

We Have Planned Something Great for You in Boise

We have great news to share about the Spring Meeting & Trade Show, February 23 & 24, 2016! We are bringing back one of your favorite speakers - **Brian Horgan, PhD**, University of Minnesota. He is favored because not only are his topics and research of true interest, he keeps his audience engaged. Horgan is a professor at the University of Minnesota and the university turfgrass extension specialist. Horgan travels around the world giving lectures on nutrient fate, fertilizer management, water conservation strategies and general turfgrass management. As you have seen splashed around many turf news outlets, the USGA and the University of Minnesota has formed a research partnership for the next five years. The University will utilize



their own *“10 Considerations when Preparing Turf for Winter”*

Les Bolstad Golf Course as a laboratory to conduct the research with projects focusing on “... technology, resource management, best practices for facility operations and design/renovation, community and economic impact studies, and participation behavior.” (USGA). In Boise you will hear more about this venture.

William (Bill) Griffith was appointed as the Director for the Agriculture Center of Excellence in August of 2013. Prior, Griffith was a part of Walla Walla Community College’s long running and successful Turf Management program. Griffith’s communication skills are greatly respected, as well as his spot-on analysis of personnel relationships, leadership roles, and conflict resolution – just to name a few of his specialties - that help provide practical solutions to every day encounters. He has led many professional organizations and boards over the past 30 years, as well as consulting/counseling for boards in many industries. In addition, for more years than we can remember, Griffith was



responsible for setting the agenda and personally offering many of the *“It’s all about the People - Motivating Employees”* *“Creating an Effective Pesticide Program”*

presentations at the annual Inland Empire GCSA Pesticide Meeting.

Another first-time participant is **Seth Jones**. Jones is the editor-in-chief of Golfdom magazine and AthleticTurf.net. Prior, Jones worked for 12 years as an editor for Golf Course Management (GCM) magazine before making the move to Golfdom in 2010. During his career, Jones has accumulated an impressive list of

continued page 14

Commit Auction Rounds Today!

Our silent auction for rounds for four plus carts will take place at the Boise Golf Expo. We are asking for high course participation – and every submission helps.

We know many of you plan to donate rounds of four with carts to the silent auction held at the golf show in Boise. And you have great intentions to let someone know. Our committee volunteers are as time-challenged as the rest of the membership. Let’s not burn out our volunteers by asking them to call each of you.

Please pick up the phone right now, or send an email, to Jerry Palmerton, Travis Rose, or Adam Bagwell, CGCS, and make arrangements for the certificate. Even better – just put the certificate(s) and score card(s) in the mail to: Adam Bagwell, CGCS, Crane Creek Country Club, 500 W Curling Dr., Boise, Idaho, 83702 or to Jerry Palmerton, The Club at Spurwing, 6800 N. Spurwing Way, Meridian, Idaho, 83642, or to Travis Rose, Simplot Partners, 4107 Challenger Way, Caldwell, Idaho, 83605.

Bristol Hotel, Feb. 10

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.

We are seeking sponsors for this event; several sponsorship levels are available. Click on the event on the website home page for more info.

**Idaho GCSA
Board of Directors**

Officers

President - Mark Spraktes
Pinecrest Golf Club
Office: (208) 612-8486
E-Mail: mdspraktes@yahoo.com

**Vice President -
Gerald Flaherty, CGCS**
The Valley Club
Office: (208) 788-5910
E-Mail: jerry@thevalleyclub.org

**Secretary/Treasurer -
Brian Roth, CGCS**
Oquirrh Hills Golf Course
Office: (435) 882-1445
E-Mail: brianr@tooelectricity.org

Directors

Christopher Gray
Sun Valley Resort - Elkhorn Golf Club
Office: (208) 6224111
E-Mail: cgray@sunvalley.com

Brian Mickels, CGCS
Ruby View Golf Course
Office: (775) 777-7270
E-Mail: bMickels@ci.elko.nv.us

Lucas Sprague
Canyon Springs Golf Course
Office: (208) 220-5750
E-Mail: turfmanager@gmail.com

**Past President -
Rick Mooney**
Whitetail Club
Office: (208) 634-1941
E-Mail: rmooney@whitetailclub.com

**Allied Liaisons:
Greg Baer, Baer Design Group**
Cell: (208) 859-1980
E-Mail: greg@baerdg.com

Travis Rose,
Simplot Partners
Cell: (208) 761-4194
E-Mail: Travis.Rose@simplot.com

Assistant Liaison - Ryan Coburn
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.

Did you know the events shown on our website homepage
are only a portion of events listed?
Click on the News/Events tab to see a larger list.

The screenshot shows the Idaho GCSA website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'NEWS/EVENTS', and 'MEMBERSHIP'. Below the navigation, there's a green banner with the text: "The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to helping its members provide the best playing conditions in an environmentally friendly manner." To the right, there's a section titled "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent" with a photo of a man and a red arrow pointing to a "BECOME A MEMBER" button. Below this, there's a list of events:

- FEB 10** Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room 2016: We look forward to seeing you in beautiful San Diego for our hospitality room at the Bristol Hotel, Wednesday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. Sponsor form for Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality »
- FEB 23** Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show 2016: We promise you another great event with the Idaho GCSA, February 23 & 24, 2016. Featured speakers are Brian Horgan, PhD., University of Minnesota, and Bill Griffith, Walla Walla Community »
- MAR 07** Peaks & Prairies GCSA "Almost" Spring Meeting, Helena, Mont.: The Peaks & Prairies GCSA is returning to Helena for the "Almost" Spring Meeting! »
- MAR 14** Inland Empire GCSA Spring Meeting 2016: Join us in Wenatchee, Wash. For great education and fantastic golf at the Wenatchee Country Club. We have planned a diversified meeting with Pat Jones (rescheduled from the fall meeting) and David »
- OCT 07** Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting!

 On the left side, there's a preview of the "Idaho GCSA Newsletter" titled "Grass Clippings" with a photo of a man and the text: "Expand the Best Conditions of the Events".

Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!

Isaac Loveland
River's Edge Golf Club
*PO Box 111
Albion, Idaho 83311
isaacloveland@gmail.com
(208) 878-2159

Kabe Hockema
Student/Oregon State University
The Valley Club
P.O. Box 3563
Hailey, Idaho 83333
hawkemak@gmail.com
(208) 788-5910

Scott Murray
Riverbirch Golf Course
*3740 N. Pollard Ln
Star, Idaho 83669
160SMurray@gmail.com
(208) 286-0801

Tyler Beebe
Canyon Springs Golf Course
*222 Filer Ave
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303
tyler_woods11@yahoo.com

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

Mark Spraktes, Pincrest Golf Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho

The Year in Golf 2015

What a great year for golf. The excitement generated from the majors with the up and coming contenders was something everybody could talk about. I was always eager to turn the T.V. on and watch the competition between these new stars who have presented themselves over the last couple of years. It was also refreshing that I didn't have to listen to Johnny Miller splat out his agronomic expertise. Really, Johnny, last time I checked, bentgrass didn't have a lot of grain. Bermuda, for sure, but bentgrass?? Laughable listening to the "experts" broadcast on television. I'm glad those guys had their glory with the couple of wins in their illustrious golf career. How did they learn so much about turf grass maintenance, anyway? It's great entertainment and extremely frustrating all at the same time, if that's at all possible. Enough of my rant. Let's talk about the play.

Augusta National, the Masters presented a great opening for the majors. Jordan Spieth kicked it off with a record breaking win, and introduced himself to the golf world as the second youngest golfer to win the Masters, trailing Tiger Woods by only five months. This four-stroke victory showed the golf world he might be someone to be reckoned with. I thought, "Wow, do we have a new champion on US soil?" Jordan started that record week by sharing the lowest 36-hole opener, shooting 14 under for a 130 at the end of day two, as well as the only wire to wire win since last recorded in 1976 with Raymond Floyd. Missing the birdie putt on 18, Jordan could have seen himself standing alone with that mark. Day three, Jordan set another record for 54 holes finishing with a -16. He finished the week with the most birdies at 28, beating the lowest score on the board at -19, and, of course, finishing with the victory. Also noticeable were Ricky Fowler (who started his first thirty holes poorly, rebounded for his last 42 holes but was out of contention), and Phil Mickelson, who came up short, as well. Tiger showed signs of greatness, to

no avail, as well as did Rory Mclroy, the world number one. There was no forgetting Jason Day, walking into the scoring room after day three, who said something like, "Really, Jordan?"

What about the USGA Championship at Chambers Bay? Pretty cool, I thought. I watched the tournament with a high amount of interest and enjoyment. "Goofy golf," Mr. Reinke, my distinguished golf professional, called it. To an extent, it kind of was. To witness a putt that will break in a complete circle and end up close, and, sometime in the cup, was fun to watch - and extremely frustrating for the professionals playing the course. The players who complained, like Sergio, were expected to complain, cuz they always do. All of the players seemed to be challenged on every aspect of the track. You experienced heartache for the failures of your favorite players and excitement for their success. I totally enjoyed Jordan Spieth setting records, again completing the tournament as the youngest golfer to win a second major championship since Gene Sarazon in 1922. I celebrated his success, as well as the drama with Justin Johnston, who missed his putt at the end of the tournament. I had to think he did that on purpose, just to get off that track and go home. Also memorable was Jason Day, struggling with his health issues - competing with vertigo during day three, shooting a 68, but

TOP PERFORMING
CULTIVARS

SAND ROOT ZONE

CUSTOM PRODUCTION
AVAILABLE



MAGIC VALLEY
BENTGRASS
Premium Putting Green Sod

Matt Nelson OWNER
208.358.4420

Pat Borchard OWNER
208.326.2220

From Reservoir
to Rotor...

Rain Bird has
you covered.



To learn more, contact your local
sales representative today!

Pete Morris
Outside Sales
(541) 604-5848
pmorris@rainbird.com

Jason Westmoreland
Inside Customer Support
(888) 907-5535
rbiservices@rainbird.com

Or visit: <https://golfstore.rainbird.com>

but unable to keep it together on day four ending with a 74. Ricky Fowler missed the cut with Tiger, which left me wondering



photo by David Phipps

if the late great champ would ever regain his stardom.

The British Open, or The Open as they call it now, was another great event to watch. Jorden, always in the hunt, and

Americans hoped for a Grand-slam win, breaking old records. But, Jorden just missed it on the seventy-second hole by missing his putt and dropping to fourth. Johnson got off to a great start on the fourth and final day - which finished on Monday, due to weather delays Sunday. He shot 31 on the front nine and birdied seven of the first twelve holes. Reaching the eighteenth hole, Zack dropped a twenty-foot birdy to finish with a 273. This left Johnson one stroke behind Marc Lieshman, who quickly bogied the sixteenth, leaving him to finish tied with Zack at fifteen under.

This left the two waiting for the rest of the field to catch up and win. Nobody did, except for Louise Oosthuizen, who sunk a great birdie putt on eighteen to make a three-way tie of Oosthuizen, Johnson and Lieshman. This moved to a four-hole playoff with Lieshman dropping out early as Oosthuizen and Johnson scored birdies, staying even to the fourth, where Zack dropped his birdie putt, taking home the Claret Jug. Zack drank his champagne from the jug, gracefully shared his win and gave Jorden a sip, as well.

The PGA Championship was also a spectacular event where Jason Day showed dominance, and won by an impressive margin, showing his skill for the game that everybody had known was hiding somewhere within the man. Playing in twenty major Championships, Jason Day finished in the top ten in over half these events, including three runner-up showings. He started out as a major contender during the US Open Championship, but, affected by vertigo, he tied for fourth in the British Open Championship. Everybody expected a great finish for Day soon. Whistling Straits proved his abilities as everything came together for the young Aussie. With Jorden lurking in the background, Jason held a two-stroke lead through 54 holes; this, his third straight major championship where he held a share of the lead. Jorden, working for his third Championship in a single season, had his sights set for victory. Was this guy for real? To no avail, Jason took command, allowing no more than a two-stroke margin of his lead. Finishing the Championship with a three-stroke victory, Jason Day finally captured his well-deserved win, finished at twenty under, and became the first golfer ever to finish that low in a major.

Finishing the season, the FedEx Cup presented a great start for a super ending with Ricky Fowler, who won the first event, and stifled his critics. Three great players fought to be the number one player in the world. Jorden, Rory and Jason filling the trio, kept the public fixated to the 57-inch television screens. Jorden finished as number one in the world and the FedEx champion, just to ice the cake, and let the world know he was here to stay - answering any questions that had been asked.

Leaving this season behind, I have great hope for the season to come. Is a single man going to dominate the game of golf? I think not, and that's good. Optimistic that golf may be on the rebound, introducing new young players who will entice our kids to pick a hero and continue the game is the goal. Tiger may be on his way out, as well he should. I still have hopes to see him regain some championship composure and give the young guns a good challenge in the sport. After all, that's what made these young players who they are today; competing against the champions of years past and matching their skills with the best player who dominated the sport for so many years. I can only hope next year will be better than this. Or, at least just as good, because it was a great year for the game of golf.

HARCO FITTINGS
Ductile Iron and HDPE Products

HARCO Ductile Iron
HARCO's ductile iron push-on joint fittings are designed to offer the best possible balance of strength, ductility, impact and corrosion resistance. These fittings are designed for use on IPS PVC pipe and steel pipe in underground water mains, irrigation systems, and sewer force mains. The push-on joint design provides for a deep socket bell to accommodate the expansion and contraction of a PVC piping system.

HARCO HDPE
HARCO offers fittings for HDPE pipe starting at 1/2" through 36"+. Both IPS and DIPS available as well as FM fittings. HARCO has developed a set of sources with long and proven experience in the manufacture of pipe fittings for HDPE pipe. We offer special fittings for irrigation applications utilizing our Swivel and Lateral Isolation Valve Products.

THE HARRINGTON CORPORATION
P.O. Box 10235 • Lynchburg, VA 24506-0335
Phone: (434) 845-7094 Fax: (434) 845-8562
sales@harcofittings.com
www.harcofittings.com

NEW AND IMPROVED
with added Magnesium

GARY'S GREEN ULTRA®

13-2-3 + micronutrients

6 PRODUCTS IN ONE

(no mixing required)

Gary's Green Ultra® is a sophisticated combination of Gary's Green® and Ultraplex® containing Grigg Brothers® exclusive Elicitor® technology and is designed for use in all seasons. Gary's Green Ultra® is an important component to most Grigg Brothers® foliar programs for improved plant health and stress tolerance. Gary's Green Ultra® includes the following components:

- **Macronutrients, N, P, and K**
(also available in a no Phosphate version)
- A complete organically chelated, phosphate stable micronutrient package including Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, and now with Magnesium.
- Additional Sea Plant extract (*Ascophyllum Nodosum*)
- Effective natural biostimulants, organic and amino acids.
- A water buffering agent.
- A natural, non-ionic and organic surfactant for improved foliar coverage and absorption.



For more information
scan or link.

<http://gri.gg/info1318>



VISIT

<http://griggbros.com>



JOIN

<http://gri.gg/join>



LIKE

<http://gri.gg/fb>



SUBSCRIBE

<http://gri.gg/tv>



Open the door
to a better
Turf Experience!



Proven Foliar®

For a Distributor Near You Call:

1-888-246-8873

or find us on the web at: www.griggbros.com



My name is Ryan Christensen. I have been the superintendent at Caribou Highlands Golf and RV in Grace, Idaho for the past three years, but have worked here my entire life, with the exception of my college years. The course was built by my family in the middle of our farm when I was six years old and golf, particularly golf course maintenance, has been a passion of mine ever since.

After graduating from Grace High School in 2002, I attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. I didn't have any intention to return to the family operation, so I majored in Business Statistics. I

left after my freshman year to serve a two-year mission for my church in Tallahassee, Florida. When I returned home in 2005, I realized how much I love golf course maintenance and working on the farm with my dad and brother. While I was gone, BYU had

sent almost all of the soil and plant science degrees to BYU-Idaho. I did not want to leave BYU and the golfing climate of Provo, so I searched until I found the Landscape Management department. Though not a direct golf course management degree, I took courses from soil science, to project bidding and estimating, to turf science and landscape design. I feel I graduated with a well-rounded education that allows me to tackle all the aspects of golf course management.

While at BYU, I was mentored by Dr. Bryan Hopkins. Together, we published research in the peer-reviewed Journal of Plant Nutrition on topics of iron response in Kentucky Bluegrass. We found that some cultivars are able to extract iron

from the soil using self producing chemicals and therefore using the iron already present in the soil, thus reducing the need to apply chelates iron. We also published work in the Mountain West Turf publication. Basing decisions on research and implementing new technologies are my

A superintendent in profile

main focus. One of my favorite things about being a member of the GCSAA and the Idaho Chapter is the access to others' work and research. A favorite proverb of mine states "When you are through improving, you are through." This is my motto, always looking for ways to improve.

Upon completing school, I returned to the farm and golf course and worked under my dad as the assistant superintendent. My dad retired in 2012, and I became the superintendent. I achieved my Class A status in June of this year and look forward to a long future growing the game of golf.

THE BEGINNINGS

Caribou Highlands Golf and RV

continued page 8



SILVER
CREEK

Your trusted golf course supplier since 1984.





















Hunter® Golf Irrigation

Irrigation • Pavers • Lighting • Hand Tools • Fencing • Plumbing

Andy Kelso 208-631-7579 www.silvercreeksupply.com



MASTER THE **POWER AND BEAUTY** OF WATER

16024 COUNTY ROAD X | KIEL, WI 53042
920.693.3121 | 800.693.3144 | FAX: 920.693.3634

WWW.AQUAMASTERFOUNTAINS.COM

Local Distribution in Idaho & Montana



VOLCANO II

SURFACE SPRAY AERATORS

- 5-year Warranty
- Open flow design, pumps up to 3000 GPM
- Stainless steel construction
- Increases oxygen levels
- Improves overall water quality
- Reduces algae and aquatic weeds
- UL Listed for Safety



AQUAIR AERATION

DIFFUSED AERATION

- No surface spray
- No electrical or moving parts in water
- Each Diffuser circulates up to 4000 GPM
- Eliminates foul pond odors
- Eliminates fish kills
- Increases oxygen levels
- Increases water clarity
- Reduces algae and aquatic weeds
- UL Listed for Safety



SANIBEL

FOUNTAINS

- 5-year Warranty on ½ HP – 5 HP
- 4-year Warranty on 7½ HP – 25 HP
- LED lighting
- 30+ spray pattern options
- Stainless steel construction
- UL Listed for Safety

Caribou Highlands Golf and RV

started out as nothing more than a family project to build a couple of holes for family recreation. In 1991, Bart and Cherie Christensen, fourth generation farmers, whose house sits on the original homestead land, had the idea to build a few holes on a small parcel that was too rocky to farm. The plan was to keep the holes for family and close friends, but after going over the land, Bart determined there was enough room to build a full 9-holes. So construction began.

Using nothing more than farm equipment, the help of a couple farm employees, and their five children, Bart and Cherie carved out of rocks, rolling hills, and the native grasses what would first be called Central Links Golf Course (the course was named after the original pioneer settlement of Central, Idaho). I was six years old at the time of construction and can still remember removing rocks alongside my mother and four older siblings.

The course was opened in 1995. The fairways were tight and the course was short as no farm land was used to build the original 9-holes. Over the last 20 years, things have changed drastically from the first nine. Farm land has been used to expand, extend, and improve the layout of the course. Only three original holes remain, however, only the greens on

these are unaltered.

In 2009, even the name of the course changed. As the majority of our business comes from our RV park patrons, few understood Central Link's name. We also had just completed a large renovation project building three completely new holes and new greens on three others. We changed the name to Caribou Highlands Golf and RV. It was a bold decision but has been a great one. We gave ourselves an opportunity to gain a new image from the rough first years, and we could not be more pleased with the outcome of our decision.

THE COURSE

The first thing people recognize about our course is the absence of trees. This is because our course is watered very uniquely by an irrigation pivot. The rocky land the course was built on is sandwiched between two areas of farmable land. To the north lies 55 acres of ground farmed for potatoes and wheat, and to the south lies 13 acres farmed for wheat and alfalfa. An irrigation pivot has been used since 1987 to water this circle of land with the 42 acres of wasteland in the middle. Once the course was built, the pivot remained the primary water source, as it continues to water the farm land. A buried automated system supplements the watering on the tees and greens.

Using a pivot has presented several challenges over the years. The first is the tracks caused by the pivot. Much effort has been placed on filling in these tracks to make a smoother ride for carts and equipment. This is an ongoing project. The second challenge is the inability to



have trees, which to me as a superintendent is not a problem at all because I never worry about limbs, shade, roots, or diseases that are part of caring for trees and turf. The lack of trees and rolling lay of the land gives our course a links feel, which I love. I feel links style is golf in its

continued page 10



Greg Baer

Principal Landscape Architect
Irrigation Consultant

10027 N. Palisades Wy.
Boise, ID 83714
Ph. 208.859.1980
greg@baerdg.com

www.baerdg.com



This Land is Loveland.

Servicing All Your Golf Course Needs
including Fertilizer, Chemical, and Seed

Signature

Agrium

SEED RESEARCH
OF OREGON
The germination of ideas



**Crop
Production
Services** 

Brian McGiff
(208) 589 - 3788
brian.mcgiff@cpsagu.com
Tom Gritzmacher
(208) 867-5687
tom.gritzmacher@cpsagu.com

www.cpsagu.com

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS.

Copyright © 2012, Loveland Products, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

C1912

Caribou Highlands continued from page 8

purest form. The regular patrons say they love the unique feel of the links style and it gives them something different to play.

The last challenge of using an irrigation pivot is being able to put water where it is needed and cutting back where it is not. I have always had to balance water needs for the fairways compared to the rough compared to the greens. As a result, fairways had dry spots, greens were overwatered causing the unwanted 'spongy' feel, the rough grew deep, and my native rough that needs no water grew thicker than the gorse at St. Andrews. I speak in past tense because these last challenges are no longer a problem.

In October of 2014, we purchased a Zimatic GrowSmart Precision VRI (variable rate irrigation) system for the pivot. This system placed an individual valve on every single sprinkler the entire length of the pivot, which is a quarter mile long. Every four valves are connected to a node that then communicates wirelessly with a GPS controller at the center of the pivot. Based on my programming, as the pivot moves across the golf course, and adjacent farm ground, the valves open, close, or pulsate to deliver however much water I deem necessary for every single spot on the golf course. If the rough is growing too fast, with a few minutes at my computer, I can cut the water back. If dry spots appear anywhere on the course, the water can be increased to provide water right where it is needed. The system has also made my course easier to play. The native grass areas are no longer watered, so if an errant shot finds its way into these areas, the ball can be found instead of buried in thigh-deep grass. This, I believe, has been a factor in our boost in rounds for the 2015 season and hopefully for years to come. Play is faster as people are experiencing less time looking for lost balls.

The water savings is also a huge benefit of the VRI. I no longer water 18 acres of native grass areas, which is equal to about 32% water and power savings when I water the course. Over a few years, this savings will help pay for the system.

This is a very exciting time at Caribou Highlands and I look forward to implementing new technologies as we go forward to improve the course and increase the enjoyment for our golfers.

LOCATION

Caribou Highlands Golf and RV is located in Grace, Idaho, about a 45 minute drive from Pocatello, Idaho. It is surrounded by farm land in all directions. With an adjacent ten spot RV park, the location is perfect for a weekend retreat from the busy city life.



Tel: (208) 326-2220 Magic Valley, Idaho

Turfgrass Varieties:

100% Kentucky Bluegrass

Fine Fescue ★ Tall Fescue XRE

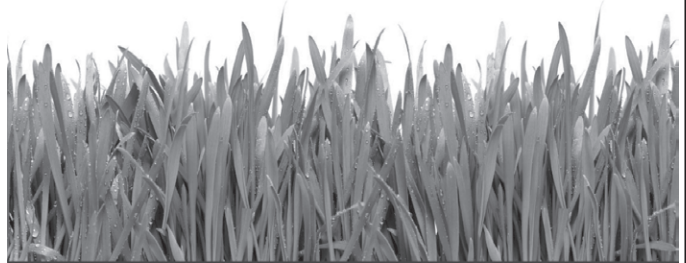
Blue Rye Blend Maintained at 7/8" mowing height

Proud Partner of Magic Valley Bentgrass

The course is par 35 nine hole course with a yardage of 2,900 yards from the black tees. Three sets of tees accommodate players of all abilities and ages, while providing a fun, unique, and challenging experience. Like us on Facebook at Caribou Highlands Golf and RV.

SIMPLOT PARTNERS®

— turf & horticulture



CONTROL PRODUCTS • PLANT NUTRIENTS • SEED • SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Did You Know? For every bag of fertilizer you buy in Idaho from Simplot Partners we donate 50¢ to *The First Tee of Idaho*.

PROUDLY SPONSORS:



To participate in this program or get more information contact one of our sales representatives.

Pat Sherer: (208) 850-0736

Travis Rose: (208) 761-4194

Simplot Partners Office:
(208) 454-6343
www.simplotpartners.com



TURF EQUIPMENT & IRRIGATION INC
801-566-3256



Golf

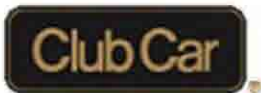
You have a lot of ground to cover. You're also a perfectionist. Toro's high-quality equipment and precision irrigation systems let you easily take care of every detail - with time to spare

Turf Equipment & Irrigation, Inc.

7479 Lemhi St. Boise Idaho. 83709

208-331-0074 (800-566-8873 Salt Lake)

Representing these fine partnerships



TURF EQUIPMENT & IRRIGATION INC



Office in Salt Lake City, St. George, Utah and Boise, Idaho

Our past president

Turf Tips from Whitetail

Rick Mooney

Whitetail Golf Club, McCall, Idaho

Winter has arrived here in the West Central Mountains. We've received eight inches of snow and hope it will stick around to keep the ground insulated from freezing. We had a great season in 2015, in large part because we weren't growing in or sodding new turf in the spring, like we have done in recent years.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain to my fellow members some of the unique practices we use here at Whitetail. While on the topic of potentially having to grow in new grass due to ice damage, I would like to share a couple things we've done in the past to help manipulate Mother Nature's grasp. I had our mechanics turn our John Deere bunker rake into a water squeegee by welding steel side supports to the existing front



blade with two 45-degree angles on each side. We then mounted three pieces of thick rubber to the bottom of the frame. Just like that, we have a power squeegee. You may be asking yourself how would this be beneficial on a golf course? If our greens are frozen, and we receive rain (with or without a small amount of snow), we have to act quickly before the water or slush turns into ice. The power squeegee allows us to get water off the greens surface in a hurry. We've dodged bullets on more than one occa-

sion using this machine.

Another practice we use during late winter is finding the right

product to melt snow if the conditions and pressure call for it. In

the past, we've tried anything from black sand to a light weight granular designed to absorb water on baseball infields. Last year, we tried a new product called Profile Porous Ceramic Greens Grade. A PPC particle is made up of 74% pore space with 39% capillary (water) pores and 35% non-capillary (air) pores. We used walk-behind fertilizer spreaders early in the morning while the snow was frozen to spread the product. We put (4) 50 lb.

bags down per green. What we liked most about this product was the gradual melting cycle. Rapid melting, without allowing the surface water time to drain off before re-freezing, results in the "freeze thaw" factor, which we all know isn't a good thing. We also used Profile to melt snow on our bentgrass tees. Another benefit was that there was no clean up or heavy areas of black sand to mess with. We noticed a quicker spring green up, too. We use Profile for our divot mix during the golf season, as well. Ideally, we would like to leave our greens and tees alone during the winter and let Mother Nature do her thing, but that isn't always the case.

I hope you all had a great 2015 and wish you luck in 2016. Happy Holidays to you and your families.

(We want to read about your tips - contact Lori)



Mooney received presidential clock from Spraktes



STEINER THUESEN PLLC
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IRRIGATION DESIGN

1925 GRAND AVE P.O. BOX 22943 BILLINGS, MT 59104 406/252-5545
www.steinerthuesen.com info@steinerthuesen.net

My COMEUPPANCE

**Jeremiah Farmer, Hayden Lake Country Club,
Hayden Lake, Idaho**

When Lori asked me to contribute an article to the chapter newsletter, my initial thought was what insight is a wet-behind-the-ears, class SM, superintendent going to have to offer an audience of mostly seasoned veterans? After spending several weeks thinking it over (and missing a couple of Lori's deadlines) it dawned on me that my intended audience should be the assistant superintendents of the association.

SHORT BIO:

I have been in the industry for twenty years now. I began my career at Hillcrest Country Club in Boise, Idaho, as a member of the grounds crew. Four years later, I had the very fortunate opportunity to become Mr. Clint Travis's assistant superintendent for the construction/grow-in of BanBury Golf Club in Eagle, Idaho. From there, I met my future wife, ran off to college and spent the next four years going to school and bouncing back and forth between the University of Idaho course and Hillcrest. After receiving my degree in Business Administration, I returned to Hillcrest full-time and started working on my Penn State two-year program; during that time period, I was promoted to assistant superintendent at Hillcrest.

COMFORT:

HCC was home and I loved being the assistant there... We had a long-time group of crewmembers and going to work each day was fun! I had one of the best assistant positions in the state of Idaho, was being paid very well and was next in line for the superintendent position. My wife was well on her way up the ladder in her professional career, we had a great home in the North End of Boise and we were off having fun almost every night and weekend. What more could I want?

REALITY HITS:

As the years passed, my wife and I had our first child (making somewhat of a dent in our carefree lifestyle and disposable income) and that superintendent job that I was in line for seemed to grow more distant with each passing day. Although I still absolutely enjoyed my job, I began to feel a slight tug of ambition, wanting a bit more than I had...

TIME TO MOVE ON:

As I mentioned before, I was still very content at HCC, but I soon began noticing a change in my behavior that was very uncharacteristic (especially for me): resentment. To that point in my career, I had (exclusively!) been a very upbeat and positive person who always did his work with a smile and who took the suggestion from the GCSAA handbook, "An assistant's number

one job is to make his superintendent look good," very seriously; but I was no longer being that guy. I was, albeit inwardly, second-guessing my boss's decisions at every turn and feeling as though I could do just as good, if not better, of a job running the course as he did. I soon realized that it was time for me to put my hat in the ring and move on.

COMEUPPANCE:

After submitting a few resumes (with the full knowledge of my superintendent) for positions around the northwest, I soon found myself sitting in front of a selection committee interviewing at The Hayden Lake Country Club. Somehow, I must have said just the right thing in the interview and was hired for the position in January of 2013. The bell had been 'rung' and it was now time for me to get the lesson of a lifetime. I had officially moved from the back seat to behind the wheel and over the past two and one-half years, that cocky, know-it-all, attitude is nowhere to be found! This job is far more difficult than it appeared from where I was sitting!

HUMBLE ADVICE:

1. For the sake of your own "Karma," do everything in your power to make your superintendent look good. I have an unbelievable staff behind me! Trust me, you'll appreciate the returned favor some day. (If you don't like your superintendent, support him/her fully until you can find a job under someone you do like :)).
2. Know what you're signing up for! It amazes me after all those years that I wasn't more aware of the endless responsibilities shouldered by my bosses.

continued page 14





Dan Macias – Territory Manager
1-541-971-3794 • dan.macias@aquatrols.com



PRIMER select
Enhanced Starts Flow Soil Surface



BLAST
SPRAYABLE

COMEUPPANCE

continued from page 13

3. Be very honest with yourself about your strengths and weaknesses (use the on-line self assessment tool @ GCSAA.org). While the only true way to learn the job is to get behind that wheel, you cannot be prepared enough.

4. Stress management - and I'm not talking about your turf. As much as I love what I'm doing for a living and wouldn't do anything else, I would suggest taking up fishing, biking, or some way to relieve stress a few hours each day. Alcohol may work for a short time, but will most likely impose significant diminishing returns in the long run.

5. Be patient! Believe me, there is no rush. Enjoy being an assistant, learn all that you can and have fun! Don't take that plunge until you know you're in it for the long haul.

6. Opportunity. For those of us who missed the bonanza of the eighties and early nineties, don't worry! It is my opinion, based on college enrollment and demographics, that the only ones left in the business are those who truly love it and baby-boomers who will retire soon, right???

7. Last, but not least, "humility." It takes a certain amount of confidence to even attempt a superintendent position, but knowing that you "don't know everything" (and probably never will) might keep you from stepping off a cliff one day.

In closing, I would just like to reaffirm how lucky we all are to be a part of this great game. In spite of it all, I couldn't image doing anything else for a living. And, as I mentioned in the opening paragraph, I'm not sure at this point I have much to offer the veterans of our association as of yet, but I would be happy to talk with any assistants who might be thinking of taking that next step. My number is in the book...

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Idaho GCSA Board Members

President :

Mark Spraktes, Pinecrest Golf Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Vice President:

Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho

Secretary/Treasurer:

Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course, Tooele, Utah

New Directors -

Christopher Gray, Sun Valley Resort - Elkhorn Golf Club, and **Brian Mickels**, CGCS, Ruby View Golf Course join Lucas Sprague,

Canyon Springs Golf Course, Twin Falls, Idaho, as directors.



Chris Gray (left)
Brian Mickels, CGCS,
(right)

Spring Meeting & Trade Show

continued from page 1



interviews, including such names as George H.W. Bush, Samuel L. Jackson, Lance Armstrong and Charles Barkley. Jones has also written in-depth interviews with

such golfing luminaries as Greg Norman, Gary Player, Nick Price and Lorena Ochoa, to name only a few. Golfdom covers the industry, from propane mowers to

"Beyond Golfdom's Cover Stories"
Golfdom covers the industry, from propane mowers to WOTUS. But what details didn't make the magazine, and what have we learned since?

WOTUS. Jones will share what details didn't make the magazine, and what have they



learned since.

Some years are better than others for golf course

"Year in Review (a year to forget)"

superintendents – and a year or two may want to be completely forgot-

ten. So, we are fortunate that not only did Kevin Hicks, Coeur d'Alene Resort, document his past year; he is willing to re-live it by sharing it with you. Learn about the measures taken to make lemons into lemonade.

Our allied members support you and your profession year around. This spring, once again our allied partners will be there in force to support you at the Trade Show. Their support helps to keep your dues and meeting registration low and helps the association's general budget so we can keep a strong association. Our allied partners are deserving of our attention – and we will see you at the trade show!



Gerald Flaherty, CGCS on way to chapter delegates meeting! Shown here with Dan Tolson, CGCS and Rafael Barajas, CGCS



JOHN DEERE

C & B
Operations, LLC

sisis

STEC
OUTDOOR FENCES

TRU-TURF
Golf & Sports Turf Rollers

C & B Operations

2105 INDUSTRIAL BLVD
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83401
(208) 522-6372

JASON AANESTAD

CELL: (208) 520-6743

aanestadj@deerequipment.com

www.deerequipment.com

AgriMetal



Sweep-N-Fill III
By **Dream Lakes**
SWEEP-N-FILL.COM



Agronomy Volunteers and the US Open

David Phipps
GCSAA NW Field Staff Representative

In some superintendents' eyes, volunteering for the US Open is like landing tickets on the 50-yard line for the Super Bowl. Personally, after spending a week at Chambers Bay, I'll take the US Open experience any time! I have always had a dream of working the USGA's largest championship, but had never found the right time until it was announced that the US Open was coming to Chambers Bay. From the beginning, I knew that I wanted to be part of this northwest historic event and so did 134 other volunteers.

On Sunday, June 14, volunteers arrived from 10 countries including Scotland, England, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Denmark, Caledonia, Panama, and Canada, and all met at the Chambers Bay agronomy center. Big kudos to the northwest superintendents - including the Canadians - for offering their support. There were well over 20 who came down from the north to assist the team. There were also a large amount of Oregon State grads who helped out, as well. Since Chambers Bay Director of Agronomy, Eric Johnson, and Superintendent Josh Lewis were both from the OSU program, it was fitting that so many Beavers were there to assist their fellow alumni.

On Sunday evening, the volunteers were greeted by Eric and Josh, as well as Mike Davis from the USGA. Each volunteer was handed a bag containing seven fresh shirts, a jacket, two hats, a water bottle, and a shoe bag. It was made clear from the beginning if you wore the wrong color shirt that you would be responsible for buying donuts for the entire crew the next day. Needless to say, we were all in the correct colors each day. The work assignments were handed out and each group met with their perspective crew leader from the fulltime staff. The volunteers were being housed in three fraternities on the campus of the University of Puget Sound; we were told the busses would be there to pick us up at 3:00 a.m. The 2:30 a.m. alarm came all too soon and each morning around 2:45 a.m., as I walked across the street to the bus stop, I was strangely reminded of the show, *The Walking Dead*. However, once we all arrived at the agronomy center and had a cup of coffee or three, it was game on!

Josh started each morning by dismissing the 22 new Toro RM 3550-D fairway mowers, followed by the greens mowers and bunkers crews. With the amount of equipment that needed to get out to the course, staggering the crews was the safest and most efficient way. Everything just seemed to run like a well-oiled machine. The fairway mowers were the stars of the morn-

ing shift, often looking like a well-choreographed routine, waltzing across the fairways. Most of the work on the course was completed by 7:00 a.m., then it was up to the individual to either take the shuttle back and pick up a few more hours of shut-eye, or stick around and catch a glimpse of the pro's making their practice rounds. The crew reassembled again at 7:00 p.m. for the evening duties, then returned back to the campus by 10:30 p.m.

Being part of the volunteer staff has its benefits. If you are one who realizes the importance of networking, then you were in the right place. While going about your duties, you were likely to work alongside someone like Chris Haspell from Castle Stuart Golf Links in Scotland or Chris Dalhamer of Pebble Beach. You might even work alongside Jon Jennings of Shinnecock Hills Golf Club or the host of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics golf event, Masaru Shimizu from Kasumigaseki Country Club. Whether you were a superintendent, assistant or even a college student, the networking opportunities were immense. Second only to the GIS, this was where you ever found so many accomplished superintendents all in one place.

There is no doubt in the USGA's mind that this event was a success, and the Northwest will once again host another US Open down the road. Whether it is at Chambers Bay or another venue, it is sure to be a success. The overall response from the public was tremendous. Attendance records were set all week, as well as the amount of time it took for volunteers to sign up to assist the USGA. With this kind of support, there is no doubt that the USGA has the Northwest on their radar.

I have to give a big plug to the Chambers Bay staff. As a volunteer, we get to come in and simply manage what was created up to the day of the tournament. If it wasn't for all the hard work and dedication that was put forth from the full time staff prior to the tournament, the US Open wouldn't have been the success that it was.

My role on the volunteer staff was to document all the work going on inside the ropes prior to play each day. Josh and Eric both felt that this would be a great way to provide the volunteers and the regular staff with a memory of the event. You can view my complete photo album of the US Open here on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133457771@N08/B0uh6t>





WINTER FUNGICIDE PROTECTION

The Products To Protect All Winter Long!



PRE-TREAT

Prophecy

- Broad spectrum and systemic disease control and suppression for turf
- Dispersing granule fungicide
- easy to spread formula

11-0-22 Fertilizer Plus Fungicide VIII

- Broad spectrum fungicide
- Combines two synergistic active ingredients that provide both fast-acting and sustained disease control by utilizing both foliage activity and root uptake of the active ingredients
- Controls brown patch, dollar spot, red thread, pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), leaf spot/melting out, anthracnose
- Controlled release nitrogen

FF III Snowmold Fungicide

- Broad spectrum granular snowmold fungicide
- Unique combination of active ingredients that utilize systemic and contact modes of action

Fungicide X

- Recommended for use when brown patch is frequently a problem.
- Prevents and controls brown patch, leaf spot, red leaf spot, pink snow mold and gray snow mold.
- Consistency of particle sizes for optimum turf coverage and disease control with less susceptibility to drift.

23-3-25 Fertilizer Plus Fungicide VIII

- Broad spectrum fungicide
- Combines two synergistic active ingredients that provide both fast-acting and sustained disease control by utilizing both foliage activity and root uptake of the active ingredients
- Controls brown patch, dollar spot, red thread, pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), leaf spot/melting out, anthracnose
- Controlled release nitrogen

Count on Wilbur-Ellis® and The Andersons® for all your turf care needs!



WILBUR-ELLIS®

WILBUR-ELLIS SPECIALISTS

Mark Hasquet Caldwell, ID 208-459-1631	Craig Nuthak Twin Falls, ID 800-303-1887	John Franson Blackfoot, ID 208-681-5333
--	--	---



ANDERSONS TERRITORY MANAGER

Ed Price: Office 208-772-9290 • Cell 509-981-9077

Visit AndersonsPro.com for more product information.

The Fall Meeting included valuable information, thought provoking conversations and even laughter. And, importantly, an opportunity to share information not only with the peers you remain in touch with, but your peers from across the region.



We Appreciate our Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting Sponsors!

Fall Meeting Event Sponsor!



CPS Professional Products - Full Break Sponsor

Simplot Partners - Lunch Sponsor

CPS Professional Products - Lunch Sponsor

Amvac Environmental Products - Break co-sponsor

Amvac Environmental Products - Break co-sponsor

C & B Operations - Break co-sponsor

Rain Bird - Break co-sponsor

RMT Equipment - Break co-sponsor

Jacobsen Equipment - Break co-sponsor

Hole Sponsors:

Amvac Environmental Products

C & B Operations

CPS Professional Products

Rain Bird

Simplot Partners

Turf Equipment & Irrigation

Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons



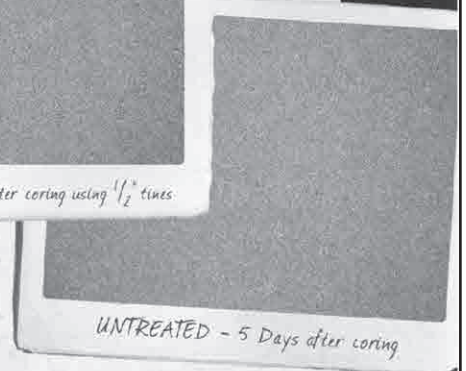
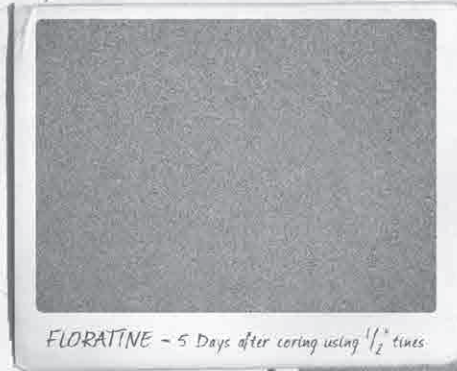
Floratine Tops University Trials

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Virginia
Tech

Results Summary:

- Independent university studies conclude that Floratine aerification recovery products offer superior color ratings, rapid recovery from aerification and the best overall visual appearance.
- Among the pre-stress conditioning applications tested, Floratine scored highest in digital recovery analysis, quantitative canopy color and both visual recovery and quality.



Superintendents looking for effective pre-stress conditioners to aid with aerification recovery should look no further than Floratine aerification recovery products. Research from Virginia Tech and Purdue University prove that greens treated with Floratine products recovered faster and more effectively from stress associated with core aerification.

See how Floratine topped each of these trials by visiting www.floratine.com/research

Floratine products used in trial:



Liquid Sunshine™



Patented Biostimulant



Rapid Green



FLORATINE
NORTHWEST

Rooted in Science.

Floratine Northwest Inc

R.J. Strautman

360-305-7619

www.floratinenw.com

FLORATINE PRODUCTS ARE:

- Patented Turfgrass Biostimulants
- Made From the Highest Quality Raw Materials
- Environmentally Sound

IDAHO GCSA

P O Box 807

Lolo, MT 59807



idahogcsa.org