

### **Fall Conference Plans**

July to October is a very long time in COVID months. Our Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting, October 5-6, at Hillcrest Country Club, is a size that is possible to hold the event, if it is appropriate to do so - and still small enough to cancel, if appropriate to do so. Therefore, we are moving ahead with the Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting – as of this time. The "as of this time" is a tag attached to comments we hear daily, and one to which we have grown accustomed.

The first day of the event will offer education in the morning and golf in the afternoon. On the second day, education will be offered in the morning. This format change was actually planned two years ago and it is a schedule that will offer more flexibility for last minute changes.

Along with our changed format we have also changed our content focus. Offering presentations that earn pesticide recertification credit will be a priority. Our two featured speakers are from the region - Clint Mattox, PhD, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University and Henry Wetzel, PhD., Sustainable Pest Management Solutions, Moscow, Idaho.

Mattox (below) graduated from Purdue University in Indiana with a turfgrass science degree in 2000, and has been working in the turfgrass industry since that time. From 2000 until 2012, Mattox worked overseas, primarily in Europe, where he was an assistant superintendent in Berlin, head greenskeeper at Paris Disneyland,

and finally grow-in and

at the Arnold Palmer

year earned his PhD.

Ph.D. is the owner of

maintenance superintendent

designed Vignoly golf course near Paris. In 2013, he began graduate studies at Oregon

State University focusing on managing turfgrass diseases

in the absence of fungicides. We offer our congratulations to Mattox, who earlier this

Henry C. Wetzel III,

Sustainable Pest Manage-

ment Solutions, a company

that has provided contract

research and disease diag-

nostic services for the turf-

grass industry since 2010.



~ Managing Anthracnose on Annual Bluegrass Putting Greens ~ Turfgrass Weed Management

The current focus of his turf research program is evaluating

fungicides for the control of snow mold. Wetzel earned his PhD, from Kansas State University and was also a GCSAA seminar instructor for six years.

We will turn to our allied members to fill the last of the slots and help you earn those pesticide credits.

We have our conference room block at the Hilton Garden Boise Spectrum. More information will be available mid-late August.



~ Update on snow mold

control Northwest Montana and Northern Idaho (Wetzel above)

 $\sim$  Turf growth regulators - The additive benefits go beyond clipping reduction

### **Chapter Room Block - 2021 GIS**

We are all set! If the 2021 GIS takes place in Las Vegas, we are ready with our chapter room block.

We have selected two properties - one is walkable to the convention center and the second property allows for a little more flexibility to access the area while offering easy transportation to the convention center. Watch for more information late summer.

### How to Donate to the Fall Meeting Silent Auction

All donations to our annual silent auction, held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting, are appreciated. You don't have to wait to hear from our volunteer auction chairperson, Paul Venable, Assistant Superintendent, Warm Springs Golf Course, to act.

If you would like to make a donation, we encourage you to complete the easy online form. It is found on the calendar of our website Idahogcsa.org. The most important information we need to know is what the product is, if the product will be onsite or if it will be shipped to the winning bidder, and the value of the donation.

Thank you to all who generously donated in the past!



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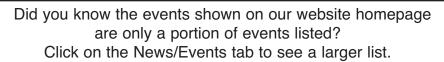
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#### Editor

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.



Super/Pro Golf Challenge at Club at Juniper Hills

timing is perfect for a quick get-away team building

event - and to catch a second wind! »

Idaho GCSA Fall Meeting 2020!

Join us at Juniper Hills Country Club for the Super/Pro Golf Challenge TIME TBA, Thursday, June 18. The

#### EVENTS

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#### ABOUT US

Thank a Golf Cou Superintenden



#### Welcome New Idaho GCSA Members:

Christopher Dustin Tributary 6976 S 4500 W Victor, ID 83455 cdustin@tributaryidaho.com (208) 270-1822

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Davis Sebald Tributary 951 Grouse Creek Rd Tetonia, ID 83452 dsebald@tributaryidaho.com (303) 916-0026

#### Info about Idaho GCSA website!

\* Do you have an address change? 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.



### Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

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www.baerdg.com

Idaho GCSA Lori Russell, Executive Director P.O. Box 5003, Missoula, MT, 59806 Office: (406) 273-0845 E-Mail: idahogcsa@idahogcsa.org www.idahogcsa.org

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

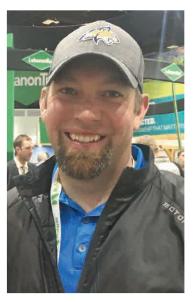
# **President's Message**

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

Once again, time is flying by and the days just seem to blend together. When I arrived at work this morning, I checked the rain gauge - it was just under an inch of rain. We are supposed to get more in the coming days and high temps of only the mid 50s. You wouldn't think it was July. This has been our weather pattern for the past couple months with very timely rainstorms and not a dry spot to be found on the course. It has allowed me to get away from the course and take the family camping. I hope all of you can get away and enjoy the outdoors this summer. With COVID-19 cases still on the rise and some restrictions still in place, the golf course has been very busy and I'm seeing plenty of new faces every time I'm out on the course. The pandemic has helped my club bring in over thirty new memberships and participation in tournaments is up as well. The only problem we have had is keeping enough golf carts available with so many people riding solo. I hope most of you are seeing some of the same success we are having.

Course for hosting the Super/Pro tournament. I hope you were able to attend and support the association. Our sponsors were noted in our email blasts and are listed in this issue, as well.

I also want to congratulate Scott Allen for a very successful 40 years in the golf course business. Best of luck in your retirement Scott.



The Fall Meeting, Oct 5-6, will be here before we know it. This year we will be in Boise for the meeting with Joe Aholt and Hillcrest Country Club as hosts. We are thinking positively we will hold the event and it will not be cancelled due to COVID-19. I will see you in the fall and good luck this summer!

I want to thank Josh Tolman and the Salmon Valley Golf

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# **Communication Was Key:**

### **Projects Involving Municipalities and Canal Companies** Paul Stokes

Logan Golf and Country Club, Logan, Utah

When I was first asked to write this article, I thought, "What in the world are they doing asking the guy from Utah to write an article for the Idaho GCSA?" Then I had a couple of thoughts. Where I currently work at Logan Country Club, in Logan, Utah, is only 20 miles south of the Idaho border. Being so close to Idaho, my climate conditions are very similar to many of yours. My second thought was I feel like I am half Idahoan anyway. My sister (who currently serves in the Idaho legislature), and I were recently talking about me writing an article for the Idaho GCSA and she made the comment that Idaho was our second home growing up. My parents were born and raised in Idaho - my

our world today, there are so many different forums to communicate and sometimes things car

positive one. In



sometimes things can get misinterpreted and misunderstood. Of the three projects I mentioned, I want to talk about the incredible success of the new culinary water line installation. This project was a huge success with only minor details to iron out along the way. I believe that the main reason for the project being so successful was communication right from the very first meeting

mother along the banks of Silver Creek in Carey, in Blaine County, and my father along the banks of the Cub River in Franklin County. I spent many holidays and weekends in Blaine and Franklin counties yearround.

As I previously mentioned, I work at Logan Country Club, a private 18-hole facility in Logan, Utah. Over the last seven years, we have been involved with several major projects from municipalities to canal companies. In



when Logan city approached the country club. It's natural for any golf course superintendent to not want their golf course ripped up unless it's some sort of upgrade for the golf course itself. This project had nothing to do with making improvements to the golf course. However, knowing in this case the city already had a pipe running through the course, I believed it was in the best interest of Logan Country

2013, we had a project taking an open canal and putting it into a 66-inch reinforced concrete pipe. The city needed to upgrade a culinary water line running through #14 on the golf course in 2016, and in 2018, Logan city was trying to finish a trail system that runs throughout Logan and the last chunk of that trail needed to run adjacent to the golf course. Each of these projects has had a significant impact on the golf course from closures to rerouting cart traffic.

In this article I wanted to talk about the importance of open and honest communication with projects that will have such a big impact on a golf course. All the parties involved in a project of this size have different items that are negotiable or nonnegotiable. It is important to make sure everyone involved understands the others' needs. Everyone involved in a project like this can eventually come to a compromise to make the outcome a Club to be a cooperating partner. The parties involved were Logan Country Club, Logan City Public Works Department, Whittaker Construction Company, Americom Technology, and Precision Landworks, LLC.

The dialogue for this project started in the fall of 2016. A senior engineer from Logan City contacted me to discuss the culinary water line running through the golf course that was in serious need of an upgrade. The city's main culinary water supply tanks are situated adjacent to two of our golf holes, so there are endless utilities that run right through the golf course. One of our older members always likes to joke with me by saying, "It's a good thing the golf course is here so the city can tear it up anytime they want in order to do all the work they need to do." Of course, it's a little tongue in cheek, but with the number of continued page 6



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Communication continued from page 4

utilities that run under the golf course, I understand that upgrades and projects like this are going to be necessary. Knowing this is going to be required at times, it does no good to be the grumpy superintendent. As superintendents, we should understand the need for upgrades for all the things we deal with on a day-to-day basis. At the time, the culinary water line running through the golf course was an eight-inch pipe that had run its life expectancy and was too small to handle the growing demand within the community.

After meeting with the city, it was my responsibility to take that information to the club. I felt we needed to formulate a plan to communicate to our membership when and what the impacts were going to be that would start affecting play. Once the members were able to get over the shock of the city wanting to tear up one of their Par 5s, we were able to put their minds at ease once we communicated the plan we had put together for them.

I met with the general manager, head professional and our board president many times over six weeks, formulating the items that we would present to the city which highlighted our concerns and needs for the project. We were very upfront and honest with the city, preparing and presenting and outlining the items that were important to us and our membership. The deadline for getting the pipe in the ground was important to the club and we agreed with the city on a date of March 1, 2018. If we had an early spring this would give the golf construction company time to put the golf course back together early in the season. Once the basic parameters of the project were agreed upon, it

Link Legacy Scholarship Award Recipient:

Dear Idaho GCSA Members:

I want to thank you for the money from the scholarship I was awarded. It is very generous and will be beneficial as I further my education. Know that I am very grateful.

Thanks again!

Addie Burton



Tel: (208) 326-2220 Magic Valley, Idaho

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was time to start figuring out the alignment of the new pipe.

In the early months of 2017, Logan city presented their initial proposal for the alignment of the pipe.

The new pipe was to be approximately 1700 linear feet continued page 8



The 18-inch directionally drilled portion with the fitting to transition to 16-inch PVC



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Grass Clippings July 2020 7



Example of 16-inch PVC in the trench box

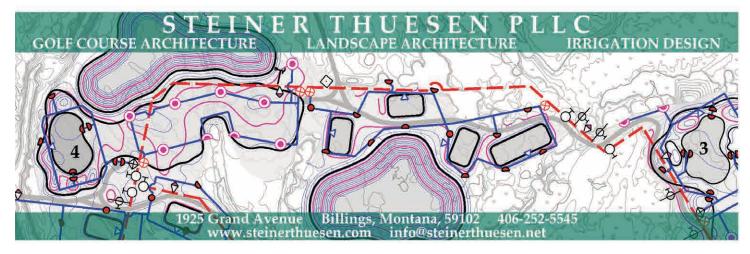
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and have a section that was to be 18-inch HDPE pipe that would be directionally drilled. The rest of pipe to be installed would be 16-inch PVC pipe that would be dug with an excavator due to horrible soil conditions.

The work was needing to be started in the fall of 2017. As it turned out, the starting date was the easiest negotiated topic in the whole process. With the timeline set in place well in advance of actual work taking place, we could communicate with our members this project needed to take place starting late October, 2017. We were potentially looking at only missing three-six weeks of the fall season. On the other side, in spring of 2018 we would be at the mercy of the weather to get the golf course back together in time for the season to start. We ended up needing to close three golf holes to keep golfers safe and for workers to access the project area.

This is where the most critical communication really started taking place. The city initially wanted to take the new pipe and run it right next to the existing one. This option presented challenges for us as it would have taken out most of the fairway on #14 and they would be digging adjacent to a canal that has a mature tree line. The risk of losing those mature trees was too high, so we requested another alignment proposal. The city went back to the drawing board and, finally, on the sixth different alignment proposal, we were all on the same page and it was a win-win for both parties. The city put in a pipe that had minimal twists and turns and fittings making the project move quicker and it was much more budget friendly. From the club's perspective, we saved a 400-yard-long mature tree line and the alignment only affected about half of the fairway; the rest was in an area that is not really in play.

Once the alignment was finished, the city put the project out to bid. During that process, I took the known information and started looking for companies that could put the golf course back together. We had quite a bit of work to do before the pipe installation could begin. We wanted all the irrigation pipe and wiring isolated outside the construction easement for convenience when it would be time to put it back together. Logan City ended up awarding the contract to Whitaker Construction Company out of Brigham City, Utah. Fortunately, I had worked with them on a couple other projects here at the golf course, so I was comfortable and familiar with the quality of their work. It doesn't hurt, either, that the owner of the construction company is a member at our club, so he personally had a vested interest in the success of the project. The country club ended up choosing Precision Landworks, LLC. for all the work relating to putting the golf course back together. They started in October of 2017, removing and isolating the part of the irrigation system that would be affected within the 50-foot construction easement. That work started before Whitaker Construction did anything with regards to laying the new pipe. We had now hit that stage of essential daily communication with two different companies to get the project going. Working with a seasoned golf course construction project manager was a breeze; he understood how all golf course irrigation worked and I could just turn them loose to do their thing. In the early stages of the pipe installation I spent more time communicating with the project manager from Whitaker Construction. Whitaker wanted to start with the directionally drilling portion of the project, so they hired Americom Technology to do the drilling. There were plenty of logistics to be understood - from how everyone was going to access the golf continued page 10









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course within the 50-foot construction easement to where the directional drill was going to daylight. Fortunately, we had an access directly from Logan City's tank farm right into the 50-foot construction easement. So, we ended up having no issues outside the agreed upon construction easement. Americom proceeded to do the directional drill and that all went well, and then it was time to start digging for the rest of the project which was the 16-inch PVC pipe. This all started the last two weeks of October, 2017. Once the project really got rolling, we were holding weekly construction meetings, which were fantastic as they kept lines of communication open and kept the project moving according to schedule. As the construction progressed, we lucked out having a winter that was conducive to doing this type of project and they were able to finish laying the pipe by the March 1, 2018 deadline, which Whitaker accomplished with no problems.

In early March 2018, the snow started to melt, and the ground dried out just enough for Precision Landworks LLC to return to the country club and start putting the golf course back together. Now that the culinary water line was in the ground, I was able to communicate solely with the project manager from Precision Landworks to make sure we were moving as efficiently as possible to get the

golf course back in shape. They were able to get all the irrigation lines back in the ground, wiring completed, and sprinkler heads set in place in just a couple weeks and then it was a waiting game on when sod would be available to cut and install. Finally, the day arrived, and we were able to install sod on April 19, 2018. Once the sod installation was complete, the countdown began to get the area ready for play. Once again, communicating and now educating our members was critical including helping them understand that just because there was now green grass didn't mean it was ready for play. We let them know that we would do everything we could to get it ready as quickly as possible. Once we were able to start mowing, we took a more aggressive





The finished product.

approach to get that sod from two inches to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch. We finally made our goal and we opened the area by the end of May. Everyone was happy.

In conclusion, this project was a huge success because of the honest and open communication from day one. There were never any disagreements that weren't settled in a professional manner. There was no going behind the back of any of the parties involved. I think that we as golf course superintendents can make our lives and jobs easier if we just take the time to communicate with those we interact with daily at work and at home.





# **GRAVIT**

Kurt Richmond Star Valley Ranch Golf Course Star Valley Ranch, Wyo.

It's all around us and you don't even see it. Unless you're managing the irrigation system at Star Valley Ranch, where you rely on gravity to distribute water to 140 acres of maintained turf and water features around the property. It starts up in the Green Canyon watershed at an elevation of 7600' where water is captured in two ways: run-off due to snow melt, and from Cascade Spring.

The spring collection area is at an elevation of 7,500' and pro-



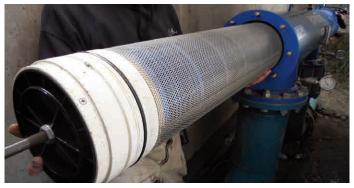
duces between 600 to 1200 gpm, depending on depth of snow pack and mountain temp. This water travels down a six-inch PVC pipe from the collection area to the de-sanding house where two-ten inch discharge pipes will distribute the water rights between Star Valley Ranch and Leisure Valley Ranch golf courses.

Run-off from melting snow pack follows a creek bed. In the middle of this creek bed is a vault at 7200' elevation with a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" screen; when water flows, it drops into vault. In that vault is a 14" pipe which takes the water down to the de-sanding house (elevation 6685'). This water is also distributed for water rights between the two courses. The

distance from screen to de-sanding house is 3000 linear ft.

With the movement of water in a pipe, there is concern of water hammer or air locks in that pipe.

• The spring collection pipeline has two zeroing vaults that exhaust air out of the pipeline. These vaults are placed at certain





elevations on the mountain.

• Brog Pipeline has three zeroing vaults also placed at certain elevations.

Once water travels down the Brog pipeline, it drops into the de-sanding house where any small ¼ minus stone settles to the bottom of a 20' X 15' X 15' deep vault. When the vault is full, water travels 1,056' down a 10" pipe to a Flowtronix 600 micron pre-filter that cleans the water of all the fine sand particles.

Downstream of the pre-filter, the water continues 500' in a 10" line to the first PRV (Pressure Regulating Valve), which drops the pressure from 120 psi intake to 80 psi discharge side. Then water continues another 1000' in a 10" pipe to a T where water gets diverted to Aspen Hills Golf Course and to Cedar Creek Golf Course. From the T to Aspen Hills, the pipe continues to be a 10" line. This line travels another 1000' to another double inline PRV. Intake pressure at first PRV is 110 psi. This gets regulated down to 95 psi thru the first PRV, and intake pressure at second PRV is 95 psi and gets regulated down to 80 psi. After the regulation of pressure through the PRV, water is distributed throughout Aspen Hills Golf Course. Diversion from the T



to Cedar Creek Golf Course travels another 2000' to a double inline PRV. Intake pressure at first PRV is 120 psi and is regulated down to 100 psi. Intake pressure at second PRV is 100 psi and gets regulated down 80 psi. After regulation of pressure through PRV, the water is distributed throughout Cedar Creek Golf Course.

As superintendents, we are faced with so many challenges on how to keep a quality turf stand with an infrastructure that comes with the job. Managing the irrigation system here at Star Valley Ranch has been challenging; I do miss the days of having a pump station! Every course has its own story.

I would like to know how many gravity systems are out there within our region. Please e-mail me at greensvra@ silverstar.com



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### **Irrigation Update (Part 2) Ben Wilmarth, GCS** Eagle Hills Golf Course, Eagle, Idaho

It is June 30 and as I am finishing this article for our Idaho magazine, and we just watched another .750" of rain come through. I've heard rumors it had snowed in McCall on July 4 in the past, so, I guess it's just one of those years. But seriously, that's enough.

As promised in my last write up, I am going to dive in a little deeper into specific sections of our irrigation systems. But, for the first time, I feel like I might be wasting everyone's time if Mother Nature keeps feeding it to us like this. At this point, I am probably not the only one who can't wait for the combination of COVID-19 & Mother Nature's grip on spring to pass!

#### Ok, Part 2, here we go:

I am going to focus on very general information and mainly personal experiences throughout these write ups. Today I am going to dive into water source cleanliness and filtration. It took me several years to get smarter and realize the benefits of assessing my irrigation system in the right direction by starting and working from the water source first and then work my way towards the rotors last - before I make any crazy moves.

#### **Example if done improperly:**

Symptom: Several wet and dry spots have developed uniformly over the entire golf course due to poor PSI performance out of your rotors. Remember, you have to grab that six pack and go watch your system run in auto every once in a while to give it a fair shake in your overall assessment.



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Ben and his dad, Lewis

sides and tops of the internals or change nozzle colors out of spec. Even worse, if you are a Rain Bird rotor facility and start jacking around with that PSI regulator screw on top of the rotor. I have come across this more than once and I can assure you that Toro, Hunter and Rain Bird spent plenty of time in the lab to give you a quality rotor with good distribution qualities. You can make any brand new machine, piece of equipment or tool run and operate like crap if you don't give it what it needs. If you ever feel the need to make these custom adjustments (especially with a drill stop yourself), first give a certified irrigation professional, or me, a call. The problem is likely back down the line and probably won't require a drill to address and resolve.

Realistic Examples to this (wet and dry problem): Unless you are plagued with large scale problems such as several unlevel or deep rotors w/ terrible spacing, the answers could be:

- Your main filter screen on the pump manifold is clogged or too dirty.

- The hydraulic and rotor information in your central control does not match what is actually in the field.

- Your pumps are not as strong as they used to be and GPM capacity needs to be lowered in central control.

- Mainline valves are shut, partially closed, etc.
- etc.

Action:

irrigation

"custom"

drill extra

holes in the

The water source and cleanliness is our first focus. I'm leaving out the even more important topic of water quality because that is better addressed by someone fully educated on the topic and dressed in a nice suit during one of our annual meetings to explain, not me. So, I will stick to the basics. Luckily, most of us managing turf in Idaho have an abundance of decently clean water. Most of us don't even pay for it and the water resource is grandfathered into your site. Consider yourself lucky compared to many other facilities around the country. For some of us, water from a canal - which can be cleaner one day than the next - can yield very inconsistent qualities at any random time. Some of us use a straight well with potable water with no filtration needs required.

Regardless of your source, typically golf courses have ponds continued page 16



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I just do the best I can from morning to night and that's about the size of it. — J.R. "Jack" Simplot | Simplot founder

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#### Irrigation continued from page 14



to store the bulk of the water supply and it is pumped to the irrigation system.

Whatever your source is and regardless of how clean it is, you must determine how far you need to take your filtration system and overall service interval/check to ensure that you are giving the rotors on your property adequate flow and PSI to perform at their peak through the irrigation season. I manage a very typical golf course set-up. You can see in the photo a diver next to the dirty intake screen - which is the water's first point of entry and filtration from the source into the irrigation system. Figure the average 18-hole golf course pump house draws in between 1000-2000 GPM through this intake screen to keep the wet well full enough for the pumps to suck water from while operating at full RPM so they do not dry up. If the stainless steel mesh around this drum continues to fill with micro debris, eventually it won't allow enough water into the wet well for the pumps to utilize. If you have a setup similar to this at your facility and have not seen it in person, I highly suggest you either have a diver confirm its cleanliness or drain your pond during the off season to see for yourself and to service it. With the shallow (pond overall depth of less than 6') dirty nature of my back nine pond, this has to be an annual event if I want to ensure a smooth running summer ahead.



These stainless steel intake screens are not cheap (3K+) and only last about 10-20 years depending on the life it has had. As you can see here, this screen was so dirty it almost looked like continued page 18



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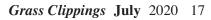










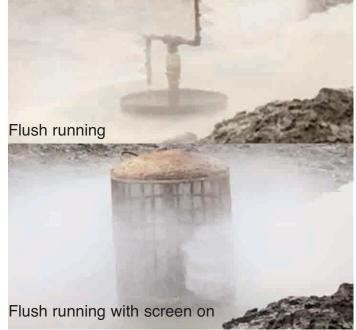




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Make sure your intake screen flush mechanism has been serviced properly, the bearing checked, nozzles cleared and it rotates nicely. This car wash-like kind of action is meant to function a few times during the irrigation water window to keep both the mesh and screen clear of debris, allowing that mass of water to pass through with ease into your wet well.

Once you have confirmed that your intake screen and flush mechanism are functioning properly, you now have ensured-



clean passage of the bulk water source into the pump house and wet well for the season.

So, now I'm happy. I think I have her all figured out - and bam! A few weeks into watering I get a "Low Pressure Fault" on my panel. Well, son of a gun! Let's rewind. Remember I mentioned the general lifespan of the stainless steel intake screen being 10-20 years? What I thought was not that big of a deal is becoming a frustration quickly.

This quarter size hole that has rotted its way into the top of the intake screen drum is all it takes for worms, leeches, bigger particle debris, goose and duck feces, etc., to now get into the pump house. We need to budget for a new screen next year for sure! It is vital to stop as much debris at the source as you can, before allowing it to run into the wet well through your pumps and then work your manifold Y strainer to its max.

This brings us to learning about the importance of the next line of defense in the filtration system, which is the main Y filter screen on the manifold. This main filter can come in many different shapes, models, functions, manufactures and sizes.

So, why did my panel fault out?? If your manifold is set up properly, you will have a PSI gauge on the pump side of your Y filter and another on the field side of the Y filter.

I also brought back the feature of the "low pressure alarm" into my panel this season, which had not been functioning in the past. I learned a few things here. First



Hole in top of intake screen canister

thing I learned was my panel was now alarming me correctly and doing its job. The next thing

I learned was the wet well can only be properly cleaned by an automated filter screen setup. This is due to having a shallow/dirty duck pond, and a holey intake screen that brings too much debris.

#### How do I know?

So, I viewed my alarm log on the panel and it said it faulted

out @ about 1am. I manually spun the cleaning brush on my screen before I left and reset the panel for the next night. I was now back to 'clean and square' for the next irrigation cycle. I ran down to the corner stop and grabbed that six-pack of choice and came back at 9:15 p.m. when the system started. Once the system ramped up and both pumps were screamin', I checked the PSI Gauge on



the pump side of the filter and it said 110PSI. I looked at the gauge on the field side of the filter and it stated 110PSI. Perfect. That means the filter is clean and water is passing nicely without any duck crap, leeches or snails holding my water capability back. I drove back home watched some TV and knew to come back sometime before 1:00 a.m., when it faulted out the last night. I arrived at midnight, and sure enough, I saw what I expected. The PSI gauge on the pump side read great @ 110 PSI and the gauge on the field side read 75 PSI. I set my panel alarm to shut the system down if it could not maintain and sustain at least 95 PSI. If It drops below, it will fault out after running low for 15 minutes.

#### What did I learn?

Well, in the past, when the low pressure alarm was not set up as an active panel feature, the system would run through the whole night - but only the first half of the night with good pressure. After about midnight, every rotor running got



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worse by the minute, and in some cases, maybe as bad as 50 or less PSI by the time that filter clogged enough over the entire cycle. This is where and why all the dry and wet spots formed by mid-summer, after weeks and weeks of operating in this fashion. Here is a picture of how bad my back nine filter got after only one night of watering!

#### Now what? I have two choices:

1- Hire a troll to live in the pump house during the nights & manually spin our filter brush mechanism as soon as he sees the PSI ever drop below 95 PSI.

2- Save my pennies for a 20+K fully automatic filter that

monitors the pressure loss and cleans itself on its own.

As always, please feel free to call me anytime to chat and expand on any of this stuff. Please share your experiences, advice, and troubles anytime. Take care, everyone, and I hope to see you all soon!



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