

Early Response to Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo

Wow. The initial response to the Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo, October 16 -17, has been even better than we anticipated.

The speakers and topics are excellent, the opportunity to gather and network in the region is special, the Coeur d'Alene Resort is outstanding, and the response for the trade show is phenomenal. The initial trade show floor plan sold out in just over a week - with a waiting list to boot – and that was even a holiday week over the 4th of July. At the time of this writing, we are hoping that reconfiguring the conference layout will allow more booths at the Resort.

IMPORTANT

We need you to make your hotel reservations now if you are planning to attend (or even considering) – please don't wait. It is important we have time to add more rooms to the block so we can accommodate everyone at this great price. Call (800) 688-5253 and specify Northwest GCSA when making your hotel reservations. If you prefer to make your reservations online, visit the calendar event of the idahogcsa.org homepage to click on the link. Our great rate is Single-Double: \$129.00 (+ surcharge and tax).

We can invoice you

Is this an unusual time in your budget to pay for the fall meeting? We still ask you to complete the registration material and indicate you need an invoice. Payment can follow next quarter.

Cheap flights

Round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines are running \$120 - \$220 from Boise to Spokane. From the airport to the Resort, there is a hotel shuttle available for a per person fee. Uber is a great option, especially if you are traveling together. The downtown is accessible from the hotel, and there is even a hotel van available to take you from the hotel to the golf course. You won't miss your vehicle.

Golf at the Coeur d'Alene Resort

If you plan to golf at the stunning Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course, please register early. There is a realistic expectation we will sell out for golf and it is on a first-come basis.

If you would like to see the floating green from yet another angle, a limited number of small-group tours will be available late Sunday afternoon. Please contact Kevin Hicks if you are interested.

Also available on Sunday is the evening social and afternoon golf at Circling Raven (industry rate). A limited number of tee-times have been set aside, but the course agreed to add more times if needed and available.

idahogcsa.org

Speaker Lineup and Topics Highlight the Value of the 2017 Combined Event

✓ *Cutting-edge and current research*

✓ *Applicable and practical information*

✓ *Attendance could potentially save your facility money, man-hours, research time, and trial and error*

We have assembled several of the top-rated speakers in the industry for the Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The topics range across the board, appealing to courses of all sizes and budgets. Our audience is in a fast-paced industry addressing so many different responsibilities, it isn't always easy to just stop for hours on end – but these speakers will keep you interested and engaged. Also enjoy an informative trade show, and a friendly round of golf pitting the chapters against each other for bragging rights. More information about our speakers and about this event is found by visiting idahogcsa.org calendar and turning to page 12 of this issue.

Return to The Drury Plaza

We heard you – The Drury Plaza in San Antonio, Texas was a smashing hit in 2015. Our chapter room block will return to The Drury Plaza for the 2018 GIS, February 5 – 8. The hotel offers two complimentary meals a day! Enjoy a free breakfast that includes hot items such as biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs and sausage. From 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. each day, enjoy beverage tickets for beer, wine, mixed drinks, or soda, as well as what you could enjoy as a snack or a meal – a variety of hot food and cold food that changes daily.

Formerly the Alamo Bank, Drury Plaza was renovated to maintain its historical character. The lobby features 50-foot ceilings, travertine flooring and stained glass windows. Located on River Walk, you are in the midst of all the great things the Walk offers.

All rooms include microwaves and refrigerators, and free wireless throughout the property. There is even a rooftop pool on the property. With only a four-block stroll to the convention center, GCSAA bus service will *not* be available.

Our block will be open later this summer and it usually closes in November. So, as always, we encourage you to make your reservations early.

Our Chapters of the Northwest hospitality room will be February 7, 2018. Stay tuned for more information and sponsorship opportunities.

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

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', 'INFO', 'CLASSIFIEDS', 'NEWS AND EVENTS', 'MEMBER AREA', and 'CONTACT'. Below the navigation, there's a 'FOR MEMBERS' section with a green box containing 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 'CALENDAR' section with three events listed: "Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room 2016" (Feb 10), "Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show 2016" (Feb 23), and "Peaks & Prairies GCSA 'Almost' Spring Meeting, Helena, Mont." (Mar 07). On the far right, there's a 'Thank a Golf Course Superintendent' section with a photo of a man and a red arrow pointing to it. Below the calendar, there's a 'Grass Clippings' logo and an 'ABOUT US' section with the text: "The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association..."

Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!

Willis Self (D)
VGM Club
9116 Flint Way, Park City, UT 84098
willis.self@vgm.com
801-201-4869

Nathan Welch (D)
AgStone, LLC
PO Box 25474, Greenville, SC 29616
nwelch@ag-stone.com
(864) 505-3754

The screenshot shows the Idaho GCSA website's job listing page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'INFO', 'CLASSIFIEDS', 'NEWS AND EVENTS', 'MEMBER AREA', and 'CONTACT'. Below the navigation, there's a 'LINK' section with a green arrow pointing to the right. To the right of the arrow, there's a banner that says: "Don't forget to check out the job announcements!" Below the banner, there's a 'Submit Job Listing' form with fields for 'Job Title *', 'Introduction *', and 'Description *'. To the right of the form, there's a text box that says: "It is easy to post your job announcements! Sign into the website, click on job announcements under the member area, and scroll down the listing page till you see this."

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

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

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

It is that time of year when days all run together, and if you're not careful, another summer season will have slipped away.

Another season of no camping, no fishing, and no family and friends.

I have been in this business for more years than I care to mention and every year it's the same thing. Anytime my wife says let's

get out of town for a few days during the golf season, my reply always starts the same way, "It can't be this week because..." It's too hot or it's too dry. The irrigation is down, there is broken equipment, there is a tournament, or I need to write a president's article. You get the picture.

I understand we all have those days where it's important for us to be on the course. But do you really think the course will go into a major tailspin without you? If you care to read on, here is my two cents. Due to the change in the golf industry and the economy, the assistant superintendents now are far more seasoned than I ever was as an assistant. They stay in the assistant role far longer than in years past and as a result, they have become very well rounded managers. So, why is it so difficult to take off for a couple of days? I remember when I was an assistant; I loved it when the superintendent left me in charge.

I'm not saying stop going to work, but you may not have to miss out on everything that goes on in the summer season. Let your assistant shine. Maybe you can start off by attending the Super/Pro golf tournament the Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association hosts each year. It's always fun and gives you great opportunity to talk shop. The best way to show support to the superintendents and the golf course that allows us to use their golf course is to sign up and play their course. As a superintendent who has hosted such an event in the past, it was one of our most important tournaments getting the course ready for our peers. The superintendents and the crew who host these events work hard presenting the best product they can to their guest, so the best compliment is you attending.

I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to ending the season with the great speakers and host, Kevin Hicks, at the Coeur d' Alene Resort for the Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo, October 16-17, 2017.



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Eleven Years and Counting

Ken Wheeler

Purple Sage & Fairview Golf Course, Caldwell, Idaho

When I became superintendent at Purple Sage Golf Course over eleven years ago, I inherited a well-maintained public golf course belonging to the City of Caldwell. I set two goals. First, continue and refine the maintenance operation. Secondly, make yearly improvements at the course to the extent that the budget and staff could support. Let's discuss the components of the course and what we are working on to improve the playing conditions for our patrons.

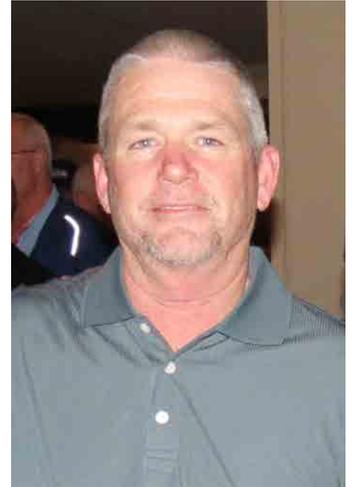
Greens

Most golfers will focus on the playability and condition of the greens when evaluating their golf experience. Built around 1962, the greens and course were constructed utilizing primarily volunteer labor in a true community effort. The greens are basically pushup design with some deep drainage, seeded with Seaside bent grass, as was the norm for the period. Working with my fertilizer and chemical vendors, as well as the USGA and

other testing sources, I strive to get just the right combination of treatments to promote green health. It's never perfect, but using the latest available fertilizers, wetting agents, and growth regulators has Purple Sage's greens in great condition. Our problems are common to Treasure Valley golf courses. I am always on the watch for fungus and turf disease, and evaluate fungicide application on an ongoing basis. I monitor water use daily.

Starting my first year, we have been on a twice-yearly aeration regiment, consistently removing inorganic material by pulling and harvesting cores. Drainage has improved, the turf is stronger, and there is improvement in the composition of the

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Doug Roberts
CEO

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Purple Sage continued from page 4

soils. It's a big job for a small crew as everyone knows, but well worth the effort. I note that there is no substitute for the proper size and quality of sand for top dressing greens. This past winter was a tough one, causing me to decide to remove over two feet of snow and ice to preserve the greens. My small crew worked through some nasty conditions, but as a result the greens survived the winter nicely with only a couple small areas of damage.

The past two years I have started a weekly rolling schedule, last year with a vintage Smithco roller. The feedback was very positive. Working with the City of Caldwell, we were able to purchase an updated and larger Salsco roller. This new roller reduced labor time by half, and does a great job. Rolling allows me to keep mowing height slightly higher while maintaining a smooth and reasonably fast roll. Good for the greens, good for the players. As the need arises, I also verti-cut our greens, which, combined with the roller, creates a very nice roll as the season progresses.

Tee Areas

Some of Purple Sage's tee complexes were a bit small and outdated. As time and money allows, we have begun to replace and rebuild tee boxes, removing railroad ties and shrubbery and expanding the useable tee areas with a modern, grass only look. The gradual slopes are safer, more efficient to maintain, and look integrated with the overall design of the course. We have five holes done to date.

Fairways

Purple Sage has always had decent fairways, but due to the need to move dirt during the shaping over 50 years ago, there are some thin spots and hard clay areas. These areas tend to stress quickly during hot spells and don't hold irrigation well. To com-

bat this condition, I have consistently aerated all the fairways, again removing and harvesting cores. Each year there has been noticeable improvement, to the point that I have been able to reduce mower height slightly for better roll. This is another big job, but the improvement in turf condition and playability is worth the effort.

Irrigation System and Maintenance Facility

The irrigation system at Purple Sage was installed over 23 years ago, so start up is always an adventure. I have upgraded the software and control systems as the budget allows, and enhanced the program for head by head control, as well as the typical area or complex programming. We have adequate water under the local irrigation district, especially this year.

The City of Caldwell authorized a small shop addition, now under construction, which will allow me to keep my spray rigs and chemicals in a climate controlled building. Also authorized is an open shed that will get our equipment out of the weather and provide much needed space for the main shop.

Every golf course needs a good mechanic, and Purple Sage has one. Jerry McGoldrick is one of those guys who is able to fix and maintain anything. Some of my equipment is old, so having someone to keep it going keeps the course maintenance going.

A Final Word or Two

I have always looked at golf courses as a system. It helps to remember there is a constant and ongoing interaction between each and every element on a course, and decisions made to impact one part of the course invariably will also impact other areas. Sometimes, this helps predict the outcome of a program, and certainly helps design and implement everything from irrigation to chemical application to crew scheduling. And sometimes, you get surprised and do your best.



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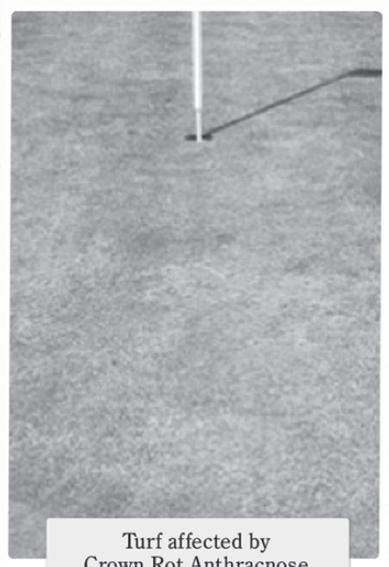


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RESULTS SUMMARY

- Two years in a row, Floratine's foliar nutrition program combined with low-dose contact fungicides offered better resistance to Crown Rot Anthracnose than fungicides alone.
- A program using CONTACT fungicides with a targeted foliar nutrition plan will not only offer excellent disease protection but also reduce SYSTEMIC fungicide resistance.



Turf affected by Crown Rot Anthracnose
© Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State University

Recently completed research done at Michigan State University by Dr. Joseph Vargas clearly demonstrates that combining a Floratine foliar nutrition program with low-dose contact fungicide applications provides superior control of Crown Rot Anthracnose, as well as providing exceptional turfgrass nutrition. The study attributes this to Floratine's foliar uptake technology combined with the proven efficacy of the low dose of the fungicide.

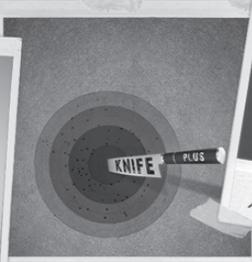
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Rooted in Science

The single most frequent question I have been asked since March is, "How was your winter?" This comes from our snowbird members (season pass holders are a whole other topic) as they return from Arizona, California or other points south where they winter. Simply put, "winter was great." Spring on the other hand, with all of the consistent rain, hail and snowfall, quite frankly...sucked!

We had a good amount of snow before the cold, so the ground wasn't frozen and we could handle rain events and temperature changes easily. Thankfully, our snow mold chemical also worked as expected. Our only damage was from the voles that seem to be worse the longer the snow is on the course. One ton of grass seed later and a lot of raking, we are looking pretty good again.

My winter is always interesting with the fact that I still have a house in the valley. We started remodeling the valley house 11.5 ago before I got the job in McCall. During those years grandkids started arriving, the housing market crashed, my wife and I were both dealing with cancer and other medical issues (resulting in a whole bunch of trips to the doctor) - all of which slowed the remodel project of a house in a different city than where I worked. Thankfully, I did get to spend my weekends in the valley, but it was shoveling snow rather than remodeling. (I had to do the roof twice - a wise man shovels the roof the first time all the way to the ridge.) It's a good thing that I bought my wife a snow blower. This reminds me that I need to call the roofer.

If I was to impart any words of wisdom to any course dealing with icing conditions (regardless of the amount of snow on top of it): if you remove snow, REMOVE THE ICE TO TURF.

On the upside, I did visit with a number of fellow superintendents about ice conditions in the Treasure Valley this winter. Not to wish that on anyone, but it was nice to talk about icing conditions when it wasn't just us mountain folk who were dealing with it. Rick Mooney set up a meeting in McCall where a number of guys came up and a few were on conference call. We were lucky enough to have Professor Brian Horgan (University of Minnesota) in on the call. It was nice to see some old faces, which is why I will razz them for not seeing them at a meeting for a while. The one thing that is great about our association is that there is always someone who has been through what you are going through and there are a number of ways to solve a problem. Most times it is best to learn from other's mistakes. I have learned two things in my "short" 25 plus years in the industry. The first is that I learned to never say that I have figured anything out, because Mother Nature has a way of making us humble. The second, is you are never too old to learn and/or share. I tweak the way that I manage every year. This is something that I have had to learn in a short season with ever changing seasonal staffs and weather patterns. It is also helpful to have other local fellow superintendents who are willing to share and/or come and have a look on short notice.

Back to spring! The month of May we had over four inches of moisture, which made mowing very difficult. We had three fairways that would get almost dry enough to mow, then, it would pour again resulting in standing water. We also discovered a couple of homes that had added sump pumps that were pumping out on the course. There is always something new.

We started expanding the practice green last fall with the intent of completion before opening. Everyone understands the difficulty to complete dirt work when it is mud. Our goal now is to have the sod transplanted and



How Was Your Winter?

Eric McCormick
City of McCall, McCall, Idaho

ready to use by the Amateur at the end of July. Seasonal staffing remains a significant challenge in the face of the local building industry boom

in a resort area. In our area the landscape companies are paying \$13 to start. This year we ended up hiring a number of high school kids, which I haven't done for a long time. Hopefully, they will return for a few years. A note of advice: the high school football coach is a good resource for hard working kids. The upside is I have some strong backs. The down side is we will be losing them in a couple of months.

We are now into the tournament season and play has picked up and we anticipate this pace will remain until Labor Day. It has stopped raining - and hopefully will remain dry to where I will be wishing for rain again. It is also only four months until it snows again and the snowbirds will all fly south for the winter.

How fast the time flies, which leaves me with my final thought. This fall three associations have put together a really good program in Coeur D'Alene for the fall meeting. If there is ever a chance to rub shoulders and compare ideas, this is the meeting. If you haven't attended a meeting for a while and need an excuse to get out of town, this would be the one! Remember, you're never too old to learn something new. Who knows, maybe something you share could help someone else? I would like to thank Lori for her years of service and being the one to put this fall meeting together. I would also like to thank my best friend Rick Mooney for always being there for me even when his life is crazy. We both made it through the best ball without either one of us hurting his back. Here is to a great summer!



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Strategic Planning Session

Brian Roth, CGCS
Oquirrh Hills Golf Course
Tooele, Utah

GCSAA provides information and documents to help chapters, as well as



individual superintendents, improve professionally, grow and be successful. One of the services that GCSAA provides is strategic

planning assistance for chapters. Strategic planning helps organizations to understand why they exist, how they want to be viewed, how they see the future, and what are they going to do about it. GCSAA provides a staff representative(s) to conduct a planning session with Chapter leaders. The following items are discussed during these sessions: Mission and Vision Statements; identify constituents that it serves; complete a SCOR evaluation; discuss future goals and objectives of the chapter; develop strategies and assign specific tasks to achieve these goals; learn about member involvement in a successful plan; and provide tools that ensure the plan

evolves and continues to meet the needs of the membership.

On February 27, 2017, in conjunction with our scheduled board meeting, the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors met with representatives from GCSAA for a strategic planning session. This was a follow-up meeting to evaluate and update the previous strategic planning session held in February of 2013. Steve Randall, GCSAA Director – Chapter Outreach, and David Phipps, GCSAA Regional Representative, NW Region, facilitated the discussion.

The main purpose of this discussion was an effort to evaluate the previous mission, vision and goals, determine the current needs of the organization, and redefine these areas (if needed) in order to help guide our chapter for the future.

A review of the past strategic plan was conducted, and the group expressed the following expectations for the meeting:

- *Where are we going to go in the next five years?*
- *Discussion on BMPs and a plan to get program up and running*
- *Evaluate strengths and weaknesses, and where we can improve*
- *How to strengthen membership growth and engagement*
- *Evaluate relationship with IGA and PGA section*

Following this discussion, the group discussed and executed a SCOR analysis, discussing the chapters' (S) strengths, (C) challenges, (O) opportunities and (R) risks. Strengths included education quality and opportunities, networking and being financially healthy. Some challenges discussed were geography, BMP (Best Management Practices) development and member recruitment and engagement.

Opportunities for our chapter include developing and implementing BMP program, incentives for professional development, and recruitment of EM and Class C members. Some of the risks that were brought up were perception of the golf industry, and losing member engagement.

Using this information, the chapter's Mission Statement, Vision, and Goals were reviewed and updated. Our current mission statement remained, with no changes.

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

The Vision was refined and simplified.

VISION: The Idaho Superintendents are leaders advancing the game and profession, being active with all involved.

BMPs were discussed in depth, and the benefit and impact this can have on the industry as a whole, and golf facilities, individually. This has become a topic in the forefront nationally, and GCSAA has programs to help chapters through the process. As a board, we felt that this was an area that we really needed to pursue and implement for our chapter. Another area we talked about was member engagement and participation. As part of this discussion, we talked about how to help our members develop and grow as golf course superintendents. In order to have this happen, members need to be engaged, interested, and see the benefits from attending various meeting and events.

Two Goals set for the Chapter were:

- 1 – Develop Idaho Best Management

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New Winter Recovery Research, Bentgrass Germination Data, Ice Melt and Phytotoxicity, Data and Impact of Wetting Agents on Spring Green Up and Surface Hardness and Sustainable Turfgrass Systems

Brian Horgan, PhD., Professor and Associate Head, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.



Cultural and Mechanical Practices: What Really Works and What Does Not and Counterintuitive Results that are Worth Knowing

Thomas Nikolai, Ph.D., Turfgrass Academic Specialist, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, Michigan

Turf Around the World and Leaves of Grass: Applications and Implications of Clipping Volume

Micah Woods, Ph.D., Chief Scientist at the Asian Turfgrass Center and Adjunct Professor, Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee



Where Did the Fun Go?

David McLay Kidd, DMK Golf Design, Bend, Oregon

Positioning for Success

J. Rhett Evans, Chief Executive Officer, GCSAA, Lawrence, Kansas



Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo October 16 & 17, 2017 Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

For more information, please visit the calendar event idahogcsa.org

We have several sponsorship opportunities still available!

Strategic Planning continued from page 10

Practices by December 2018. This will require establishing a committee, and involving superintendents, State agencies, vendors, and university participation.

2 – Establish a professional development initiative / opportunity to help individual(s) attend GIS. Work on other opportunities to contact and network with non-members, or others who do not attend chapter events regularly.

The Board of Directors came away from this meeting with a good sense of where we are, and feel that we have worthwhile goals that will help our chapter to grow, and our members to have greater success at their individual facilities. Thank you to Steve and Dave (and Lori) for working to put this session together.

er. It is a great benefit for us to be able to evaluate our organization, and discuss ways we can improve our chapter and strengthen our membership. If you have any questions about our planning session and goals, or would like to be involved in your chapter and profession, please contact a member of the Board.





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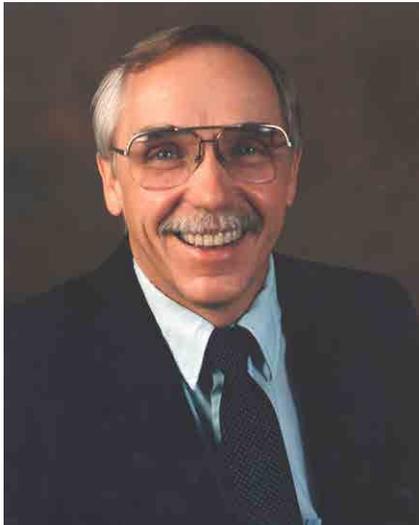


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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT – FIRST 75 YEARS

William J. Johnston, PhD, WSU, Pullman, Washington
June 2017

With my retirement (although I am still actively involved with four research projects), the WSU Turfgrass Program is now down to one active member, Charles Golob, Turfgrass Research



Supervisor. The program at the Western Washington Research Extension Center (WWREC) at Puyallup has been defunct for several years and potentially is permanently terminated. WSU administration and industry stakeholders (turfgrass and seed industry personnel) are currently in the process of redefining the direction of the current Pullman program as

“Grass Ecology.” This will leave OSU and Walla Walla CC as the only dedicated turfgrass research/teaching/extension (other than Master Gardner’s and county agents) academic units in the Pacific Northwest.

The Northwest turfgrass industry needs to decide if it:

- 1) needs and values a Turfgrass Program at WSU and*
- 2) is willing to financially support the program.*

To begin this process, I have provided the following history of the rich, diverse, productive, and beneficial, to both industry and the public, Turfgrass Program at WSU for the past 75 years.

Like many programs, the WSU Turfgrass Program (Research, Extension, and Teaching) came into fruition due to the effort of many people at the university and in industry. Interestingly, the earliest turf research was not in Crop & Soil Sciences, but in Plant Pathology. In 1941, Chester Gould joined the WWREC at Puyallup, specializing in the control of north-west turf and bulb diseases. Chet published the first turf related research in 1949 on fairy ring.

In 1948, a group of golf course superintendents approached College of Agriculture Dean Shaffer to seek WSU’s help in research and hosting an annual conference for their rapidly expanding industry. Al Law, field crops professor in Agronomy & Soils, was assigned the task and the 1st Northwest Turfgrass Conference was held at Pullman. Significantly, this turfgrass conference is the longest, continuously held turf conference in the USA (probably in the world).

In 1955, Al Law began teaching the first turfgrass class in the western USA (Turfgrass Culture). During the 1950s, Ken

Morrison, Extension agronomist, initiated one of the initial, if not the initial, turfgrass correspondence courses in the USA, thus spreading the WSU program globally. J.K. Patterson released ‘Cougar’ and ‘Cougar II’ Kentucky bluegrass cultivars and served as Roy Goss’ PhD advisor.

A major milestone occurred in 1958 when Roy Goss was appointed ½-time Research and ½-time Extension turfgrass specialist. WSU now had its 1st full-time turf person. Roy established the turfgrass research field lab at Farm 5 at Puyallup in 1958. Roy and his wife, Marcie, established the R.L. Goss Turfgrass Endowment in 1988 to support turfgrass research and higher education, and in 2006 the research farm at Puyallup was named the “R.L. Goss Research Farm.”

Goss’ research focused on turfgrass diseases, climate injury, and nutrient deficiencies, notably, N, P, and S. Roy developed an international reputation at WSU and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the GCSAA, Pacific Seedman Assoc. Award, and the O.A. Vogel Faculty Award at WSU. Gary Chastagner replaced Gould in 1978 and continued research in turf grass diseases for many years. Shiou Kuo, soil scientist at

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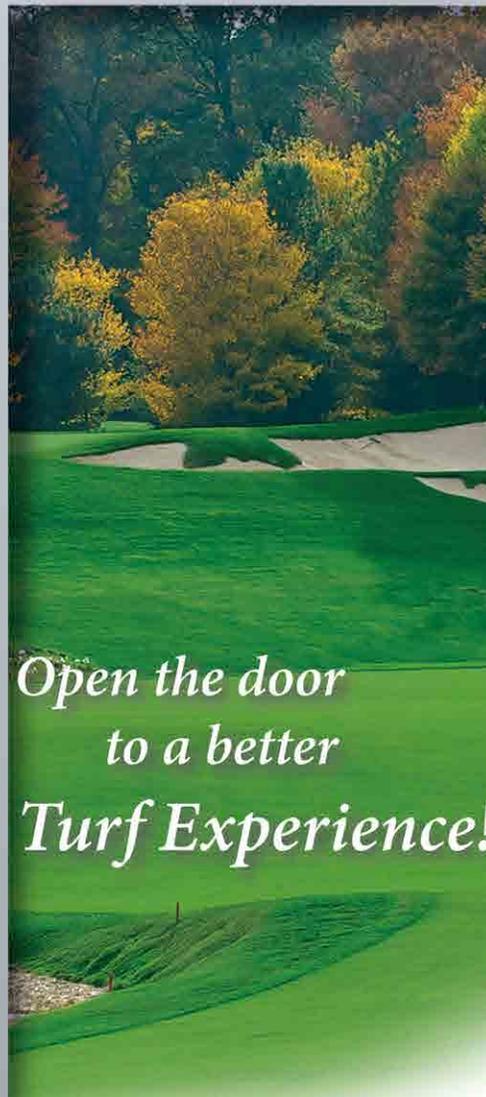
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Johnston and Goss

Puyallup, also worked with Roy and Stan Brauen on the relationship of lime, phosphorus, and aluminum on annual bluegrass and bentgrass during the 1980s.

Possibly the most dramatic year for the WSU Turf Program was 1980. Stan Brauen, forage agronomist at Puyallup, assumed Goss' research appointment when Roy shifted to 100% Extension. Stan worked on many areas of turfgrass management (fertility, weed control, diseases, etc.), but his most notable contribution was the release of 'Putter' creeping bentgrass, which was a highly successful cultivar for Jacklin Seed Co. Also, in 1980, as WSU was deciding between a forage and turf position at Pullman, a group of eastern Washington parks and golf course superintendents lead by Sam Angrove, Bud Ashworth, Herb Brown, Tom Wolf and others, convinced College of Agriculture Dean Robins that serving the turf industry needs was the better of the two options. Bill Johnston was hired, replacing Al Law

(pictured right), to teach, conduct turfgrass management research, and develop the undergraduate turfgrass major, which at the time had one student. Under Bill's guidance, the turf major experienced dramatic growth peaking at 35 students in 2002. During the recent "recession," student numbers began to decline, but have currently stabilized at 13-17 majors. Notably, essentially 100% of WSU turf majors found jobs in the turf



industry upon graduation. Approximately, 300 WSU turf majors are today making contributions to the turf industry in the PNW and across the USA. In recognition of his dedication to advising, teaching, and the development of young turfgrass professionals, Bill, aka "Dr J," was awarded both the "Outstanding Advisor" and "Outstanding Teacher" of the year at the college.

Bill and his research technician, Charles Golob (pictured



left), developed two research sites at Pullman. The current six-acre site, the Turfgrass and Agronomy Research Center, is one of the best-equipped and maintained university turfgrass research facilities in the western USA. Due to its unique location, and lack of other turf programs, the WSU turf program at Pullman served the turfgrass industry and public over a vast geographic area from the Cascades to the Rockies and from southern Canada to Utah. Thus, the Pullman program has been quite diverse. Species, cultivars, and germplasm were evaluated for adaptation to the intermountain PNW, snow mold disease control and management was conducted for 20+ years, and a continuous effort to control *Poa annua* with herbicides ('Tenacity', 'Xonerate', 'PoaCure', and microorganisms) was ongoing. Research lead to the labeling of numerous products ('Acclaim', 'Finale', 'Tenacity', 'Instrata', etc.) for use in WA, ID, and MT by the turf industry.

Environmental studies were funded by the USGA on nitrate and PCNB leaching at the Coeur d'Alene Resort GC floating green and by the City of Spokane on the use of reclaimed water for golf courses. The USDA funded studies on pollen flow and glyphosate resistant hybridization in *Agrostis* and diversity in Kentucky bluegrass germplasm. In addition, several hundred presentations and reports were delivered to the public and industry during Bill's 36 years at WSU. In 2016, Bill was awarded a GCSAA distinguished service award for a lifetime of leadership, commitment, and service to the PNW turfgrass industry.

In response to the needs of the grass seed industry, Bill initiated a turfgrass seed production research program in 1987. Initially working on weed control (wild oats and downy brome) and diseases (ergot, silver top, and rust), the research focus shifted to working with growers to identify alternatives to the practice of open-field burning of Kentucky bluegrass. Bill and Charles worked with the grass seed industry (IGGA and WTSC), the Washington Dept. of Ecology, and the USDA for 20+ years on the field burning issue. In addition to the groundbreaking research quantifying emissions from field burning of Kentucky bluegrass, the program developed bluegrass germplasm that would produce acceptable seed yield and turfgrass quality without field burning. Bill attended 100+ meetings of the Dept. of Ecology's Agriculture Burning Practices Research Task Force representing academia.



Roy Goss retired in 1988 and Gwen Stahnke (pictured left) was hired at Puyallup with a 75% Extension/25% Research appointment. From 1988 to 2013 Gwen gave hundreds of extension presentations to the industry and the booming population of Western WA. Gwen's research focused on crane fly control and Gwen was regarded as a world leader in crane fly research. She also conducted turfgrass research on phosphorus and the identification of *Pythium* species. Gwen continues to be involved in the turf

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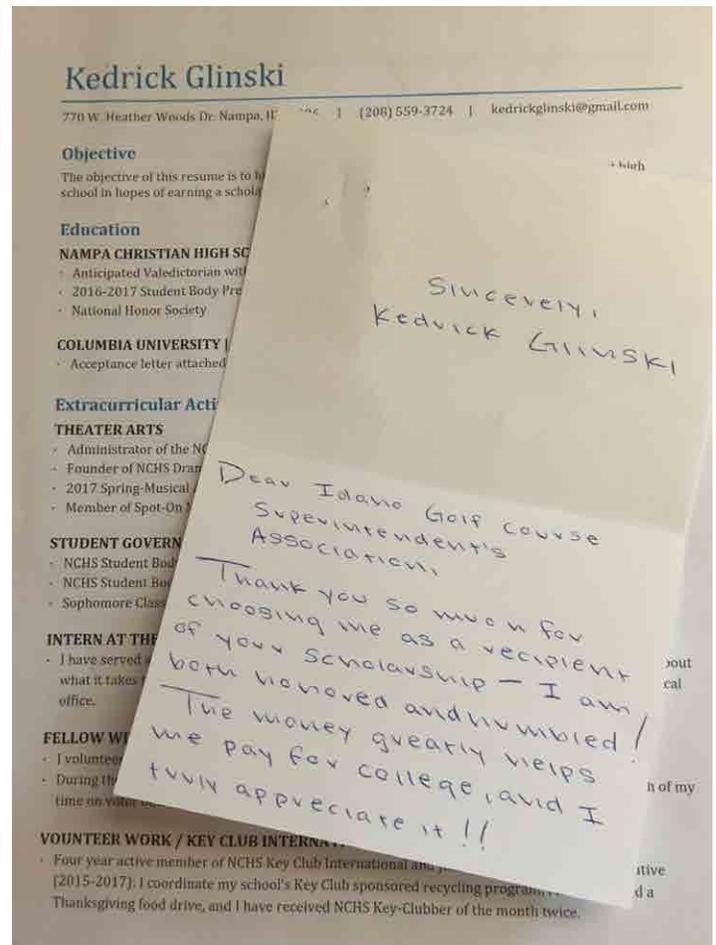
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Congratulations to our
2017 Scholarship Winner - Kedrick Glinski.
Kedrick received a Link Legacy scholarship for
\$800. Kedrick is the son of member,
Daryl Glinski.



WSU - 75 Years

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industry nationally (GCSAA "Turf Bowl") and regionally as an Instructor of Turfgrass Management at Walla Walla CC, where Elite American Educators recognized her in 2016 for her dedication, achievements, and leadership in turfgrass.

Eric Miltner replaced Stan Brauen in 1998 (Stan retired 1999) with a 100% Research appointment in turf. Fertility and nutrient management (primarily N and P) were the focus of his research program. Eric also made contributions in environmental turfgrass research, a key issue in the environmentally sensitive Puget Sound region, on the accumulation of soil P from natural organic sources, water quality monitoring on golf courses, and compost contamination with clopyrolid.

Eric left WSU in 2011 and currently works for KOCH Turf and Ornamental, Gwen left WSU in 2013 for WWCC, and Bill retired in 2016. WSU and industry stakeholders are currently redefining the WSU Turfgrass Program to meet the needs of the public, industry, and students for, hopefully, the next 75 years.

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Greg Baer

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