

The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association

Grass Clippings

December 2019

See You February 25 & 26!

What do layered soils, topdressing programs, course drainage, earth worms, developing a safety program, “epic” failures, improving your course conditions, and spending time with people who share the same passion of turf all have in common? The answer is simple – the Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show!

Join us for an event that will pump you up for the upcoming season! We will deliver education of value, time to talk about products and services, time to network with your peers – and, golf. We will pull it all off February 25 & 26, 2020 at the Red Lion Boise Downtowner.

There to share their expertise with you will be Adam Thoms, PhD, University of Iowa; Paige Doyle, Utah State University; and Mickey McCord, McCord Golf Services.



Adam Thoms, PhD

Adam Thoms PhD, has successfully pulled off what some have questioned even possible – the ability to offer a four-hour seminar on topdressing that is so

interesting, time actually flies by and feels well spent. While we don't have that much time available we are confident you will benefit from the abbreviated version. Thoms is an assistant professor in the department of horticulture at Iowa State University. His appointment allows him the opportunity to be involved with extension, research, and teaching. Thoms' research focuses on the performance of turfgrasses subjected to various management techniques.

Paige Boyle is a Presidential Doctoral Research Fellow at Utah State University. She earned a Bachelors in Environmental, Soil, and Water Sciences and Masters in horticulture from the University of Arkansas. As part of her doctoral dissertation research at Utah



Paige Boyle

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Idaho BMPs in the Works

We are pleased to announce GCSAA has awarded a \$10,000 grant to assist with the completion of the Idaho BMPs. A committee consisting of members from both the Idaho GCSA and the Inland Empire GCSA have been working with Ken Benoit and Stacey Kingsbury of Kingsbury Consulting through emails and conference calls. Kingsbury Consulting has helped numerous GCSAA chapters complete their state BMPs and we are excited to be working with this knowledgeable team.

The committee will meet with Kingsbury Consulting in Boise, in conjunction with our Spring Meeting in February. We thank our volunteer committee for assisting in the completion of the BMPs, which will be completed in 2020.

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

Our 2020 Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room will be offered in a unique location! Enjoy the evening with your turf industry peers at our private event at the Tin Roof of Orlando, Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30, January 29, 2020. This eclectic space offers indoor and outdoor options. Complimentary food and beverages will be offered thanks to the generosity of our allied partners. **We are seeking sponsors for the event.** We are requesting our sponsor logos so we may display on screens at the venue. Please contact Lori by January 6 with your support.

Auction Rounds Needed!

Our silent auction for rounds for four plus carts (preferred), will take place at The Boise Golf Show. We depend on high course participation to be successful– 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
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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 a website interface with a navigation bar at the top. Below the navigation, there are three event listings:

- 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 side, there is a photo of a man in a golf cap and polo shirt, with the text "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent" and "ABOUT US" below it.

Remember - we have a new email address:
idahogcsa@idahogcsa.org

Helpful hints below and above how to use our website.

Click on our calendar events for more information and to register online for events. You have the option of paying online or requesting an invoice.

The screenshot shows the GCSAA website with a navigation bar (HOME, ABOUT, INFO, CLASSIFIEDS, NEWS AND EVENTS, MEMBER AREA, CONTACT). Below the navigation, there is a "Submit Job Listing" form with fields for "Job Title", "Introduction", and "Classification". To the right of the form, there is a "LINK" section with the text: "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 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

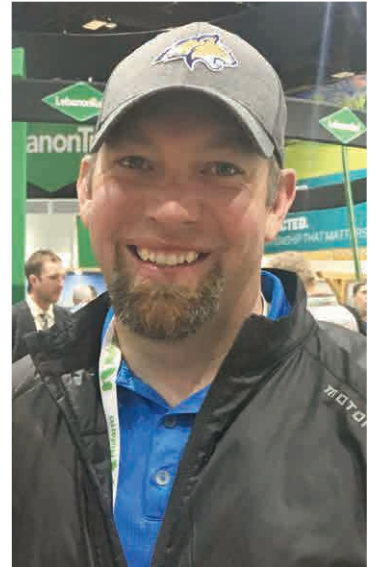
Josh Benson, Idaho Falls Country Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Wow, another season has flown by and we are only a few weeks away from Christmas Day! I just returned home from Billings, Mont., where I spent Thanksgiving. It's the first time I had made it back home since becoming a superintendent 10 years ago. We have had a very cold fall and with that, I was able to close the golf course early and put it to bed for winter, allowing me to go have Thanksgiving with my family. As the golf season tends to fly by and we lose track of time, I am making it a goal in 2020 to get away from the course a little more and spend time with my family. I hope all you can do the same, as we are not getting any younger.

I am honored to be serving as the Idaho GCSA president in 2020. I have enjoyed serving on the board the past few years and I am excited to work with Lori Russell and this year's Board of Directors. For those who don't know me, I have been at Idaho Falls Country Club since 2007 and superintendent since 2009. I grew up in Billings and attended Montana State University, receiving a horticulture degree. I have worked on golf courses in Montana from 2002 until I was hired in 2007 at Idaho Falls Country Club. I have been a member of the GCSAA for 12 years.

I would like to thank Pete Dondero at Ruby View for hosting the fall golf outing and everyone who attended the education conference in Elko, NV. I would like to also thank everyone who donated to the silent auction and to all the winning bidders. We had great speakers for the education, despite the attendance being lower than normal. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the education conferences, as they are vital to keeping our association healthy and it is a great time to network with your peers, further your education and support our allied partners. For most of us to attend these events, there is always travel involved. We encourage you to make it a point this year to attend our educational conferences. The travel will be worth your time to participate.

I hope to see you all in Boise for the spring meeting and trade show, February 25 - 26.



DUES invoices were emailed in November. Do you need another copy?
If so, email Lori at idahogcsa@idahogcsa.org.

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Past President's Message

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

As I wrote in July, time seems to pass so quickly. And here we are, five months later. Another season ended, the course is under snow (at least on my course), and we are well into the holiday season. I am indeed thankful for the past year and experiences that I have enjoyed. I hope that everyone has had a successful year and is looking forward to future challenges and opportunities.

I want to thank Lori and the rest of the board (and other chapter members) with whom I have been able to work and get to know. It has been a great experience and I value the opportunities that I have had to grow and stretch my knowledge and abilities. I would encourage anyone to take the opportunity to run for the board and serve. It is not that big of a time commitment, and the return on personal growth and learning is extremely valuable. I will be another year on the board as past president, and I have enjoyed my association with all of the great people in the chapter. I will echo Gerald's message from a year ago... Just get

involved. Volunteer for a committee, write an article or something for the newsletter; there are many opportunities to help out and offer knowledge, experience and expertise to other members.

As things may be a bit slower this time of year. Try to take the opportunity, whether at a conference or seminar, or on your own, to improve your abilities and knowledge. Work to become a more valuable asset to your facility and team. Enjoy time with family, and/or other activities that help you have a fresh perspective. I hope that everyone has a good holiday season, and is able to step back a bit, decompress, and rejuvenate for another year.



Scholarships!

April 20 is the deadline for the Link Turf and Legacy Scholarships.

For more information and to complete an online application or to download an application, visit the INFO tab at IDAHOGCSA.org



Cory Isom
Agronomist, USGA Green Section,
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Cory Isom has been named as an agronomist in the USGA RSI-Green Section's West Region. He is based in Puyallup, Washington.

Cory brings to the USGA a strong background in academics and practical experience. He is a graduate of Oregon State University with a Bachelors in Turf Management as well as a graduate of the University of Oregon with a Bachelors in Business Administration. Cory has a distinguished career as a golf course superintendent with stops at Cordeville in San Martin, Calif., The Preserve Club in Carmel, Calif., and most recently at The Roaring Fork Club in Basalt, Colo.

Welcome, Cory!



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Spring Meeting & Trade Show

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State, she is studying clover inclusion for value-added turf. Her research background includes stream restoration design, in-vessel compost processing, and earthworm management on golf course turf. Boyle recently completed the BMPs for the Utah GCSA and is a presenter at the 2020 GIS in Orlando.

Mickey McCord of McCord Golf Services and Safety is well known to many of you. He is a leader in the industry for Helping Golf Course Superintendents create safe work environments.

McCord was a golf course superintendent for 25 years and managed two full construction/grow-in projects in North Carolina. He has also worked on the supply side of the business with Scotts Proturf and Helena Chemical Company. McCord is committed to helping your staff work safely and has developed safety training classes, as well as tips for motivating your staff to work safely and “buy-in” to the program.



Mickey McCord

McCord will offer The Essential Elements of Successful Drainage and Developing a Safety Program.

Networking is important. We know there are a lot of great conversations taking place in the evenings over a dinner or beverages – so this year, we won’t interrupt those key conversations. This year, we are making a change! We are putting together a panel discussion by day to talk about those dreaded failures. Not just your day to day failures – those epic ones that can finally be discussed without the discomfort. Learn from your peers. Maybe you will avoid the same issues.

But wait, there is more! Reward yourself after a fulfilling day of education by taking 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 25-26, 2020, will be available early January.

If you are willing to download the conference information from the calendar event our website in January, and you do not need hard copies emailed, please let Lori know.

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Member Profile ~

**Paul Venable, Assistant Superintendent,
Warm Springs Golf Course,
Boise, Idaho**



In my twelve years in the industry, I have spoken to or heard of many of our colleagues who had the idea when they were younger that their path would lead to a golf course. Whether they grew up playing, or maybe Dad was a superintendent, golf was in the cards. For me, the idea of eventually maintaining a golf course never crossed my mind.

I grew up in Prairie, Idaho on my grandparent's small cattle ranch. Prairie is a small town in the mountains southeast of Boise. When I lived there the population was around 75 people. Most residents are retirees or ranchers and their families. I went to a one-room school house with a total of fourteen students my last year there. All the roads are dirt; there are no traffic lights. No golf courses within 45 miles, by the way.



When I was eleven, my parents moved us to Boise. The reason for the move was for better work opportunities for them and better education for me. I attended fifth grade through high school in Boise. I graduated from Borah High School in 1999. After taking a yearlong break from school, I enrolled at Boise State. I was there for three years making it about half way to the goal of a degree

in business. That was the point at which I decided college was not for me for the time being. Running out of money to pay for school and having no interest in student loan debt also helped make that decision.

Even while I was going to school, I worked full time at a variety of jobs. I have worked in many fields since my first job when I was fourteen, cleaning construction sites. From working in kitchens and bars to automotive service or selling vacuum cleaners, I had tried a wide range of employment options without finding one that interested me long-term. When I was twenty-six, a friend told me about an opening at the golf course where he worked. So, I figured I would give it a try; at least I would be outside.

I applied for the nine-month seasonal position at Warm Springs Golf Course and got an interview (two, actually). I met with the superintendent, Lee Monroe, whom many of you know. At the first interview, Lee did not like that I did not have golf course experience, and I was turned away. Somehow, in the following days, the fact that I had grown up on a ranch was mentioned to Lee. Hearing this, I was asked back for another meeting. When I verified that I had indeed grown up on a ranch, Lee told me that he had, as well, and apparently that common ground was enough to get me the job.

My first six months on the job I was the "bunker guy." Raking bunkers, cleaning restrooms and emptying trash cans was not the most prestigious or encouraging of job descriptions, but at least I was outside, right? Eventually I graduated to mowing rough, which I did for the next two seasons. As time and seasons went by, I learned more things and duties to the point where I was proficient in most jobs the course required. As I learned the job and the industry, I started to feel like this could be a long-term path for me if the opportunity presented itself.

After my fourth season, Lee retired, and the assistant Jim Wallace became superintendent. Due to some departmental issues, Jim was without an assistant. Even though I was only a
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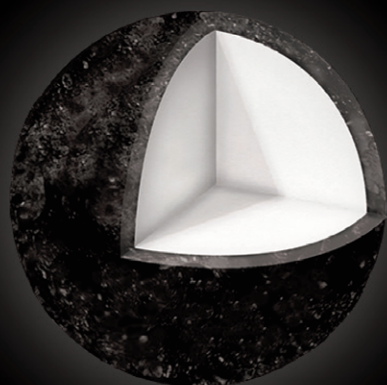
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Venable continued from page 8

seasonal employee, I started trying to take on some of the responsibilities left by this void. I organized the daily duties of the crew, started learning to manage the irrigation system, and got my pesticide license, among other things. My efforts and ambition were rewarded after a couple seasons by being considered effectively the “foreman” for the crew during the season. This setup was reasonably effective and well received by the rest of the crew.

The added responsibilities were not a problem. I even embraced the idea of being in a leadership role. That being said, I still found the need to consider my overall situation and outlook. I had been working as a seasonal employee for almost ten years. During that time, I also had to work part time at other places to make do. When I was in my twenties this was not so bad, but now being in my mid-thirties, the outlook was less than encouraging. I had even looked around for available full-time positions both in and outside the golf industry.

Thankfully, though, it was around this time that my concerns were alleviated. Management at the golf course decided

that it was time that the course had an assistant superintendent. My years being at the same course, my quality of work and my willingness to take on leadership responsibilities made me the best choice.

I have now been the assistant superintendent at Warm Springs Golf Course in Boise for two and a half years. There was an acclimation period getting used to full-time and the additional responsibilities and expectations. With the help of Jim Wallace and the continuing education provided by the Idaho GCSA and other sources, I feel like I am settling into the job very well. It is also nice to know what I will be doing over each winter instead of hoping to find some random part-time job.

For a lot of people, regardless of what or where they think their career path may end up, it does not always come to be. Life can, and often does, change the direction we head - no matter how it began. Through successes and set-backs, random occurrences, and sometimes dumb luck, we often end up where we never thought we would. As I said, the idea of maintaining a golf course never crossed my mind when I was younger. Now, it is strange to think of doing anything else.



Paul and his wife, Marianne Hudson-Venable

Paul has been at Warm Springs Golf Course since 2007 and became the assistant superintendent 2017. Marianne Hudson-Venable, his wife, is a Professor of Criminal Justice at BSU. Paul’s family also includes his stepdaughter Sofia Hudson and a nine-year old lab/pointer named Dexter. Hobbies: BSU football (season tickets since 2010), hockey, baseball, wood-working, camping, hiking. Paul serves as the assistant liaison to the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors.



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Irrigation Update (Part 1)

Ben Wilmarth, GCS Eagle Hills Golf Course, Eagle, Idaho

After I told Lori I would do a write up for her, I was excited to do my best for you all and take up a few paragraphs of space - with material that had nothing to do with irrigation. I swear I made a real effort, but quickly realized that's just not going to happen, Sorry about your luck. This surely won't be the last time I write for the group, so figure I might as well make it a series.

Ok, Part 1, here we go:

Let's start off fresh from the beginning. I can't tell you exactly what day it was when I officially decided to dedicate most of my free time to focusing on everything there is to know about the world of irrigation. What I can tell you is that my collection thus far of irrigation experiences, from the beginning to today, has consistently been impactful. Over the

last six years in a superintendent role, it has been simple to structure my personal priorities based on my career.

- 1) **Staff**- Without staff, we have no ability to maintain a property.
- 2) **Irrigation**- Without proper irrigation, we cannot grow healthy turf & will have little to maintain.
- 3) **Equipment**- Without equipment, we cannot maintain or manage the turf we have grown.
- 4) **Facility**- Without a proper facility, it is difficult to manage staff and maximize the lifetime of our expensive specialized equipment pieces.
- 5) **Agronomics**- Without sound agronomics, we cannot compliment the first four priorities and further maximize turf health, density, color and conditioning.
- 6) **Drop Box** - For greens fees.
- 7) **Homestead**

We all know, as superintendents, we share many common tasks and responsibilities in our workday, but each of our golf courses can give us very different challenges. We also know that these unique property challenges can change how we view these same priorities for


many different and real reasons. Other than staff - which is a special focus and #1 for a reason - I can generally line the rest of these priorities up shoulder to shoulder, give them equal energy and consistently yield more results and success out of that dang water. And that is why I keep it as my second item on my list of importance. So, the journey begins and yes, for those of you who know me well enough, you know I will bug you about auditing your one-three million-dollar asset annually, just like a dentist tells you to floss your teeth after every meal!

Step 1: The Basic Audit

Assess your entire system in this general order:

- * **Irrigation Source** – What is the water quality and pond capacity?
 - * **Pond Intake** - Is it clean, suspended and
- continued page 14





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Irrigation continued from page 12

free flowing, or does the intake lay in the mud at the bottom?

* **Wet Well** - Is it clean of debris? Do you have the bottom of it cleaned out regularly?

* **Panel** - Make sure your panel is clean, cool and the safety functions are operating properly.

* **Mainline Filter Screen** - Make sure it stays clean, clear and functioning properly, otherwise you will suffer daily with performance loss as it clogs.

* **Pipe Network**

This is where a good as-built comes in and needs to be checked.

- Do you know the size and runs of each mainline section? 12", 10", 8", 6", 4" or 3"?
- Do you trust your as-built? Do you have one? If not, you need one.
- Do you know where your mainline valves are? Do you exercise them annually?
- Do you know what lateral every rotor belongs to and where the isolation valve is that controls it?

This is where a good audit sheet comes in to record the following info:



- Do you know each rotor, station #, make, model, nozzle color, stator, arc, and area?
- As you collect station detail info, create a homework list of physical or performance issues (level, raise, cracked, weeping, out of adjustment etc.).

* **Field Controllers** - Make sure they are cleaned of bugs and debris annually, and wiring is clean.

* **Central Control**

- Enter all field rotor data correctly (good info in, good water performance out).
- Enter correct pipe network details into hydraulics. If this info is incorrect, you will yield poor performance results immediately and things can get confusing.

* **Pumps** - How healthy are they? I have two 50hp pumps on my front nine and the panel tag states 1100GPM station. As they age, they lose their performance between being rebuilt. Each season, I systematically test them to see at what GPM they fail to push the rotors @ 80 PSI. I stand in the pump house while my irrigation tech cruises the course turning on four fairway rotors per field satellite at a time until he notices a slight drop in psi in the rotors while I continue to monitor the psi on the panel. When he radios me telling me the rotors dropped in pressure is generally the exact same time I see my pump panel start dropping from 110 psi steadily.

continued page 16

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Irrigation continued from page 14

I then do the simple math:

- 32 rotors running before pressure dropped
- Toro 830 Brn nozzle = 25GPM @ 80 PSI (Important to have your tech turn on like rotors with the same nozzles so numbers are more accurate)
- 32 fwy rotors x 25.3 GPM = 809 GPM & holding @ 100-110 PSI

I now know the current health and performance of my pump station, regardless of what the station tag tells me. The two pumps may have pushed 1100GPM when they were brand new, but not today.

Now take that 800GPM and enter it in your central control hydraulic tree as the Master Pump Capacity.

Final stamp of approval is to grab that six pack of your choice and your irrigation tech and go watch your system run for the first 45 minutes of the evening (or until dark). Make sure rotors are getting the pressure they require. Recognizing the difference of 70psi to 80psi is tough, but I can assure you, you will recognize when a head is running @ less than 60 psi - and that is what you are looking for.

Always assess pump performance after you have cleaned up your central control and hydraulics. This gives you a true representation of the current performance ability of your system as it runs on "auto" at night and makes for a much tastier satisfying beer in the end.

Now that the system has been looked over nicely and good



info is in the computer:

- Limb or remove trees blocking valuable turf areas!!
- Monitor daily moisture levels by feel and a moisture meter if you have one
- Continue to work on the physical issues list (Leveling, Raising, Repairing etc.)
- Audit annually and build a consistent staff management plan and your system will become easier to work with, giving you better turf conditions year to year, I promise!

Irrigation is a beast and I love learning something new about it every day. So, please, feel free to enlighten me on what you have learned. I am open to hearing a better way to go about anything within this topic. I am always happy to talk shop about irrigation or any subject!

Take care and see you all this spring!

2019 Chapter Delegates Meeting - K.Hicks, J. Busch and G. Flaherty



Blast from past - 2002:



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Chapter Delegate's Report

Gerald Flaherty, CGCS

The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho

The Chapter Delegates Meeting brings together representatives to Kansas from GCSAA-affiliated chapters. Delegates represent the opinions of their chapter regarding initiatives and issues affecting the profession, the association and its members. In addition, they communicate information they receive at the meeting to their chapter. This meeting also starts the new election year, and delegates meet GCSAA board candidates and discuss their campaign platforms.

The meeting held October 28 & 29 opened with words from our CEO Rhett Evans and board members. Topics discussed were the GCSAA's financials, which in general are very strong. One of the reasons we are so strong is how we are funded. I thought this was interesting.



How GCSAA is funded:

- 48% Industry Support
- 25% Member Dues
- 18% User fees

What this means is, our dues are only responsible for 25% of the cost it takes to run the association per member. So, if we didn't have outside money, our dues would be four times the cost of what we pay annually.

I wanted to keep the rest of this short and sweet:

- Most of the states have completed their BMP program and our chapter isn't far behind looking at 2020 completion.
- After Idaho's BMP is in place you can do the Facility Adoption for your property. GCSAA has made it very easy to copy and paste the template for your facility.
- I highly encourage you to look into the First Green Program which will not only promote the game of golf, but will also promote you and your course in a positive fashion. GCSAA has made it easy with a step by step program that you can get from Leann Cooper at the GCSAA.
- Be sure to check out the new membership category Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent. As a member of this category, members can participate in National Golf Day and donate to the GCSAA PAC.
- The GIS is early this year so be sure to sign up if you are considering attending in Orlando January 25-30.
- I will be attending the GIS and I will cast our votes for positions on the GIS Board of Directors.
- Call me any time if you have questions, 208-471-0426.

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Idaho GCSA 2019 Fall Meeting!

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**Thank you Pete Dondero and
Ruby View Golf Course for
hosting golf!**

Three teams tied for first with a 74!
Playoff results:

1st Place -

Brian Roth & Parker Cohn

2nd Place-

Bryce Burton & Mark Spraktes

3rd Place -

Josh Tolman & Travis Rose



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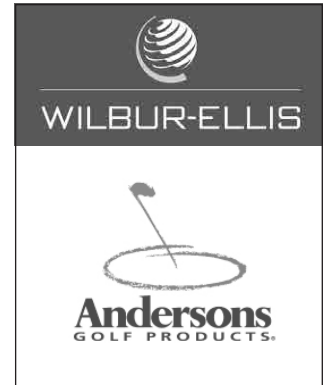


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