

Grass Clippings

December 2024

2025 Spring Meeting & Trade Show!

Let's gather together in February! Education is our top priority, and we've created an engaging conference agenda with speakers and topics to help your facility in 2025. Join us on February 18-19, 2025, at the Riverside Hotel, BW Premier Collection, in Boise, Idaho, for the Idaho GCSA Spring Meeting & Trade Show.

This educational opportunity will equip you with tools to enhance your course season-to-season, and it will also provide you with invaluable knowledge about the three crucial keys to employee retention: Leadership, Culture, and Reputation. We'll delve into how strong leadership fosters growth, how a positive culture boosts loyalty, and how a strong reputation attracts and retains top talent.



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Utility of Fungicides Beyond Disease Control

ment managers and those who incorporate the role into their duties. Two speakers new to our conference, Wendell Hutchinson, Ph.D. (above), from the University of Arkansas, and Ben Eden, Reach Your Ultimate Potential, will be presenting. We also look forward to welcoming back Edward Nangle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the OSU Agricultural Technical Institute.

Educational opportunities can take many forms, and the trade show floor is no exception. Allied partners will join us to support your association and profession, sharing their extensive

continued page 6

idahogcsa.org

GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship

Congratulations to Matt Gourlay, CGCS, MG, AGS, Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho, named the recipient of the GCSAA 2025 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

"During his career, Matt has practiced sustainable golf course management that showcases golf course superintendents' dedication to protect the environment," said GCSAA President Jeff L. White, CGCS. "He not only uses best management practices and has a commitment to sustainability, but has spent his career educating others on how to implement environmental BMPs."

Gourlay believes strongly in the use of Minimum Level for Sustainable Nutrition (MLSN), which is an approach to managing soil nutrient levels that can help decrease fertilizer inputs while still maintaining healthy quality turf. "Smart business decisions have resulted in good decisions for the golf course and environment," Gourlay said. "From a golfer's standpoint, I don't hit the ball as far as I used to, so I like to have the fast, firm conditions. You get those playing conditions from reducing water and fertility, and it creates great golf course conditions." *Excerpt from Mike Strauss, GCSAA news release.*



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Organic Matter Accumulation and PGR Responses in Creeping Bentgrass Cultivars – There are Differences

Drought Stress Tolerance as Impacted by the Use of Biological Products – Year 3 of Never-ending Testing

Auction Rounds Needed

Our auction for rounds held in conjunction with the Boise Golf Show makes a huge impact on our annual budget! Proceeds help fund our continuing education and research programs, and keep our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate. We thank all who support our efforts with your annual donation.

A letter requesting support from your facility can be downloaded from our website by clicking on the news tab, idahogcsa.org. If you would like the letter personalized, please let Lori know.

Rounds for four plus carts are preferred. 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. We depend on high course participation to be successful!



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Did you know the events shown on our website homepage
are only a portion of events listed?
Click on the events tab to see a larger list.

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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.**

President's Message

Benefits of a Changing Season

Alex Bliss, President
Sun Valley/ElkHorn GC, Sun Valley, Idaho



Well, we have made it through another long summer season. It's had its challenges with a season of inclement weather, unforeseen breakdowns of equipment and irrigation, and the trials and tribulations of seasonal staff. We have all been there before and we know the challenges will arise again in the future. That's just the nature of our job, and despite the stress, it's what keeps us going and coming back for more. As I transition from one season to another, it's a good time to look back with my team to talk about our season and identify how to make it better next year.

Nordic season is quickly approaching

for me, but before I get too caught up with that, I spend some time with my team reviewing our golf season. Now is a great time to sit down with my assistants and mechanics to talk about what we did well and what we need to improve upon for next season. We discuss our agronomic plan and how well it worked or didn't, and how we can better recruit and train new staff. We also address better communication with the pro shops on tournaments and daily course conditions. We list it all out — the good and the bad — and collectively give input as to what we all saw and felt. This process helps us develop a plan and set our goals for the next year.

I also reach out to students and interns who worked for us over the season. It's good to get their perspective of the experience and what they learned. Especially if some of these are people who I look forward to having back next season or in the future. Establishing a good connection with the students, asking how school is going, and being available to help them with schoolwork if needed, is all important. Sharing my knowledge with the next generation is a great way to give back, and it may even help us recruit more valuable

students in the future.

As I start to plan for the next golf season and get ready to start our Nordic winter season, it is important to find time for myself, and for family and friends. After a summer season of long days and weeks straight without time off, it's important to catch your breath and slow down. Take the time to relax a little for yourself and prioritize spending time with friends and family. Our jobs are stressful enough and we need to find the time to reset and unwind. It's too easy to burn out from everything we have going on.

I know it is easier said than done, but I hope this reminder to everyone to take some time off makes you at least think about it. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego this February for the industry show, and later in the spring for the Boise meeting.



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

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greg@baerdg.com

www.baerdg.com

In Memory of Lee Monroe

Lee passed away August 20 at age 89. A long-time Idaho GCSA member, Lee was the superintendent at Warm Springs Golf Course for 30 years. He retired in 2011.

Lee was a regular at our conferences and was quick with his wit and a story, and his dedication was respected by his peers. He passed along the importance of continuing education to his employees.

Still for many, Lee is remembered at every business meeting. When voting on a motion, Lee was always a "nay" and always made us laugh. Except when the vote was meaningful — he always voted in the affirmative. Periodically we still hear a "nay" from the audience and we know that is for Lee.



Past President's Message

Be the Good You Want to See

Brandon Crim, Past President
Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, Idaho



I wanted to reach out and say it has been an enjoyable learning experience being the president over the last year and extend my congratulations to our new president, Alex Bliss.

I also want to congratulate Matt Gourlay for winning the 2025 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship! This is a significant accomplishment, and we are fortunate to have him as a new Idaho GCSA member!

With all the turmoil and divisiveness in the world, be the good you want to see. Tell your loved ones that you love them. Tell your staff thank you for their work. Take time to be with your friends and family. Make an effort to disconnect from your

phone, social media, the news, and the internet. Take time off work and do the things you love to do. Focus on your health. Focus on your family. Remember that everyone is fighting their own battles and dealing with all the craziness of life, so let's be compassionate and nice to the people in your lives.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room at the 2025 Conference and Trade Show, February 5, 2025, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., at The Blind Burro, San Diego, Calif. It will be a great evening made possible by our generous sponsors in the Northwest.

We have several levels of sponsorship available. If you would like to help support this event, please reach out to Lori.

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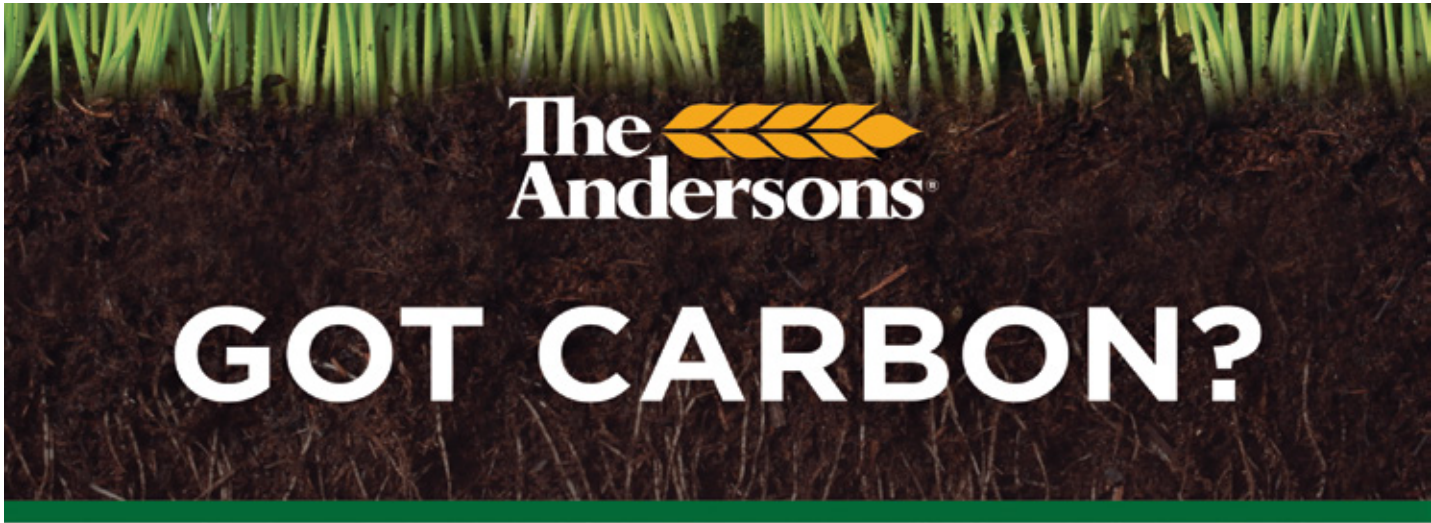


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Building a New Golf Course 101

Jeff Murdock, theStelle at Skyridge
Mayflower Mountain, UT

Building a new golf facility is one of the most rewarding and demanding experiences a superintendent can have. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to be a part of many builds and grow-ins, ranging from the extreme heat and hot deserts of Arizona and Utah to the rainy coast of Oregon and the mild climate of the Idaho panhandle. My current project is nestled in the high mountains of northern Utah. Regardless of the location, it all starts with the bare dirt, architect renderings, excited owners, and skilled builders, before being handed off to the grass growing guru, the superintendent. Each person brings critical skills to creating the best golf course possible. Here are some of the lessons I've learned while working with multiple architects, builders and Mother Nature to build new courses.

Choosing the right architect can make or break the long-term use of the course. While a famous name may add prestige and will lure players to the course initially, sometimes their style is just not suited to the locale of the build. Moreover, big names also come with a big price tag, of which some projects just don't have the funding. Selecting an architect is a challenge of finding the right person with a vision that compliments the location and fees that fall within the project budget. Players today are looking for unique characteristics and golf course layouts to keep them returning. However, it can be easy to go overboard trying to

create something while unique, ends up not being "fun" for players. Keep in mind the ability level of prospective clients. The right architect will create a course that is unique to the location, beautiful, challenging, and yet still enjoyable playing over and over. Hopefully, the chosen architect will be a good match for both the project's design requirements and your budget.

Perhaps even more crucial than finding the right architect is to hire the right builder. A good builder has a truly unique set of skills that takes the plans on paper and brings them to life using dirt, dozers, dynamite and an attention to detail. The old saying, "you get what you pay for" is definitely true regarding golf course construction. The actual physical construction of the golf course is not a place to be skimping on materials or labor costs. Shortcuts motivated by time and money often create more expense and headache over the long haul. I've seen new courses that within a year are reshaping holes and moving tees because the construction was not up to par. The construction phase is where the big money needs to be spent and progress closely monitored to get a great end product. During construction, a hands-on superintendent — who is not a part of the construction company, but working for the owner of the facility — is crucial. The superintendent can see the bigger long-term picture, identify potential problems before they become permanent, and help guide the construction with the owner's best interest in mind. Also, it is extremely helpful for the person who is going to

continued page 8



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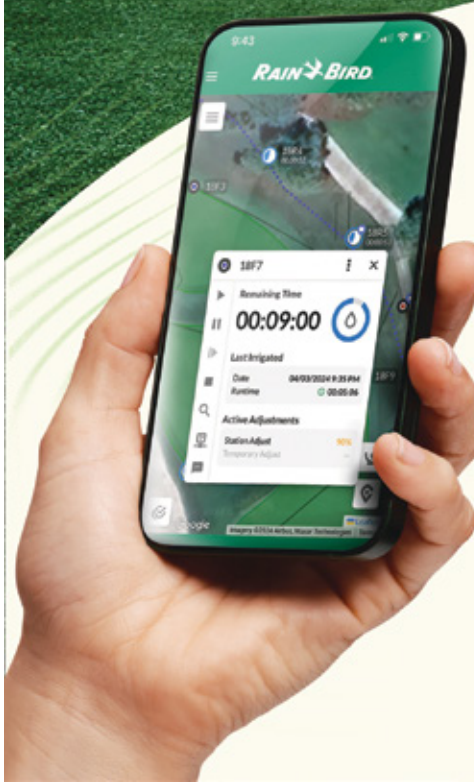
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Building 101 continued from page 6

maintain the course to see firsthand what is being built under the dirt so when problems like an irrigation break or drainage issues arise, they have a clear understanding of what is in the ground. Unfortunately, as-built maps are not always accurate, important components like irrigation lateral valves may be lost in the dirt if the construction was not seen in person. Push for the most accurate as-built maps possible and then spend the money to get a GPS map done by a professional. Be present for the construction process and don't be afraid to discuss with owners and builders potential issues you see once the project leaves paper and begins taking shape in the real world. Remember the only dumb question is the one left unasked.

With a well-engineered and shaped facility in place, the hard work for the grow-in superintendent really begins. Select the best grass varieties for your climate and make sure your new irrigation system is completely up and running before putting down any seed. Also critical at this point is fertilizer. Without proper nutrition for the plant, there will be no grass. Applying a basic 16-16-16 fertilizer will get the grass off to a good start, and then you can customize the mix as needed. The temperature and wind conditions will factor into how much water the new seed needs, but simply spinning each head once an hour is a good rule of thumb while the seed germinates. One of the best pieces of advice I've ever been given about growing new grass is to make sure the seed goes to bed a bit dry. This helps prevent disease potential and helps the soil to keep up the temps throughout the night.

With the cooperation of Mother Nature, there will be green blades springing up in several days, a nice green cover within a month, and by the end of a good growing season, a playable course. However, once things start to look pretty and green, one of the hardest parts of the grow-in is communicating with the owners and telling them, "No, the grass isn't ready to play on yet." At times I've been pressured and caved to opening the course before the turf was really ready. Those decisions have always come back to haunt me and the course when we start right out of the gate trying to rescue damaged turf that wasn't ready for the trauma of equipment, carts and players. Patience is a huge part in growing in and opening a course.

A final piece of advice about building a new golf course is about equipment. It is always fun to open a new course and get all that shiny new equipment to put in your new shop. Choosing the right equipment is critical for keeping the course in its best possible condition. I have seen every color of equipment on my facilities over the years and they all break and they all get repaired. My advice is to pick the vendor in your area who will give you the best service. You want the company/individual who will answer the call at crazy hours and have your back when the chips are down.

There you have it — a few insights and ideas for growing in a new golf course. In the words of Witteveen and Bavier, "The magic of new grass covering bare earth is a phenomenon both satisfying and inspiring." Be a part of the magic, remember the joy of being a kid playing in the dirt — getting dirty, and getting wet. Now, we can grow grass doing all these things, and most of all, have fun doing it!




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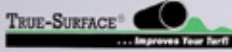
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Idaho GCSA 2024 Fall Meeting!

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A Challenging Winter and its Aftermath

Ken Thornock

The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho



Last winter posed significant challenges for turf management. The first snowfall arrived as a wet, heavy blanket, followed by warmer temperatures that turned it into a slushy surface layer.

As temperatures dropped, this slush froze into a solid ice sheet. Early February rains worsened the situation, thickening the ice, especially in low-lying areas and around collar dams. By mid-February, concerns over the survival of the *Poa annua* on the greens prompted us to take action in the most severely affected areas.

Ice Removal Efforts

We focused on removing ice in the deeper, darker, and clearer areas, prioritizing greens that were most at risk. The process

involved using a snow blower to clear snow, followed by a Toro ProCore to break up the ice. Afterward, we shoveled the debris by hand. While this method was effective, the thicker ice layers required additional manual chipping. On one green, we experimented with deeper tine penetration, which successfully removed the ice but left visible marks on the surface that persisted until July.

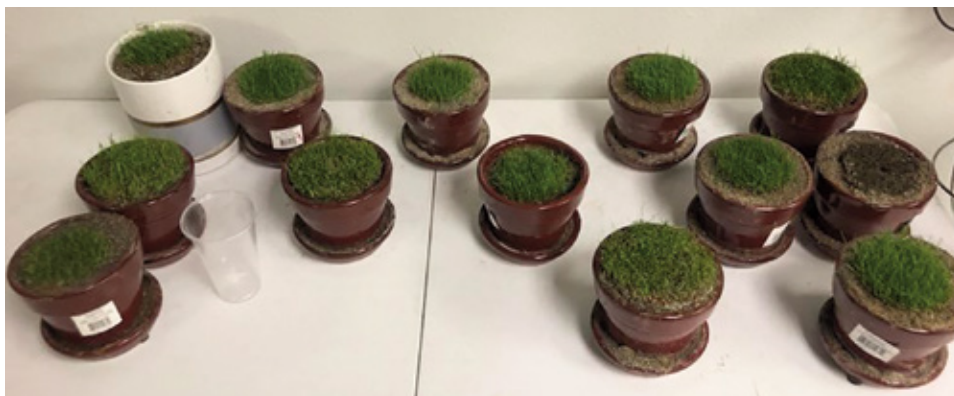
A large graphic advertisement for Nutrien Solutions. It features a silhouette of a golfer in mid-swing against a sunset background. The text "LEADING THE FIELD" is in the top left, and "0110101101101010" is in the top right. Contact information for Craig Nuthak and Logan Pearce is in the bottom center, and the Nutrien Solutions logo is in the bottom right.

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Spring Recovery

When spring arrived and the snow melted, we finally saw the extent of the damage. The results were mixed. Our ice removal efforts preserved some turf, but we also lost patches of grass, including both *Poa annua* and bentgrass. The bentgrass loss was most pronounced in low-lying areas, likely due to the freeze-thaw cycles in early spring.

After identifying the areas of winterkill—a process that always feels slow—we began sodding in early April. While

the sodding addressed some of the damage, it didn't cover all the affected areas. The dead *Poa annua* created scattered patches within the bentgrass, resembling "polka dots" on the greens. Fortunately, since our greens are relatively new, the damage was manageable, and by July, the polka dots had filled in.

Fairways and Tees

As the snow melted across the course, we discovered extensive winterkill in some fairways and tees. Low-lying areas

where water pooled were especially hard-hit. This was particularly discouraging as the golf season approached, and having dead grass was unacceptable.

To address the damage, we immediately began seeding the affected areas. Although it was too cold for germination, we wanted to ensure the seed was in place once temperatures rose. Unfortunately, the persistent cold delayed germination. To accelerate the process, we used our greens tarps to warm the soil, covering the worst affected areas of the fairways.

Lessons Learned

While this winter was harsh, it offered valuable insights into managing extreme conditions. Ice removal saved significant portions of turf, though not without challenges. We've also learned the importance of proactive measures, like early seeding and creative use of resources such as tarps. As we move forward, these experiences will help us refine our strategies to better protect our greens, fairways, and tees in future winters.

Brian Roth, CGCS, Tapped to Run for the GCSAA Board of Directors



Idaho GCSA and Utah GCSA member, Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course, Tooele, Utah, is a candidate on the 2025 slate of directors. A past president of our association and a long-time education committee member, Roth remains dedicated to the turfgrass profession. We are honored to have dedicated members willing to serve.

Board of Directors

We rely on our members to stay strong and flourish as an association!

We express our gratitude to our recently elected officers and directors: **President** – Alex Bliss, Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho; **Vice President** – Paul Venable, Warm Springs Golf Course, Boise, Idaho; and **Secretary/Treasurer** – Adam Lott, Whitetail Club, McCall, Idaho. Elected Directors at the business meeting: Bryce Burton, Valli Vu, Afton, Wyoming (Incumbent); Dereck Stanfield, Sand Creek Golf Club, Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Ken Thornock, The Valley Club, Hailey, Idaho (Incumbent).

On behalf of the membership, our incoming president, Alex Bliss (*left*), presented Brandon Crim (*right*) with a token of appreciation for his leadership as president and years of dedicated service on the board.



Digital Technology in Golf Course Management

Lorabeth Catterson, Syngenta Digital Platforms Specialist



Today, there is a lot of talk about implementing technology and collecting data for golf course operation, and it can be overwhelming. Using technology allows us to automate tasks and increase our productivity. Having a robot vacuum at home that runs on a schedule allows more time for other housekeeping tasks to get done, so why not try a robotic mower to allow other course details to be tended

we embraced after a full golf course renovation where we aimed for uniform playing conditions across multiple grass types and soil textures. It was important for us to meet member expectations when irrigating the brand-new golf course that did not take water easily due to the water quality being high in EC and bicarbonates, and areas with heavy clay soils. We managed USGA bentgrass greens, Bermuda fairways, and ryegrass rough year-round. We had different water requirements amongst the grasses, and with sand-capped tee and green surrounds with native soil fairways in a place with not a lot of water, we needed a way to track our inputs and results. Using a Spiio in-ground sensor, you can track moisture, salinity, and temperature in areas to help determine irrigation thresholds, flushing practices, and application timing. We knew where we wanted to allocate the water and fine-tuned the ET where we had compact or wet soils. We were able to see different seasonal effects, created historical data, and had a tool to communicate to the pro shop or membership on what the current conditions could be.

to? There are varying levels of technology to explore and it's important to understand what the goals of integrating them would be before biting off more than you can chew. In this article, I will cover some of my experience at Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles, California, where using soil sensors, GPS sprayers, drone photography, and robotic mowers led to my love of a technology-based approach to golf course management.

Most golf course superintendents are already using more technology than they realize, the most common one being a handheld moisture meter, such as a TDR or Pogo. Before these tools, one might have a soil probe to detect moisture from the feel of the sample. Now, we can take moisture readings with the push of a button and get hand watering done faster and more accurately. The new Rainbird CirrusPro software is built in a way to save time for the end user. The central irrigation computer is accessible via a web browser in the field on a phone or iPad. This alleviates the need to go back to the office computer to run station diagnostics. I would be notified that a station was not communicating before running a voltage check. The new map allows you to work with the station details all in one place and streamlines inputting changes.

In-ground soil sensors were the next form of technology that

We used John Deere GPS sprayers to get the course sprayed. We saved time, chemicals, and labor. When making applications, we would choose the target area, fairways for example, and could choose how much of an overlap we would want outside of the map area. This allowed for less chemical overspray, especially when making applications on Bermuda that could harm ryegrass. We would set the section control to 0% and know that the machine would shut off before touching the boundary. This concept was also applied when making applications to the green top only, which saved chemical and saved the Bermuda collars from being sprayed when we didn't need to. The machines can communicate with one another and store a map of the application; if one machine needs to go refill, another one can pick up right where it left off. If the wind comes in and you need to pull the spray, you can pick right back up on it tomorrow. The John Deere Ops Center mobile app allows you to follow the machines in the field and track time and fuel and begins to show a map of the application output. If we had an issue with pressure in the machine, we had data that showed where that happened and if we needed to go make another application. With the GPS and Auto Steer

An advertisement for Steiner Thuesen PLLC. The top part features the company name in large, bold, white letters on a dark green background. Below the name, three services are listed: 'GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE', 'LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE', and 'IRRIGATION DESIGN'. The middle section is a detailed technical drawing of a golf course layout, showing various holes, fairways, and irrigation lines in different colors (blue, red, pink). The bottom section contains contact information: '1925 Grand Avenue Billings, Montana, 59102 406-252-5545', 'www.steinerthuesen.com', and 'info@steinerthuesen.net'. The background of the entire advertisement is a light green map of a golf course.

implementation, the applicators reduced any unnecessary overlap, and reduced time spent making the application because it drove on prescribed lines for them.

We used the same AutoSteer and StarFire technology from the sprayer and put it on one of the tractors with a Lely fertilizer hopper on the back, just like they do in agriculture. You can enter the position of the tractor, swath, and target rate into the machine and begin to create GPS lines and a map of the fertilizer app. When we implemented this to our aerification schedule, we did not need people to flag, had a more uniform application, and used less fertilizer. This platform also provided us with maps of applications, creating more info to save for our site history.

The next thing we integrated was daily drone photography. We used the Greensight drone service to create a flight map and fly the drone remotely on a daily 20-minute trip around the property. I needed to get an unmanned aircraft part 107 license, and I kept an eye on the bird as it made its journey. This flight would return three images of the course in around two hours – a normal photo, thermal photo, and an NDVI (plant health) photo. We used these photos for visual aid when making irrigation decisions or planning out a chemical application. We could zero in on the areas that showed drier or wetter conditions, and when placing an in-ground soil sensor in these areas, we fine-tuned the volume and intervals that an area could take. This created more documentation for us to prepare for seasonal conditions, to reason why we had a difference in one year to the next and show progress over time.

Naturally, trying out robotic mowers was the next reasonable

thing to do! Hillcrest is surrounded by a neighborhood where noise restrictions would make it challenging to get areas mowed before member play. We started with the Husqvarna auto mowers on our driving range, short course, and practice green surrounds. These areas could not be mowed before 7 a.m. with the noise restriction, but opened for member play at 7 a.m., so it was impossible not to disrupt those on the putting green with a push mower later in the day. We would need to schedule team members to come in earlier to get the driving range rough mowed and it was a lot to coordinate, but the robotic mowers made it easy. We put a base station on the driving range house and ran power for the mower charging docks off to the side of the range. Using the mobile app, you map areas for the mower to mow or stay out of and set it on a desired schedule. The mowers go out to work and return to the charging station and we would get an app alert if the mower needed any help. This allowed us to be ready for member play, alleviated machine damage in smaller areas, and was safer than human operators when mowing slopes on the course. We could send the mowers out sooner after a rainstorm; it reduced disease pressure driven by leaf wetness, and allowed our team to focus on the acres of landscape that needed pruning. If there was an event that night, we could park the mowers from the mobile app and send them back out in the same way when ready.

This may sound like more than what you need to make your golf course shine, but one of any of the above might allow you more peace of mind or a little less time spent at work. If putting an in-ground soil sensor helps you check for ice in the winter without having to snowshoe out and dig a hole, it might be something to explore. Tracking water inputs in the West is incredibly important because we are always in threat of drought, so having data to show you are a steward of the land can be valuable. If you make a lot of foliar applications and spend a lot of time picking up flags for marking passes, maybe it's time to upgrade. Some sprayers can be retrofitted to the newer technology and the return on investment will be instant. There are a lot of options for soil moisture mapping, like drone photography or machine attachments, so understand what you want to get out of taking these readings and what you will do with them before overcommitting. Robotic mowers come in a variety of sizes now but aren't meant to take any jobs away. With labor always being a concern, it can help you get more done with less or get to those fine details that you couldn't before.

Embrace technology on the golf course, it is only meant to help you!



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Rethinking Bunker Maintenance

Cameron Tuss, Assistant Superintendent
Meadowlark Country Club, Great Falls, Mont.

The Perfect Lie, November 2024

Bunkers play an important role in the game of golf. They provide strategy, challenge and visual aesthetics. But they are also the topic of many “spirited” debates. The earliest bunkers occurred naturally as open areas of sand. They were very primitive and filled with footprints and vegetation. Over the years, bunkers became more formalized and golfer expectations increased. Today, bunkers at most courses are intensively maintained and account for a substantial part of the budget.

According to the USGA, bunkers are a hazard. What is a hazard? Webster’s Dictionary defines a hazard as the following: an unavoidable danger or risk, even though often foreseeable; something causing danger, peril, risk, or difficulty; the absence or lack of predictability; chance of uncertainty.

There are some golfers who view bunkers as hazards as the USGA does. This is a select group who I will call the traditionalists of the game. Then you have the group (majority) who believe they should have a perfect lie every time they find themselves in one.

In an effort to tackle concerns and comments about bunker playability and consistency, we decided to try a different approach to our bunker maintenance program this season. We implemented the Australian or Aussie Method of raking bunkers. This technique involves smoothing the sand around the edges. The bottoms are raked by hand on a regular basis. One of the main reasons to use this method is to reduce the chance of a golf ball getting hung up on a steep slope or next to a bunker edge. In theory, the unraked areas will develop a firm crust that will allow the ball to roll down to the raked bottom. For us, we tried squeegees, the back sides of bunker rakes and the rakes that have vertical circular disks with spaces in between. All worked to varying degrees for smoothing the sides. For the initial raking after the sand is pushed/pulled on the sides, the roller squeegee worked well. One recommendation would be to get a smaller one. It will make it easier to smooth out corners. The bottoms of the bunkers were raked with spring and leaf rakes. You might be thinking that this would be more labor intensive, but in terms of time, it was about the same as using a mechanical machine.

Are there downsides? Of course there are. The smooth sides that are not touched on a regular basis tend to have more grassy and broadleaf weeds. This issue was corrected by manual and chemical removal. As with any bunker program, you still have to follow basic practices. Edges need to be maintained with edgers, trimmers and blowers. Throughout the season, the sand on the sides will need to be raked back up due to wind, irrigation and gravity itself.

Is the Aussie Method for everyone? Probably not, but for us it

worked and we will continue with the practice next season. The golfer feedback has been very positive. If you would like more information about our program, please feel free to contact me.



Spring Meeting continued from page 1

knowledge of products and services that can make a difference in your courses. Network with new contacts, strengthen existing relationships, and gain valuable insights from the floor of the trade show.

The Riverside Hotel, BW Premier Collection, a full-service hotel and convention center nestled along the picturesque Boise River, is conveniently situated within the Boise River Greenbelt. Within a half-mile walking distance, you’ll find an array of options, including a winery, brewery, restaurants, and a comedy club. Downtown Boise is just an Uber ride away.



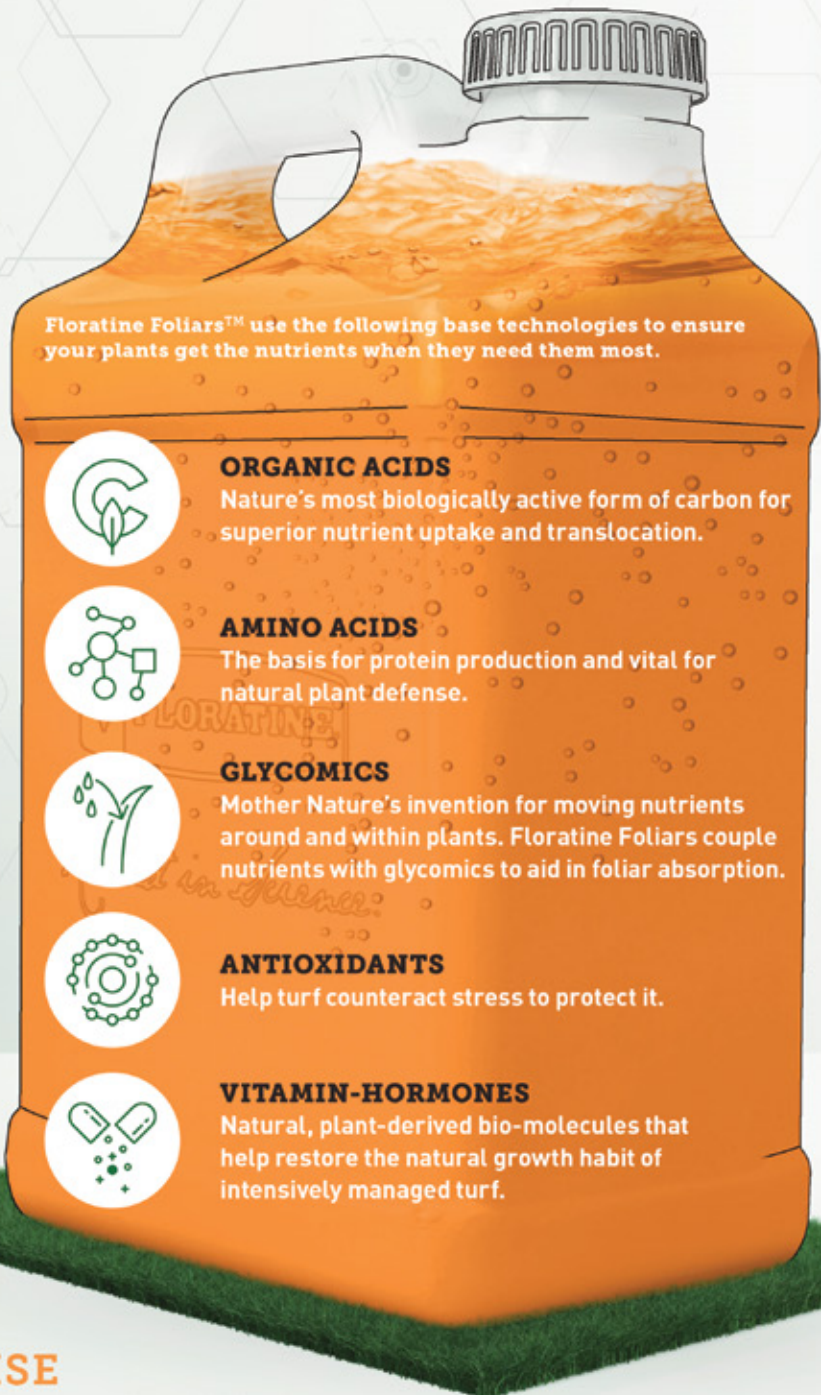
3 Keys to Employee Retention

The board meeting will be February 17 and the location for golf on February 19 will be announced soon. Conference registration will open early January.

Please note that our hotel room block ends very soon (January 23)! To meet our room block commitment, we ask all attendees reserving a hotel to stay on property. Make sure to secure your reservations by Thursday, January 23. Contact the Best Western Premier Riverside and specify the Idaho GCSA, 208-343-1871.



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Chapter Delegate Report

Brandon Crim, Past President
Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, Idaho

I attended the chapter delegates meeting in Lawrence, Kansas on October 28-30. This was my second time going so I was a bit more prepared for the whirlwind event. We pack a lot of stuff into a small time frame.

Some of the key points discussed during the meeting were the dues increase, the government affairs work at both the local and national levels, and then the upcoming election overview and candidates.

Regarding the dues increase, here are some key points:

- In 2006, supported by the chapter delegates, GCSAA began using a model proposing a dues adjustment every other year. The amounts of dues increases are determined by inflation using the consumer price index (CPI) as the guide to then be rounded up to the nearest \$5 increment.
- Since 2006 GCSAA significantly boosted programs and services in education, communications, workforce development, advocacy, environmental programs, professional recognition, and chapter services, including the field staff program.
- These programs and services have been well received by members, and member satisfaction levels have risen since 2006 as captured in the member

needs survey.

- GCSAA has been able to deliver these additional programs without increasing resources. Although working with less staff, GCSAA has continued to show the ability to do more with less.

- However, additional resources are necessary to accelerate efforts to meet your expanding needs in a timely fashion, having a positive impact on our members.

- The GCSAA Board of Directors is proposing a dues increase above the CPI (inflation) model for approval at the 2025 annual meeting. The dues increase will allow GCSAA to continue building on the programs and services that have been developed over time.

- Increased funding will be directed to support workforce development, advocacy, environmental programs and professional recognition.

- The proposed dues increase present is:
 - o Class A and B \$530 (\$65 increase)
 - o Class C \$275 (\$35 increase)
 - o Equipment Managers \$150 (\$35 increase)

Kevin Sunderman, CGCS, chief



operating officer, stressed the need for excellence in golf course management and discussed a proposed dues increase for various initiatives to enhance member satisfaction and meet industry needs. He highlighted the importance of communication among chapters and sought input from all members while advocating for environmental stewardship and financial efficiency.

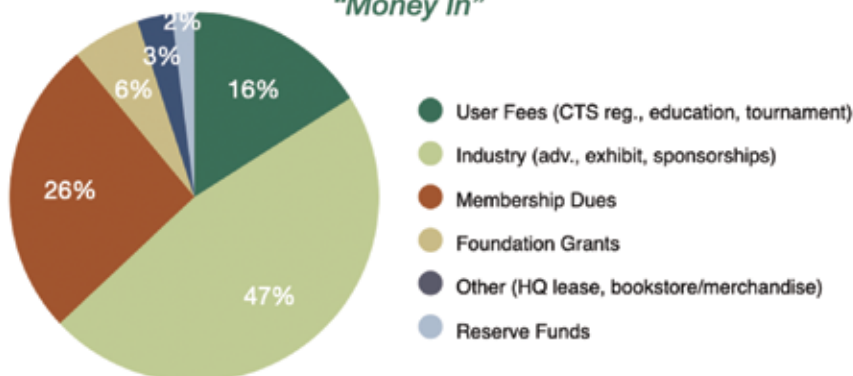
Sunderman addressed increased communication efforts, including GCM Online and GCSAA TV, and emphasized workforce development focused on attracting, training, and retaining staff, with specific mention of the First Green initiative. He noted the significance of training programs for keeping valuable staff.

Updates concerning GCSAA advocacy and environmental challenges, including regulations and grassroots efforts were given by Sunderman. Notably, he shared achievements in reducing water usage through best management practices (BMPs) and the necessity of ongoing data collection and member participation in surveys for advocacy purposes.

Sunderman acknowledged the contributions of local field staff and the importance of support for chapters, highlighting the Rounds 4 Research program. He stressed the need for increased professional recognition campaigns, like Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day, to raise awareness and respect for the profession.

Since 2006, several programs have been introduced, including the Melrose Leadership Academy and various workforce development initiatives. Sunderman mentioned the necessity for more resources to expedite the creation of training videos and educational pathways and insisted on the vital role of member dues

How GCSAA is Funded "Money In"





Delegation from the Northwest

in supporting these programs.

Paul L. Carter, CGCS, secretary treasurer, discussed the dues strategy's role in sustaining the association and addressing the funding gap, proposing increases for Class A/B and Class C members. He emphasized the importance of member feedback on these proposed changes, which would be discussed in breakout sessions, and reiterated that CPI increases occur every two years to keep pace with rising costs, highlighting the value of member engagement in decision-making.

The increase is not automatic. He said they want to know what you're thinking for yourself, your facility, and for your members in your chapter.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Tools Supporting

- Attracting
- Training
- Retaining

ADVOCACY

Expanding GCSAA's Reach To

- Protect Your Resources
- Ensure Your Ability To Do Your Job

GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Continuing To Pursue Excellence

For YOU,
Our Members

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Marketing And Promoting Your Value To

- Employers
- Golfers
- The Public

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Working To

- Support Advocacy Efforts
- Help Facilities Adapt To A Changing World

GCSAA – Solving Your Challenges Every Day

In 2006, supported by the chapter delegates, GCSAA began adjusting member dues every two years determined by inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI). The GCSAA Board of Directors is proposing a dues increase for approval at the 2025 annual meeting. The dues increase will allow GCSAA to continue building on the success of the significant number of programs and services developed since 2006.

**2025 Annual Meeting –
Election of Officers/Board of Directors Candidates:**

President: T.A. Barker, CGCS
Vice President: Paul L. Carter, CGCS
Secretary/Treasurer: Marc E. Weston, CGCS; Steven J. Hammon, CGCS*

Director: H. Scott Griffith, CGCS (incumbent)*; Gregory B. Jones, CGCS, MG (incumbent)*; Renee Geyer, CGCS; Ryan Kraushofer, CGCS; Brandon Razo; Brian J. Roth, CGCS

**The terms of S. Hammon, S. Griffith, and G. Jones are expiring*

**2025 Northwest GCSA
Turfgrass Expo**

Whether this is your first Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo, or you are a returning participant, this opportunity to gather for great education and incredible networking is valuable for you and your facility! Excitement is already building for our third Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo, October 13-14, 2025, at the Coeur d' Alene Resort. Golf will be held at the CDA National Reserve. We look forward to sharing more details about this relevant event in the spring. We are honored to have Peaks & Prairies GCSA member, Dane Gamble, Bridger Creek Golf Course, as master of ceremonies.

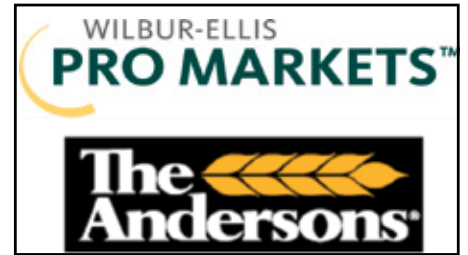
**Chapters of the Northwest
Hospitality Room**

The location and experience was fantastic the first time, so we were quick to jump on the opportunity to return to The Blind Burro for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, February 5, 2025, in San Diego held in conjunction with the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show.

This great evening with friends and colleagues from the Idaho GCSA, Peaks & Prairies GCSA, Utah GCSA, Oregon GCSA, Inland Empire GCSA and Western Washington GCSA is made possible by our generous sponsors in the Northwest. We have four levels of sponsorships available. Please contact Lori with your support.

The Blind Burro
 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. - February 5, 2025
 639 J St., San Diego, California

Congratulations! Reaching Platinum Level 2023



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