

## An Educational Opportunity to Address the Many Hats You Wear

We offer you the perfect opportunity to enjoy time with your friends and peers while enjoying great education before the harried spring starts! Join us February 28 - March 1 in the newly renovated Boise Red Lion Downtowner Hotel.

Our large variety of speakers and varied topics will keep your interest and will definitely be worth your time. Included in the lineup will be a case study of Hillcrest Country Club offered by Ed Squires, Hydro Logic, Boise, Idaho. Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, will be returning with more tales from Travels With Terry. This is his column offered in Golf Course Industry Magazine and we are fortunate Buchen is a local member of our own association. Our featured speakers are Edward Nangle, PhD, The Ohio State University, and returning by popular demand, Bill Brown, Turf Republic.

Brown last joined us in McCall. As a previous superintendent, Brown understands not only the technology needs of today's superintendent, but he is way ahead of the curve on what is available and what is coming down the line. The education committee asked Brown to center one of his presentations around drones – the basics, the options available and the practical applications and benefits of using a drone at your facility. Brown co-teaches a GCSAA seminar with Carol Rau titled, "Take Control of Your Career" and we asked him to also share strategies from the seminar.



It wasn't easy to narrow the presentation options Ed Nangle PhD, assistant professor at Ohio State / ATI, offered down to just two. The education committee selected "Winter Kill: 2013/2014 Winter Kill to Poa Taught us a Lot" and "Wetting Agents and Surface Firmness Issues." Nangle is currently serving as consulting director of research for the Irish sportsturf institute and is collaborating with pro golfer Adam Scott on his

app Mi Golf Club. The app allows users to access the best coaches in the business, browse golf clubs from around the world, store stats from any course that they play, and view live golf news and the latest tour results.

continued page 3

## Flaherty is 2016 GCSA Leo Feser Recipient

Congratulations to **Gerald Flaherty**, CGCS, The Valley Club who authored, "*Smarter, Smoother Labor Tracking*." This article appeared in *GCM*, October 2015. Flaherty will be recognized during the Opening Night Celebration, Tuesday, February 7.

## Chapters of Northwest Hospitality Room

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando. The Rosen Plaza Hotel is conveniently located near the convention center.

The northwest chapters will once again come together to enjoy the evening of networking, thanks to the support of our generous partners. This evening is a great way to renew old relationships and make new connections.

**We are seeking sponsors for the event.** Our sponsoring partners make all the difference and the evening would not be the same without their support. Please contact Lori with your pledge before January 13.

## Auction Rounds Needed!

Our silent auction for rounds for four plus carts will take place at The Boise Golf Show. We are asking for high course participation— and every submission helps. Proceeds from this auction help fund our continuing education and research programs, and keeps our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate, as association expenses continue to rise.

Take time, now, to make arrangements for a donation. Please pick up the phone to contact one of these committee members to commit your support and make arrangements to submit the rounds, or, just mail your rounds plus scorecards directly. Why wait?! A letter to support your request can be downloaded from the event calendar on the website and given to your facility. Mail your certificates to: Travis Rose, Simplot Partners, 4107 Challenger Way, Caldwell, ID 83605

Travis Rose (208) 761-4194  
Ryan Coburn (208) 559-5576

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**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', 'MEMBERSHIP', 'NEWS/EVENTS', and 'CONTACT'. Below the navigation, there's a main content area with several sections. On the left, there's a green box 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." Below this is a section titled "We are linked together. Visit our links page to see what organizations we proud to link up with." with icons for "Idaho GCSA Newsletter" and "Grass Clippings". In the center, there's a calendar for February 2016. The 10th is marked "Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room 2016" and the 23rd is marked "Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show 2016". Below the calendar, there's a section for "Peaks & Prairies GCSA 'Almost' Spring Meeting, Helena, Mont." with the date "MAR 07". On the right, there's a "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent" section with a photo of a man and a "ABOUT US" section with the text "The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association".

## Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!

Doug Roberts  
**DryJect Turf Services**  
2031 S Elkhound  
Meridian, ID 83642  
flyidaho@yahoo.com  
(208) 890-9535

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It is easy to post your job  
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### Info about Idaho GCSA website!

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

Member's Area.

- \* Your username is always your password. If you do not have your password click on forgot password and follow the prompts.
- \* 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](http://www.idahogcsa.org)

### Idaho GCSA

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*"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

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

Well, I've made it through another round of serving on the board and now it's time to write a president's article. I'm not going to tell you how I will make this association great again. I will say it's been tremendous serving on the

board and working with Lori Russell the past four years.

For those of you who do not know me, I have been in Idaho since 2000. I worked at Crane Creek Country Club until 2006 and went on to build Teton Reserve in Driggs, Idaho, for what I thought would be my last course. But, as the economy corrected, I moved on to The Valley Club in 2007 and that is where I am today. I was raised in New Jersey and worked on courses from New Jersey to Hawaii. I stumbled on to Idaho 17 years ago and proudly call it my home.

This is my second time around on the board because I enjoy knowing first-hand what is happening in the association. I joined the board earlier in 2001, when the association was much smaller and I can remember at the end of a couple of those years, we had

either lost money or were just a few dollars in the black. I am proud to say now, not only do we have a healthy bottom line, but we donate more money for research, have a good scholarship fund, and our education and speakers are second to none.

As acting president, I feel the golf industry is beginning to grow stronger after a few years of struggles. Regardless of how strong the game of golf is, those who do not understand the golf industry constantly challenge us. There are many lobbyists on Capitol Hill who don't understand the industry and they are lobbying hard to remove some of the basic tools we need in this profession. This year I would like to select a committee to begin working on the Best Management Practices (BMP) for Idaho. As you may have read in the Chapter's Delegate article, the BMP can really help the superintendents of Idaho in the future by allowing us the opportunity to continue using the tools we need to maintain golf courses. I am hoping that I will have many volunteers to choose from, as this is important to all of our futures.

I am looking forward to a good year and seeing everyone throughout the year.

## Spring Meeting continued from page 1

Also joining us will be Andrea Rasmussen, Wage and Hour Senior Investigator, Boise Department of Labor. Rasmussen will offer, "Fair Labor Standards Act - Is your golf facility in compliance?" Rasmussen has worked on a variety of investigations and initiatives, including residential construction, Agriculture/Migrant Seasonal Protection Act, Davis Bacon Act (DBA), Service Contract Act (SCA), H2A, Child Labor, Family Medical Leave (FMLA), and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

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!

Registration material for the Spring Meeting & Trade Show, February 28 – March 1, 2017 will be available early January. Please remember – our trade show sells out every year and space is available on first come basis. Don't wait till the deadline to reserve your space!



Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG

## Congratulations to Newly Elected Director

**Josh Bensen**, Idaho Falls Country Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho, was recently elected by his peers to the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors!

Benson joins **Chris Gray**, Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho, who was re-elected to the board. Benson and Gray serve as directors along with **Brian Mickels, CGCS**.

Our officers elected at the business meeting are **President - Gerald Flaherty, CGCS**, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho; **Vice President - Brian Roth, CGCS**; **Secretary/Treasurer - Lucas Sprague** Canyon Springs Golf Course, Twin Falls, Idaho

**At the time of this printing - the website main banner is available for sponsorship! \$300 for 12 months.**

**The banner is seen on online registration forms, as well.**

## Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo 2017

**October 16, 2017 - October 17, 2017**

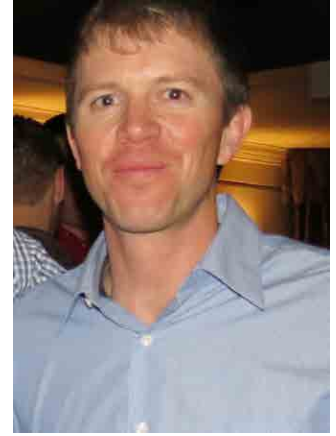
**An historical event will take place in 2017! For the first time, three GCSA chapters in the Northwest – Idaho GCSA, Inland Empire GCSA, and Peaks & Prairies GCSA – will join together for a special event and camaraderie of turf professionals. The Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo 2017 will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.**



I know this is a common question we are asked in the turf business. Usually, it comes from golfers, friends, family and anyone who does not fully understand what we do. Lately, I have had more golf superintendents asking me this question and I realize I need to be prepared to explain what I do during the winter months, in my unique position as a superintendent at a ski resort - that also happens to own golf courses. In short, I make snow. This will be the fifth winter that I am employed as a snowmaker during the busy ski season.

Before I get into the details, let me explain the first question I hear after I say that I make snow during the winter. Who takes care of the equipment maintenance, monitoring the golf course, etc.? The golf course is closed during the months of November-March. We have been fortunate to have a great mechanic working

for us, and he remains at the shop during the winter going through the equipment and making sure things are ready to roll in the spring. I check the greens throughout the winter when the temperatures aren't cold enough to make snow. I look for ice formation, depth/type of snow, and anything else that may be out of place. We rope off our greens in an effort to keep the elk from bedding down on them at the appropriately named Elkhorn Golf Club. I often hear comments the elk will just rip the ropes down and go where they want, but I find that if you monitor and replace ropes as needed, they do help keep the elk



# What do you do in the winter?

**Chris Gray**  
**Sun Valley Resort - Elkhorn Golf Club**  
**Sun Valley, Idaho**

off the greens. Anyway, back to snowmaking.

Sun Valley ski resort on Bald Mountain is known for having North America's largest automated snowmaking system. There are 554 automated snow guns and 38 miles of steel pipe. While most skiers prefer natural snow, what snowmaking does is give a head start to the skiing season by laying down a thick base of hard packed snow. This gives the ski runs something to build on when we are fortunate enough to get "free" snow. We average 160 inches of natural snow per season, but as you can imagine, that packs down to much less once it gets compacted by the snow groomers and skiers. Of the approximately 80 trails on Bald Mountain, we have snowmaking on 42. The bowls and the less traveled slopes do not have snowmaking and rely on Mother Nature to cover these areas.

The best way I find to describe the snowmaking system to a  
 continued page 6



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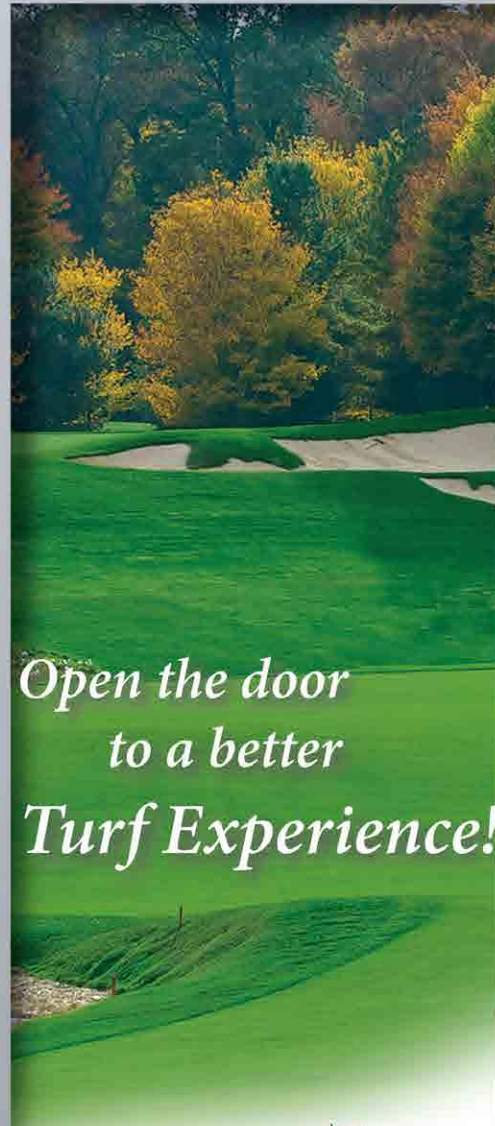
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## Winter continued from page 4

golf superintendent is an irrigation system on steroids. Essentially, it is two systems (water and air) running in the same trench that come together at the snow gun and blasts out the water. There are water-cooling towers at the source helping the water to freeze in less than optimal temperatures. There are two water-pumping stations - one for each side of the mountain - with a booster pump station for each side, halfway up the hill.

I am also commonly asked, "What are the water and air pressures?" So, here you go: water pressure at the source is 850 psi, and is increased to 1050 psi after the booster station. There are a total of 18 pumps ranging from 75 to 300 HP. The three main air compressors are 1100 HP each, along with six smaller compressors producing 25,000 CFM total. The compressed air system is one continuous pipe throughout the mountain providing 130 psi of pressure for both sides of the hill. The water pipe is steel oil field pipeline that Sinclair Oil Company brought in to construct the snowmaking system back in the 70s. When a leak occurs we dig it up with an excavator, clear around the pipe with shovels, and call in our welder 'Ace' from Boise. He comes out several times a year to weld pinholes and splits in the pipe and sometimes we have to cut out a section and he welds in a new piece.

A typical shift includes monitoring the pump stations, air compressors, snow guns, and central computer. When a gun malfunctions we go out, dig up the shelter which houses the hydrant (essentially a huge electric valve), and try to figure out what the problem is. Usually, it is a frozen water line or frozen gun, and we'll take it down and thaw out the frozen section. If it is more involved, we will dismantle the hydrant and eliminate what works until we find the problem. We have 3 shifts that work around the clock from November through February. The central computer controls which snow guns run based on temperature, wind speed/direction, and which slope needs the most snow. Each shift has a controller, who monitors the pump house wet



Two pumps - 300 HP and 75 HP

well levels and system pressures from the central computer, and tells the system what to run next. The slopes are based on priorities, with the areas needing the most snow at the highest priority. Most of the snow guns are activated from the computer, but there are also several manual guns that need to be set up and adjusted based on temperatures. We have injector pumps similar to

fertigation, and we inject a product called Snowmax. It is a natural occurring bacteria that gives the water molecules a surface to freeze on and produces larger snowflakes.

In the summer months, we perform the maintenance to the  
continued page 8

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## GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting of October 2015 and 2016 GIS Business Meeting

Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, GCSAA Chapter Delegate

After spending two days at the Chapter's Delegate meeting, I am heading back to Idaho. Two days of meetings that began at 6:00 a.m. and finished into the evening. I'm not complaining; I'm just always so impressed how much they can cram into the agenda.

One of the topics discussed was the membership classifications for local chapters. If you remember last winter, the delegates voted on simplifying the classifications. In doing so, the Superintendent Member (SM) classification was eliminated and replaced with class B. In summary, the classifications are Class A, B, C and EM. We were reminded to have all chapters be sure their classifications were similar to the GCSAA, and if not, they needed to change their bylaws. You may also remember that we voted on that at the last business meeting in October 2016, because Lori is awesome.

At the spring meeting, I will discuss Best Management Practices (BMP) and what it means to our chapter. In short, the BMP could help protect us from any future restrictions on chemicals and fertilizers as it has helped the superintendents in the Florida Chapters. Florida has over 90 fertilizer restrictions and, due to the BMP superintendents, are able to avoid these restrictions, unlike landscapers and homeowners. The GCSAA will reveal a template at the GIS this February which will help chap-

### Winter continued from page 6

snow guns, pumps, motors, and compressors. They have a set rotation and the pumps and motors are sent off to be reconditioned every three-four years. Recently, the snow guns are being retrofitted with newer, more efficient models. The technology has evolved over the years and the latest guns use less air pressure to break up the water molecules, saving a considerable amount of energy. The newer guns have nozzles similar to irrigation sprinklers that can be changed, based on the consistency of snow you want. Instead of using air pressure to break up the water, it uses the water pressure through a smaller nozzle to break up the water molecules.

Overall, I have learned a lot from my supervisors that relates directly to golf course irrigation. It is nice to have the snowmakers help pull golf course pumps/motors when we send them off to be refurbished. It is funny when they walk into the golf pump house and refer to our pumps as "cute, little pumps." Our lead snowmaker is a Harley-riding, retired farmer from Raft River, Idaho. He has many years of farming experience dealing with pumps and motors, and I have learned a lot from him. Second in command is an Aussie who was a snowmaker in Australia before moving to Sun Valley 15 years ago. I find that what I learn from these guys relates to golf course irrigation and keeps me interested. It makes the summer a bit easier when we have issues and I can rely on what was learned when snowmaking to solve some of my

ters get started. Although we don't have any restrictions at this time, it would be best to begin our BMP before any restrictions are enforced. At this time, it would be a help if you went on the GCSAA web site and studied up on the program. This spring we will talk about forming a committee as it will be time consuming creating Idaho's BMP.

The last thing I thought worth mentioning is the GCSAA forming a PAC (Political Action Committee). This is a topic that is only in the talking stage and I am still trying to understand it myself. In short, what I can understand of a PAC is that we will donate money to politicians on behalf of their policies. The money donated does not come from the GCSAA's funds at all; so don't get too worked up at this point. Where the money will come from is individual donations from the membership, from us.

Let me explain why they think a PAC is a good idea for our association. As you may know, many people don't think highly of the golf industry and have an tremendous amount of people lobbying against the industry trying to eliminate the tools we need like fertilizers, pesticides, water the overtime rule, and the H2-B program, to name a few. What a PAC would do is get us a seat at the table as we support the politicians who support the game of golf. This is not a bribe or a kick back to the politicians, it's simply the way the system works to get our voice heard. The PAC can also be researched on the GCSAA website.

Naturally, our voice is being heard on Capitol Hill with Chava McKeel and Bob Helland, but they feel the PAC is the next step. So, I hope you can find the time to read up on the few things I mentioned. I look forward to seeing everyone at the spring meeting and hope you have a great winter and holiday season.

irrigation problems. The importance of a daily inspection of the pump station, exercising valves, and troubleshooting electrical issues are important take-aways from the snowmaking job.

I hope this was an interesting read, and next time you go skiing and see the snow guns lining the slope, ask yourself, "What does a Snowmaker do in the summer?"

Check out this video on YouTube posted by the snowmaking department [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh6xkC\\_3B\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh6xkC_3B_U)



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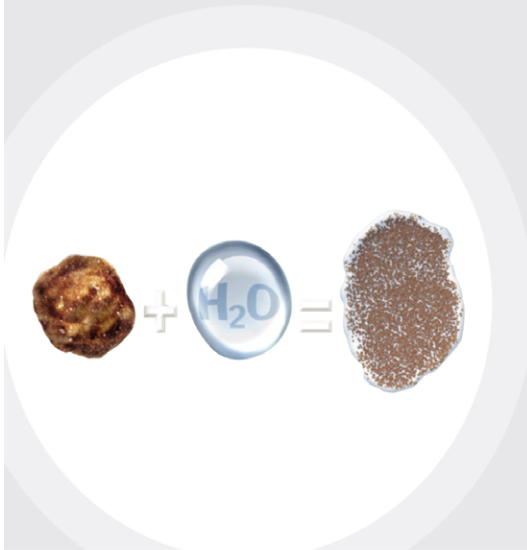
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# Ruby View GC Irrigation Renovation 2016

**Brian Mickels, CGCS, Lifetime AA**

Ruby View Golf course in Elko, Nevada recently completed a major irrigation project. The success of this project, as is with other major construction projects, is a direct reflection of the time spent in the planning process that took place over the past several years.

Prior to 2014, the golf department staff had very limited success in “selling” city management and finance departments on various irrigation options. In 2014, the discussions gained traction as the mayor (golf nut) became involved with the project. The mayor, city staff and I met and determined that the best way to proceed was to hire an independent certified golf irrigation consultant to complete a golf irrigation audit. We contracted with BDG, LLC to start a golf irrigation audit of all components of our irrigation system. BDG performed a comprehensive analysis and testing of our system in the fall 2014, and completed

a “hard copy” report of the findings. The report looked at/or tested irrigation components such as:

- Water source and storage capacities
- Water quality and available quantities
- Pump station
- Hydraulic design limits
- Main line piping and shut-off valves
- Lateral piping and fittings
- Rotors (heads) age, condition, matched precipitation
- Rotor spacing
- Central control system
- Satellite controller
- Power and Field wire condition

We scheduled a workshop in January 2015, with the city council, for Greg Baer and golf staff to present the report, and answer questions of the Board. The report as presented was a real “eye-opener” as to the true condition of our irrigation system. The city council accepted the findings of the report, and requested that a “project team” of BDG, golf course superintendent, and parks and rec. director determine the scope of the project and associated cost estimates. We determined the project would include replacement of all irrigation components downstream of the pump station and BDG would calculate a “preliminary” project estimate. At this time we retained BDG as our project



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## Day two of rotor installation and testing # 2



management firm through the completion of the project.

### *Next step: Winter/Spring 2015*

#### **“Discovery”**

Get staff educated on available irrigation products, central control systems, field systems and communication options. We utilized various opportunities to sit in on manufacturer product seminars, trade shows, and distributor demonstrations. We also used the firm’s contact info to personally speak with superintendents and managers of facilities who had gone through recent renovations. We gained some great insight talking to end users. Our peers are great resources.

We started work on the “Pre-Bid” Phase in spring ’15 with a goal to have the project out to formal bid in July. This is the time to finalize material specs, including: pipe type, central control system, field controllers/hubs, rotors, and communication systems (decoder/satellite).

BDG would incorporate this information with construction, installation, and other City of Elko bid requirements to complete the “Formal Bid Document” for review by City staff (May ’15). City staff approved bid documents in June ’15. The city requested a delay in the bid schedule to potentially add some bid alternates (separate construction items not in formal bid) to the package for possible acceptance if within overall bid budget. It took several months for the city staff to spec these bid alts. It became apparent that the entire bid package (w/ bid alts) could not be “put-out” to bid until early January 2016.

Formal bids were mailed out in early January, to be returned and reviewed in February for a possible award. The returned bids were reviewed by staff, and forwarded to City Council for possible award of the contract. The Elko City Council awarded the contract to Landscapes Unlimited, LLC in mid February, with a contract start date set in early April.

We held an open-house at the clubhouse in early April for all interested golfers and homeowners who live adjacent to the course. This open-house included a presentation by Greg Baer summarizing the project objectives, timetable, and effect on play from construction related closures. Landscapes representatives were also there to answer questions, as were golf staff and the city project coordinator. This meeting was well attended and appreciated by the public.

It was early April and great to see the Landscape crew mobilizing! Finally, out of the planning stage and into the “meat-n-

potatoes” of the project. Golf staff and Landscapes crew had several pre-construction meetings and quickly established good working relationships. Landscapes provided the City with their construction schedule with estimated timelines when and where the hole closures would occur. They were going to keep hole closures to one or two holes, max.

Construction would start about April 15 and would begin on the easterly boundary of the course (#3), and systematically work west

and finish on #14 in September. The bid alternates #1, 2 & 3 would be completed as the irrigation installation crew was working in those adjacent areas. All other standards of installation would follow all bid construction specs as follows:

- Existing irrigation system (Site Pro) during construction is to remain in operation as long as practical. New system (Lynx) shall be operational before installation moves to next area.
- New mainlines are temporarily tied into existing mains. All new mainlines will be trenched to spec depth, lateral valves installed, decoder wire, and grounding systems installed, main pressure-tested for leaks, trench backfilled, compacted, valve boxes installed, sod replaced and leveled, and main remains “charged.”
- Lateral piping “pulled,” swing joints installed, decoder wire installed, piping flushed, rotors installed and wired, rotors back-filled and tested, “puller” mounding rolled to level.
- As each area is complete and Lynx operational; remove, backfill, and sod OLD rotors, quick couplers, valve boxes, and field satellite pedestals.

Landscapes worked areas of usually two-three holes based on our existing main “shut-off” capabilities. They did keep hole closures to one hole at a time, with just a few days where two holes were closed at one time. We had very few complaints regarding the construction crew or hole closures the entire Upon completion of this project, we’ve upgraded our

continued page 14



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What I'm presenting are my observations and experiences after going to dermatologists for over 40 years. I'm not a doctor, but information contained in this article can be confirmed with info from medical sites on the inter-

# SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON SKIN CANCER

**Sean Sullivan, CGCS  
Briarwood Golf Club, Billings, Mont.**

net. Also, I have stayed at Holiday Inn Express before!  
net. Also, I have stayed at Holiday Inn Express before!  
I'll be discussing four types of skin lesions, common to golf course maintenance employees, related to long term sun exposure and UV radiation. For the sake of this article, you can think of the four types of skin lesions using the three signal words for pesticides – caution, warning and danger. First is Actinic Keratosis (Caution), second and third is Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Warning), and fourth is Melanoma (Danger). Those of us in the golf course maintenance industry are at risk of all four types of skin lesions, as two of the causes are long term sun exposure and UV radiation. These two contributing factors could be written into our job descriptions: have fun in the sun all day long! Two other factors involved are skin color and genetics, of which we don't have control. Being a fair skinned man of Irish decent, I have had three of the four types of skin lesions: Actinic Keratosis (AK), Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC), and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC). Thankfully, I have not had any Melanomas. I'm not bragging about it and not happy with the fact that I'm susceptible to them. Also, I have undergone three of the most common treatments for skin lesions/cancer.

## CAUTION

Actinic Keratosis (AK) is a pre-cancerous patch of thick, scaly, or crusty skin. These growths are more common on fair skinned people and those frequently in the sun. They usually form when the skin is damaged by UV radiation from the sun or tanning beds. As tanning beds have no relevance to the day-to-day golf maintenance operation, they will be left out of the description and/or discussion of skin cancer. AKs are considered

continued page 16

## Renovation 2016 continued from page 14

irrigation system capabilities as follows:

- Lynx operating system from Site Pro
- Decoder field system from OSMAC
- 65' rotor spacing from 80'-120' rotor spacing
- 1900 rotors from 640 rotors
- Precip. matched rotors from 12 different models 1985-2014
- 1900 stations from 235 stations (1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 head/sta.)
- Dual heads (Greens) from NOPE!
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- Reduced "water window" from existing system <1-2hrs
- DU 0.90 from DU 0.75
- Average daily gallons July 0.750M from Average daily gallons July 0.875M

In summary, this project, with its complexity of maintaining operation of the Site Pro system during installation of the Lynx system, went quite smoothly. We weren't void of "bumps in the road," which led to some stressful periods. These "bumps" were limited in numbers and were managed effectively between Landscapes and our staff. Landscapes completed the five-month project on time and with excellent results.

I'm proud of the finished project and feel comfortable that I left an outstanding irrigation system for Pete and his staff that, hopefully, makes their job easier and less stressful. *P.S. – I am now retired and livin' the life*

**Next day #2**



**Four days after installation #15**







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**Skin Cancer** continued from page 14 to be pre-cancerous, but left untreated, they may turn into Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC). With the possibility of AKs turning into SCC, a dermatologist will usually recommend treatment for it. AKs are often felt before being seen, as their texture is rough. So, take a moment and run your fingertips over the tips of your ears, your ear lobes, temples, creases of your nose, tip of your nose, gap between your eyes, around your lips, around your neck, that “v” on your chest, forearms, back of your hands, and that bald spot on your head illuminated by the hole in your ball cap. If you wear shorts to work, check your legs as well. If you feel any rough patches, run your fingernail over those spots to see if they are scaly or flaky. Chances are those patches are AK and because they are related to sun damage, most people who have AK have more than one.

**WARNING**

Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) is the most common skin cancer and one of the most common cancers in the US. BCC has a very low metastatic risk. Metastatic Cancer is a cancer that has spread from the part of the body where it started to other parts of the body, either through the bloodstream or the lymph system. In other words, BCC is not considered to be life threatening, but can cause disfigurement by invading the surrounding tissue. BCC will typically show up as a shiny, pearly skin nodule. Also, BCC can look like a red patch similar to eczema and other forms can look like scar tissue, which is why it is important to have regular dermatological exams. Go to the mirror, look for small red patches or bumps around your eyes, eyelids, creases of your

nose, and around your lips. About two thirds of BCC occur on sun exposed areas of the body. Don't forget about that bald spot on your head that the ball cap doesn't cover! One third of BCC occurs on areas of the body that are not exposed to sunlight (typically), which suggests genetic disposition to BCC. If you see something that you don't think you had last year, be sure to point it out to a dermatologist. To determine if a suspected area is BCC, the dermatologist will do a biopsy. (A nearly painless procedure of slicing off a portion of the bump/node, which gets sent the lab for testing.) Generally, you get a nice colored bandaid and a nice bill to go with it. I had one of these under my eye next to my nose. Never thought much of the spot until the doctor started cutting! Take my word for it, it is not one of those things you want to get bigger with age!

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) is a cancer of the squamous cell. These cells are the main part of the epidermis. SCC is one of the major forms of skin cancer, however, because it occurs in the squamous cells, you can get SCC in other parts of the body, both inside and out. But for this article, I'll be describing the SCC related to sun exposure and UV radiation. As you might have guessed, frequent exposure to direct strong sunlight and long-term exposure both without adequate topical protection (sunscreen 30 SPF or higher), increases your risk. Those with fair skin, light hair, blue/green/grey eyes are at the highest risk of getting SCC. SCC starts to show up in people in their 50s and is common in people in their 70s. This observation adds to the point of long-term exposure and corroborates how mine started showing up. Take a moment to run your fingers over your face, head, and ears, back of neck, chest, lips, nose,



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and that bald spot under your hat. If you see or feel a skin lesion that is bleeding (a little) for no apparent reason or oozing something, you will want to get that checked. My SCC happened to be on the back of my neck, above the collar line. As with BCC, the dermatologist will cut out or do a punch biopsy, send it out to the lab for verification, put a bandaid on you, and give you a big bill. Maybe a lollipop if you ask! Plug biopsy is where the doctor takes a core sample, to use the green-keeper vernacular. Again, with regards to your body, bigger is not better.

**DANGER**

Melanoma is a type of cancer that develops from the pigment-containing cells known as melanocytes. In women, they most commonly occur on the legs while in men they occur on the back, as was the case with Steve Hackman, Pryor Creek Golf Club, who had a melanoma

continued page 22



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**Skin Cancer** continued from page 20



removed from the back of his shoulder.

As with the other forms of skin lesions/cancers, long-term sun exposure and UV radiation are the primary

cause of melanoma. Also, fair skinned people are at a greater risk than others. Make note that 25% of melanomas develop from moles. The early signs of melanoma are changes to the shape and color of existing moles. Another sign of a melanoma is a new lump that just shows up. If you are between dermatologist visits and suspect a problem, you definitely want to have the spot checked quickly. Visual inspection is the most common diagnostic technique. If the doctor suspects a problem, he/she will biopsy the suspicious lump or mole immediately. If the results are positive, you won't be leaving the doctor's office or hospital. You'll be subjected to further tests, in order to check whether the melanoma/cancer has spread to other areas of your body. That's why melanoma is so dangerous, it has the ability to metastasize quickly. As with the other forms of skin cancer, the use of sunscreen, protective clothing, broad brim hats, and anything else that reduces UV radiation damage and sun exposure is recommended. It is also recommended to avoid the sun between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, which doesn't work out for the majority of golf course maintenance employees. So... sunscreen, protective clothing, and shade are the best options for the employees.

Over the last 40 years, I have undergone three of the most common treatments for AKs, BCC, and SCC. The three types of treatment are cryogenic treatment (liquid nitrogen), topical chemotherapy (Fluorouracil), and Mohs surgery. The liquid nitrogen works well on the AKs, BCCs, and SCCs, as long as they are not too close to the eyes or eyelids. It pro-

duces a slight sting and kills the surface cells, good and bad. Using a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being very easy to see and 1 being difficult to see with a magnifying glass: lesions rated 1, 2, and 3 are hard to see and often overlooked, and left to get worse. A correlation between my doctor's bill and my treatment suggests that each blast of liquid nitrogen is about \$100. The topical chemotherapy is a fancy way of saying ointment. In my experiences, the main ingredient was/is Fluorouracil and it goes by several brand names, Carac being one of them. The short of it is that the chemical affects DNA replication, so rapidly dividing cancerous cells undergo cell death. Application of the ointment twice a day for 4-6 weeks will kill all of the precancerous and cancerous cells. Depending on the extent of the sun damage, treatment can leave you pretty raw for a short time. Prescription for the ointment can run anywhere from \$7- \$200 depending on your insurance. The last form of treatment is surgery. Using the Mohs procedure, the BCCs, SCCs, and melanomas are cut out a little at a time. With each cut the slices are biopsied in the lab while you wait. If there are any cancerous cells in the sample, the doctor will go back and take another slice. This procedure is repeated until no cancer cells are found in the samples. In my case and with Steve's case, stitches were required to close the wounds. The idea behind this procedure is to take a minimal amount of tissue, while still removing the cancer. In my case, it took two cuts to remove the squamous cell cancer on my neck and one cut to remove the basal cell cancer under my eye. It's a painless procedure and done as outpatient surgery. For me, the pain part was the \$1500 per slice bill! It is my understanding that for melanomas, you will be spending time in the hospital while all the lab work is being done, just in case the cancer has spread into other parts of the body. Considering all the forms of treatment, I believe the best time for exams and any of the three forms of treatment is during the winter months. UV

radiation indexes are lower in the winter months, so healing is better for the new cells. Also, during the winter months, we as greenkeepers have fewer interaction with other people/golfers/members, just in case you care about how you look to other people.

Some of the problems associated with skin cancer start when you get sunburned as a kid and accumulate throughout your lifetime. Sometimes the problems are genetic or are related to your environment. Regardless, long time sun exposure and UV radiation are the common factors in the damage to your skin, both of which are normal in the golf course maintenance industry. If you are the boss, it's your duty to protect your employees by supplying the proper PPE. Any local dermatologist will tell you what you should provide. Ultimately, it is up to the individual to protect themselves from an occupational hazard and for the employer to provide the necessary protection. Listen to me, your mother, and the dermatologist: Make sure you use sunscreen 30 SPF or higher (often), wear a broad brim hat, and protective clothing (usually long sleeve shirt and pants).

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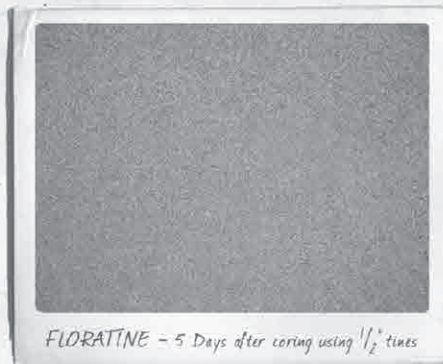


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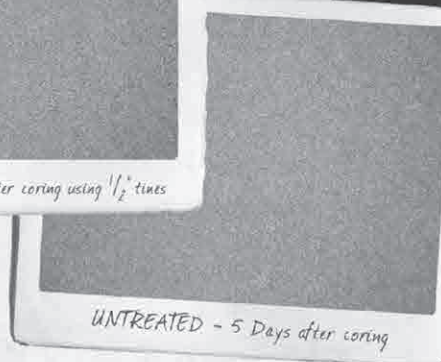


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