The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association Grass Clippings July 2018

Super/Pro Golf Challenge Date Change Aug 16, Pinecrest GC

The September date offered by The Club at SpurWing worked well for the course and our chapter, until we found out it was stepping on an important event for the regional PGA chapter.

Rescheduling for an acceptable date for all became difficult this late in the game, and Pinecrest came to the rescue. The Super/Pro Challenge will be August 16 at Pinecrest Golf Course, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Host superintendent is Mark Spraktes and host PGA profes-

sional is Tim Reinke.

Registration is open! Visit idahogcsa.org and click on the calendar event.

We would love the opportunity to work with The Club at Spurwing for our 2019 event!

Recognizing our Top Contributors of Link Scholarship Program

Every donation matters. We could not be more appreciative of all donations received, with the majority included with dues payments. They go a long way to help support our scholarship program. Thank you to all who donated in 2017.

It is important we also take the time to offer a special thanks to those who contribute at a high level. Year after year, Pat and Karin Borchard, Magic Valley Turfgrass, donats \$100 to the fund. They have been steadfast supporters since they became owners of the sod farm.

In 2017, not only did Terry Buchen donate at the spring meeting, he also donated \$100 with his dues renewal.

Assistant Liaison and Allied Liaison Positions are Open

Our recently appointed Assistant Liaison to the Board of Directors is open as Lee has left the profession. We are seeking interested candidates for the position.

Are you an allied partner interested in serving as a co-allied liaison to the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors? This position is important to the board as it helps to offer the perspective of our diverse membership.

continued page 10

Another Opportunity to Improve Course Conditions Offered

It's McCall! It's a really great program!

In trying to come up with that special lead sentence to entice you not only to read this article, but to also attend the Fall Meeting, I went with the obvious. I did, however, refrain from including, "duh" at the end of the word 'program!'

Seriously, it is a great program we are offering in McCall. The education committee is really excited about this program for multiple reasons...

Doug Soldat, PhD, Associate Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-



Doug Soldat, PhD.

"Iron layering, carbonates, and sodium in sand-based putting greens - should you be concerned?

"Getting the Most out of Your Growth Regulators with Growing Degree Days"

"Practical Turfgrass Microbiology"

Rouche, Golf Water, continued page 18 Madison, has been described by superintendents in the northwest as being along the lines of a Brian Horgan or a Roch Guassoin. While it has been years since Guassoin has spoken to our group due to his career advancement, he, like Horgan, could speak knowledgeably on a huge variety of topics – and keep it all interesting. Horgan has basically been adopted by this association. So, it is impressive when someone mentions Soldat sharing those same characteristics our association appreciates.

The annual ritual of blowout each year can be

white-knuckling, as you make sure your efforts lead to a happy start to your spring. Here is your opportunity to learn more about the process and take home any tricks you can use at your property. This is one of the topics brought to you by Paul

Idaho Chapter

GCSAA

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Assistant Liaison - Open

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.



Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!

Brad Caresia (D)
Redox
P.O. Box 129
Burley, ID 83318
(208) 678-2610
brad.careisa@redoxchem.com

(Last issue we had 11 new members!)



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 email address. 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.

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

As usual, the time is flying by and hopefully everyone is hanging in there this summer. I know we at The Valley Club are only hanging on by a thread with the course renovation going on this year. I am hoping that everyone will take a few minutes to look at the website to review some upcoming events and schedule time to participate.

It seems like yesterday the ground was frozen. I always think this is the year we are going to stay ahead of any challenges that may arise. But, now golfers are in full swing, and, as every year, all those tiny little problems that pull us from the course preparation really seem to set us back. And every year I wonder, "How did this happen again?" Well, it always happens because superintendents hold themselves and their staff to high standards and we feel we are always behind or the course could be better. The reality is when you go up to the pro-shop or the clubhouse, someone will always say the course is in the best shape ever. When someone tells me the course is playing great, my brain immediately thinks of the 10 things we still haven't finished or that one small patch of turf that is struggling. Over the years I have taught myself to look at some of the positive things on the course and to not only focus on those negative things - of which most golfers don't even see anyway. I'm always fascinated when I play another course and see what great condition it's in, because when I am off our property playing somewhere else I'm

not looking for anything that's wrong.

So what's the moral of the above paragraph? Take a day off and go play in the Super/Pro. I'll admit I haven't played in all of them, but when I do, I'm always glad I did. Maybe it's because

misery likes company. I guarantee if you talk to the other superintendents they have been having the same challenges you had this year.

Our summer at The Valley Club has been really busy as we have begun a major renovation on the course. We are installing a new irrigation system, enlarging the irrigation lake, completely remodeling all greens, tees and bunkers complexes and installing new concrete cart paths. I believe when August rolls around I'll need a break and I really hope see you at the Super/Pro hosted by Mark Spraktes at the Pinecrest Golf Club this year on August 16.



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Hard RESET

Jesse Vincent, Superintendent The Club at SpurWing, Boise, Idaho

A good friend and former boss, Jared Stanek, taught me the importance of work and family life balance. He once told me, "It's always good to give yourself a 'hard reset' a few times during the season." He emphasized the "hard reset" theory as a way to not only decompress but to return to work refreshed with new ideas and perspectives. Being in this industry, it's a challenge to take guilt free time off during the busy season.

This last winter and spring were dedicated to improving the foundation of The Club at Spurwing. We completed the in-house installation of 47 new Hunter irrigation field controllers, finished a detailed 27-hole irrigation audit and had our mainline upgraded on three holes. While our winter wasn't exactly "restful", it was worth it. Our irrigation distribution improved, and the water window has shortened, therefore using less water to irrigate the property. It's rewarding to see the course conditions improve as the ownership invests in the foundation of the property.

That being said, after our Member-Guest Tournament in early June, I was ready to take Jared's advice and give myself a 'hard

reset'. We decided to take a road trip to the Oregon coast to visit family for my first father's day. Our son, Jameson, was born in



February and this would be his first road trip. 500 miles, new baby, first road trip - it wasn't starting out to be the relaxing vacation I had hoped, but we had our fingers crossed as we left Boise. We made a quick pit stop at the family farm in Newberg, OR before making to the beach. We spent three days eating homemade meals (and a few pronto pups), drinking local IPA's, playing bocce ball and card games. We even spent one morning digging clams.

Vacation isn't vacation in my family without at least one round of golf. For Father's Day we

played Gearhart Golf Links, the oldest golf course West of the Mississippi River. It has been recently renovated and the conditions were terrific. Hats off to the crew. The experience was first class. I hope to make it back next year.

Although it was great and unplug for a few days, by the end of the trip I was ready to get back to work. I came back to work with a new drive, improved attitude, and 10 extra pounds.

to spend time with family He emphasized the "hard reset" theory as a way to not only decompress, but to return to work refreshed with new ideas and perspectives.

Feel free to heed the advice of Jared and don't forget to give yourself a 'hard reset' every once in a while. Your spouse, co-workers, boss, and golf course will all benefit.

Doug Roberts



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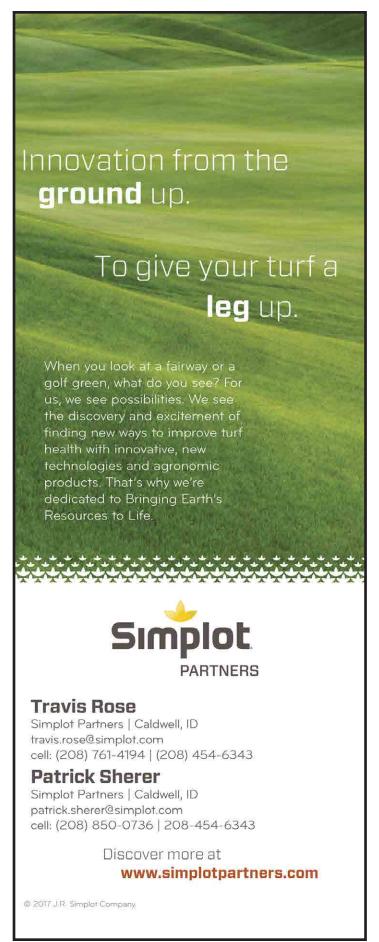
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A NOTE Received...

"Thank you to all who attended the 2018 Idaho Junior Golf Foundation Dinner and Auction. We had a very successful year and wanted to take the opportunity to thank our board members for their generous efforts and inform you first hand of our results in 2018. This year we netted just shy of \$90,000! WOW is all we can say. Last year the IJGF raised just shy of \$60,000. With our funds growing each year, the board has been developing new strategies for dispersing our money. This includes sponsoring junior golf memberships around the state. If you are familiar with a junior in need, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for all of your support and helping to "grow the game." We are excited to help juniors throughout 2018 and look forward to seeing you next year!"

There will be a drawing at the 2019 Spring Meeting for these two items purchased by the Idaho GCSA. Thanks to Mike and Delissa Rapp for representing the Idaho GCSA.























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C & B Operations

Semi-Organized Discombobulation

Josh Tolman Superintendent, Salmon Valley (ID) Golf Course

I have a lot of ideas floating around in my head. However, getting one of them to come out on paper for a newsletter article has been like trying to come up with new pin placements after 18 years of cutting cups on 3,000 square foot greens.

I feel like this title is a pretty fair representation of both my personal and professional life this past year. My dear wife took a teaching position at Terreton Elementary this past school year. She loves her job and is an excellent teacher. However, Terreton is 125 miles and a two-hour drive from Salmon. Here begins the discombobulated journey of the Tolman family of the past 12 months or so.

Last summer was filled with excitement and trepidation as my wife and our family prepared for this new and unexpected journey. Two hours each way is just a little too far for a daily commute, so my wife got a small apartment in Mud Lake, Idaho, and we sparsely furnished it with the necessities to survive five days at a time. Our family consists of four boys, along with my wife and me. My oldest son just graduated (which will be addressed later in this article), I have twin boys (who just finished drivers education and will be freshman next year), and the youngest is age 11 and going into the sixth grade. With my wife being gone, we knew our youngest would need to be in Terreton with her to ensure he continued to receive a quality education and help with his homework (she is the teacher, not me!). Our twins spent half the year in Salmon and half in Terreton, trying to decide which high school to attend this upcoming year. The oldest, of course, was not going to go anywhere else during his senior year.

Now that I am in my early forties, and old enough to have a high school graduate, life has ceased to exist as I know it. As soon as I hit 41, my body basically said, "You are old now," and "Forget about how life used to be, this is your new reality." And so come the joys of bulging disks, early onset arthritis, bad knees, sore shoulders, and basically every part of your body aching every time you attempt to get out of bed in the morning.

Now I am wondering why I spent the first 20 years of my life looking forward to being an "adult"! Something about this aging process has caused me to look more closely at my career,

my career path, and my future. It has also been brought to the forefront as I attempt to counsel an 18-year old boy on what to do, where to go, and how to achieve what you want out of life.

Generally, life in Salmon, Idaho, is pretty quiet. That is how I like it. Every time I drive through Boise, or Salt Lake, I swear to myself that I will never do that again. Except, inevitably my wife plans a family vacation that will take us directly through the personal hell that is Utah traffic. How people even live there is beyond me, but I digress.

I love what I do for a living and I enjoy where I live, so why



after 18 years would I consider anything else? I am still attempting to answer that question myself, so if you have any sage advice, please feel free to send it my way. Maybe it's just the fact that I can't find any pin positions that I haven't used before, or

the fact that I have to work two jobs just to provide basic insurance and benefits for myself, or just being stuck in a rut, and old age in general. But, I have found myself less satisfied in the daily grind of my life this past year. It has been a bit of a struggle trying to be a bachelor during the week, while being still married every weekend, and trying to fill the father's role from two different places. Sometimes it feels like being divorced with two different households, even though we are happily married. My wife and I both have careers which we enjoy and are good at, but continued page 10





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Semi-Organized continued from page 8

it has been the topic of much discussion on how to best blend those two careers together. If you have ever driven through Mud Lake, there is obviously no golf course to work and circumstances prevent my wife from teaching in Salmon at the moment, or in the near future, so here we are.

And, yet on the other hand, my career has been more solid than ever in some respects. Through the generosity of Ken Melrose and the Melrose Leadership Academy, I had the opportunity to travel to the GIS in San Antonio this year. What a marvelous experience to rub shoulders with the best in the industry, receive top notch education, and have quality time with my peers - including many of you who might happen to read these ramblings. When I was a newly installed board member of the Idaho GCSA over ten years ago, there was a gentleman who accused us of being a "good old boys club." I was pretty entertained by that notion, seeing as how I was from a nine-hole golf course in Salmon, Idaho, and my own experience with Idaho GCSA was anything but that. But, I have always tried to remember that sentiment, and strived to do my part to make sure that whether it is the local or national association that you are a part of that you feel you actually belong. I was taught from a young age that you get out of something what you put in and that holds true. So, obviously if we don't put any effort into improving our profession or our professional associations, then we probably aren't going to get a lot out of them. I have been so impressed with the knowledge and camaraderie that are apparent both in Idaho and throughout the nation within the golf industry. I am thankful to be a part of such a great group of people. Wherever my personal journey may lead, I can look at this association and give thanks for the knowledge, friendship, and professionalism that was extended to me. I hope that we will continue to extend that to all with whom we come in contact.

For some reason, that last paragraph sounds like a farewell speech, even though it is not intended to be. While at the GIS, I attended the 'Snap, Tweet, and Post' education session. I do not Tweet and I do not have a great desire to jump on the Twitter bandwagon. It seems as though a lot could be learned by not tweeting our every personal thought that pops into our head. I do use Facebook, even though my kids say that it is for old people. I clearly meet that objective! My personal favorite is Instagram. I enjoy the beauty of what God has given us to work with and I enjoy both photographing and looking at pictures of golf, and nature in general. Someday I may get a real camera other than the phone I carry in my pocket. But if you so desire, you can find me on Instagram at suprjosh101. You can find me under the



same handle for Snapchat, which I begrudgingly do because my kids do.

Has this been discombobulated enough for you? Quite the ramblings of a tired, mid-season, superintendent. I hope your journey is going well, and we'll see you at a chapter event soon.

Chapter Room Block for GIS is Open Soon

Either to your dismay or to your delight, February 2019 is right around the corner!

Our chapter room block for the 2019 GIS in San Diego will be open in August. We have two properties to offer you – depending on your budget/needs:

One property is the popular-from-experience Residence Inn Gaslamp. Our block was there in 2013 and 2016 we received high approval for the property and location. Please keep in mind this property does not have an option of two beds in the room, although most rooms have a sleeper sofa. Enjoy a free breakfast buffet, free wireless Internet, and a kitchenette in the large rooms. Our last go around, everyone appreciated the convention property being just down the street a couple of blocks and near a desirable access into the convention center.

Our second property is the Horton Grand Hotel, which in 2016 received several thumbs up. This is a grand, older hotel located in a bustling part of the Gaslamp. Enjoy antique furniture in the smaller sized rooms and the classic reflection of the 1880s. Free wireless connection is available. It doesn't offer the buffet breakfast, refrigerator, etc., but the price is lower. It is within walking distance as well, but near the opposite side of the convention center.

When these properties are available to reserve in our room block, you will be notified via email blasts. The Horton Grand Hotel is \$175. The increase in rates is only \$50 total more for a three-night stay, compared to our visit three years ago. The Residence Inn Gaslamp is \$259, about \$125 total more for a three-night stay, compared to our visit three years ago. The rooms in the block are available on a first-come basis.

One important change to note is after December 11, cancellations will now be charged \$100 through the GIS housing. A change to your reservation will not result in a fee. The \$100 fee will be in effect until reservations are turned over to the hotels. At that point, the hotel cancellation policy is in place, often with a one-night penalty for cancellation. It is important to read the fine print when you make your reservation.

Our block will open in August and rooms will be available till December 3, or until sold out.

LIAISONS continued from page 1

We ask you to attend the two board meetings each year that are held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting and the Spring Meeting, as well as correspond via email during board discussion throughout the year. We also encourage you to keep in touch with your fellow members so you may offer their voice during board discussion. The term is for approximately 2.5 years.

Please contact Lori or a board member by September 15 to submit your name for consideration or for more information. The position will be appointed at the board meeting held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting.

We would like to offer our thanks to Greg Baer, Baer Design Group, for his years of service.



Biological Control of *Poa annua* in Fairways 2017 NTA Research Report

William Johnston and Charles Golob, Dept. of Crop and Soils Sciences, WSU, Pullman, Wash.

Note: This is an abbreviated report. The complete 2017 NTA Research Report with figures, application dates, etc. is available at turf.wsu.edu (Research – Pullman; Biological Control of *Poa annua* in Fairways)

Project Background:

Elimination of *P. annua* from golf course turf has been an objective of turfgrass managers and research personnel for decades. Its elimination from golf course fairways will enhance aesthetics, playability, save money and labor, and make the game a more positive experience for golfers. The use of a biological control to achieve this objective will be proactive environmental stewardship by the turfgrass industry.

Showing promise and warranting additional research is Pseudomonas fluorescens strain D7, a deleterious rhizosphere bacteria that has been registered (EPA Reg No. 71975-U, 71975-WA-001) by Verdesian Life Sciences primarily as a biological control (herbicide) in the agricultural sector for the control of downy brome, aka cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum). D7 shows promise to provide biological control of weeds in the PNW, it was developed at WSU, has been under ongoing WSU research for over 20 years, and has been tested on numerous soils in the PNW. Anecdotal observations have indicated that D7 might have some control of annual bluegrass. However, research is needed to confirm, or dispute, the potential of D7 for the control of P. annua in turf.

Uniqueness of the study:

- 1. Potentially identify a biological control of P. annua.
- 2. A single application may provide long-term control.
- 3. Biological control may eliminate P. annua seed presently in the seed bank over time, which is not possible with currently available herbicides.

Research Objectives:

- 1) Golf course study to determine the effect of timing and rates of D7 (fall only vs. fall + spring) on *P. annua* control in a mix *P. annua*/Kentucky bluegrass fairway over several years.
- 2) Fairway study to determine the effect of herbicide treatments (Tenacity + Xonerate and PoaCure) to initially knock



down the *P. annua* population followed by D7 applications for long-term control.

3) Evaluation of *P. fluorescens* strains, other than D7, to control *P. annua*.

Experimental Design & Methods:

Study 1 - evaluate timing and rates of D7 (D7 applied only in year 1 for *P. annua* control over 3 years). Field studies were initiated at Palouse Ridge Golf Course in late fall 2015 with applications of D7 to a Kentucky bluegrass/*P. annua* fairway.

D7 applied fall only. D7, 3 applications, was applied fall 2015 at 0, 2, 10, or 30 g/acre. PoaCure was also applied at 1.26 fl oz/1000 ft2 for a chemical treatment for comparison fall 2015. Three applications of PoaCure were made fall 2017. Plots were evaluated for *P. annua* control and turfgrass quality during 2016 and 2017.

D7 applied fall + spring. D7 was applied, 1 application, fall 2015 and spring 2016. PoaCure was applied fall 2015, 1 application, and spring 2016, 3 applications. Three applications of PoaCure were made spring 2017 and 3 applications of PoaCure were made fall 2017. Plots were evaluated for *P. annua* control and turfgrass quality during 2016 and 2017.

Study 2 – Chemical + Biological study to evaluate applications of herbicides (to initially knock back the *P. annua* population) followed by D7 applications over the top of the initial herbicide treatments. Herbicide treatments were: 1) PoaCure at 1.26 fl oz/1000 ft2 in 3 applications spring 2016, 3 applications fall 2016, and 3 applications summer 2017. 2) Tenacity (4 fl oz/1000 ft2) + Xonerate (1.4 fl oz/1000 ft2) in 3 applications fall 2016 and 3 applications summer 2017. D7 was applied at 2, 10, or 30 g/acre fall 2016 and 1, 5, or 15 fl oz/A fall 2017; note, change in D7 formulation but equivalent rates. Plots were evaluated for *P*. annua control, turfgrass quality, etc. during 2016 and 2017. **Study 3** (new objective) – evaluation of *P. fluorescens* strains (other than D7) to selectively control P. annua. A combination of three P. fluorescens strains reported to have selective control of P. annua were applied to a fairway and a green at the Palouse Ridge Golf Course at WSU on 11/2/17. Also, currently underway are growth chamber and greenhouse studies evaluating formulations and rates on germination and growth of six turfgrass species.

Results:

2016 (Year 1) — see 2016 Biological Control of $\it Poa\ annua$ in Fairways at turf.wsu.edu

2017 (Year 2)

Study 1. D7 applied fall 2015 only.

On the final 2017 rating date, 2 years after the initial application of D7, there was no statistical differences in *P. annua* control by any D7 treatment. Kennedy, Hansen, and Stubbs had



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observed approximately a 50% reduction in cheatgrass, a coolseason grass with a growth habit similar to *P. annua*, 2 years following an application of D7. To date we have seen little evidence of *P. annua* control with a single fall only application of D7; however, we will continue to monitor these plots in 2018.

PoaCure numerically showed 4% less *P. annua* than the check, which indicates that the *P. annua* population was at least not increasing, as is the usual case. Three fall 2017 applications of PoaCure made were after the 9/15/17 rating date; thus, any control will not be evident till 2018.

Study 1. D7 applied fall 2015 + spring 2016.

Applying D7 in both the fall 2015 and the spring 2016 did not improve the control of *P. annua*. There was no statistical difference between any of the D7 treatments and the check.

PoaCure numerically showed 11% less *P. annua* than the check, which was better *P. annua* control than noted above in the fall 2015 only study. Johnston and Golob (2015) have noted that spring applications of PoaCure, which these plots received in 2016 and 2017, in the Pacific Northwest have not provided the significant control of *P. annua* seen with fall applications. Three fall 2017 applications of PoaCure made in 2017 were after the 9/15/17 rating date and thus any control will not be evident till 2018.

Study 2. Chemical + Biocontrol.

Unlike study 1, the reduction in *P. annua* compared to the check by both Tenacity + Xonerate and PoaCure treatments was evident. Compared to the 5/26/16 rating (36% *P. annua*,) by fall 2017 *P. annua* in the check had increased to 56% while *P. annua* in the Tenacity + Xonerate plots had decreased to 17% and the PoaCure plots had a decrease to 22%. Thus, a reduction in *P. annua* was accomplished with chemical treatments.

D7 was applied in late fall 2016 and 2017. Although there were no D7 alone treatments in the study, based on results from study 1, to date there does not appear to be additional control of *P. annua* by D7.

As anticipated, based on previous research (Golob and Johnston, 2015), the decrease in turfgrass quality due to the Tenacity + Xonerate application in fall 2016 and summer 2017 was completely gone by 9/15/17. Tenacity + Xonerate and PoaCure treatments had turfgrass quality ratings significantly better than the check.

Study 3. (new objective) Evaluation of additional strains of *P. fluorescens*. Field and laboratory studies were initiated late 2017. Field evaluation, on a green and fairway at Palouse Ridge Golf Course, of treatments applied fall 2017 will begin spring 2018.

References:

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Kennedy, A.C., T.L. Stubbs, and J.C. Hansen. 2011. Microbial control of cheatgrass, jointed goatrass, and medusahead.

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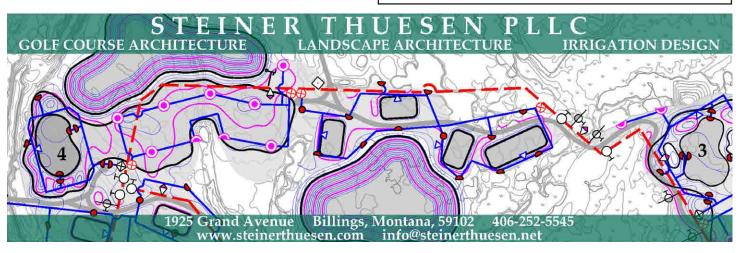
Verdesian Life Sciences. 2016. Verdesian Life Sciences announces new biological herbicide.

The date has been set for a 2021 Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo!

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Downriver Pollinator Project Summary

Mike Greene, Downriver Golf Course, Spokane, Washington

Turf's Up, Winter 2017

I spent a fair amount of time reflecting this past winter on my first year as superintendent at Downriver. Like many first years, there were highs and lows, but the area I wanted to challenge myself to improve the most was fungicide inputs as well as promoting some of the things we were already doing in regards to IPM. I believe in a "big picture" approach to disease management. Turf species/cultivars, air movement, shade/sunlight issues, mowing height, rolling frequency, topdressing practices, aerification practices, balancing fertility, moisture control, establishing thresholds and scouting are all part of a complex IPM program.

In 2016 Downriver turned 100 years old - along with origi-



nal push up Poa greens. Over the years, significant shade issues from mature ponderosa pines have developed. The BCSR (Base Cation Saturation Ratio) of the soil was out of whack, the pH was elevated and the greens were under almost constant assault from Microdochium.

Despite my efforts in these areas, there were only so many ways I was able to affect the disease triangle in 2016. There were only so many trees we could remove and rebuilding greens was not an economically viable option; we had to keep looking. We applied for, and received, a \$2500 "Feed-a-Bee" Grant from Bayer Crop Science to create about 50,000 sq. ft. of wildflower and pollinator habitat. We established a buffer around these areas and started brewing compost tea as an organic fertility source. This started me thinking about what we were doing to promote beneficial microbes on the putting greens and my short answer was, "We could do more."

We started making compost tea using more humic acids, kelp extracts, trichoderma, mycorrhizae, organic fertilizers, biostimulants and beneficial microbes to enhance the rhizospere. After a few applications, we really started seeing results. YTD we have reduced fungicide applications by 50%, and we have used about 20% less water on greens without sacrificing quality or playability, all while saving money overall.



(above applying compost tea to pollenater habitat)

As you are probably aware, bees are in trouble as a species. Their habitat is scarcer than ever. Something like one out of every three bites of food we eat as humans is made possible by honeybees. I originally ran the pollinator project idea past the golf committee/park board this past winter and they welcomed my suggestion. I told the golf committee I applied for the grant from Bayer Crop Science, but wanted to do the project whether or not. we received the grant. The Bayer program was titled, "Feed a Bee," and was launched to increase honeybee awareness, as well as additional bee habitat.

About 50% of the way through the project, Bayer notified us that we were awarded the \$2500 grant. We placed three hives of bees out there with help from a local beekeeper, Will Olsen. The project consisted of creating approximately 50,000 sq. feet of

native wildflowers, as well as a small 6,000 sq. ft. vegetable garden. The garden is planted and the project complete. The wildflowers are northwest native and the garden was primarily pumpkins, which were grown and used to decorate the course and serve as temporary tee markers for our annual Halloween Open golf tournament.

Overall, close to two acres of the golf course has been converted into pollinator habitat with the "Feed-a-Bee" grant. We planted 25 species of Pacific Northwest native wildflowers and added three hives of honeybees to the course, so that they could





forage on them. We were able to harvest 24 pints of honey from our hives this year. The proceeds will be used to purchase more wildflower seed for 2018 and establish more beneficial pollinator habitat. Will Olsen was a great help on the project and will be taking the hives down to California to work almonds and blueberries until next spring.

Through the news of getting this grant and seeing the golf course change, it spurred positive media stories/interviews from several local sources including: The Spokesman Review, The Inlander, KHQ, KXLY, KAYU, City Cable 5 and some national cross-marketing areas from Bayer, such as Yahoo Finance. The Spokesman article really kicked the whole thing off and they actually listed some facts in there that highlighted positive impacts golf courses have on the environment such as:

- 1. A healthy stand of turf acts as a giant filter for storm water pollutants and unwanted nutrients such as phosphorus in our groundwater.
- 2. Slowing runoff from storm water prevents erosion, and allows for greater infiltration into the soil, which recharges natural groundwater/aquifers.
- 3. Healthy turf around buildings, the Downriver neighborhood lowers the average high temperature through evapotranspiration in the immediate vicinity by 7-14 degrees, reducing AC needs by up to 25%.
- 4. Healthy turf removes the greenhouse gas CO2 from the atmosphere, converts it to beneficial organic matter for the soil and gives off a lot of oxygen. Not counting trees, shrubs and



flowers, the turf alone at Downriver is currently producing enough oxygen for approximately 150,000 Spokane residents every day.

I'd encourage you all to take a look at your properties and see if there are areas that are "just because," or out of play, and see if you can use them to your benefit.

Michael Greene, Golf Course Superintendent, receiving Mayor's coin award presented by Spokane Mayor David Condon



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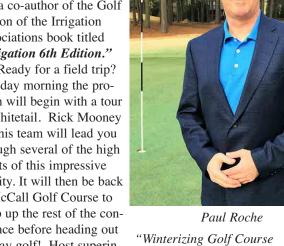
Fall Meeting

continued from page 1

Wake Forest, North Carolina. Roche is a coauthor of a textbook titled "Golf Course Irrigation -Environmental Design and Management Practices" and a co-author of the Golf section of the Irrigation Associations book titled "Irrigation 6th Edition."

Ready for a field trip? Tuesday morning the program will begin with a tour at Whitetail. Rick Mooney and his team will lead you through several of the high points of this impressive facility. It will then be back to McCall Golf Course to wrap up the rest of the conference before heading out to play golf! Host superintendent is Eric McCormick.

Check out the entire program in August. Registration and conference



Irrigation Systems"

"Maximizing the Efficiency of your Irrigation System"

material will be available online early August, followed by hard copy late August. Watch for our email blasts for the links, or you can go directly to the calendar event on our website home page, once the material is available.

Our room block will once again be at The Hunt Lodge, a Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suite property - \$115+taxes

The entire conference program and registration will be available online in August. It will also be available to download as a PDF.

When registering online, you will have the option to request an invoice or pay with a debit/credit card.

Once the conference information is available online, an email blast will ask you if you are willing to download the information, or if you would like a hard copy sent via mail.

If you do not need a hard copy mailed, please email the office now idahogcsa@gcsa.myrf.net or reply to the email blast at the time.

Thank you!

The Trailblazer

David Phipps, Northwest Regional Representative

Have you ever known one of those people who have had a profound impact on you, but you may have never realized it until one day when it was simply staring you in the eye? I have. This person is Steve Kealy, CGCS. Steve has been the golf course superintendent at Glendale Country Club in Bellevue, Wash. for 31 years and during his tenure he has had more impact on his friends, family, peers, and his local community than one could ever imagine.

Steve is simply a "get 'er done" kind of guy. Early on, I knew Steve from his involvement with Washington Friends of Farm and Forest, a lobbying group for farmers, foresters and pesticide applicators. Steve served as the president in 2005 and 2006 and I know for a fact that he was highly regarded. Steve served alongside Bruce Alber of Wilbur Ellis and Bruce told me:

"Steve understood well that this highly varied group of industries had a common interest in protecting the safe and legal use of pesticides on the National, State, County, and local levels. He helped gather our Board Members and the general members together to craft a common strategy to defend our practices."

I can remember wondering how on earth he could serve in such a prominent role and serve such a large expansive membership other than golf. Now, 12 years later, I find my self serving the same role for a group in Oregon called Oregonians for Food and Shelter. Honestly, I could not have seen myself serving in this capacity if it wasn't for Steve blazing the trail.

All about the same time, Steve was well into hosting First Green field trips at Glendale Country Club. He has not only hosted hundreds of trips at his own course, but he would travel across the NW and help other superintendents host their own field trips as well. This is when I first became familiar with First Green and saw the work Steve was doing and became inspired to host my own trips at Stone Creek Golf Club. For Steve's efforts in environmental advocacy, he was deservedly awarded GCSAA's Presidents Award for Environmental Stewardship in 2005. Once again, I honestly feel that Steve, along with a few other key individuals, played a large part in encouraging me to become an environmental advocate for our industry. I was eventually recognized for the same award in 2012.

While serving the logging, forestry and golf industry, Steve still managed to coach his son's baseball and basketball, and soccer and volleyball teams all the way to high school. If you have ever been to Seattle, you will understand when I say Steve had to cross the bridge to get home and off to practice with his son each day. That time commitment alone is simply astounding.

When Steve asked me to become part of the First Green board of directors in 2012, I jumped at the opportunity and have thoroughly enjoyed working side-by-side in helping to bring this great program to GCSAA. As I sit on Alaska flight 478 with Steve headed for Lawrence for the first ever First Green Task Group meeting, I look back at our friendship and couldn't feel more blessed from it. For me, Steve is and will always be the face of First Green. We are lucky to have him continue to be a part of the program as The First Green falls under GCSAA's umbrella.



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