

Winter Damage and Topics Specific to EMs Highlight Event

The wide variety of responsibilities handled at your facility opens the door to a wide offering of educational topics at our events! This year we invited as one of our featured speakers, Hector Velazquez. Hector's Shop produces how-to videos for small engine related issues. Velazquez will offer two presentations beneficial to your equipment managers. He has been



a small engine mechanic for over 20 years with 18 of those years as a golf course equipment manager. One presentation will address shop organizational ideas, communicating effectively with management and staff, and ways to increase professionalism. The second presentation will set you aside from the "Average Wrench" with techniques that will equip you to be "The Tactical Technician," covering items from aluminum welding to plastic welding, to plastic gouge repair, to properly insulating repairs, and much more.

Paul Koch, PhD, is well-known for his knowledge of winter injury. It has taken us a couple of years to ensure his date availability and, in the meantime, several of you have already connected with him, seeking his expertise. Koch is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology as well as in the Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Koch also oversees the University's Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab and the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program. The UW Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program is one of the largest of its kind in the country and tests approximately 200 fungicide treatments annually for efficacy against both winter and summer turfgrass diseases. Koch received his PhD from University of Wisconsin – Madison with a major in Plant Pathology and a minor in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology.



The balance of the conference will include a wide variety of topics, including on the job safety and trees.

idahogcsa.org

Spring Meeting & Trade Show, February 26-27, Boise Red Lion Downtowner

There is no better way to reward yourself after a fulfilling day of education than to take time in the trade show enjoying valuable conversations with the experts. Our allied members support you and your profession year around. This spring, once again our allied partners will be there in force to support you at the Trade Show. Their support helps to keep your dues and meeting registration low and helps the association's general budget so we can keep a strong association. Our allied partners are deserving of our attention – and we will see you at the trade show!

Enjoy all of this - plus golf! Registration material for the Spring Meeting & Trade Show, February 26-27, 2019 will be available early January.

GIS Chapters of Northwest Hospitality Room

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., The Westin, San Diego, 400 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

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

We are seeking sponsors for the event. Our sponsoring partners make all the difference and the evening would not be the same without their support. Please contact Lori with your pledge before January 11.

Auction Rounds Needed!

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

Please mail your rounds plus scorecards at this time. A letter to support your request can be downloaded from the event calendar on the website and given to your facility. Mail your certificates to: Travis Rose, Simplot Partners
4107 Challenger Way
Caldwell, ID 83605

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Editor

Lori Russell, Executive Director

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

Did you know the events shown on our website homepage are only a portion of events listed?

Click on the News/Events tab to see a larger list.

The screenshot shows the website's event calendar with three entries:

- AUG 16 Super/Pro Golf Challenge at Pinecrest Golf Club – Registration is open!**: Join us 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 16, for the 22nd Annual Super/Pro Golf Challenge, Pinecrest Golf Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho. We have several flights available so everyone can play! Scroll »
- OCT 01 Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting, Oct 1 & 2**: We can't wait to see you in McCall, ID for the perfect way to end the golf season - with your peers and great education! »
- OCT 16 Peaks & Prairies GCSA 2018 Fall Meeting & Trade Show**: Plan ahead! Our annual big event! Join us in Billings, Mont. in 2018 at a new location - Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center, 1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings.

 On the right, there is a photo of a man in a golf cap and a 'Thank a Golf Course Superintendent' button. Below the photo is an 'ABOUT US' link.

Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members!

Nate Cahill
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This is the start of a new year coming up - perfect time to join!

The screenshot shows the GCSAA website interface. At the top is the GCSAA logo and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, INFO, CLASSIFIEDS, NEWS AND EVENTS, MEMBER AREA, CONTACT. Below the logo is a 'LINK' icon. A prominent message reads: 'Don't forget to check out the job announcements!'. To the right, text 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.' Below this is a 'Submit Job Listing' form with fields for Job Title, Introduction, and Description.

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

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

I am honored to serve as president for the Idaho GCSA in 2019. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know many of you these last few years, and very much appreciate your welcome and acceptance. I greatly respect those individuals whom I have served with on the board, both past and present; they are dedicated to our chapter and

desire to help us be successful members. I know there is a great deal of knowledge and talent out there and would encourage all to become active in the association, whether that means attending meetings, serving on committees, or volunteering for service on the Board of Directors. Your experiences and leadership can be an asset to our association and your fellow superintendents.

I have been in golf course maintenance for over 20 years and I am sometimes amazed, and always incredibly thankful, for the brotherhood and camaraderie that exists in our profession. The spirit of networking, service, and genuine concern for fellow superintendents is remarkable. I am reminded of a quote from Col. John Morley, one of the founding golf course superintendents of the GCSAA, from the organizational meeting in 1926:

"The association of mankind for the purpose of advancement and improvement is a divine arrangement. Men are made for championship. No life is, or can be, self-existent. We depend

upon each other. We should organize on those principles which have lived and been recognized, wherever men have been found who have devoted themselves to the happiness of others, and sought to make men wiser, braver, and better, and imbued them with aspirations of a nobler manhood. If these teachings could find a throne in every heart, if they could find expression in the daily acts of men, they would put a new color into life and a new light on the face of humanity. This Association will be founded on justice, faithful brotherhood, and generous benevolence. It will seek to so mold and influence human character as to make men rightly appreciate and esteem one another. We will endeavor to make our Association the outgrowth of the spirit and prevailing sentiments of the times. Character has more to do with healthy human progress than any other of the many elements of civilization. It is the gem of life, which ennobles man and lifts the human to the divine image." Col. John Morley.

If we can keep these principles in mind as we go through each day, I have no doubt that each of us will be successful and find fulfillment in our careers, as well as in personal and family life. Again, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and look forward to working with you to improve personally and professionally. We are a vital part of the success of the facilities where we work, and hopefully you'll find benefit in being involved with the Idaho GCSA, and association with all of the great people in it.

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330 618 1477



Past President's | Chapter Delegate's Message | Message

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

It seems like just yesterday I was voted onto the board and now I'm the past president. Working my way through the board has been gratifying in many ways. Working with Lori and the board has kept me in tune with how the association runs, and as a board member, I hope that I have done my part and helped guide the association well. I am proud to be associated with the dedicated and hard working group of people who make up this association. I appreciate the time you have allowed me to serve on the board and I thank you.

Okay, one last rant, I know over the years I have talked about getting involved with the association. There are many ways to get involved, committees, silent auction, or BMP participation. Even if it is writing an article - because we as individuals do a lot over the season and I'm sure it would be interesting to your peers. Articles don't need to be technical, long or funny, they just have to be written. Lori is a good editor and she makes us all look good. Think back on the year and I'm sure you've completed something that we would love to hear about. Your participation is what makes this association great.



At the 2018 Chapter Delegates Meeting in November, Rhett Evans, CEO, talked about the health of our profession and the game of golf. Rhett has been the CEO of the GCSAA for roughly 10 years now and he has endless energy. He has worked hard to put the superintendent in front of everyone in the golf industry. He has bridged the gap between the PGA and other associations and now, due to Rhett, we have a seat at the table on Capitol Hill. Big deal, right? How does this affect us in Idaho? There are many people who don't have the same passion about golf as we do and they work hard at denouncing anything we do to preserve our courses. With Rhett steering the ship, we can be assured the elected board and GCSAA staff has the game of golf and us in

mind while making decisions. Financially, we are doing well but the association is always looking for ways to generate money to navigate through Capitol Hill, as it is costly. During the GIS in San Diego, I will cast our votes on the new board of directors. I will also cast votes on the following proposals:

- The first proposal is a new category (Friends of GCSAA) which will be something like USGA membership and it will allow people to donate to the GCSAA Political Action Committee (PAC).
- The second is a new dues structures that will allow clubs with GCSAA memberships to enroll more memberships at their property at a discounted rate.
- The third is to allow a bylaw change so the approval can be accomplished.
- And the final proposal is for a \$20 dues increase.

Over the next month or two I will speak with all the board candidates to discuss the above topics before I make a decision on how the Idaho Chapter should vote. Naturally, if you have any questions or input on any of the topics, feel free to contact me.



Chapter Delegates Meeting 2018

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A Short Course to Success

Josh Benson, Superintendent,
Idaho Falls (ID) Country Club

During the spring of 2016 at the Idaho Falls County Club, we were looking at ways to attract younger families to join the club. One of the most cost-effective ways was to utilize a 2.5-acre field that bordered the lane to the clubhouse, and build a short course. This field was mowed for aesthetics only as everyone drove by it to get to the clubhouse. It was a great way to use this area we had been maintaining for years and make it useful. We decided it would consist of four holes that would be very low budget, easy to maintain and player friendly. The first year we went out and scalped out four greens, all around 2500 square feet in size and over seeded them in bent grass. The same year we also scalped out 4 different tee boxes, whether they were level or not. The goal was to have four holes with different yardages. We came up with a 50, 65, 75 and 110-yard holes within the open area we had to work with. To avoid interfering with play on the 18-hole course, we kept the holes tight together and greens positioned in areas where a missed shot would stay within the short course boundaries. The main goal and purpose of the short course was to help beginners new to the game, giving them a place where they were not rushed and could get comfortable with the game of golf. It was also a facility where we could help grow our junior program and not take up space and slow the pace of play down on the 18-hole course.

After the 2016 season, the short course was a major hit for families coming out with their kids and playing a quick 4-hole round. It was also very successful for our junior program; the kids loved it, as did the pros, giving them an additional area for lessons. The spring of 2017, we decided to expand our maintenance program on the short course and mow collars around the greens and add an approach area in front of the greens to help with chipping skills on tightly mowed turf. The greens have come a long way with the constant top dressing of the native soil we built them on and we are slowly getting to a lower height of cut to get better ball roll.

The 2017 season was very successful on the short course, as well. Because of the popularity, in the spring of 2018 we gave the course an official name, The Bell course. The Bell course



name comes after our architect of the Idaho Falls Country Club, William Bell. Play was very steady once again and has become a huge hit with families with younger kids. Evenings seem to be more popular and tend to generate a lot of play. The only new thing we added to the Bell course in 2018 is foot golf. We installed four-foot golf cups near the four greens and the holes were played the same as if you were to golf

them. Foot golf was mainly utilized by the junior program.

Now, looking ahead to the 2019 season on The Bell course, we plan to rebuild the four tee boxes with money donated by members to create a level tee surface. As the course continues to grow with popularity, I can only see additional improvements in the future to putting surfaces and adding bunkers. If you have the space to add a couple short holes to your property, pursue a short course because golf is better smaller! Enjoy your winter.

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C1912

This Guy Knows Nothing About Cars!

Bryce Burton, Superintendent, Star Valley View, Afton, Wyo.

I would like to think that I'm a car guy. The first car I owned came from a barn in Firth, Idaho. I gave \$500 for it. It was old, dust-covered, and did not even run. I then forked over another five hundred bucks to my uncle who lived in Idaho Falls to rebuild the engine, fix the drive line, and make sure it would drive from A to B. Behind its wheel, I was free to terrorize drivers on the roads in western Wyoming and eastern Idaho. Oh, the freedom of having your own car. The car was a 1965 Ford Mustang. It was cankered with rust, had ripped seats, a cracked dashboard, and bald tires, but it was still so much fun!

I have been fascinated with cars my whole life, all different makes and models. I spent a lot of time with my first car, and it became a money pit. Usually the repairs were simple because the car was so basic, and as we started to restore it, I learned much about the many aspects of machinery. By the time I was ready to leave home, the car was show quality. It had new carpet, headliner, seats, dash, fenders, hood, paint and even a new steering wheel. From my experience with this Mustang, I felt like I knew everything about cars. This may sound weird, but the car made me happy.

The way a person can find a car has drastically changed since I found my first Ford. Fast forward twenty years, and the Internet is full of thousands of cars to covet. I recently found one at a dealership in Utah that I decided I could not live without. I phoned the salesman at the dealership, an extremely polite gentleman with an accent that made him somewhat difficult to understand, and questioned him about the car for sale and the car that I was hoping to trade in (so as to have a chance of affording the new one). The "salesman" didn't seem to know much about my current car and seemed almost bewildered at some of the questions I was asking. I felt a little hopeless and thought to myself, "This guy knows nothing about cars."

A couple of weeks later, I visited that particular dealership in Utah. I walked in and could not believe how nice the place was. I shook hands with the gentleman I had spoken with on the telephone earlier, and as I sat at his desk, I noticed all of the photos on the back wall. The pictures were of rough-looking race cars, and the driver in the photos resembled a younger looking version of salesman sitting across from me. As we visited, I started to think that he might know more about cars than I initially believed.

As I waited in the dealership lounge for the paperwork on the car I had just purchased, a large-screen television was playing an episode of Jay Leno's Garage I knew I had seen previously. As I watched, I was almost embarrassed at what I saw. The guy explaining and demonstrating the car in the show with Leno was none other the gentleman at whose desk I had just been sitting! I asked him about the time he spent on the show, and he told me



about his experience as well as his career. Never in my life have I misjudged someone to the extent I did that salesman on that day. Turned out "this guy" knew more about cars than most of the people in the country, if not the world!

This was a learning experience for me. I have always tried not to judge those I come across and believed I was the type of person who gives people the benefit of the doubt. However, we in the golf business have all heard stories about the greatest shots ever and maybe the worst breaks a golfer can imagine. Because of the sheer volume of these stories, I have tended to treat them lightly if not outrightly ignoring them, but the golfers telling me about how their eagle putt lipped out on the 18th green have probably done some neat things in their lives. After grossly misjudging the car salesman in Utah, I now find myself trying to care more about those with whom I come in contact.

Late this autumn, I learned that one of the old codgers at our course who can barely swing a club is a very talented wildlife photographer. Based on the thirty minutes he takes to put on his golf shoes in the clubhouse parking lot, I would have bet money that he could barely get to the forest, let alone capture amazing images of the animals there. As an introvert, it has been difficult for me to really know the people I spend time with, but maybe it is time for me to admit I obviously have an issue with misjudging people!

If you have spent the time and mental effort to finish this article, hopefully you have detected a moral to my story. Take the time to really get to know those you rub shoulders with each day instead of thinking you already know them. Maybe try to coax a funny story out of a coworker or ask them a question with more depth than, "Do anything fun over the weekend?" Everyone has had experiences in life that others can learn from. Try not to assume that just because a person doesn't seem to know what you do about a certain subject, it doesn't mean that he/she doesn't know anything. After all, the guy who I thought knew nothing about cars was entrusted to pilot a ten-million-dollar prototype around the track.



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Valley of Construction

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

When we started talking about renovating the golf course, a lot of thoughts ran through my head. One of my thoughts was that the golf maintenance operation really has this course dialed in and it would be nice to ride out the remaining years of my career without any extra stress a renovation was sure to bring. Well, go figure, the membership voted and renovation was passed. This was consisting of a new irrigation system, tees, greens and bunker complexes. We needed to do a lot of planning so this would all go well.

What I learned quickly was that you control what you control. We are The Valley Club, a mountain course at 5300 ft. elevation in Sun Valley, Idaho. We are a private club, a second course to the majority of our membership. The Valley Club has 27 holes and our plan is to renovate the original 18 holes while always leaving 18 holes in play. Naturally, we selected a committee to oversee the renovation as a lot of our members had experienced a renovation at one of their other clubs. After plenty of membership meetings, it always came back to the question, "How much will it cost and how long will we only have 18 holes to play?" My answer was always the same, it depends on when we seed or sod the greens.

For a number of reasons, we decided to seed the greens. Another thing I found out quickly was that no matter how well you plan, often times plans need to be adjusted. Whether it's a hundred-year flood or soil freezing 18-inches deeper than usual, you should plan for the worst and hope for the best. We couldn't control how fast or slow the contractors installed irrigation or when they would spray the Better Billy bunker solution. One thing I could control were the greens. I made time every day to monitor them.

The main reason I had time for the new greens was because I had built a great team. I have two superintendents to oversee the daily operations at The Valley Club. Jason Sigmund and Ken Thornock would spend the first part of the day working hard on the 18 holes open for play. As play became busy on the 18 holes, Jason and Ken would filter over to the renovation for another eight hours and monitor irrigation, bunkers, cart-paths, tees and, of course, the greens. Jason and Ken made it easy for me to spend time seeding, fertilizing, rolling, monitoring and mowing the greens. Mowing the greens was refreshing and I enjoyed

every single minute watching them mature.

During construction of the greens, we were sure to be present every step of the way and, as I probably already conveyed to you, we monitored their every move. The greens were shaped by Titzer shaping under Heritage Links and the golf course designers were Beau Welling Design, working with Davis Love III (DL3) Design. We worked closely with Shane Robichaud of the Welling firm. Shane was adamant about how the greens were to be constructed. Sub grades and finish grades were shot in 10-foot grinds to be sure the finish grade mirrored the sub grade. After the finish grade was approved, the green surround complex would be sodded with Kentucky bluegrass. The green would be floated out one more time by Titzer and that's where we took ownership.

For a number of reasons, we chose to seed the greens over sod. We developed a pre-plant program and applied that prior to seeding. In this article, I want to focus on technique - not fertility. We seeded the greens with T-1 bentgrass at a desired rate of 1.5 lbs. per 1000 square feet. Using GPS technology, I had the square footage of the green so it was easy to be sure I applied the correct amount on every green. For example, if the green was 5000 square feet I knew I needed 7.5 lbs. of seed. Even though I calibrated the seeder, I would go to each green with a known amount of seed and then return to the shop and vacuum out any remaining seed and weigh it to determine what I applied. One thing I found out while calibrating is it's important to have plenty of seed in the hopper because the weight of the seed will help push the seed through the spreader. With the excess seed in the hopper, the rate will remain consistent while applying. I seeded in three directions at .5 lbs. in each direction. Using a drop spreader, it's easy to not overlap enough, so be sure to give that some thought and practice. I put marks on the spreader to be certain the overlap was consistent each pass. I seeded in the early morning so the wind wasn't a factor and also had plywood on the collars for turning the spreader so no bentgrass seed would contaminate the bluegrass surrounds. The next process was to accomplish good seed to soil contact. After seeding, we chose to dimple in the seed with a Sand-pro. I know there are other methods but I have

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continued from page 10 **Valley Construction**

always felt comfortable with dimpling.

Having done this before, I know the importance of dimpling in a green; it's imperative to have zero missed areas. The slightest sliver missed while dimpling will not germinate. After talking with Joe Titzer (the shaper), he said he had seen a superintendent modify their Sand-pro to limit skips. So, we dug up an old sand-pro and our equipment managers Eric Heywood and Mike Beall put an extra row of tires on the Sand-pro to make seed to soil contact easy work. Not only did it speed things up, but the misses were virtually zero. When I seeded the first green, I went back and forth with the sand-pro and then did a cleanup lap and found that cleanup laps around the green made little tire ruts. On the next green, I drove in straight lines making no turns on the green surface. Notice in the photo, I dimpled the outside first without turning on the green; I only did small straight sections on the perimeter until it was complete. I took my time, and, after the perimeter was complete, I dimpled in the remainder of the green. I was sure to not miss any areas and stay on the green so no seed went in the bluegrass surrounds. I found that the moisture content needed to be perfect, it needed to be firm, but not wet where the seed could stick to the Sand-pro tires and contaminate the surrounds.

The growing season is short in Sun Valley, so we scheduled all the greens to be seeded no later than July 1. Having a few set-backs, we ended up seeding the last green on July 30. Like most superintendents taking on a renovation, my assistants and I signed up for renovation and construction classes at GIS the prior year to get the latest and greatest techniques. Seeding rates varied from class to class. But most everyone was consistent on mowing the newly seeded green as fast as possible. Everyone in class began telling their story on how quickly they mowed after seeding. Some as little as 10 and 12 days. The instructors had encouraged mowing quickly and to mow as low as possible to promote lateral growth. I quickly learned that too early will humble you and the mower will gouge the tender surface leaving behind scars that will take valuable time to heal. I also learned that golf course designers don't design greens square and flat like university test plots.

So, if you haven't put this article down yet, I'll tell you
continued page 14



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continued from page 12 **Valley Construction**

when I mowed our greens. After 10 days I rolled them three times with the rear roller of a Toro 1000, then tried to mow them at 12 days. I mowed at .150 and for our greens it was too early, although I did the tug test on the leaf blade and the leaf snapped rather than uprooting the plant. But, it was still too early. Actually, most of the first green we mowed went well, with the exception of the four long lasting and unsightly gouges. I decided to raise the mowing height and hold off for another week before I mowed the second green. It was difficult because I really wanted to tell everyone we mowed in less than two weeks after seeding. The extra week made a huge difference as the root density was greater, which held the surface together perfectly. 18 days after seeding, we mowed at .225. The difference was incredible, with no gouges, and I could feel how much more stable the greens mix was under my feet. I mowed again the next day and did a clean lap as the edges felt stable, as well. After a week of mowing, we lowered the height. After a month, the greens were smooth and we then started using baskets.

I said I wasn't going to talk about fertility but I wanted to mention a few things. I think there are many great grow-in programs and I am not going to recommend one over another. However, if you have taken any of the renovation classes, they talk a lot about quick germination by irrigating more frequently or covering the greens with tarps. We chose not to cover the greens for a couple of reasons - mainly because of labor and we wanted to have as little foot traffic as possible. For our grow-in program, we applied a pre-plant. After germination, we were scheduled to apply ½ pound of N every two weeks. With the USGA greens and water running every hour from day light to sun down, our fertility wasn't enough. It was clear the greens required more due to leaching from the constant irrigation. We used organic and some ready available fertilizers and used about twice as much as we planned. After five weeks we started using

the spray hawk to apply liquid fertilizer. In the photo below, the turf is 28-days old.

The growing season in Sun Valley, Idaho is short and our main focus is to have healthy turf and survive the long winters. The greens filled in quickly and, after four weeks, we decided to verti-cut and topdress all the new greens. At the time we only topdressed, using the walk behind spreaders to limit any tire marks. The book says get the mowing height down as quickly as possible. We were somewhat conservative and got the height down to .150. Winter comes quickly here and .150 is what we raise the greens height to for the winter. Next year, when we open in May, I feel the mowing height will be roughly .110 to .125. Winter came rolling in quickly, but we were able to get the Turfco 1540 topdresser out and topdress heavier.

Living in a dry climate, we don't see a lot of disease pressure on our greens. We won't be fooled again next year when we renovate the last nine holes. With all the heavy irrigation on the green, the disease snuck up quickly. Take all patch was the first to arrive and we responded quickly with a shot of Heritage Action. In October, we let our guard down slightly and got hit with some Pythium. Naturally, I questioned the diagnosis of Pythium to Richard Buckley at Rutgers. Buckley said I need to take a Pythium class because there are many new types of Pythium since I graduated. Live and learn I guess, but we'll be ready next year.

In short, what I have learned this year:

1. Build a good team before you start.
2. Be sure the greens are constructed properly from start to finish.
3. You will be taking care of the greens, so you should seed. Take your time and think.
4. Make sure you monitor greens every day to look for anything that may need attention.
5. You are responsible for the greens as soon as construction is done, so don't mess it up!



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appointed Assistant Liaison, Paul Venable, Warm Springs Golf Course, and Allied Liaison, Doug Roberts, DryJect Turf Services. Roberts will serve with co-liaison Travis Rose, Simplot Partners. (Left to right - Sigmund, Venable, Roberts)

Congratulations to Newly Elected Director and Appointed Liaisons

Jason Sigmund, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho, was newly elected by his peers to the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors! Sigmund joins Josh Tolman, Salmon Golf Course, Salmon, Idaho, who was re-elected to the board. Sigmund and Tolman serve as directors along with Bryce Burton, Star Valley View, Afton, Wyo.

Our officers elected at the business meeting are President - Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course; Vice President - Josh Benson, Idaho Falls Country Club; and Secretary/Treasurer - Joe Aholt, Hillcrest Country Club. We also welcome newly

GCSAAPAC – *What is that?*

Jeffrey Jensen, Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club,
Jackson, Wyo. (The Perfect Lie Nov. 2018)

By this point, many of you have heard about the GCSAAPAC, which rolled out this year. While we all know what the “GCSAA” part means, many people might be unfamiliar with the “PAC” part: political action committee. In order to avoid sounding like a political novice you would simply say “pack” not “P-A-C.” In the long version, the organization is called the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Political Action Committee.

Which is quite the mouthful, so we can simply say GCSAA -“pack.”

Now that the political linguistics are out of the way, we can get down to the political nuts and bolts. For those of you new to this, a political action committee is an organization that receives contributions from its members and then donates those funds to a campaign, ballot initiative, or particular piece of legislation. In the United States, the term “PAC” also has a legal definition created to help with campaign finance reforms. While state election laws vary, at the United States federal level, an organization becomes a PAC when it spends more than \$1,000 to influence a federal election. There are many more state and federal rules and nuances regarding PACs, this is simply a basic definition. Also, it should not be confused with “Super PACs,” a term you may have heard on the news. Though the term seems like it might be a group of PACs, the primary difference is that a Super PAC cannot make contributions to a candidate’s campaign or political party.

So, does this mean the GCSAAPAC is going to start funding some of those commercials that bug us every election season? Probably not. It means that through the GCSAAPAC, superintendents now have another tool available to engage more effectively in the political space. Simply put, we can safely assume that

politicians at least care about two things: their constituents and money. We can debate the varying degrees politicians do, can, or should care about one or the other. But on a basic level, these are the two things that get them elected or re-elected.

The GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador program has been enormously successful in putting superintendents in the same room as lawmakers. This is the constituent part. If you doubt this, I highly suggest you make the trip to Washington D.C. for National Golf Day next spring. Just sign up, make the trip, and the next thing you know, you will be in your U.S. Representative’s or Senator’s office, in addition to taking part in a number of other fun and interesting activities.

For the money part, that is where the GCSAAPAC comes into play. If you are like me, you get an uneasy feeling when you hear “money” and “politics” in the same sentence. There is nothing inherently wrong with that. But we all know that at a certain point it takes cash to get something done! Try to think of it in terms of your IPM program. If cultural practices and chemical applications are the foundations of your IPM program, then the Grassroots Ambassadors and GCSAAPAC are the foundations of a superintendent’s work in political advocacy.

We are now joining our allied partners like John Deere and Syngenta which already have PACs. In doing so, we are adding to the influence our industry can exert on our lawmakers. We should applaud both the GCSAA staff and the GCSAA Board of Directors for all of their hard work to get this piece of our political advocacy program up and running.



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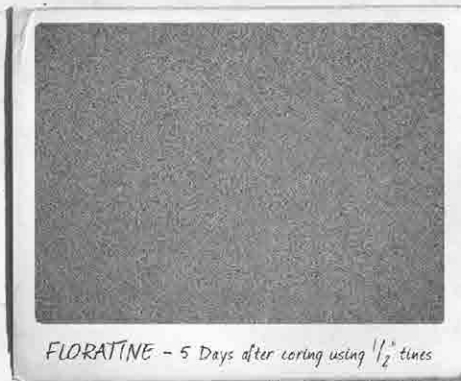
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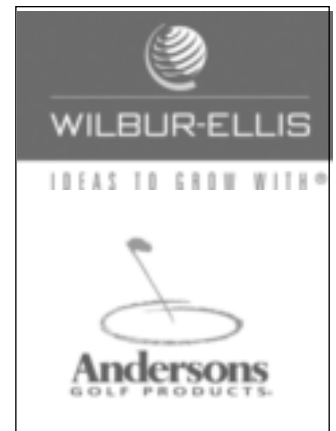
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