

The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association

Grass Clippings

July 2021

Assistant Liaison and Allied Liaison Positions are Open

Two liaison positions to the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors are open! We are seeking interested candidates for the assistant liaison and co-allied liaison position. These positions are important to the board as they help to offer the perspective of our diverse membership.

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

Please contact either Lori or a board member by September 15 to submit your name for consideration, or for more information. The positions will be appointed at the fall board meeting.

We would like to offer our thanks to our assistant liaison, Paul Venable, Warm Springs Golf Course, Boise, Idaho; and co-allied liaison, Doug Roberts, DryJect Turf Services, Meridian, Idaho, for their years of service.

Chapter Room Block for San Diego is Open Soon

February 2022 is right around the corner and we look forward to an in-person GCSAA Conference and Trade Show!

Our chapter room block for the 2022 conference in San Diego will be open soon. We have two properties to offer you — depending on your budget/needs:

The Hotel Solamar is across the street from our Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room at the Blind Burro. While we haven't utilized this property for our chapter block in the past, it received high marks as a conference hotel at the 2018 GIS. It is in the desirable Gaslamp District and walkable to the convention center.

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25th Super/Pro Golf Challenge

Thank you to our hosts **Josh Benson**, golf course superintendent; **Jason Jacobsen**, golf professional; and Idaho Falls Country Club for hosting the **25th Super/Pro Golf Challenge**. Results, pictures, and supporters are all listed on page 19.

idahogcsa.org

2021 Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo

Where will you be when that “ah-ha” moment grabs your attention? On the trade show floor? In the conference room? In the hallway? On the golf course? Over that beer? Gathering with your peers at an event-filled opportunity, you will hear something that will cause you to pause and rethink at the Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo, **October 11 & 12, 2021**, at The Coeur d'Alene.

All of our speakers were thoughtfully selected for their interaction and rapport with an audience, in addition to their wealth of knowledge of their respective presentations. The expo will be moderated by Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho. Flaherty is a great choice to represent the three associations. He is a well respected superintendent who will offer an ease to a responsibility few would care to tackle. The event offers a wide range of educational topics. Regardless of your industry experience, we offer something of value. One presentation description should appeal to all — regardless of length of experience, budget size, or level of responsibility. In fact, it can apply to any profession. “Your career performance will be judged based on what you promise and how you say it.” Check out **Improving Your Communications** by Henry DeLozier, GGA Partners.

Brian Horgan, PhD, returns in 2021 after speaking at the 2017 Expo. Horgan is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University. His current research interests focus on developing and integrating sustainability metrics for golf facilities. Specifically, his research seeks to position golf courses as urban greenspaces that provide economic and community value through ecosystems services. His presentations continue to resonate with our members and he is one of the most frequently requested speakers among the three associations.

In addition to improving communications, Henry DeLozier, Partner, GGA, will share ways to hire and retain the right team members and create a culture to inspire and motivate top performers. The pandemic has changed the workplace and it's time to put those lessons to work. DeLozier has been recognized as one of the “Most Influential People in Golf” by Golf Inc. magazine. We are honored to have DeLozier participate in the event; his insights will benefit everyone present.

When the name Mike Richardson, PhD, is mentioned, an immediate response from someone in the room is, “I can listen to him all day.” While Richardson's
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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.

EVENTS

**FEB
23**

Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show Feb 23 - Feb 24, 2021

All under one roof! Join us for great conversation, always great education, and a trade show in Boise, Idaho. Our agenda offers a huge variety of topics - sure to appeal to all of the hats you »

ABOUT US

Thank a Golf Course Superintendent



Welcome New

Idaho GCSA Members:

Sean Coffey

The Club at Spurwing

12625 W Irving St., Boise, ID 83713

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(208) 850-2509

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Zach Kuenzi

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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.



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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

Joe Aholt, President
Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho



Never stop learning. That's what they say, right? But how many of us have really just become buried in our daily grind and the concept of new learning has either faded away or become nothing more than a novel idea?

My wife is a principal at a public school here in Meridian and one thing she absolutely prioritizes is that her staff never stops learning. She found when her staff learns at high levels, student achievement increases at the same time. Although we've lived together in the same house for over 29 years, only recently have I found myself reflecting on my own learning.

Was there not more I could learn in my profession?

Has everything just become a part of the daily grind?

Unfortunately, I think it has. It wasn't until recently, after years of standard operating procedures and standard norms, that I actually found myself becoming a learner once more. I became determined to learn more and more about this thing called regenerative agriculture and how I could apply it to the golf course. I now look forward to going to work and I am excited to see results.

As leaders, I think in order to better ourselves and those who work with and around us, it is our responsibility to be the biggest

learners on the staff. I talk with other superintendents and growers. I listen to podcasts and talk with suppliers in our industry. Ideally, we should supply our staff with similar learning opportunities, as they too can become learners. And by continuously learning and striving for change, complacency and the daily grind will become a thing of the past.

I look forward to learning more and enriching my knowledge at the Northwest Expo in Coeur d'Alene this October. I want to encourage everyone to make the trip — it will not be part of your daily grind and participating will supplement your vast knowledge. The 2017 show was one of my favorites and the 2021 Expo promises to enrich us professionally, as well.

GCSAA Conference & Trade Show continued from page 1

Our second property is the Horton Grand Hotel. This is our third return to this property, which consistently offers a lower price point. The Horton is a grand, older hotel located in a bustling part of the Gaslamp. Enjoy antique furniture in the smaller-sized rooms and the classic reflection of the 1880s. Free wireless connection is available. It is within walking distance as well, but near the opposite side of the convention center.

When these properties are available to reserve in our room block, you will be notified via email blasts. The Horton Grand Hotel is \$191 a night for a single/double. The increase in rates is only \$48 total more over a three-night stay, compared to our visit three years ago. The Hotel Solamar is \$261 for a single/double — \$6 total more over a three-night stay — compared to our visit three years ago (at the Residence Inn). The rooms within the block are expected to be a mix of one and two beds, and are available on a first-come basis.

When you book your hotel, please make note of any cancellation fees that could be applicable with either GCSAA Housing or the property. As always, it is important to read the fine print when making your reservation.

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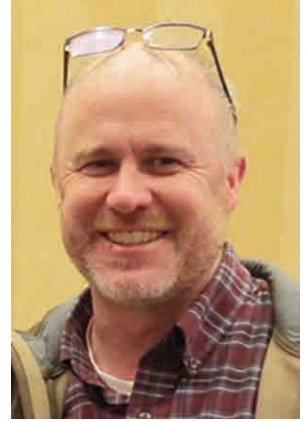
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Regenerative Agriculture

Part 2

Joe Aholt and Aaron Morris
Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho



In the spring edition of this publication, I briefly shared how regenerative agriculture is becoming more mainstream among farmers and golf course superintendents. The article explained how, at Hillcrest, we adopted some of those principles and applied them to growing turf. As I continue to talk with and listen to various growers, I am finding the most successful growers are practicing two fundamental processes — driving soil biology and balancing nutrition to push photosynthesis in the plant.

Success is a subjective term, so what is a successful grower? Growers and superintendents I've spoken with claim the successful results of these practices are numerous and include higher yields, improved taste, increased nutritional value, longer shelf life, resistance to disease and insects, heat and drought tolerance, and even mild frost tolerance. Did you ever bite into a mushy apple and spit it out right away? That's because the biological, chemical and nutritional processes are not working at peak efficiency. The results of these processes at peak efficiency are the exact opposite: a crisp, elite, flavorful apple, high in nutrition where you can't wait to have another.

Driving Soil Biology

Of the most successful growers I follow, they all incorporate a combination of the following practices:

- Provide food sources like fish, humates, molasses, and kelp to enhance soil biology
- Incorporate the added biology with applications of composts, compost teas, or commercial inoculants
- Stimulate the biology with products that contain enzymes, cofactors, and substrates

Many growers claim that most soils are too bacterial-dominated and they try to increase the fungi population with various applications stated above. By driving the biology, the soil becomes more structured — which creates better drainage and air exchange, suppresses disease, and has a working carbon cycle making nutrients available through mineralization.

Balancing Nutrition

The second process used by successful growers is to balance nutrition in the plant and chemistry in the soil with a goal to push photosynthesis — which in turn creates complex sugars. The majority of these sugars are exuded from the roots to stimulate biology to mine nutrients for the plant. Growers often performed both soil and plant testing. Soil testing is used to find general deficiencies or excesses in the soil. Saturated paste testing is gaining more popularity with the thought it mimics what actually happens in the soil. In regards to other types of testing, a fairly new one called plant sap analysis has shown to be extremely accurate for the plant's current needs. A good analogy is like people doing a blood test to find sugar or cholesterol levels. This is not to be confused with a tissue test that tells you the total elemental content of the whole plant or its parts. Instead, only the sap of the plant is measured. Based on the results, growers can identify the plant's current needs and will spray foliar mixes to address the plant's nutrition deficiencies. They then repeat the test to see the efficacy of the foliar application. Top growers learned that taking care of all the elements, especially the minor elements, is critical to photosynthesis, plant processes, and the conversion of nutrients.

This has been, and will absolutely continue to be, a learning process for us here at Hillcrest. However, after implementing a number of different practices that are consistent with regenerative agriculture, we are seeing some positive changes on the golf course this season.

Hope everyone has a wonderful season.

Doug Roberts
CEO

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Northwest Expo continued from page 1

When the name Mike Richardson, PhD, is mentioned, an immediate response from someone in the room is, “I can listen to him all day.” While Richardson’s research can be specific to regions of the country, 50 Shades of Trouble offers a huge value to the Northwest. His extensive research addresses not only how the amount of light affects healthy turf, but how cultural and chemical practices such as mowing practices and plant growth regulators can alter shade tolerance of turfgrasses. We should have allocated more time to this presentation, which simply means Richardson will need to return. Richardson is a professor at the University of Arkansas, Department of Horticulture.

Paul Koch, PhD’s extensive research focus includes snow mold — extremely applicable in the northwest region. In fact, Koch is presently conducting snow mold research in Idaho. Koch excels at keeping his audience engaged. His second presentation, Practical Applications for the Turfgrass Microbiome on Golf Courses, will share the findings on their most heavily researched topic at this time. Research into the turfgrass microbiome has the potential to change how we manage golf courses — including reduced input strategies for disease control, fertilization, and irrigation.

The pandemic turned the world upside down before we all had a chance to meet Cory Isom, our regional agronomist with the USGA Green Section, who came on board in 2019. He is based out of Washington and was still able to make course site visits during COVID. Isom enjoyed a distinguished career as a golf course superintendent in California and Colorado before joining the USGA. Isom is ready to offer the kind of presentation you have been missing the past couple of years — tales and pictures shared from regional site visits. Educational opportunities come in many formats — especially on the trade show floor. Allied partners from all over the region will be in Coeur d’Alene to not only support your association and profession, but to share their extensive knowledge of products and services that can make a difference at your course. Make new contacts, renew and strengthen previous relationships and take advantage of the wisdom on the floor as so many professionals gather under one roof.

We can safely say the wind will not blow as hard as in 2017 while you enjoy playing the renowned Coeur d’Alene Golf Course. “Lightning” won’t strike twice in that hurricane-like gale force wind — right? Golf course superintendent, Tom Walker, and his team are ready to share their hard work with their peers. This beautiful course never ceases to showcase its beauty and always offers an exceptional experience.

Whether your value is derived from the educational opportunities, talking turf with peers or allied partners, or hearing what is new in the market, we have you covered. Attending such an event can be energizing after a long season, or simply a time to step back and consider the past season and prepare for the next. See you there.



FIRST GREEN EVENT MAY 2021

Ryan Franklin, Superintendent
Fossil Inland Golf Club, Kemmerer, Wyo.

The Perfect Lie, Summer 2021

Fossil Island Golf Club held its First Green event for the local kindergarten classes on May 10. About 60 students participated from four separate classes. Our focus for this year’s event was how the golf course provides homes for local animals, native wildflowers, and native trees. We had four stations and three volunteers helping with our event. We merged Arbor Day and First Green together. We planted a maple tree on the golf course for the kids and dedicated it to their class so they can come back and see how it has grown.

Our four stations included native birds, native wildflowers, trees, and the history of Arbor Day. To keep the learning interactive, we offered a hands-on activity at each station. Once they finished learning about some of our native birds that frequently stop by the golf course, they made pine cone bird feeders. As for the wildflower station, they made native flower bombs. This is when you take a peat/clay mixture and combine it with native seeds then throw them into our native area on the golf course. For the tree station, we reviewed the lifecycle of a tree, as well as CO2 exchange and how it works in a tree. We then played a guessing game about what tree products are included in certain products. This included aspirin, chewing gum, sponges and, of course, maple syrup. Since we merged Arbor Day and the First Green, the fourth station included a presentation about the history of Arbor Day and an intro to the First Green. As a gift from us, we gave every kid a small flower pot and sunflower seeds for them to take home and grow.

The kids loved the hands-on part of the learning at each station and helping to bury the tree. It was some work to put this event on, but the most enjoyable part of the experience for me has been hearing reports about how their sunflowers are growing.

We are looking to continue this event and expand it to provide opportunities for the 5th and 6th grades. We consider it to have been a great opportunity for us to host a First Green event and I would encourage anyone to reach out to their local schools and create an event at your own facility.



Registration is open! Visit
calendar event of idahogcsa@idahogcsa.org

Northwest GCSA TURFGRASS EXPO

October 11-12, 2021

The Coeur d'Alene Resort
on the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Hotel Reservations are due by September 1

An event tailored to solve today's
golf course challenges!

Sunday, October 10, 2021

7:00 p.m. - **Bushwood Briefing** - meet your fellow conference attendees and see old friends while you join for a no-host gathering at Coeur d'Alene Taphouse Unchained.

Monday, October 11, 2021

Education presented in the Convention Center

6:30 a.m. Registration desk is open.

7:45 - 8:05 a.m. **Welcome**

Event moderated by **Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho**

8:10 - 9:05 a.m. **Sustainable Turfgrass**

Systems **Brian Horgan, PhD, Professor and Chairperson Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, Michigan State University** sustainable turfgrass system.

9:10 - 10:05 a.m. **50 Shades of Trouble**

Mike Richardson, Professor, University of Arkansas Department of Horticulture

9:30 - 11:20 a.m. **Convention Center -**

Equipment Distributors move in first as overhead door will be shut at 11a.m. to allow booths along wall to set up.

10:05 - 10:25 a.m. **Break**

10:25 - 11:20 a.m. **Improving Your**

Communications **Henry DeLozier, Partner, GGA Partners, Phoenix, Arizona**

11:00 - 1:30 p.m. Trade Show individual booth move in - Convention Center (overhead door will be closed by 11a.m. to allow set up along wall) (Must be ready to show by 2 p.m.)

11:20 - 11:40 a.m. **Business Meeting**
PEAKS & PRAIRIES GCSA

11:20 - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

12:30 - 1:20 p.m. **On the R.O.A.D. in the year 1 A.C.** **Cory Islom, Agronomist, Green Section, USGA, Puyallup, Washington**

1:20 - 1:40 p.m. **Break**

1:40 - 2:40 p.m. **Snow Mold Solutions for Your Course** **Paul Koch, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center, University of Wisconsin - Madison**

2:45 - 6:15 p.m. **Northwest GCSA**

TRADE Show - Take advantage of this opportunity to talk to leading supporters at a unique event. You must be registered to attend.

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

6:00 - 9:00 a.m. Trade Show Exhibitor move out - Convention Center

6:45 a.m. Continental breakfast

7:20 - 7:40 a.m. **Business Meeting**
IDAHO GCSA

8:00 - 8:55 a.m. **Community Value of Green Spaces: Golf Courses as Natural Capital**

Brian Horgan, PhD, Professor and Chairperson Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences Michigan State University

8:55 - 9:15 a.m. **Break**

9:15 - 10:00 a.m. **Practical Applications for the Turfgrass Microbiome on Golf Courses** **Paul Koch, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center, University of Wisconsin - Madison**

10:05 - 11:30 a.m. **Hiring the Best Team Possible** **Henry DeLozier, Partner, GGA**

11:30 - 11:45 a.m. **Business Meeting**
INLAND EMPIRE GCSA

12:30 p.m. **Northwest GCSA Golf Challenge** The Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course. Host Superintendent: **Tom Walker**

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We all Fall Down!

Brandon Bubar, Superintendent Coeur d'Alene Public Golf Course, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho *Turf's Up, Spring 2021*

Editor's Note: Mid-January, a wind storm slammed into the Inland Northwest. In the Spokane region, the wind gusts topped 70 mph in some areas. The regional weather of the prior week teed up the destructive conditions of what turned out to be hit and miss to which properties were most affected. The Coeur d'Alene Resort and Coeur d'Alene Public Golf Course each received substantial tree/property damage. Brandon Bubar (a past Idaho GCSA member) wrote this article. And for those of you who know Brandon, you are correct in thinking it was not easy to convince him to write an article!

On the morning of January 14, for us and many of the other CDA/ Spokane area courses, we woke up to a mess of tree, building, and/or other damage from a storm our gracious Mother Nature decided to cast upon us!

What recipe led us to this disaster? A couple days prior to the storm, with snow cover still on the ground and warming temperatures, the rains came pouring down. At Coeur d'Alene Public Golf Club (CDAPGC), we had approximately 1.25" of rain on those days leading up to the winds sustaining 45 mph with gusts reaching 70 mph at times. With the extreme amounts of moisture and high winds, what does a 100+ foot tall ponderosa pine do?

What used to be our rough mower



Hole 2 next to the cart path



Although every facility in the area sustained a different level of damage, one thing remained consistent — the challenge of how do we go about cleaning this up. This process looked different for every facility, depending on the available resources they had at their disposal (such as a helicopter...Tom Walker), but here is how we approached this challenge.

The Damage

When I arrived at the facility early that morning, the very first thing I noticed was that we had no power. One of the trees had clipped the power lines to the maintenance yard, where they lay on the ground at the entrance to the facility. "Not a good start!" I thought. Once navigating that hazard and pulling up to

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Fall Down continued from page 8

the building, there I found a massive pine laying right across an outdoor carport, which housed some of our maintenance mowers. Luckily, only one of the four units took a direct hit and another sustained some minor damage. This was quite the start to my day and I found myself thinking about what the course may look like. My feeling wasn't good. My equipment manager/assistant and I grabbed a utility vehicle and began touring the golf course. As we approached hole number one, it didn't matter which side of the hole you looked, there were trees down. We began taking photos and counting trees.

After going through the entire course, we found a total 53 trees down or damaged. Of those, 43 were ponderosa pine completely uprooted, five were blue spruce uprooted, and there were five other deciduous trees that were either uprooted or took a beating from a pine. In addition to the building, downed power lines, smashed equipment, and trees, we also sustained some damage to our netting at the back of the range. Other things that we had to consider might be damaged — but we didn't know either how bad or couldn't see yet — were cart paths, irrigation, the front of our #2 green and back of our #7 green. After compiling the list, the next step was to contact the insurance company and begin the claim. At CDAPGC, we were fortunate our insurance was going to assist us with expenses for the cleanup of the trees and repair to other damaged areas. But, we couldn't really begin that process until we knew what amount we would receive. "How much assistance?" was going to be the million dollar question! It took a couple of weeks for the

insurance to process the claim and finally we received our number. Upon getting that information, we then proceeded with the cleanup.

The Cleanup

We decided to go ahead and log out the trees we could in order to try and increase revenue to offset some expense associated with the damage. We used a local contractor to help with removal of the tree stumps and debris from the course. We were able to obtain a skid steer from another local business to assist us with moving the logs to a location where they could then be hauled away. Once all this was done, we used two different log haulers to take the logs to the mills. Unfortunately, we couldn't send them all to the same mill as we had some logs that were considered either oversized or greater than 27" in diameter. The damaged building, fences and equipment were hauled away, too, by the same contractor that did the stumps and debris. This took some strategic planning to route the company around the facility in order to minimize damage to the course as they used a very large excavator and dump truck to remove materials. We also were very fortunate that cold weather came and froze the ground during the time the work was being done. We had three people in addition to the two from the contractor working on the cleanup.

Where We are Today

As I'm writing this little excerpt, we are currently trying to backfill all the holes from the stumps being removed — along with other early spring debris cleanup in preparation to open for the season. We brought back a couple of our full-



time seasonal staff earlier than normal to help. We stay busy everyday working on something to do with this storm. Fences are repaired, a new carport ordered, and the greens are repaired and ready for play. We still have a lot of work scheduled to do, including repairs of the cart path and range net.

In closing, this little write-up doesn't really give justice to everything we have had to deal with, but it does summarize the progress we have made and our path. In the early days, I can say it was one of the most overwhelming things both to see and begin to even try and maneuver through. All I can say now is by taking it one day at a time, we have begun to see recovery and things are turning back to normal. If you ever find yourself in an overwhelming situation, don't be afraid to rely on others for help. And, even though we sustained a good amount of damage, we didn't get hit as hard as some of our neighbors did. So, remember when you think it's bad for you...there is always someone who has it worse!

I wish everyone the best and here's to a better 2021 season than 2020!



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Drone Use at Hayden Lake Country Club

Jessica Lenihan, Assistant Superintendent
Hayden Lake Country Club, Hayden Lake, Idaho

Turf's Up Winter 2020



After attending the GIS in 2016, and hearing about the neat things people around the country were doing with drones on their golf courses, I knew it was something we could benefit from at Hayden Lake. After doing a bit of research, I was surprised to find out that drone packages from a company called DJI, one of the leaders in drone technology, were relatively affordable. We ended up purchasing the Phantom 3 drone as our 'intro' to the drone world for \$600. Although terrifying at first, since I was essentially in charge of hundreds of dollars careening through the sky at a high rate of speed, I have since managed to hone my



Phantom 3

skills and figure out how to make the most of drones at our facility. We spent about three years with the Phantom and have since upgraded to

the Mavic Pro, a portable drone with a bit more capabilities than our starter drone. A few hundred dollars more, it was a worthy upgrade for the amount of use we have been getting out of it. Plus, it is much easier to transport around the golf course in a cart throughout the day. So, what exactly do we use the drone for anyway?



Mavic Pro

Here at Hayden Lake, we are in the process of a long range remodel. This basically means we are remodeling the entire golf course — but our club is debt free and is choosing not to take on debt in order to complete the remodel. Therefore, we have been picking off different parts of the golf course; whether it is a hole or two, a bunker complex, or a complete corner of the golf course, pretty much every year until we are complete. This means we constantly have projects going on, and have something to look forward to, pretty much every year that are making a vast improvement to the golf course. For this remodel, we are working with Jackson Kahn Golf Design based out of Scottsdale, Arizona, so our architects don't have easy access to the golf course. Our drone has made it incredibly convenient to send them aerial photographs to aid in their drawings, as well as planning for the upcoming year of construction and tree removal.

Our course is filled with many 100+ year-old bull pines that we like to take down the winter prior to construction to prevent excess damage to the course during removal and to prepare ourselves for the new phase of construction. With the photographs we send to our architects, they are able to mark which trees need to come out with ease, instead of having to make a trip up here in the winter.

We have also found our aerial photographs invaluable to communicate important information to our greens committee



while trying to explain to them why certain trees need to come out. We are able to show them shadows across struggling greens from different times of the year and times of the day so they can understand that the shade really is making

Large scale removal of trees to widen #7

a difference in the quality of the green. It's one of those things where using apps like Sun Seeker and telling them what needs to happen makes no difference until they can visually see the negative effect that specific trees are having on greens quality. We have been able to use our drone photographs on several occasions to nudge the board to rule in our favor. Plus, no golfer ever says how much they miss a tree once it's gone, am I right?

Because we are doing so much construction and so many projects all the time, having a unique perspective on the project both during the planning and construction has been really neat. We get to have different angles that we would never get to see otherwise.

The two pictures shown on page 14 were both taken during the fall 2018 construction of our #9 green. The fairway initially was a hard dog-leg to the established green in the second photograph, but we moved the



continued page 14



WHAT DOES MICHIGAN STATE ANTHRACNOSE RESEARCH SAY ABOUT FLORATINE NUTRITION?

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Two years in a row, Floratine's foliar nutrition program combined with low-dose contact fungicides offered better resistance to Crown Rot Anthracnose than fungicides alone.
- A program using CONTACT fungicides with a targeted foliar nutrition plan will not only offer excellent disease protection but also reduce SYSTEMIC fungicide resistance.



Turf affected by Crown Rot Anthracnose
© Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State University

Recently completed research done at Michigan State University by Dr. Joseph Vargas clearly demonstrates that combining a Floratine foliar nutrition program with low-dose contact fungicide applications provides superior control of Crown Rot Anthracnose, as well as providing exceptional turfgrass nutrition. The study attributes this to Floratine's foliar uptake technology combined with the proven efficacy of the low dose of the fungicide.

To see the full research report, visit www.floratine.com/research



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Drone Use continued from page 2

green to the right and straightened out the fairway, constructing a completely new green surrounded by several tall bull pine trees. The former #9 green is now a practice green that has since been



resurfaced as of October 2020.

From the construction process to post-sod, having aerial shots that we can look back on is something that would be tough to miss out on. We keep the architects updated during the process as well as updating the membership on the upgrades that we are making to the golf course.

Having the ability to snap



photos in the middle of the process has made the jobs of future employees at the country club much easier, as well. During the construction of #7 green, we got a shot of the drainage in the green. While definitely 'extra' since the drainage was laid with tracking wire it is still neat to visually see what goes into the phases of construction. On #7 fairway, where we removed all those trees during the winter to widen the fairway, we also added a very large bunker to that area. We used sod as bunker liner for the cost savings and the effectiveness. During the sod process,

we snapped a photograph that makes things super easy for us in the future to see where our drainage is located in the bunker, in case we have issues that need addressing.

While the majority of our



drone use is for convenience and because it looks pretty cool, after having one it would be pretty hard to imagine going back to not. With the technology improving and the prices going down, I can't recommend the investment enough. Feel free to reach out with any questions!

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An Incredible Project — The Indoor Golf Learning Center

**Pat Nowlen, Director of Parks and Recreation
Polson Bay Golf Club, Polson, Mont.**



This past year at Polson Bay Golf Course, we added two indoor golf simulators in a 1,200 sq. ft. addition to the restaurant. Many other golf courses have recently done something similar, so why should I write about it? I have two reasons — it didn't cost us anything and we cut down trees to make it happen!

There are two parts to this story and I will be brief on the first part because I believe the second part is what will peak the interests of golf course superintendents. However, it is all a good story and it is important to the game of golf. And, importantly, some of you may be able to take what we have done and use it as a model to accomplish great things at your facility.

Part 1: Getting an addition to the clubhouse with two golf simulators for free.

While we have been operating a great junior golf program for years, we took it to an unbelievable new level this year. My head golf professional, Cameron Milton, won the national PGA 2018 Youth Player Development Award for the work that he has done in growing the game of golf in the Mission Valley. The junior golf program includes a free four-day junior camp, a school golf program, and a PGA Junior League consisting of 72 players (just in Polson). Each part of the junior golf program is a great

story and it has been an honor to be identified as the best in the nation.

We estimate that our junior golf program touches the lives of 450 juniors every year. We had previously created a 501(c)3 called the Mission Valley Junior Golf Association (MVJGA) to handle the donations to the junior golf program.

In 2019, we decided to ride the tidal wave of support generated by this award to create a permanent funding source for the MVJGA. This funding source was to take the form of the Junior Golf Indoor Learning Center. We then went on a huge fundraising campaign! Our goal was to raise \$190,000 to construct a building and purchase a golf simulator. It seemed like a lofty goal at the time. In the end, we far exceeded our goals and plans changed. The indoor learning center became an addition to the restaurant, with two top-of-the-line Full Swing 16' golf simulators.

The community of Polson stepped up to the plate and hit a home run! Individuals, businesses, contractors, and nonprofits came out of the woodwork to help in any way they could. From cash donations, to materials, to sweat equity; if we asked, it was provided. The MVJGA collected the money, hired the contractor, ran the project, and donated the facility to the City of Polson and

continued page 18

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Learning Center continued from page 16

Polson Bay Golf Course. I estimate that the total value of the building, simulators, and the business is worth \$425,000. After operational and capital expenses are met, the remaining profit goes directly to the MVJGA as a permanent funding source for continuing growth of our junior golf programs.

Part 2: How removing trees from the golf course helped make it happen.

The cost to the golf course was minimal and was mostly labor for preparation of the site for construction. The maintenance department wasn't allowed to help with the actual construction of the facility because they are city employees and the area was under contractor control. Legally, they just couldn't do it. However, they were able to prep the site, which included

“Their work saved tens of thousands of dollars in the scope of the whole project.”

stripping the asphalt from the construction site and hauling it away. Also, they were able to strip the siding off the exterior wall of the clubhouse and replace the deck stairs. Their work saved tens of thousands of dollars in the scope of the whole project. The majority of our labor force still wasn't able to really participate in the project and wouldn't have a significant emotional tie to the project, and I wanted to find a way to rectify that situation.

How do the trees come into play? In the two years prior to the clubhouse addition, we completed an irrigation replacement project of the oldest nine of the golf course. In the design of the



irrigation system, it was determined a few trees had to come out to make way for new mainlines. Also, a few trees caused head spacing issues. Decisions needed to be made to either remove the trees or keep these trees and add additional heads to water around the trees. I made the call to remove four trees to facilitate proper installation of the irrigation system and to keep the project within budget. Removal of one of the trees was very easy to justify because a six-inch mainline would need four additional fittings to go around it, and the area was overplanted and out of play. The other three were a different story. They were all planted in 1936 or 1937. All were larger than three feet in diameter. All could be kept if an additional head was added to the project. Now, keep in mind that in total seven trees were in question and only four were removed. I had to take other factors into consideration. Were they integral to play? Were they in an area that was overplanted? Were they damaged? Could they be replaced with a new tree? There was also a financial side to the

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Browse - Hackett	2nd 65	Pettibone - Morrison	69
Smolke - Kowak	1st 69	McGriff - Standfield	75
Martin - Graham	68	Strommen - Kubler	68
Frangou - Thomson	3rd 68	Hasquet - Myers	69
McCrall - Hanson	75	Helge - Detrick	T-1st 67
Roswell - Bowen	69	Tolman - Franzen	69
Schald - Schultz	69	Cornblath - Stepan	75
Eike - Schessler	75	CTP#7- Ivan Stepan	
Burton - Fallmer	75	CTP#11- Mark Hasquet	



decision. When the project went out to bid, it was an itemized bid. We were paying an amount per head, swing joint, foot of pipe, foot of wire, etc., installed. This meant that if the irrigation heads were removed from the project, then we could save \$1,300 per head on average. I made the decision to remove three additional trees and save \$5,000.

The irrigation system was completed and the maintenance crew removed the trees in 12' to 14' long sections and placed them at the top of the golf course, next to Highway 93. As always, when a tree gets cut down, there is a political price to pay. I spent the next year defending the fact that I had killed four 80-year-old ponderosa pines and telling people that they couldn't come cut them up for firewood because, "I have a plan!"

I convinced Hans Lund, the contractor for the Junior Indoor Learning Center, that we should use the trees in some way to contribute to the project. He convinced Dupuis Lumber to mill the trees into three-inch slabs and tongue and groove. Hans then convinced a local cabinet company to plane, sand, and finish the tongue and groove. Employees of Traditional Home, owned by Hans, installed the tongue and groove on the walls, and the slabs became the countertops, doors, and stair treads. The entire room has been finished in ponderosa pine and is truly a sight to behold. All companies involved have kids in the junior golf program. A statement about the trees used on the project will be put on a sign made from the trees. It will read like this: "100% of the wood to finish this room came from four eighty-three-year-old trees removed from the Olde 9 to make way for a new irrigation system." To me, it is the ultimate statement of sustainability and use

of natural resources that we could have accomplished.

The Indoor Learning Center is up and running. Kids get to use it for free, for golf activities. Adults pay \$35 per hour. You can rent the space for parties and sporting events for around \$250 to \$500 and watch football games on a 16' screen while golfing Firestone CC on the other simulator. We have started our Winter League and have 64 people. Our food and beverage operations have become year-round. I no longer have to explain why the trees needed to be removed. One more tree has fallen down in a windstorm and will be sent to the lumber mill to make new interior trim for the rest of the clubhouse. Another important contribution from the maintenance crew will become an integral part of the project.



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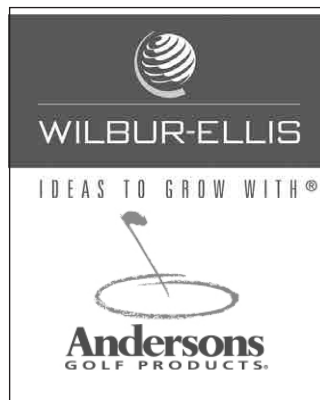
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