

The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association

Grass Clippings

December 2023

2024 Spring Meeting & Trade Show!

Our 2024 Spring Meeting & Trade Show will not only offer tools to help you maintain your course season-to-season — you will gain knowledge about what you can do with the unexpected. Enjoy this opportunity to hear first-hand about current research and, in addition, benefit from the lessons learned from a long-time superintendent. Join us February 20 - 21, 2024, at the Riverside Hotel, BW Premier Collection, Boise, Idaho. This property was a hit with our attendees in 2023 and served our needs well. Also, in 2024, we will return to our usual conference days — education and trade show on Tuesday, with education and golf on Wednesday. The board meeting will be Monday, February 19, 2024.



Regardless of your experience or facility budget, we have information to help you succeed. Education is always our priority and we have selected speakers and topics to benefit your facility and your career in 2024. Our speakers will include Paul Koch, Ph.D. (left), University of Wisconsin – Madison; Darren Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club; and Chas Schmid, Ph.D., Oregon State University.

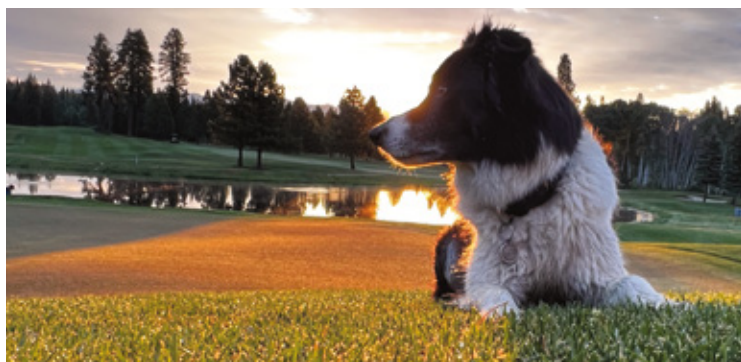
Paul Koch, Ph.D.'s extensive research focus includes snow mold. As reported previously, Koch has been conducting multi-year snow mold research in McCall, Idaho. The results of this research will be housed on our Idaho GCSA website in the near future (once our website refresh is complete). Koch is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Pathology as well as the Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and he also oversees the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab and the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program.

“Snow Mold Bloodbath — what can we learn from last winter”

Last winter saw widespread snow mold breakthrough on treated areas. In this presentation we'll discuss the potential reasons for the breakthrough, whether these kinds of conditions will become

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*The days of the week for the meeting in 2024
are Tuesday and Wednesday, with golf Wednesday afternoon.
(Board meeting is on Monday)*



Vote for Wilson!

Are you attending the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Phoenix? VOTE for Wilson! The 2024 LebanonTurf Calendar features Wilson of Whitetail Golf Club, McCall, Idaho, on the January page. Please take the time to cast your vote at the Lebanon booth. If Wilson wins, everyone wins! The Idaho GCSA chapter earns \$3,000, K9's for Warriors receives \$2,000 (a shared donation with GCSAA), and Wilson and his owner, Rick Mooney, would bank \$500.

Auction Rounds Needed

Our auction for rounds held in conjunction with the Boise Golf Show makes a huge impact on our annual budget! We depend on high course participation to be successful. Rounds for four plus carts are preferred. Proceeds help fund our continuing education and research programs, and keep our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate. Please mail your rounds plus scorecards at this time to our chairperson: Travis Rose, Simplot Turf & Horticulture, 1805 S. Smeed Pkwy Ste 101, Caldwell, ID, 83605-6282.

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

We have a fantastic spot reserved for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room at the 2024 Conference and Trade Show, January 31, 2024, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Join us at State 48 Brewery, downtown Phoenix, Arizona. It will be a great evening with friends and colleagues! This evening is made possible by our generous sponsors in the Northwest.

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Lori Russell, Executive Director
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Idaho GCSA

Lori Russell, Executive Director

P.O. Box 5003

Missoula, MT, 59806

(406) 273-0845

E-Mail: idahogcsa@idahogcsa.org

www.idahogcsa.org

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FEB

23

Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show

- Feb 23 & 24, 2023

WOW! We are talking a new location and a new
date! See you at the Spring Meeting & Trade Show -
February 23 & 24, 2023. The board meeting will
[...]

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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.
- * 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 password 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

It's a big world out there — you should check it out.

Brandon Crim, President
Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, Idaho

In the hustle and bustle of work life, especially on the golf course, it's easy to overlook the importance of taking time off and immersing yourself in the broader world. Beyond the benefits of simple relaxation,

there's a compelling case for the significance of travel in enhancing our overall well-being. Stepping away from the routine and exploring different cultures not only provides a refreshing break but also brings about a bunch of advantages.

Traveling serves as a catalyst for personal growth and self-discovery. Exposure to diverse environments fosters adaptability and resilience, skills that are invaluable in both personal and professional realms. By navigating unfamiliar territories, individuals learn to embrace ambiguity and problem-solving qualities that contribute to a more robust skill set in the workplace. Moreover, the experiences gained through travel often translate into heightened creativity. Experiencing new cultures, cuisines, and tradi-

tions broadens one's perspective, sparking innovative thinking and new ideas.

I know getting away from the course can be tough — there's always something to do. But taking time away from it to travel is not just a luxury, it's an investment in mental well-being. The stress-relieving effects of a change of scenery are absolutely worth it. Breaking free from the daily grind allows the mind to reset, reducing burnout and improving overall mental health. Additionally, travel fosters a sense of gratitude and appreciation. Experiencing different lifestyles can lead to a greater understanding of the privileges one enjoys. This newfound perspective can translate into increased job satisfaction and a more positive outlook on life.

Over the past few years, I have made it a necessity to try and take a big trip every year, plus some smaller trips throughout the year, as well. In January of 2022, I went to Tulum, Mexico, for two weeks. We checked out some Mayan ruin sites, snorkeled with sea turtles and swam through some cenotes. It was so nice to completely unplug myself from my routine and not think about or worry about anything work or even life-

related. It was the reset and recharge I needed! Especially after everything we dealt with during Covid and how stressed and isolated we all felt. I think it's more important than ever to take time off and get away for a while. It doesn't have to be a grand trip or someplace that's super far away, but get out there and do the things that make you happy.

This past January I travelled to Spain and Portugal for a few weeks. We started out in Lisbon, Portugal and then headed over to Madrid, Spain. From there we took the train all over the south of Spain, with stops in Seville, Malaga, Ronda, Valencia and finally Barcelona. This was much more of an adventure than a relaxation trip. I loved checking out the different cities and landmarks — the palaces and cathedrals, the local markets, and parks. We covered a lot of ground and saw a lot of sites. We were even lucky enough to go to a Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid soccer game which was awesome! Another highlight was seeing the buildings built by the local legend Antoni Gaudi. We walked through La Sagrada Familia, a massive church designed by

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Big World continued from page 3

Gaudi in Barcelona. It is something I will never forget. The size of it all and the details are like nothing I have ever seen. And walking inside with the sun shining through the stained-glass windows made you feel like you were in a dream. The way the light and colors lit up the interior was beyond impressive.

This upcoming January I am heading out for another adventure. I'll be headed down to Lima, Peru, Medellin, Columbia, Panama City and St Martin. I'm super excited and ready to recharge for a busy and project-filled season back at the course. We are redoing our parking lot, remodeling our clubhouse, re-shaping some tees, adding some new ones, and starting designs for an irrigation renovation. It will be a busy season, so this mental recharge will be much needed. I hope everyone out there takes the chance to reset and recharge this winter.

Happy Holidays and cheers to a new season!



Newest Board Member

Congratulations to our newest board member elected at the Fall Meeting — Ken Thornock, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho. He joins Adam Lott, Whitetail Club, McCall, Idaho, and Jake Olsen, Desert Canyon Golf Course, American Falls, Idaho. Officers elected: Brandon Crim, Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, Idaho; Vice President Alex Bliss, Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho; Sec/Treasurer Paul Venable, Warm Springs Golf Course, Boise, Idaho.

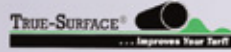


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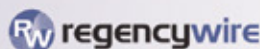


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A Look Back — 22 Years of Growth as a Superintendent

**Destry Jones, Terrace Lakes Resort
Garden Valley, Idaho**

I began my golf course career at Boise Ranch over 25 years ago. I was fighting fires for the BLM in the summer-time and going to college during the rest of the year. Like a lot of superintendents, I got into this business because I

enjoyed playing golf. The first time I played, I was a freshman in high school, and got frustrated when the ball just rolled on the ground on every shot and was never actually in the air. Because of that, I didn't play again for several more years. I grew up on a dairy farm and our neighbor had some old clubs and balls she gave to my dad. We took the tractor and made a dirt green on the other side of the corral and hit pitching wedges out of our yard, over the cows, and onto the green. Luckily no cows were injured. I guess you could say that is when my dad and I became hooked on the game. Later, when I was a poor college kid, I didn't have the money to play my newfound passion, so my dad suggested I try to get a job working at a golf course. I called up a family friend who happened to be part-owner of Boise Ranch and he encouraged me to apply there. Victor Wassner was the superintendent and he was shorthanded, so he basically hired me on the spot. Victor worked me as much as he could around my class

schedule in the spring and fall. He was never thrilled when I left in the summer and would always try to get me to stay. But, I needed to earn more money for school, so I always left to fight fires. Luckily, he always welcomed me back in the fall. After a few years of working at Boise Ranch, Victor got the superintendent job at Shadow Valley and the next fall I went to work for him there. After a couple of years, he talked me into staying on through the summer and being his assistant. It was a big decision because I was the next person in line to get a full-time position with the BLM. I was basically making a career decision. I was going to college to be a teacher and coach, but after three years of school and some substitute teaching, I decided that was not going to be for me. I enjoyed fighting fires, but I also really missed summer — my favorite time of the year. I like going to the lake and barbecuing with friends, and now that I was hooked on golf, I wanted to play more often. Fighting fires did not give me the opportunity to enjoy all of those things. I decided to stay at Shadow Valley and become Victor's assistant — a decision I have never regretted and one that changed the course of my life and career. Victor said he could teach me everything I needed to know to become a superintendent. True to his word, he mentored me every step of the way, and still does to this day.

After a couple of years of being Victor's assistant, the

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22 Years of Growth

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position at Terrace Lakes Resort became available. The previous superintendent quit and the general manager asked me if I wanted to come up in August of 1999 and finish the season out as a trial run. Victor told me I should go up and get some experience under my belt, and that if it didn't work out, I could always come back and work for him. I visited the golf course and decided to give it a shot. At the end of the year, the general manager and owners wanted me to come back the next year. I told them that I would love to — as long as they would commit to redoing the irrigation, and that we would do it in-house to save money. I had just helped redo the irrigation at Shadow Valley and I was fairly confident I could handle it. They agreed and we started the project that following year. I thought I might only be there a year or two and then work my way back to Boise, but I fell in love with the place and have been here ever since.

Besides loving Garden Valley, ID, the other thing that has kept me at Terrace Lakes for over 22 years is the relationship I have with the owners, and their willingness to put money back into improving the course. They have always given me free rein to manage the course in the way that I thought best, and they trust me to make personnel, budgeting, and purchasing decisions, among many other things. We've been through a lot together over the years, and I'm grateful they took a chance on a young, inexperienced, first-time superintendent, way back in 1999.

Terrace Lakes is located in Garden Valley, about one hour north of Boise in the mountains. It is a semi-private course. A lot of people show up with their boats and ask where the lake is. Originally the owners had land off the Middle Fork of the Payette River and were going to build the course on the lake, as they were supposed to dam the South Fork. The Garden Valley area was going to be a big lake. However, the soil testing along the river didn't allow for a dam to go in, but they had already submitted the name for the resort as "Terrace Lakes," so the name stuck. Since the lake wasn't going in, they decided to build the resort up the mountain and away from the dust caused by the traffic driving the unpaved road to Silver Creek Plunge. Terrace Lakes started out as a campground and the first big investment was the geothermal pool. After that, they built the front nine of the golf course in 1965. The back nine was added in 1980. It is only 6000 yards in length, but is one of the toughest 6000 yards you'll play. The greens are old push-up style greens with Pencilgrass and Poa annua. The tees, fairways, and rough are a little bit of everything — perennial rye, Kentucky bluegrass, bent, and Poa annua. The front nine is more open, but the push-up greens are a little more severe. The back nine is carved through the trees and is a lot tighter, but the greens are slightly more forgiving. We have a couple of sayings at Terrace Lakes. One is on the scorecard and says, "Stay Below the Hole," and the other you can find on tee-shirts in the pro shop, "Do you have enough balls to play the back 9?"

The course was always challenging to

play, but with the poor irrigation, it became extremely difficult. Most of the members were known as "sandy" when they played at other courses. I can remember multiple times listening to single-digit handicappers chatting over lunch in the clubhouse, looking at the scorecard and talking about how short some of the holes were and how easy it was going to be, and then subsequently not breaking 80 or even 90, for some of them. We have been trying to make it more playable and a little easier to speed up play. I can remember some people 11-putting in a tournament on a couple of greens because I would speed the greens up a little, and then they missed a pin placement by a couple of feet. You could say I was not very popular in the bar afterwards. I only got the greens rolling maybe nine on the Stimpmeter on a flat green, but a couple greens were sloped so severely from back to front that they might Stimpmeter three or four uphill, but would roll over 20 or 30 feet off the green downhill.

I can remember the first year I got here, you could hit your drive on the right side of the fairway and end up in the hazard because it was so sloped, and because the irrigation was so inadequate. Fixing this fairway was my first priority that fall. We hauled endless loads of fill dirt to the right side of #2 fairway. We had a hillside we dug out and a member loaded the dump truck and I drove a ton of loads to build up the fairway. Now with both that built up and the new irrigation, you can actually land your tee shot in the rough and it will stay in the rough.

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forrest@floratinenw.com

Troy Russell
(541) 297-1078
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22 Years of Growth continued from page 8

Next, we started the irrigation project, which was done in phases, and designed by The Land Group. I relied on the expertise of Greg Baer to make sure this new system would fit our needs. We also added a ton of drainage, which drastically helped with all the spring runoff. We have rebuilt or modified six of our greens. We have added or rebuilt eight tee boxes, built stairs to greens and tees, and repaved our cart paths. We have cut down a lot of trees to get better light and air flow — and I would cut way more if they weren't on other people's property. We rebuilt the few bunkers the golf course had and then eventually removed them. It was either add more or go bunkerless. We didn't have the budget at the time to add more and definitely didn't have the man-power to take care of them. It didn't break my heart to take them out. We added a bunch of flower areas and we added a creek that stretches across #5 fairway. We reshaped the fairway on #7 because no matter where you hit the ball, it always ended up on the left side. So, we made it a split fairway with a flat landing spot on the right side. We put in ponds with a waterfall in between on the right side of #8 fairway during the first phase of the irrigation when we put in the pumphouse. This is one of many things I wish I would've done differently. The general manager at the time wanted to build them there because it was the easiest, cheapest, and least disruptive. I was just excited they were giving me a new pump house and water storage, and didn't think that through very much. We could have made them better, more aesthetically pleasing, and brought the water more into play if had we put them between #5 and #8 fairways. I guess you could say I was young and not very experienced back then. We have put in drinking fountains and a couple of bathrooms. We have also built an add-on to our shop and gradually added some new and some gently used equipment. We have also resodded or reseeded our greens a couple times.

During my early years, we had so many projects that I wanted to get done on the course and not enough manpower to do it, so I began having what we called "Member Work Day" every spring. Members would come out and help on the course for four hours and then we would have a potluck lunch afterwards. After lunch we had a nine-hole scramble tournament. It was a little extra work getting everything and everyone organized, but I could get so much accomplished during those four hours with 60 members helping. We did everything from filling in trenches from the irrigation project and raking out and seeding, to clearing brush and sodding greens. It was a huge help and I really appreciated all the members who took pride in their course and also wanted it to improve.

As we've done these projects over the years, there have been times when I would get frustrated and overwhelmed because we didn't have the time, money, or manpower to get all the projects done. But I've realized that by sticking with my vision and forging ahead, even with the difficulty and short-term inconveniences, it was well worth it in the long run as it made my job maintaining the golf course much easier over the years. It's still a work in progress, and there are still projects that need to be done, but that's what has kept it exciting and kept me here for 22 years.

I have experienced many setbacks over the years, as well. One summer we lost greens 12,13, and 14. There were a few rea-

sons why, but let's just say I learned a lot of lessons that summer. It wasn't very much fun playing in league that year and having to explain to our members how I had messed up. We also had a winter that the ground froze about 18" deep before we had any moisture and we lost four greens on the front nine and all the back nine due to ice. We resodded the front nine and closed the back for about a month and a half and reseeded them. Luckily, we had some phenomenal weather that spring and they came in pretty quick. There is no worse feeling as a superintendent than when you lose greens. It happened to several other courses in snow country that year as well, so that makes you feel a little better, and helped our owners to understand the extreme circumstances. I feel blessed that I was able to keep my job after these instances and hope and pray it never happens again.

It has always been a challenge to try and get the course in as great of shape as I can. Despite the elk and harsh winters (we usually have two or three feet of snow on the flats), and not having a large budget, my crew and the owners are always trying to make it better year after year. When I think back to all the things we have done over the years, it brings a smile to my face. We have done most of them in-house and maybe some of the projects haven't been done exactly as they should have, but with the money and manpower available at the time, they got done and we have been moving forward. I have always had a vision for what I was trying to get this golf course to look like. Victor always had Shadow Valley in beautiful shape and I wanted to try my hardest to make this course in as good of shape as Shadow, but in its own way.

I have had some great crews over the years, and a few of my employees have even been with me throughout my entire career at Terrace Lakes. I never could have accomplished all these things without the hard work and dedication of these individuals who have an incredible work ethic and take pride in what they do. I also could not have done it without the owner's support. In my opinion, it is of utmost importance to foster strong relationships with not only your crew, but the owners/managers and golf pro, as well.

Winter is settling in now and we will see what it brings.

Hopefully mother nature will be nice to everyone. In all but two of my years at Terrace Lakes, the snow is gone off the front nine by April 1. Last March the greens still had 15 inches in the shadiest areas on the front and 23 inches on the back nine.

If any of you are in the area this coming year and would like to play at Terrace Lakes, just give me a call.





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2024 Spring Meeting & Trade Show continued from page 1
more common in the future, and what strategies we can employ to prevent this from happening again.

“Simplifying Plant Health Activators”

Plant health activators are becoming more common in spray programs for a variety of reasons. But questions remain about how they work and whether they really help. In this presentation we'll define the various types of plant health activators and discuss situations when your turf can benefit from their use.

Chas Schmid, Ph.D., is a research associate in the turfgrass program at Oregon State University where he conducts applied turfgrass research and teaches undergraduate and PACE courses. His research interests include the management of organic matter in putting greens, the impact of cultural management practices such as soil nutrition and soil pH on anthracnose disease of putting greens, and turfgrass cultivar evaluations.



“Organic Matter Management Trials at OSU”

Organic matter (OM) management with core cultivation and topdressing are important management practices for golf course putting greens, and one of the most disruptive to golfers. This presentation will cover two current Oregon State University research trials investigating OM management. The first is a long-term cultivation and sand topdressing trial on

annual bluegrass turf. Attendees will learn how cultivation tine type (hollow or solid), cultivation timing (spring, fall, or both), and sand topdressing rate influence OM content, infiltration rates, surface firmness and turfgrass quality. The second trial that will be presented investigates the effect of plant growth regulator (Primo Maxx [Trinexapac-ethyl] and Proxy [Ethephon]) timing on core cultivation recovery. Digital image analysis data will be presented to show how plant growth regulators influence cultivation recovery in both spring and fall.

“Backpack Sprayers 101: Unleash their full potential”

This presentation will cover ways a backpack sprayer can be used on a golf course. It will also cover what features should be considered when purchasing a backpack sprayer (both manual and electric), and how to modify the spray wand to improve calibration accuracy. Methods on how to calibrate a backpack sprayer for broadcast or spot applications will also be covered.

Darren J. Davis, CGCS, is a 33-year member and 82nd President of GCSAA. Davis was hired as the golf course superintendent at the Olde Florida Golf Club in 1992 and he remains in the same position today. Davis feels fortunate to have stumbled upon the career and will provide his viewpoint on what has led to his tenure and success in the industry.



“Tips for Success from a Tenured Superintendent.”

This presentation is for anyone
continued page 15



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Chapter Delegates Meeting

Brandon Crim, Chapter Delegate
Centennial Golf Course
Nampa, Idaho

I went to my first Chapter Delegates Meeting this year. The 2023 Chapter Delegates Meeting was held Oct. 24-25 in Kansas City and at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. There were 85 delegates representing 87 chapters.

The meeting brings leaders together from GCSAA's 95 chapters to discuss initiatives, provide insight on moving the association forward, and to begin discussions on electing board members and officers at the February 2024 annual meeting which will happen at the National show in Phoenix.

First-day highlights included updates and information from CEO Rhett Evans on "Relentless Focus." Delegates were asked to encourage participation and engagement in the industry from their staff and colleagues, while GCSAA continues to recognize the accomplishments of members.

A government affairs update was provided, informing attendees of potential legislative and regulatory advances that will impact the golf industry. Delegates also received information on the Rounds4Research program, and the 2024 GCSAA Golf Championships and Conference and Trade Show to be held in Phoenix.

On day two, delegates met at Headquarters in Lawrence. Discussion included various department leader updates, including information on the need for facility Best Management Practices. Facility BMP's are essential to showcase how golf course superintendents are environmental stewards.

Recently, GCSAA implemented a new program and service, focusing on the First Green Program and Workforce Development. Updates highlighted how these programs are introducing students and individuals to the game of golf. Labor continues to be a challenge and this area addresses those concerns. GCSAA has also formed a Centennial Committee. The association will turn 100-years old in 2026. Plans and activities to engage all members for the event were presented.

Delegates also participated in breakout sessions. The breakouts allowed attendees to provide feedback and information on



GCSAA's current dues adjustment process using the Consumer Price Index, assisting with facility BMP implementation, ways to increase rounds/bidders for Rounds4Research, career development certificates, and Centennial plans.

Candidate breakout sessions concluded activities. The delegates were awarded ample time to interact and ask questions of the candidates. Those running for the GCSAA Board in 2024 are:

- For President – Jeff L. White, CGCS
- For Vice President – T.A. Barker, CGCS
- For Secretary/Treasurer – Paul L. Carter, CGCS; Doug Dykstra, CGCS
- For Director (electing two) – Greg Jones, CGCS, MG; Ryan Kraushofer, CGCS, Christopher Reverie, Marc Weston, CGCS

There are two open director positions for two-year terms. The terms of Dykstra and Weston are expiring. If Dykstra is not elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position, he will need to run from the floor for an open director position to remain on the board. If Carter becomes Secretary/Treasurer a third person will need to be elected for the one remaining year on his term.

Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, retires from the board after being immediate past president in 2023. GCSAA's Annual Meeting will take place Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 8-10 a.m. at the Phoenix Convention Center.

This was a super cool experience, something I think everyone should try at some point. The staff at GCSAA is really doing everything they can to try and make our lives as superintendents better and easier. The people running for this board really do care and want to help out our organization.

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| Hole No. 17 196 E. MCCORMICK K. THORNOCK C. ALLEN J. VINCENT | Hole No. 16 196 D. PHIPPS K. WHEELER P. SHERER A. BLISS | Hole No. 15 194 J. JACKSON R. LUKE D. STANFIELD R. ERNST |
| Hole No. 14 191 3rd B. CRIM T. ROSE K. KING S. MENDENHALL | Hole No. 13 200 M. DOAN G. FLAHERTY J. MURDOCK C. MULDENHAUER | Hole No. 12 188 2nd E. MURDOCK B. ROTH B. ARTIST B. BURTON |
| Hole No. 11 185 1st M. SPRATTES R. STRAUTMAN G. HONEYCUT BD | Hole No. CLOSEST TO THE PIN | Hole No. BEAU \$50 ARTIST |



2024 Spring Meeting & Trade Show
continued from page 12

looking to remain relevant in the golf course industry.

“How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry: The Art of Self Promotion”

Personal stories and real-life examples to demonstrate the importance of communication, professionalism and self-promotion as a way to set yourself apart and advance. The topics are designed to help you present yourself at the highest level and become the “author of your own destiny.” The presentation is for anyone

looking for tips and techniques to enhance their marketability in the golf course management industry.

We all know educational opportunities come in many formats — especially on the trade show floor. Allied partners will join us 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 in the room.

Registration will open early January.

From Milking Cows to Mowing Greens

Travis Tvrdy, Second Assistant Whitetail Golf Club, McCall, Idaho

If someone would have asked me where I would be in ten years, I probably would have replied still working at the dairy farm in Missouri. I never could have imagined I would be working at a golf course in the mountains of Idaho. After high school, I got a job working at Shatto Milk Company as a farm hand. Within five years, I learned all the ins and outs of the dairy industry from mixing feed for the cattle to milking cows to waste management. I was then promoted to the processing plant manager where I supervised the production and packaging of dairy products while managing a crew. I am grateful for my experience at the dairy, but I felt it was time for me to pursue something new, but I just was not sure what that would be yet.

I turned my focus into pursuing a degree in agricultural sciences at Northwest Missouri State University.

While attending school, I got a job working for the landscape crew on campus, not realizing at the time, that was my introduction into turf grass management. A few months later, a friend shared an internship opportunity that sounded interesting, so I decided to go for it. I interned at Quarry Oaks Golf Club in Ashland, Neb., where I learned about everything that goes into managing and maintaining a golf course, from irrigation systems to spraying herbicides and from cutting cups to sharpening reels. This experience opened my eyes to career possibilities within this industry. As graduation approached, I knew I wanted to branch out and explore new places to live, so I applied for assistant superintendent positions at courses across the northwest, landing me here in McCall, Idaho.

I am currently working as the second assistant superintendent at the Whitetail
continued page 18



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Milking Cows to Mowing Greens continued from page 16

Club. I have been here for the last two years and am really enjoying it. I have to admit getting used to the long winter season was a bit brutal, but keeping busy with snow removal and lots of ice fishing helps it go by faster. While I have been here, I have continued my education in golf course maintenance through applicator training, irrigation and drainage systems, machine maintenance and snow mold prevention. To be honest, I did not know what snow mold was until I started working here. This last year, one of our fairways got hit hard and we had to re-sod nearly half of it. This is just one of the many things I have had to learn about golf course maintenance since I have worked this job and I know that I still have much to learn.

When I set out to make some changes in my life, I had no idea that life would lead me to where I am now. I am so thankful to live and work in these beautiful mountains where I can hunt and fish year-round while developing skills in my new-found career.

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One of the Two Allied Liaisons to the Board is Open

Are you an allied partner interested in serving as a co-allied liaison to the Idaho GCSA Board of Directors? This position is important to the board as it helps to offer the perspective of our diverse membership. We are seeking interested candidates for the position.

We ask you to attend the two board meetings each year that are 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 offer their voice during board discussion. The term is for approximately three years.

Please contact Lori or a board member by February 10 to submit your name for consideration or for more information. The position will be appointed at the board meeting held in conjunction with the Spring Meeting & Trade Show.



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