

# The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association

# Grass Clippings

December 2017

## Disrupting the Status Quo at the Spring Meeting

It is a big deal to have John "Trey" Rogers, III, Ph.D., join us at the Spring Meeting, February 27 & 28, 2018 at the Red Lion Boise Downtowner. Rogers is not only highly regarded in turfgrass university world, his vast research impacts the industry. Currently his research focuses on developing methodologies to create sustainability. Rogers is known for developing a method to construct a putting green that goes against traditional build by rethinking the root zone concept. Don't miss "Breakthrough Concepts in Putting Green Construction - Disrupting the Status Quo."

Chris Carson is the superintendent at Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, N.J., as well as the instructor of budgeting and planning, and professional development for the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program. An engaging speaker, Carson comes highly recommended to you by Peaks & Prairies as a presenter on both the subject of budgeting and helping assistants land a superintendent position in the competitive market.

Knowledgeable experience seems to be a common thread at this meeting and that plays perfectly into the historical presentation offered by Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG. A successful superintendent, businessman, and past GCSAA president, Grigg will share his reflections in "Advances In The Profession Over 50 Years" 1968 to 2018.

Also beneficial to aid in your success will be our annual trade show showcasing products and services under one roof.

Registration information will be available the first of the year.

## Auction Rounds Needed!

Our silent auction for rounds with 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. Proceeds also keep our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate, as association expenses continue to rise.

Make the time now to submit your donation by mailing it directly to Travis Rose. Why wait? Please include a scorecard with your donation. You can download a letter to support your participation from the event calendar on the website. Mail your certificates to: Travis Rose, Simplot Partners, 4107 Challenger Way, Caldwell,

ID 83605. Questions? Call Travis Rose

(208) 761-4194 or

Jesse Vincent (208) 982-1121

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

## Expectations Exceeded for Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo

Three years plus in planning, the Chapters of the Northwest made its inaugural (and highly memorable) showing at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. With nearly 300 in attendance, 2/3rds of the completed surveys said the meeting exceeded expectations and 1/3 said the meeting met their expectations. We will share several highlights in this issue, including a summary by Kevin Hicks on page 8.

Numerous people and companies are deserving of our thanks, but it is important to acknowledge our Ultimate Support Sponsors lead by Hunter Golf, our Diamond Sponsor.

We look forward to gathering for the second Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo. While the date and location is TBA, we are leaning towards another offering in four to five years.

Please be sure to express your thanks to these 2017 high-level supporters, as well as all sponsoring companies.

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**Editor**  
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*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 bar, there's a main content area with a calendar of events. The calendar shows three events: 'Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room 2016' on Feb 10, 'Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show 2016' on Feb 23, and 'Peaks & Prairies GCSA "Almost" Spring Meeting, Helena, Mont.' on Mar 07. To the right of the calendar, there's a section titled 'Thank a Golf Course Superintendent' featuring a photo of a man in a golf cap and a red arrow pointing to a 'Thank a Superintendent' button. Below the calendar, there's a section for 'Idaho GCSA Newsletter' and 'Grass Clippings'.

**Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!**

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The screenshot shows the GCSAA 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 bar, there's a main content area with a 'Submit Job Listing' form. The form has fields for 'Job Title \*', 'Introduction \*', and 'Description \*'. To the right of the form, there's a banner that says 'Don't forget to check out the job announcements!' with a left-pointing arrow. Below the banner, there's a section titled '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](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

I wanted to thank everyone who attended the fall meeting in Coeur d' Alene. The meeting, which took at least three years of careful planning and hard work, turned out to be a great gathering with many positive comments on all aspects. It was good to see some old friends from our neighboring chapters and have the opportunity to make new friends,

as well. The fall meeting has always been symbolic to me as it's the time to take a deep breath while another season goes in the books.

Speaking about the end of the season, what a long busy golf season everyone had this year. It started out with some unusually icy conditions followed by a long summer and fall. It seems like it may have slowed down a little, but for most, it's still going as I write this. If you're anything like me, when the season comes to the end we are always so hopeful to get a jump on next year - fine-tuning budgets, giving the maintenance area some well-deserved attention, catching up on education and finally spending time with our families. It seems like there is never time to get it all done. Well, the association can assist you in the education part and your participation is very much appreciated. It doesn't matter if you're attending a conference, a golf outing or donating rounds of golf to the silent auction; it doesn't go unnoticed. If you are looking at donating some of your valuable time on committees or the board, feel free to ask a board member or Lori. Speaking of volunteers, I would like to welcome the new board members, Joe Aholt and Jared Stanek. I look forward to working with you both and seeing everyone at the 2018 Spring Meeting in Boise.

In this issue you will find a quick summary of the Chapter Delegates meeting I attended in November. Be sure to take time to review what is happening on the national level.

I hope everyone enjoys the holiday season.



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# My Journey

**Josh Benson**

**Idaho Falls Country Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho**

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Josh Benson. I am the superintendent at Idaho Falls Country Club. I have had a relatively short road to becoming a superintendent at an 18-hole facility, so here is my journey.

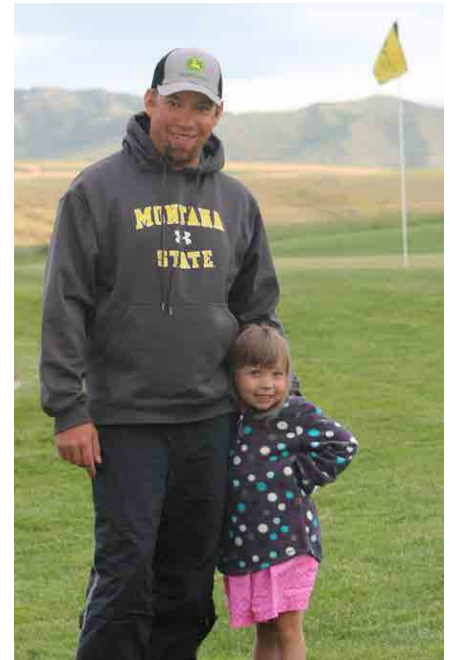
I grew up in Billings, Mont., where my dad was a railroad engineer for 41 years and he is freshly retired. My mom stayed home and took care of my two sisters and me, while my dad was working. I began playing golf when I was five and have been around the game and on the golf course since. I spent my high school years working at a local tree nursery.

I graduated high school in 2002. I attended Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Mont. While attending college, I was playing golf in Whitefish, Mont., where I ran into Jim Peacock. Jim was the superintendent at Meadow Lake Golf Resort at the time and he offered me a job on his crew. I took the job during the summer of 2003 and this started my golf course maintenance career. I spent three seasons at Meadow Lake and

completed an internship my last year there. I then transferred to Montana State University where I graduated with a Horticulture degree in December of 2006. While going to school in Bozeman, I worked at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course under superintendent Don Moss.

After graduating, I applied for the assistant superintendent position at Idaho Falls Country Club, where Randy Ernst was superintendent. Randy hired me the spring of

continued page 6



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For available sponsor levels please see the calendar event on the home page of our  
website [idahogcsa.org](http://idahogcsa.org).**

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My Journey continued from page 4

2007. After Randy left in 2009, I became superintendent and will start my 11th year at the course this spring. If it wasn't for Randy hiring me, it is doubtful I would be where I am today. I was very fortunate to work with Randy - a very knowledgeable and hard-working person who taught me a lot about golf course management in our short time together.

Since moving to Idaho Falls, I have started a family with my



wife, Heather. We have two beautiful daughters, Brooklyn (6) and Aubree (3). My girls love being on the golf course any chance they can; it's their oversized playground.

Since becoming superintendent, I have found that you don't necessarily need a turf degree to succeed, just a

lot of hard work and leadership will get you a long way. I also find that this job changes so much from year to year. You never know how winter is going to affect the course and how the labor pool is going to be the next year. It's definitely a job that keeps you on your toes. Hope everyone winters well!



2017 Delegates from the Northwest Region

## Chapter Delegate Meeting 2017

Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, Chapter Delegate

The creation of a political action committee and proposed bylaw changes were key topics of the 2017 Chapter Delegates Meeting. The 88 delegates from 94 chapters also heard from nominees for the 2018 GCSAA Board of Directors and an update on the Disaster Relief Fund. The two-day meeting was held Nov. 7-8 in Kansas City, Mo., and at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas.

The event opened with welcomes from GCSAA President Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, and GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. Evans shared that the Disaster Relief Fund has raised \$150,000 to date, and gave an update on the association's solid financial footing. Other presentations on key initiatives included:

- **State BMP Implementation:** GCSAA continues going forward with the goal to have all 50 states with a BMP in place by 2020. Ten states have a BMP in place, with three more set to come online this winter. The state BMP initiative continues to be successful, and the 50 by 2020 goal is expected to be reached. If you would like to help, contact Kevin Hicks or myself.
- **Government affairs:** GCSAA now has a political action committee (GCSAAPAC) to support advocacy efforts on behalf of the membership. GCSAAPAC will distribute money to lawmakers who help advance GCSAA's Priority Issues Agenda. National Golf Day 2018 is set for April 24-25. The Grassroots Ambassador Program now has 305 ambassadors paired with members of Congress, but spots are still available.
- **Election and Governance:** The delegates learned about proposed bylaws changes that would alter the current election process and proposed changes to the GCSAA Bylaws, and updates made to the GCSAA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Guidelines. The proposed bylaw changes are based on feedback from past delegates to make the election process clearer and to put the control back in the hands of the members/delegates.

The business portion of the delegates meeting concluded with presentations from, and breakout sessions with, the candidates for the 2018 board. The election will take place on Feb. 8 at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

As usual if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time. I hope everyone has a restful winter and a great holiday season.



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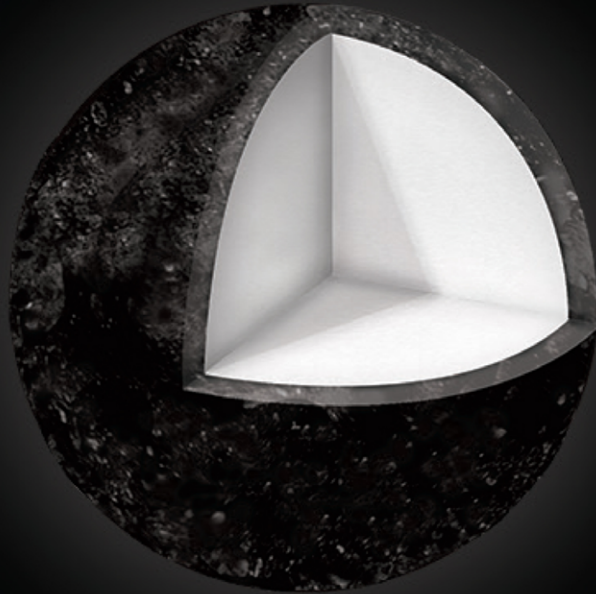
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# 2017 Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo

Kevin Hicks, Regional Agronomist, Earthworks  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

After three years of planning, assembling the right list of speakers, and coordinating a major event between three chapters, the Northwest Expo finally came to fruition in October, and, by all accounts, was a huge success. Final numbers aren't

within a given community. Definitely food for thought when defending our industry and courses in the public eye.

Dr. Thom Nikolai discussed some new (and old) cultural and mechanical practices that work and don't work for

inspirational talk on "Positioning for Success" as leaders in the turfgrass industry. He also

took the time to "roast" GCSAA Past President and Peaks & Prairies member Pete Grass, CGCS, and thank him for his years of service on the board and on behalf of the over 16,000 members of GCSAA.

Finally, renowned golf course architect Mr. David McLay Kidd gave a great talk entitled, "Where Did the Fun Go?" In his talk, he discussed the design principles he employed at courses like Bandon Dunes and Gamble Sands that have helped those courses appeal to a wide variety of



in yet, but suffice to say that given attendance of over 190 (far beyond projections) for education, and an additional 100 manning 54 booths during the trade show, all three chapters can consider this event a great success.

During the education sessions, we heard the latest from some of the industry's top researchers and experts.

Dr. Brian Horgan's first talk was a potpourri of research topics including winter recovery, bentgrass germination data (for when you don't get winter recovery), ice abatement from putting surfaces, and the impact of wetting agents on spring green up and surface hardness. Each of these could have been a one-hour talk so he moved at a pretty rapid pace, still providing great information. He also gave a "big picture" talk on the value of turf and golf as a sustainable turfgrass system

modern management programs. He also discussed counterintuitive research results related to rolling and pest control that sparked many questions from the group.

As usual, Thom's delivery and content were right on the mark, while keeping the audience entertained and engaged.



Dr. Micah Woods covered some of his unique experiences in Asian turfgrass management as well as the methods and value of measuring clipping yield in order to make informed decisions on fertility,

skill levels and create sustainable design that will carry them into the future. He always offers great information with that great Scottish accent that makes you feel like you've been taken back to the old country.

Golf on the second day of the Expo took place at the Coeur d'Alene Resort GC, and was hosted by superintendent Tom Walker. While the weather was far from ideal, those who braved the wind (and falling trees) had a great time. Thanks to Tom and his staff for having the course in great condition.

Of course, an event of this scale and complexity could never succeed without the help of so many great people and corporate support. We never could have



growth regulator application, and even the scheduling of topdressing applications.

Rhett Evans, CEO of GCSAA, gave an





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large group – a handy skill. His great rapport with the speakers, knowledge of the event details and uncanny ability to tell time kept the event on schedule. Thank you for the added level of professionalism you brought to the event as moderator, Kevin!



Midland Implement, Turf Star Western and Turf Equipment and Irr.

Thanks to all of those organizations for their tremendous support throughout the year, but especially for this event.

Of course, none of this would have happened without the support of the boards of directors of the Peaks & Prairies GCSA, Idaho GCSA and Inland Empire GCSA. Ironically, many of the board members of the individual chapters who got the ball rolling had completed their board service by the time the event came to fruition, so a special thanks goes to the executive direc-



tor of all three chapters, Lori Russell. The amount of organization and information that had to be pulled together to make the event what it was could not have been accomplished without Lori. Being (almost) the host of the event, I speak from experience that Lori worked tirelessly for three years to make the Expo a memorable event for which the entire organization could be proud!

**Editors note:**

Thank you to our moderator, Kevin Hicks. We thank our moderator, Kevin Hicks. Kevin has the knack to remain comfortable in front of a



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# EXPO GOLF BRAGGING RIGHTS!

People are generally most comfortable hanging with who they know – and the wonderful people in the turf industry are no different.

As we looked to put the Expo golf teams together, it dawned on us that in the end the true winners were those who met new people at the Expo.

We decided to do something crazy – rock comfort zones!

Teams were carefully split. In most cases, the team included a person from at least two associations (sometimes all three) and one or two allied partners. We not only tried to make sure allied competitors weren't on the same team – we made sure allied members had someone on the team from their own region. We did this all while still keeping handicaps fairly split, thanks to Jake Leiser's valuable assistance.

We kept tweaking until we accomplished our goals on nearly every team. At least that is how it looked the Friday before the event, when teams were turned in to the course.

Fast forward to 72 hours later. Between the weather drop outs and the change of plans, by Tuesday morning we were mixing and moving players, still trying to make teams even as possible. No shows caused additional tweaking on site. But, we still had a field of 34 teams.

In the end, if you were an allied partner who didn't have someone from your region on your team – we tried! It started

out that way.

We are happy to report that even with all of the changes, the golf accomplished what we hoped, for the most part.

Following the event, once the conversation moved past the crazy wind, it was clear... teams were filled with great people – who happened to be people they didn't know before golf. Several players admitted being apprehensive...surprised...disappointed... at the

start of the round if they didn't know anyone on their team. And then many of these same players said they met the best people and had a great round. Others asked if we could duplicate the same teams next time.

There are a lot of wonderful people in the turf industry. We just helped you meet more through an afternoon of golf! At the next GIS or the next Expo, you will personally have a few more people to look forward to seeing.

## Inland Empire GCSA

Round 1 Leaderboard



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5	MIKE GRILLEY + RHETT EVANS + JOHN HANGSEN + JASON MOON	-28	114 \$0.00
6	BEN WILMARTH + RANDY RIDER + GREG HARCHARIK + RANDY ERNST	-26	116 \$0.00
7	MATT WHALEN + DAVE PHIPPS + GARY HOMAD + KEN BLUME	-26	116 \$0.00
8	GEOFF HAYNES + DAN TOLSON + JESSE VINCENT + JOE REBER	-26	116 \$0.00
9	DWAYNE DILLINGER + ZAC LEADER + TYLER BARLOW + BRENT RADFORD	-26	116 \$0.00
10	JERRY PALMERTON + DANNY RENZ + MICHAEL GARDNER + JORY HORLSEY	-25	117 \$0.00
11	MATT NELSON + JEREMIAH FARMER + ZACHERY SHERMAN + DAVID MCNEIL	-24	118 \$0.00
12	DELISA RAPP + MIKE RAPP + LISA MACK + DICK COLLINS	-23	119 \$0.00

SHAMBLE GROSS			
Pos.	Foursome	To Par Gross	Total Gross Purse
1	MIKE GRILLEY + RHETT EVANS + JOHN HANGSEN + JASON MOON	-6	136 \$440.00
2	SHAWN VETTERICK + CHRIS THOMAS + SCOTT COWAN + KENNY HALCOMB	-4	138 \$300.00
3	RANDY NORVELLE + PETER PALACIOS + SHANE GALLES + BOB O'NEIL	E	142 \$200.00
4	SPENCER MENDENHALL + PAT SHERER + PARKER COHN + DON FRONGNER + KEVIN SMITH	-4	138 \$0.00
5	JEFF GULLIKSON + JON ATKINS + JOE AHOLT + JOSH BENSON	+2	144 \$0.00
6	GEOFF HAYNES + DAN TOLSON + JESSE VINCENT + JOE REBER	+4	146 \$0.00
7	DWAYNE DILLINGER + ZAC LEADER + TYLER BARLOW + BRENT RADFORD	+4	146 \$0.00
8	JEREMY CHRISTENSEN + TONY GARNER + BRENT VARDSVEEN + JUSTIN HORLACHER	+5	147 \$0.00
9	PAUL BICKNESE + TRAVIS ROSE + STEVE MCMILLAN + LARRY KUROKAWA	+6	148 \$0.00
10	SEAN HOOLEHAN + SHANE BIGELOW + BRANDON CRIM + MARK SPRAKTES	+6	148 \$0.00
11	BEN WILMARTH + RANDY RIDER + GREG HARCHARIK + RANDY ERNST	+7	149 \$0.00
12	MIKE KITCHEN + JASON BUSCH + DOUG ROBERTS + JASON AERNI	+7	149 \$0.00

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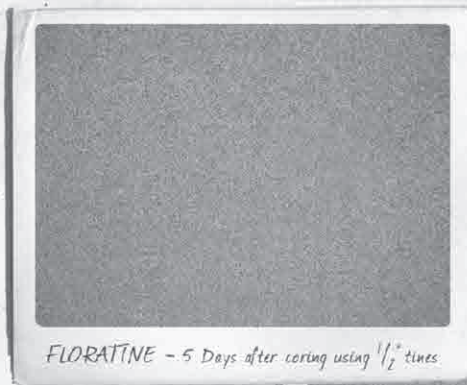
# Floratine Tops University Trials

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

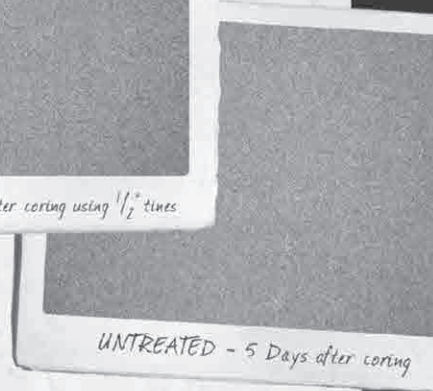
Virginia  
Tech

## 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.



FLORATINE - 5 Days after coring using 1/2" tines



UNTREATED - 5 Days after coring

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](http://www.floratine.com/research)

## Floratine products used in trial:



Liquid Sunshine™



Patented Biostimulant



Rapid Green



Power 23-0-0 + Mo



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## FLORATINE PRODUCTS ARE:

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

# The Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo was a memorable event!



# We can't control his slice, but we can control your dollar spot and brown patch.

They might not hit the fairway every time, but when they do, your golfers want optimal conditions. With OREON™ Fungicide, you can control the dollar spot, brown patch and anthracnose that would mar an otherwise perfect approach.

OREON is the only fungicide product that utilizes both PCNB and tebuconazole, which makes it an important resistance management tool. And, since it features TurfJet™, our exclusive water-based technology, it's easy to apply any time April through June or mid-August through November, our recommended application windows.

**Make the game pretty, with OREON.**

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# Hiring from Within

**Jennifer Camp, President, Inland Empire GCSA  
Parks and Recreation Director,  
City of Liberty Lake, Liberty Lake, Washington  
*Turf's Up, Summer 2018***

Hiring today is very different than it was just six years ago. At that time, when I put an ad out for staffing, I would end up with a file folder stuffed full of apps. So many would come in that I would have the luxury to pick and choose through the massive selection to find that one or two to interview and hire.

Fast forward to now. When ads go out for hiring, I am lucky to get one or two applications returned to me. Over the years, as the application inquiries have dwindled, we have had to resort to "Plan B." For us, that means training the core staff that we have and growing them. Our city is expanding leaps and bounds each year, which leads to an increasing need for parks, golf, streets, facilities and fleet staff. What do we do when we are growing and can't find people?

The city was fortunate to find a handful of young staff a couple of years back, who started out as maintenance seasonals. During their time here we have seen the potential in them and invested time and training so that they may grow and be better equipped as leaders among the crews. So far, we have had good luck with this system. We have discovered some great qualities in them, which we have been able to build upon. As they have grown in their few short years, they have been able to move into positions of higher responsibility, allowing us to train and mold them the way that suits our crews best. There is certainly a cost associated with training - but it is priceless when you have people who grow through the positions and learn the work environment and culture firsthand. In the end, this has been a better fit for our staffing and we have found success through this process.

On a lighter staffing note, a very crucial and important part of our maintenance crew is the four-legged kind. We have a pup



named Callie (Calloway) who helps with the goose problem in the winter, and chases marmots and mice in the summer season. In between her routes she supervises the shop mechanic and has lunch duty with the parks staff. Her responsibilities include therapist, guard dog, rodent control, public relations and more.

The second four-legged team we have on staff are of the hoof kind. Seven goats make up the weed maintenance department and are on duty from April through September. They make their rounds from the golf course to the parks, chomping their way through a delicious feast of knapweed, dalmation toadflax, and skeleton-weed.



During the process of weed control functions, they also serve as a petting zoo for the local families who often stop by to see them in action. They have become well known celebrities as they frequently grace the city's Facebook pages. These four-legged critters are a lot of work, but they are part of what makes our jobs a little more fun.



*Picture at left taken at Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo*

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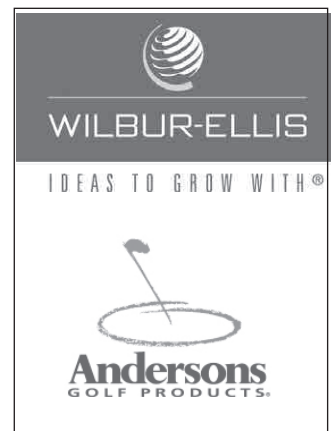
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