brought up again, how to balance job demands and family. Also, I'm in serious trouble if she becomes my boss in the future, paybacks are comin'! She obviously thinks I need to improve on being a nice boss, and play more golf!)*

My name is Michaelene Bagwell, and I am a second grader. I am going to tell you about how much fun it is to be a superintendent's daughter. Well, it is like you are famous, especially if your dad/mom is an important superintendent.  
*(I don't know about whom she's talking.)*

My name is Vivienne Bagwell and I am a kindergartener . I am going to tell you about I love super heros. I am batman I play golf. Let's go. I love chocolate donuts. How do you play golf? I wont a super man.  
*(Super heroes and donuts, an awesome combo!)*

My point here was:

- A. To avoid work.
- B. I've never asked my kids what they thought about what I do. I found out that:
  1. I have funny kids.
  2. The oldest is realizing the sacrifices they make because of my career, the middle one thinks she's a star because of my job, and C. the youngest just wants to play with superheroes while golfing and eating donuts.

Anybody else ask what their family thinks of their career lately? Could be an interesting conversation.

---

## Grass Notes

continued from page 14

quotes that I believe summarize my thoughts about this. First off is Steve Mona's, "The rising tide raises all boats," then "The whole is only as strong as the weakest link," "The heavier the load the more spokes it takes to support the wheel," and "Don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution." We can all do a part, whether large or small, to help this industry of GOLF. From as little as just keeping current with your education and trends in the industry to volunteering at a local, state or national level to help the game of golf in some way, we can all make an impact.

In my opening statement, I mentioned that, whether you like it, or even realize it or not, you are part of a big thing. We should all be proud of our involvement and do everything we can to promote it. Share the word; we are an industry that is a major player in the local and national economy, provides recreation for millions and environmental benefits to our communities. Take pride in your work and what you are a part of.

---

**Congratulations Peter Grass, CGCS,  
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