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Grass Clippings

July 2015

Expect the Best Conversations at Our Events

Dan Dinelli, CGCS - superintendent and manager of one of the best-known living laboratories in the country at North Shore Country Club, Glenview, Ill. - will be a featured speaker of the Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho, October 5 - 6, 2015.

Dinelli could be familiar to you. You may have seen him on the Golf Channel or GCSAA TV discussing either one of his many course projects or the PGA Senior Encompass, or perhaps you have read his articles over the years published in the top

turf publications.



Dinelli, a thirdgeneration superintendent, received the 2009 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. "Dan is known by his colleagues as a critical thinker and continually works to apply practical environmental management to golf," said **GCSAA** President David S. Downing II, CGCS in 2008.

Dinelli's presentations will be "Managing Soil Gasses for Soil and Plant Health," and "Phytobiome, How Biochar and Compost Fits in Your Program."

Also featured at the Fall Meeting is Doug Karcher, Ph.D., Turfgrass Soil Specialist and Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas. Karcher instructs several courses as part the Turf Management curriculum within the Horticulture, Landscape, and Turfgrass Science

Upcoming events:
Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting:
October 5 & 6, 2015, Sun Valley, Idaho
Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show:
February 23 & 24, 2016, Boise, ID

major at the University of Arkansas and was awarded the 2015 **Bumpers** College Faculty Gold Medal from the UofA Office of Nationally Competitive Awards. His research program has focused on improving turfgrass quality through innovative cultural continued page 10



Chapter Room Block for GIS Open Soon

It may be difficult to wrap your head around February 2016 with everything you are juggling right now... but we need you to do just that!

In the near future, our chapter room block for the 2016 GIS in San Diego will be open. Consider making your reservation when the block is open – and then adjust as necessary as your plan comes together. We often turn disappointed people away from the block as he/she waited for final approval. Especially as a usual participant, the vast majority of the time you receive the thumbs up – so get on board with your hotel reservation, and then cancel with proper notice if you find your plans don't materialize.

We have two properties to offer you – depending on your budget/needs:

One property is the popular-from-experience Residence continued page 14



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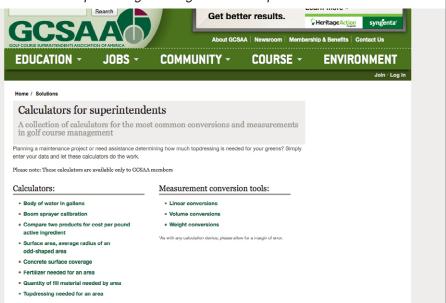
The Club at SpurWing Office: (208) 559-5576 E-Mail: ryanlcoburn@gmail.com

Editor

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.

There are several useful tools on the gcsaa.org website...

http://www.gcsaa.org/solutions/super-tools/



Welcome New Idaho GCSA Member!

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Info about Idaho GCSA website!

- * Do you have an address change, for example? Changing the information in Your Profile in the Member's Area will automatically update the association's database! Use of proper capitalization and spelling appreciated.
- * Do you have any classified items? Please be sure to complete the classified section in the

Member's Area.

- * The printed version of the membership directory is now on line as a flip book in the Members Only Section.
- * Please remember to keep an eye on the job announcements and pass the information along to your fellow employees at your facility.

www.idahogcsa.org

Idaho GCSA

Lori Russell, Executive Director

P.O. Box 807, Lolo, MT, 59847

Office: (406) 273-0845 Fax: (406) 273-0791 E-Mail: idahogcsa@gcsa.myrf.net

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

Rick Mooney Whitetail Golf Club, McCall, Idaho

It's getting out out there!

June sure was hot. I can remember firing up the irrigation system in previous years only to

water a few days in June. This year I had record ET and more water use than ever before. This is coming from a guy who was not establishing turf this spring. I must say this has been a bonus to my team and my membership. I could only imagine what it would be like trying to live with mandatory water cutbacks. I am very happy to live where I do and have the resources available to provide good, atheistically pleasing, quality golf for my membership.

Water conservation should be something we are all working on, and if you aren't, this is the time to begin.

I was talking to some friends in California who are faced with mandatory cutbacks in water use. I hope their experience is not going to be the new norm, but it very well could be. I would stress to everyone who is not keeping good quality water records to start. I can only speculate that if this were to happen in our area, people in charge of dispensing water would want to have a multi-year look back and try to average what has been the normal water use. Looking at one snap shot will not give the people in charge a chance to make a well-informed decision. Tracking can be as simple as reading the pump log once a month or making a daily entry of gallons or acre-feet used. If you are like me and you have staff pulling hoses and running kickers, the irrigation computer will only get you close. The better the information, the better the decisions. Whatever your method of monitoring is, do your best to report correctly. The people who are reporting high to sandbag the system are not acting in the best interest of our profession. The take home message is this information is going to be important in moving forward - so get the information recorded correctly.

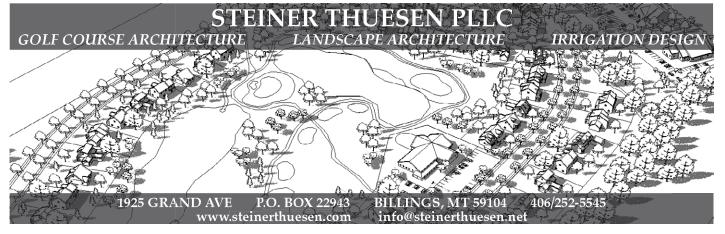
I am happy to report that with some guidance from your

elected officers and a bunch of guidance from Lori, we still have a strong association. I must tell you that serving the association has helped me see the need to have good quality volunteers who participate. Acting as your president has been an honor and made me more aware of what is needed to move our association forward. There are plenty of opportunities to serve and if you have any interest, please let me know. It also has shown me that we need a group of leaders from every aspect of our industry. I hope that the people who have any interest in serving will step forward and provide direction for our association moving forward.

I look forward to seeing you all at the fall meeting. The location and speakers should make for a great learning experience, and hopefully record numbers in attendance. I think by the way summer is going, we will all be ready for some fall weather.

> Please feel free to reach out to me: Rick Mooney 208-634-6429 rmooney@whitetailclub.com







everyone! I have been hooked in the business ever since.

We all have certain paths we take in life; mine started with a few golf course jobs, mowing greens and changing cups. I am a curious person by nature and enjoy traveling, which led to my enlistment in the U.S. Navy, where I served four years on the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson. My service earned me a GI Bill, which gave me the opportunity to go to school.

I enrolled at Mundus Institute School of Golf Course Management, a tech school in Arizona, with introduction to Golf Course Maintenance, Pro Shop Business and Hotel Management. I gained an all-around understanding of all facets

superintendent in profile

My name is Kurt Richmond and I have been the golf course superintendent of Star Valley Ranch Association's two golf courses, Cedar Creek and Aspen Hills, going on seven years. I am originally from Newberry, Michigan, where golf became a passion of mine. My grandpa introduced me to the game with an historic hickory stick club and a couple of old, beat up golf balls. Knowing that my interests in golf and the courses it was played on were growing stronger, my grandpa gave me, "How to Build Your Own Backyard Putting Green," a James Beard summation. My junior year in high school, I did just that, believing the old adage, "If you build it, they will come." Our high school graduation party was held in my backyard one year later. The green was in pristine condition, mowed at exactly ¼ inch and the tee was 100 yards away from the pin. My first completed golf hole project was a big hit with

related to golf operations. Upon graduation, I was given the opportunity to work as second assistant under Charlie Carlson, superintendent, and Shawn Emerson, director of agronomy at Desert Mountain's Renegade Course. Thanks for the life lessons, guys!

After three years at Desert Mountain, I moved back to Newberry, Michigan, to work as assistant superintendent, under the direction of Mike Herbst, to complete the grow in of a nine-hole addition to my home course. From there, I moved down-state to Boyne Highland Ski Resort where I was assistant super-intendent of the golf course in the summer and groomed ski slopes in the winter. I became aware, after a couple of summers there, that I needed more education in the field of agronomy. That fall, I applied to Michigan State University for their continued page 6



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Richmond Profile

continued from page 4

two-year sports turf management program. My decision to choose sports turf management over golf course management was to broaden my scope of expertise. With six years of golf maintenance experience under my belt, it was time to learn more of the sports side of the business and build my resume for future opportunities. I did my internship with the Indianapolis Indians, a AAA Farm League for the Milwaukee Brewers. It was fascinating to me to see how turf conditions and maintenance cross over from one sport to the next and how those variables affect the outcome of play. While my job there was very interesting, it was not my career choice.

A unique opportunity was offered to me by Thom Nikolai, PhD., to relocate to Austria where I would manage and teach the proper maintenance of turf grass to the staff of Richter Rasen, a sod farm that produced sod for landscaping, golf courses and sports fields. Traveling and learning a new language left me with enduring memories of so many incredible experiences.



After returning to the states, I was hired as assistant superintendent at Stowe Mountain Club, a new golf course being built in Stowe, Vermont. Bob Cupp was the golf course architect and Kevin Komer the golf course superintendent. I spent four years learning and becoming proficient in the process of shaping fairways, installing effective irrigation lines and growing turf to a finished product.

As the golf course came to completion, it was time to move on and search for a superintendent position. On a whim, and in what you might say was a leap of faith, I moved out west to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Interestingly enough, for two years I worked in the concrete business in the summer and groomed ski trails at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in the continued page 8





Richmond Profile continued from page 6

winter. One day, while questioning my decision to move, I decided to head down to Star Valley to play golf at Cedar Creek Golf Course. A couple of members invited me to join their foursome that day. As we played, we talked about my background, about the course and about the position that was open for superintendent of Star Valley Ranch Association's two golf courses. Their encouragement to submit my resume has

resulted in tremendous rewards. I am able to share my skills, my knowledge and my passion for the game and the course it is played on, with members who appreciate my work and who encourage me to use my talents to enhance the courses. I truly believe these talents and my commitment to perfection are visible at the unbelievably beautiful and challenging courses, Cedar Creek and Aspen Hills. Every superintendent out there has his or her own unique story. I hope you enjoyed mine.

Star Valley Ranch is located 20 miles South of Alpine, Wyoming, and is tucked up next to the majestic mountains of Bridger National Forest at an elevation of 6,350 feet. The immense beauty of the area makes it worth the drive to discover Star Valley Ranch and the many opportunities available here.

Star Valley Ranch Association boasts two unique and picturesque golf courses. Cedar Creek Golf Course is a well-designed 18-hole course that meanders through the beautiful, privately owned properties of the Town of Star Valley Ranch. The par 73 includes 6,578 yards of manicured fairways and intriguing greens, each hole with individual characteristics that make play stimulating and enjoyable for all levels of golfers. Aspen Hills Golf Course is a mountain course with elevation changes that will challenge any golfer. This 9-hole, par 36 course, with a total yardage of 3,241, has breathtaking views of the entire valley from many of the holes. Aspen Hills also supports a Junior Course with the new 15" cups. The Junior Course has a total yardage of 1,199 and is a great place for up and coming golfers to gain skill, confidence and love for the game. Whether you play at Cedar Creek or Aspen Hills, be

prepared for an unexpected delay of game while deer and other wildlife make their way across the fairways.

Star Valley Ranch Association is a semi-private, daily-fee facility with many great amenities including a heated pool, tennis courts, a playground, basketball court and picnic area in the summer months, as well as 10 miles of groomed Cross Country ski trails, snowmobile trails, a sledding hill and an ice skating rink in the winter. Duffer's Lounge, a quaint bar located in the

Star Valley Ranch

Barn/Silo near Cedar Creek Golf Course, is open May through October and affords locals and visitors alike an atmosphere where old friends can meet and new friendships can begin. The privately run Cedar Creek Grill is open year round to provide lunches, dinners or just snacks, and is also licensed to serve adult beverages. These exceptional amenities enhance the experiences available at Star Valley Ranch.

continued page 10





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Star Valley Ranch continued from page 8

Residents from the Town of Star Valley Ranch, as well as local valley residents, visitors and guests, have access to three spectacular and beautiful canyons. Prater, Green and Cedar Creek Canyons provide enjoyment and splendor for the outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy a good day hike. Star Valley Ranch Association and the Town of Star Valley Ranch, in conjunction with the US Forest Service, are in the process of providing a trail head to support 10 miles of maintained trails for hiking in the Green and Cedar Creek Canyons.

A visit to this secluded and incredible area will undoubtedly have you coming back for more.

Sign up your equipment manager for free GCSAA membership through 2015

Don't forget to sign up your equipment manager for this limited opportunity to enjoy full, complimentary GCSAA membership in 2015. Equipment managers can now take advantage of benefits and resources available to GCSAA members, including new education opportunities tailored specifically for equipment managers.

Congratulations to GCSAA Legacy

Award Receipient: Walker Edwin Aloysius Hoolehan, majoring in chemistry and applied biological sciences at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and child of Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, Wildhorse Resort and Casino, Pendleton, Ore.



TWEET: "Dave the Creator has fabricated another winner. Portable fan trailer should help." @golfsupr1992

Fall Meeting continued from page 1

cultural practices while minimizing environmental impacts. Karcher was a member of the turfgrass team receiving the 2006 John W. White Outstanding Team Award for turfgrass research and extension in Arkansas and was granted a US Patent as an inventor for determining plant nitrogen levels from digital images. He is a founding board member of the European Institute for Turfgrass Science, an organization dedicated to providing research-based recommendations to the European Turfgrass Industry, and also serves on the review board of the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance, whose mission is to reduce the water needs of the managed landscape while preserving its functional quality. In addition, Dr. Karcher is a long-time teaching faculty member for GCSAA and has developed and has instructed two seminars. The presentations offered at the Fall Meting will be, "Wetting Agents and Their Effects on the Putting Green Surface," "Benefits of Foliar Fertilization (real vs. perceived)," and "Cultural Practices to Maximize Putting Green Surface Performance."



We appreciate Chava McKeel, Senior Manager, Information and Public Policy, GCSAA, accepting our invitation to be a part of the conference. McKeel directs and manages the programs and activities of the government relations department to advance the overall image of superintendents and the industry. She provides regulatory compliance information to GCSAA members to establish themselves as experts on managing risk at the facility. McKeel is part of a strong coalition that includes GCSAA members who work to educate the lawmakers, separating fact from fiction, and demonstrating the positive environmental impact of the golf course superintendent profession.

When a golf course superintendent and golf professional work together as a true team, the entire facility benefits. A strong example is the dynamic duo at The Valley Club – PGA Golf Professional Jamie Sharp and Gerald Flaherty, CGCS. There are no tread marks on either of them from being thrown under the bus. They will share their thoughts of what it takes to be a successful team.

Attendees will enjoy a great afternoon of golf at The Valley Club. This round is long overdue as our last visit resulted in a freakishly early snowstorm that downed trees and power lines all over town. Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, and his team – including Assistant Superintendent Ken Thornock, and Assistant Superintendent Jason Sigmund – look forward to hosting their peers in the beautiful Hailey. Hailey, surrounded by the Sawtooth National Forest, has numerous outdoor activities for you to enjoy if you would like to extend your trip. The annual silent auction will also be held in conjunction with the event. This is a vital component to our annual budget. Last year, nearly \$12,000 worth of product was donated. Each and every contribution was appreciated and vital to our success. This year the event will be chaired by Assistant Liaison Ryan Coburn, The Club at Spurwing. It is not too early to contact Ryan with your contribution (ryanlcoburn@gmail.com or Cell: (208) 559-5576).





Ramblings of a Tired Superintendent

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

As many of you know, Crane Creek underwent a substantial facelift of the front nine and tennis facilities starting September 15, 2014. And it's affected me. I used to be prettier and have more hair (and less gray ones)... Anyway, all of the projects were supposed to be completed May 15, and as usual, our crew is still finishing things like wiring all the land-scaping valves into satellites, programming the

"But, as usual, our staff rose to the challenge and saved the day."

control system, building a putting green, finishing a waste bunker, filling in a pond, reseeding areas in the rough, patching scalped areas on greens, topdressing sodded fairways and approach, applying many fertility applications, and the list goes on and on.

For various reasons, we were involved as a crew more heavily in both projects than I wanted to be. But, as usual, our staff rose to the challenge and





saved the day. The moral to the story-projects have a profound effect on course quality because the staff is constantly doing extra things outside of normal maintenance practices. For people outside our industry to think otherwise is foolhardy. Of course you can always hire more people, right? They better be experienced equipment operators to really help. Hiring "green grunts" (they form the backbone of most of our summer staffs and I respect them a lot) usually means help with a shovel and rake, if supervised constantly. Working overtime only works if people don't mind impacting their lives outside work. Then you run the risk of tiring them out before the summer doldrums hit with 100-degree weather in June.

So, what do you do?

The full-timers and I bore the brunt of all expectations and paid the price in missed family time. I still see the lingering effects of less concentration on normal maintenance practices and more on grow-in type activities, which makes me angry, abnormally so every time I get a negative comment on the condition of the course. Coupled with the pressure of trying to open early (two weeks ahead of schedule), I gained weight even while working 14-hour days. I never really believed



stress eating existed until this spring. Heck, I lost 10 lbs. last fall during the biggest part of the construction, and I feel I did less! Needless to say, I was in a constant state of pissed off all spring. My GM took a lot of abuse and was told "no" a ton.

"I came back much happier, clearer, and willing to put in long hours once more." When I asked for my first long vacation in summer ever from June 4-June 16, he gladly said yes. I came back much happier, clearer, and willing to put in long hours once more. I've also lost some weight! And so the planning for the back nine starts soon, the process begins again with some valuable lessons learned, and a vacation is planned in early June 2017 for mental health purposes!

Inbox ZERO

Jason Busch The Powder Horn, Sheridan, Wyo.

The Perfect Lie, May 2015

The news is always reporting that Americans are increasingly blurring the line between work and personal time. Technology, they say, is the culprit. With smartphones and tablets so prevalent in society today, it is easy to see why. Long hours are standard for golf course superintendents, and this technology allows us to stay connected even when we are not at the course. Keeping up with the golf course when we are away can be a good thing, but I have become increasingly overwhelmed with the amount of information thrown my way when I am trying to spend time with my family. If I don't respond to an email right away, I know it would just get buried in the bottomless pit that I call my inbox.

I decided to make a change about a year ago. I wanted to organize all of my emails in a way that I could easily find what I was looking for and identify what was important to me. I'm sure that many of you already have some sort of a system for dealing with email, but for those of you who don't, I can help. The steps below will help you to achieve "inbox zero".

Create Folders

Most email providers will allow you to create folders or labels. These are key for good organization in your inbox. Create a folder for every category that you feel is important.

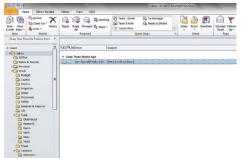
See the attached picture for an example. The folders that I have created are on the left side of the screen. I will delete or add new folders every once in a while as the need arises. Too many can get confusing for my pea brain.

Sort Old Emails Into Folders

This was the daunting part for me. I had about 650 emails sitting in my inbox that needed sorting. I ended up deleting about half of them, but some of them were stuff that I knew I might need to access at a later time, like equipment quotes, conversations with membership, and so on. The good stuff was moved into the folders until I only had a couple of important items that needed attention soon. These were left in my inbox, almost like a to do list.

Deal With Email As It Arrives

Now I deal with email as it comes in. It is deleted right away if it is junk. If I want to save it for reference, it goes in the appropriate folder. Only items that require action will remain in my inbox. Once they are take care of they can be deleted or filed to the appropriate folder. Lori asked me to write



this article three weeks ago, and I am about four hours away from the deadline. It is going to feel good to delete that one here in a second and get back to inbox zero.

GIS Room Block

continued from page 1

Inn Gaslamp. Our block was there in 2013 and we received high approval for the property and location. Please keep in mind this property does not have an option of two beds in the room. Enjoy a free breakfast buffet, free wireless Internet, and a kitchenette in the large rooms. Our last go around, everyone appreciated the convention property being just down the street a couple of blocks and near a desirable access into the convention center.

Our second property is the Horton Grand Hotel. This is a grand, older hotel located in a bustling part of the Gaslamp. Enjoy antique furniture in the smaller sized rooms and the classic reflection of the 1880s. Free wireless connection is available. It doesn't offer the buffet breakfast, refrigerator, etc., but the price is lower. It is within walking distance as well, but near the opposite side of the convention center.

When these properties are available to reserve in our room block, you will be notified via email blasts. The Residence Inn Gaslamp is \$206 if reserved by November 30, and \$217 after that date. The Horton Grand Hotel is \$159 if reserved by November 30, and \$169 after that date. The rooms in the block are available on a first-come basis.

Hospitality Room Site

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. We will once again come together to enjoy the evening of networking - perhaps under the stars of the San Diego sky – with our return to The Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Avenue, San Diego. The ballroom sits on the top floor (9th) and has a retractable roof. The Bristol Hotel is well situated within a couple of blocks of the Gaslamp District. It is the same location as the 2010 and 2013 events.

This evening is a great way to renew old relationships and make new connections – all thanks to the generous support of our allied partners.

Two Recipients Receive \$350 Scholarship

We offer our congratulations to Michael Hicks and Anthony Price, each awarded a \$350 Link Legacy Scholarship. Applications are due April 15 each year for turf and legacy scholarships. Past receipients include members continuing his/her turf education, turf students, and children of our members.

Excerpts from 400-600 word essays from the applications:

Michael Hicks:

Golf has been a big part in my life, as I've been raised by a father working in the industry. Some of my earliest and fondest memories have taken place on the lush surrounds of a golf course. From hunting for golf balls in the woods, to searching for salamanders in irrigation boxes, I've spent a lot of time enjoying the course. My family has moved several times over the years, due to my father's changing job locations. With the moves, I have seen a diverse variety of landscaping and culture around the country. We lived in Scottsdale, Arizona until I was two. Our house didn't have any grass in the yard, so the first time I felt the unique texture of turf was on the golf course. I remember my feet touching down like landing gear on the grass, and I was fascinated. From then on, I've always had a great respect and love for golf courses. There's something about their flawless beauty, and the fact that no two golf courses are the same.

As far as my future plans, next year I will be attending Yavapai College, where I will also being playing baseball. My chosen major is Business. After getting my two year degree, I plan to move on to a four year school and get my bachelors degree. My overarching goal is to someday become a firefighter. **Anthony Price:**

I have challenged myself with taking online college courses this past school year. I have been able to maintain good grades, work a part time job, work out and participate on the wrestling team and stay involved in student council activities. I enjoy being involved at the high school and look forward to participating in student life activities when I am in college. I also enjoy volunteering. I volunteered for three years at our local hospital, Kootenai Health, as well as for the US Forest Service continued page 16

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For more information scan or link.

http://gri.gg/info1318



VISIT http://griggbros.com



JOIN http://gri.gg/join



Scholarships continued from page 14

(Eagle Scout project), Inland Northwest Blood Center (blood drives), and our church food kitchen as well as the local food bank.

I have been accepted to a number of colleges, including University of Nevada Reno, University of Montana, and the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. I am planning to attend the University of Nevada Reno, where I will major in Business Finance with a minor in agriculture science.

I have learned a lot from my father; to work hard, be a good citizen, be responsible and accountable. I see that a future in the agriculture business would be a good path for me.

Thank you for your 2015 donation to the Link Scholarship Program!

\$100 contribution
Patrick Borchard, Magic Valley Turfgrass

\$25 contribution

Mark Hasquet, Wilbur Ellis

\$20 contribution

Jacob Olsen, Desert Canyon Golf Course

\$10 contribution

Jason Aanestad, C & B Operations
David Druzisky, Druzisky Golf Design
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Kirk Kundrick, CGCS, Meadow Creek Golf Resort Duffy McFarland, Teton Lakes GC/Links at Teton Leff McForland, Mt. Orden Colf Course

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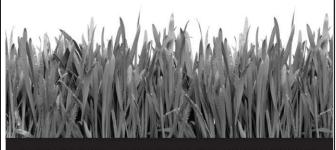
Bill Shrum, Shooting Star Tyler Shrum, Shooting Star Jason Sigmund, The Valley Club

Jared Smith, Pinecrest Golf Course Mark Spraktes, Pinecrest Golf Club

Ken Thornock, The Valley Club Josh Tolman, Salmon Valley Golf Course Jim Wallace, Warm Springs Golf Course If you know of a deserving student, please encourage him/ her to download an application from the website, or to apply online.



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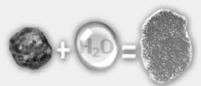
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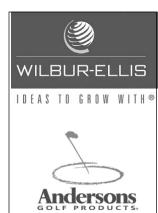


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