

Grass Clippings

July 2022

Great Education and Golf in a Fantastic Location

2022 is our year to enjoy the Sun Valley region, with the Fall Meeting and Silent Auction taking place just months after the Super/Pro Golf Challenge! It makes sense this stunning region is called Sun Valley, earning its name for the 15 hours of sunshine a day in the summer — which plays well for the game of golf.

Join us October 3-4, 2022, at The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho, our conference site. Our hosts are Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, and his key team, Jason Sigmund and Ken Thornock. The spacious and welcoming clubhouse will host our education and silent auction. Following the same format as last year, golf will be Monday afternoon on the newly renovated course. Not only is it time to plan ahead and protect the dates, it is time to start thinking about your donations, and to come ready to bid on fantastic products for your facility, along with a few personal items to enjoy.

Visiting a newly renovated golf course meant it was a given, at least to us, that Gerald Flaherty, CGCS, would offer a project overview. He agreed and will offer *Construction Zone Ahead! (Be careful what you wish for.)*

We look forward to welcoming new speakers hitting on a wide variety of value information. Becky Bowling, PhD, assistant professor and extension urban water specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife – Dallas Center, Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences. Bowling began her educational journey at Texas Tech University where she gained both her bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture. She later received her doctorate in crop and soil sciences at the University of Georgia (UGA) where she researched environmental turfgrass science including precision turfgrass management and improved resource use efficiency. She strives to build and maintain



relationships with a wide range of influential stakeholders and regulatory agencies to ensure that the urban water extension program reflects the needs and priorities of its diverse clientele throughout the state. Her broader research interests include environmental turfgrass management, turfgrass weed science and social science research collaborations, in which she hopes to find new and innovative ways to communicate best management practices to the public.



Bowling will present:

Water x Weeds: Building an Integrated Weed Management Approach

WATER: What are you Doing About Irrigation Water Quality?

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Orlando Chapter Room Block Open Soon

Our chapter room block for the 2023 GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando will be open soon. **TWO HOTEL OPTIONS:** Located on International Drive, we are returning for a second time to Homewood Suites. The location worked well and attendees liked both the hot breakfast included daily, as well as the complimentary evening social Monday – Thursday, with beverages and food. All rooms are suites with a complete kitchen and offer free Wi-Fi.

Our second property, the Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando has been an option within our chapter block the last three rounds. We have several attendees who return to this budget property for its proximity to Pointe Orlando and the Convention Center. Attendees have reported the walls are thin – so if noise is an issue, we just wanted you to be aware. Enjoy amenities such as refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers and free Wi-Fi (sorry, no pool).

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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.

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A sector to encourage your facility to participate in the upcoming silent auction
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Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show - 2022

See you at the Spring Meeting & Trade Show - Feb 2022! All under one roof!
Join us for great conversation, always great education, and a trade show in
Boise, Idaho, at the Red Lion Downtown. Our »



ABOUT US

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the region to offer continuing

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Info about Idaho GCSA website!

- * Do you have an address change? Changing the information on
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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. To set your pass-
word click on forgot password and follow the prompts.

*"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

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



How many donuts can you eat in one day? I recently found out what my saturation limit is... about five regular glazed rings! I remember the “time to make the donuts” commercial from when I was a kid in the 80s and I sometimes feel that is how our jobs are.

A funny donut story happened a few weeks ago at the maintenance shop at Star Valley View Golf Course. I went to work a little earlier than usual to touch up the bed knives on the greens mower. LaVal is the name of our guy that takes care of the rough with the wide area mower. He has nothing to do other than mow long grass, so he always shows up early. As soon as the first couple employees arrived at work, he offered to buy donuts for the crew and sent them back to the local grocer with a fist full of dollars. Anyway, I was working around the equipment and not entirely tuned into what is going on around me. As I slowly pulled myself out from under the mower, I saw Katie walk into the shop with a box of donuts and a gallon of chocolate milk. I was slightly confused because I do know this isn't who just walked out of the shop minutes ago to go get donuts for the crew from LaVal. Something was said about others going to get donuts and Katie's reply to me was, “I texted you.” I pulled my phone from my pocket and it had two notifications unread. Sure enough, Katie sent me a text saying it was Jackson's last day and she was getting donuts for the crew. Jackson is the name of an employee we have had in the past and this summer he needed to

leave before the season was over. Very thoughtful of both Katie and LaVal to purchase donuts and I was preparing to rival Joey Chestnut because I knew we were going to have plenty of fritters.

This is when I read the other notification on my phone, which was from Jackson. “I'm going to be a couple of minutes late. I'm running past the store to get donuts.” I laughed to myself and thought, “Surely some of these kids will see each other in the store and figure it out before we have a bakery's worth of donuts and a truckload of milk in the shop today.” Nope! Somehow, the crew leapfrogged each other and we ended up with enough leavened fried bread to cause three heart attacks and more milk than we can fit in our old General Electric fridge. I also thought to myself, “Why can't the crew think like this when we all need to spot water or edge bunkers?” But, we all know it doesn't seem to work like that. I guess I'll just try to remember this as an example of communication, or lack thereof.

Summer is flying by! It seems like when it finally arrives, it always does go by quickly. I hope you all are well and your greens are rolling good. I so enjoyed the Super/Pro earlier this month. Thank you to all who were involved. Maybe I'll see if my crew can get the donuts for the fall meeting.

Scammers Like Our Newsletter!

Okay, that statement is probably a little bold. We don't have proof they read the entire newsletter and actually enjoy it. But we do know they read/retrieve the list of directors on the second page in the newsletter. Our director list in the newsletter always included email addresses in the past. We have had a heck of a time with scammers spoofing email addresses and pretending to be one of our board members trying to convince a fellow board member to purchase gift cards.

How do we know they got that information from our newsletter? In the April issue we stopped including email addresses, but we continued to include telephone numbers. Well, now our board members have started receiving scam texts instead of scam emails. So, with this issue, we have now eliminated the board telephone numbers from the listing. Remember, we will never reach out to any of you via text or email requesting you to purchase items on behalf of the association or board member!

An advertisement for Steiner Thuesen PLLC. The top part has a green header with the company name and three service areas: GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, and IRRIGATION DESIGN. Below this is a detailed technical drawing of a golf course layout, showing various holes, green areas, and a complex network of irrigation lines in blue, red, and black. The bottom part of the ad has a green footer with the address: 1925 Grand Avenue, Billings, Montana, 59102, and contact information: 406-252-5545, www.steinerthuesen.com, and info@steinerthuesen.net.



The Brandon Crim Golf Bio

Brandon Crim, Centennial Golf Course
Nampa, Idaho

My first day of work on a golf course was a Friday, on the 4th of July, in 2003. My friend, Andrew, got me a job on the grounds crew at Banbury Golf Course in Eagle, Idaho. It was about a month after my high school graduation. Since it was

a holiday, there was just a small crew and it was a mow-and-go day. Andrew was heading to McCall, Idaho, with his family, but he came in to get me started. My job for the morning was walk-mowing greens. Andrew gave me a quick tutorial and then I was on my own. I was definitely nervous about messing things up. For the most part, I wasn't too bad — a few scalps and “mow hawks” here and there. There was not a straight line to be had, but over all pretty good for my first time.

Banbury was a great place to work under the tutelage of Clint Travis and Ryan Knapp. We had a crew of a bunch of younger guys, which made for a fun work environment. Everyone had a nickname and it was years before I knew some people's actual names, hah. It was always a competition to see who could mow their greens the fastest. We had a lot of fun, worked a lot of hours, and kept the course looking good. Clint did a great job setting the tone for a positive work environment. There was a ping-pong table in the shop and we would have lunch and after-work matches. Clint would get lunch for the crew a few times a month. And, once or twice a season, he would take the crew boating at the lake or go carting. I learned a lot from them about how to treat your crew.

After a couple of seasons at Banbury, I wanted to try something new and I decided to move to Portland, Oregon, and live with my cousin. Through some connections, I had a job lined up



at Waverly Country Club (above). It was a beautiful old golf course. They still had the stables from when they had horses pulling the gang reels. I was enjoying my time in Portland and then winter hit. After the first straight month of rain, I decided Portland wasn't the spot for me, hah. So, after several months, I decided to move back to Boise.

When I came back, I was able to get my job back at Banbury. That was tournament prep time and we started getting the course ready for the U.S. Girls' Junior National. It was interesting seeing the USGA come in and make recommendations for the course. That was my first time seeing some big picture tournament prep. They wanted a tree on hole 12 removed, which made the hole much easier — which I didn't like. Those were some brutal hot days during the tournament. We were double cutting and rolling in the morning and evening, every day.

Towards the end of that season, I had a talk with Clint. He told me if I wanted to keep moving up in this industry, I should go to turf school and work at some other courses to gain different perspectives and more experience. So, I registered to attend the two-year program at Penn State. That summer before I started in

continued page 6

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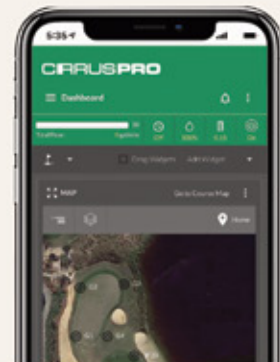
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Crim continued from page 4

2007, I went to work for Adam Bagwell, CGCS, at Crane Creek Country Club. Knowing I was heading to turf school, Adam set up a makeshift internship and tried to teach me a little bit of everything. I learned how to spray and did lots and lots of irrigation repairs. Their irrigation system at that time was horrible and I was digging up leaks constantly. I became very familiar with the ins and outs of an irrigation system and irrigation repairs. After a busy season of learning as much as I could, I headed east to Pennsylvania. During my time there, we had an interim director of the turfgrass management program. We were lucky enough to be taught by Dr Thomas L. Watschke. I loved my time at Penn State. It was a beautiful campus and beautiful area. My professors were awesome. Everyone was engaged and happy and wanted to be there, which made learning very enjoyable.

After my first year, I had an internship at the Country Club at Castle Pines in Castle Rock, Colorado. Oh man, was that a grind. I worked my butt off that summer. I learned how to spray hawk. I built a 50,000-square-foot-tee/fairway nursery. I cut cups so many times that I started to hate it. I did a lot and I learned a lot. I always do my best to take away things I like from every course I've worked: learning new tricks, finding different ways of doing things, and learning management styles. That summer (more than anything), I learned what I didn't want to do. Even when you have a bad work experience and work for people that you would never want to work for, or with, again, you learn from it all the same.

I went back for my second year and joined the turf team at Penn State. We went to San Jose, California, for the STMA conference and competed in the turf team competition. We



finished second place. Then we went to New Orleans for GIS and competed in their competition. We got third place in that one. It was a bit stiffer competition. I graduated in 2009 with honors and received a scholarship from the Oregon Bentgrass Growers Association. That spring, I had an internship at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California (below). I enjoyed

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Crim continued from page 6

my time there, but decided I did not want to live in the LA area; a little too crazy for me. We had some big tournaments with some famous people, which was kind of cool. Most of them were nice, except for Pete Sampras, who was kind of a jerk.

In 2010, I got my first assistant superintendent job at Bear Mountain Ranch Golf Course in Chelan, Washington. I would definitely move back there. It was such a beautiful place. Waking up to the view of a lake everyday does not suck! It was an interesting golf course with some funky holes, and you could not beat the view. There was so much wildlife including bears, deer, fox, coyotes, elk, bighorn sheep and rattle snakes. It's a hilly course with long native grasses all around that would sway in the wind and just put you at ease. I got my first puppy that year, too. Ziggy became my best friend very quickly and he loved chasing



all the wildlife around the course. I did my best to keep him away from the snakes and bears, though.

I wasn't working through the winter at the course. Even though this was pretty nice, financially it was not the best. After two years at Bear Mountain Ranch, I got a job at Roundhill Country Club in Alamo, California (picture below shows a little bit of the course behind the people), as an assistant superintendent.



ent. Finally! A job with a 401k and some health insurance. I loved the Bay Area; I just didn't like all the traffic and cost of

everything. I enjoyed three great years at Roundhill and finally reached the point where I was ready to be the top guy and run my own show. I also wanted to be able to buy a house, which wasn't very plausible in the Bay Area. So, when a job opened at Boise Ranch, I decided to go for it.

I became the superintendent of Boise Ranch Golf Course (pictured above) in 2015. I hit the ground running, putting all my knowledge and management skills to the test. We didn't have a big budget or the greatest equipment, but we made do with what we had. In 2017 I had

the chance to work the US Open at Erin Hills in Wisconsin. That was an awesome experience. My good buddy from Penn State was the first assistant there, so it was cool to see him, as well. I got put on a greens mower. It was my first time walk-mowing greens in quite a while. Luckily, I was much better than my first day at Banbury.



I enjoyed my first couple seasons at the Ranch — made a lot of improvements, added some tees, added some bunkers, rebuilt some tees, added drainage, trimmed literally every tree on the course (which is mostly willows), took out a bunch of willows and poplars, and got the irrigation dialed in. After three years, and at times some unnecessary micromanagement from above, I was let go because they decided they no longer needed a superintendent. A pattern they tend to repeat.

At this time, I honestly wasn't sure what I was going to do. I was thinking about trying something else. I felt burned out and I wasn't sure if I wanted to be in the golf course industry anymore. I took some time and traveled around the northwest with Ziggy. I visited friends and family all over and was just enjoying life. I even joined some friends to climb Mount Whitney. As I was out and about, I had a friend message me about a superintendent

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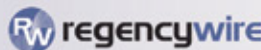


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Crim continued from page 6

opening at Centennial Golf Course in Nampa, Idaho. I wasn't sure if I even wanted to apply. But after some thought, I thought, "What the heck, I'll throw my resume in and see what happens." I did like the thought of working for the city and getting the benefits that came with it. After going through the interview process and getting a feel for the job, I had a good feeling about it and thought that I wouldn't be micromanaged and would have the freedom to run the operation how I saw fit. So, when they offered me the job, I accepted! I was excited to start a new chapter. The weekend before I was supposed to start working, I tore up my knee in a soccer tournament, so I showed up on Monday with crutches. It was a hectic start to a new job; trying to fix irrigation leaks with a busted knee is not easy. Everyone at the golf course and the city was very understanding and accommodating with my situation, even when I had to be gone for a month after


my surgery. And when an unpleasant infection popped up, they stuck with me and helped me out. My crew stepped up and did a great job in my absence, as well. After all that, I knew this would be a great place to call home. Every season has its ups and downs but I'm still happy to come to work every day.



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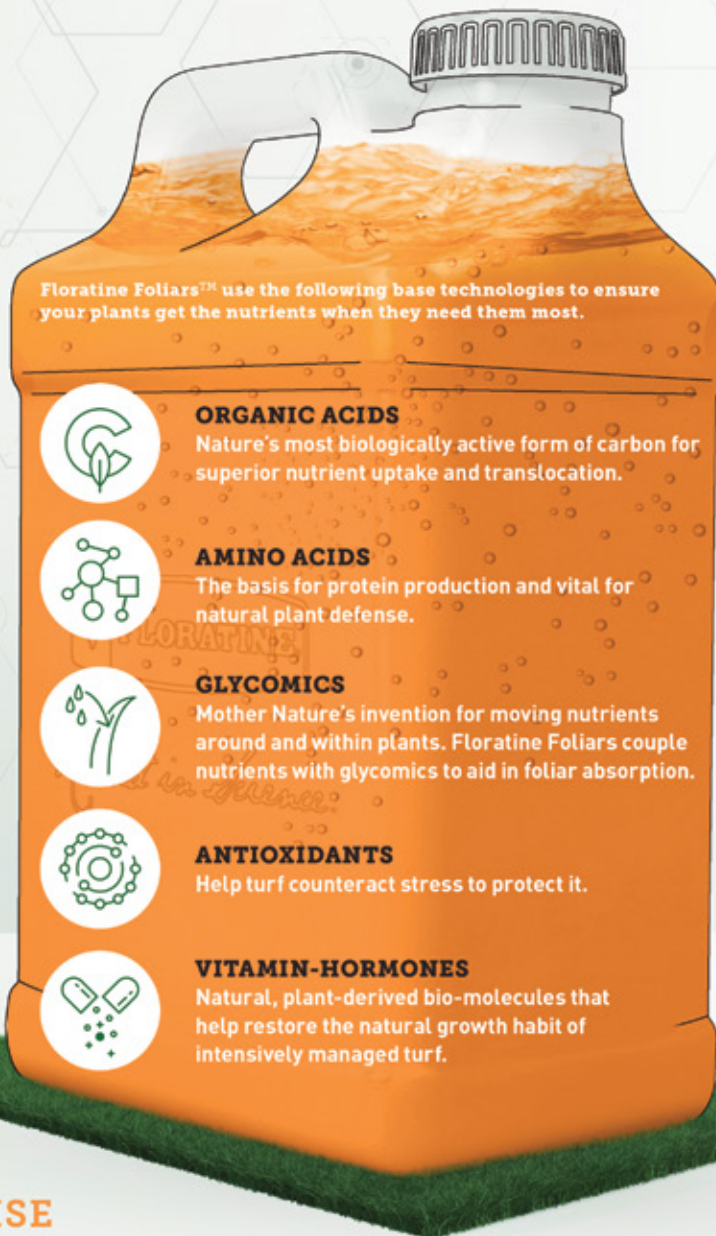


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Results

Lowest event score:
Mark Hasquet, Wilbur Ellis and
Craig Jackson, Eagle Hills Golf Course

First Flight ~

Superintendent & Professional Combinations

1st Place Team

Jerry Flaherty and Zach Jonas, The Valley Club

2nd Place Team

Alex Bliss and Jeff Petersen, Sun Valley Golf

3rd Place Team

Jeremy Brandell and Brenner Antone,
Rupert Country Club

Second Flight ~

Industry Representatives and Other Combinations

1st Place Team:

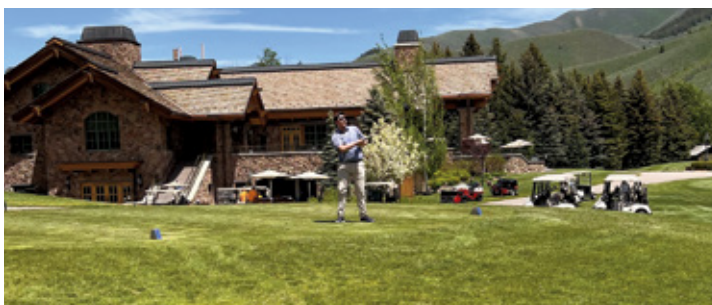
Mark Hasquet, Wilbur Ellis and Craig Jackson,
Eagle Hills Golf Course

2nd Place Team:

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3rd Place Team:

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Fall Meeting

continued from page 1

Ken Nice (below) has been the director of agronomy at Bandon Dunes since 2008. With a B.S. earned in psychology in 1987, Nice's interest turned to turf management and that led him to study under Tom Cook, PhD, Oregon State, where he graduated with a B.S. in horticulture (turf management) in 1996. In the late 90s, he was an assistant superintendent at Astoria Golf and Country Club in Warrenton, Oregon. Just two months before Bandon Dunes opened for play, Nice became assistant superintendent there. He has since served as a superintendent for Pacific



Dunes, Bandon Trails and Old McDonald. Nice is a native of Corvallis, Oregon and has been married to his wife, Pam, for 32 years.

Nice will present:

Managing Fine Fescue for Links Golf

Golf Course Construction on the Oregon Coast

Paul Carter, CGCS, serves on the GCSAA board of directors, and is the golf course superintendent at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course located just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He also serves as the director of agronomy for the Tennessee Golf Trail, a collection of nine golf courses spread across Tennessee, which are owned and operated by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Carter's passion for and promotion of the environmental benefits of golf courses has garnered his golf course multiple



environmental awards including the 2015 GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, the 2013 GCSAA Environmental Leaders in Golf Overall and National Public Award, and the 2013 Golf Digest Green Star Award for Outstanding Environmental Practices. His golf course has garnered international attention for the Harrison Bay Eagle Cam, a live internet stream of a nesting pair of bald eagles, along with

many other innovative environmental projects. The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay is certified as an Audubon International Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, was the first site in the state of Tennessee to be certified as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation, and is one of only 12 golf courses in the United States to be certified by the Golf Environment Organization of Europe as a GEO Certified site.

Carter will present:

Golf Course or Nature Preserve. Why Not Both?

GCSAA: Membership Has Its Privileges

Conference registration and hotel registration information will be available mid-August. Our hotel property will be the Fairfield Inn by Marriott. Our rate will be \$119 a night and includes a complimentary breakfast with a hot and cold selection, free parking, indoor pool, outdoor hot tub, 24-hour fitness center and complimentary coffee/tea.

Board Meeting will be October 2 at the Fairfield Inn

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Staff Brought Together for a Common Cause

Rick Hathaway

Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deer Lodge, Montana

(The Perfect Lie, Peaks & Prairies GCSA, May 2022)

I want to share a short story that brought my staff together for a common cause last summer. Our club hosts an annual Wine and Art Festival with proceeds benefitting The Folded Flag Foundation, which supports families that have lost a loved one in the course of military service.

There were a few staff members who were interested in participating in the festival, hoping to sell some of their art. In order to participate, the artists must donate a piece of art valued at a minimum of \$500. On behalf of the employees, I went to the event organizers and asked them if I made the donation piece, would that suffice for any employees who wanted to participate in the festival. They said it would.

So, I was on the hook for a \$500 piece of art. The staff knows I am a bit of a rock hound. So every day for about a month, staff started bringing interesting rocks they would find during the course of their day and leaving them outside my office. I didn't really know what I was going to do with them, but it became a daily ritual for staff to bring their rock of the day to me. From there we would try to identify them and decide if they had any value. All sorts of agates, small geodes, and pieces of chert and jasper were accumulating outside my office.

One day a couple staff were digging a hole and came across a big brown basketball-sized rock that looked layered. I didn't

think much of it when they brought it to me. That changed when an ex-miner on staff looked at it and said, "If that's not petrified wood, you can kiss my butt." Another staff member donated a large 10" tile saw to cut it open.

When we cut it open, it was magical. It turned out to be agatized petrified wood with a perfectly preserved grain structure. Even the ancient worm holes within it were perfectly preserved. Another staff member, who is a retired tile tradesman, donated a Makita rock polisher to try to make it shine. The rock took a flawless polish.

We decided to cut the stone to look like a 4"x4" piece of dimensional lumber. It turned out perfectly and looked just like one of the old fence posts found throughout the ranch — except it was 50 million years old.

When we entered it as our donation piece, I was nervous that it wouldn't meet the \$500 minimum. When the bidding started, the opening bid was \$1,000. The piece eventually sold for \$2,500

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Staff Brought Together for a Cause

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to benefit the foundation.

It was such a memorable experience to get the majority of the crew focused on a common task outside of our normal day-to-day routine. Talking rocks and researching geology to figure out what type of rocks we were looking at became our escape

from the dog days of summer. It connected us with the land we are maintaining every day. And, I know for myself and a few others, it gave us a new appreciation for the environment we are working in and how it connects to the geology of southwest Montana and the historic Missoula floods. Going forward we are trying to develop a complete set of tee markers of petrified wood found on the property.

Thank you for indulging me to share my story of last summer.

Have you checked out the resources available for equipment managers at gcsaa.org?

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