

The Idaho Golf Course Superintendents Association

Grass Clippings

July 2025

Experience Our Premier Turf Event

The Northwest GCSA TURFGRASS EXPO promises an exceptional lineup of speakers delivering insight and practical solutions to elevate your turf management skills! This will be the third time we have held this event – with the first being in 2017, then 2021, and now 2025.

Join us on Lake Coeur d'Alene and enjoy excellent hotel pricing at The Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 13 & 14, 2025. Connecting with your peers and industry experts from chapters covering thousands of square miles is beneficial to all turf professionals. Our educational offerings can help strengthen a large range of necessary skills and will be beneficial regardless of experience or budget size.

Why You Can't Miss This Event

Education:

- Innovative Learning: From leveraging AI tools with Mike Richardson, Ph.D., to disease management and mastering snow mold control with Paul Koch, Ph.D., our sessions cover the latest trends and practical strategies.
- Leadership Development: Gain essential management insights with Jodie Cunningham SPHR, SHRM-SCP's performance management workshop.
- Turf & Design Expertise: Explore golf course design evolution to assess golf holes on your course for contemporary play and learn about effective tee placements with Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA, a golf course designer with a focus on player retention.
- Inspiration to Lead: Discover leadership lessons from Mount Everest with GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans.

Engage & Network:

- Bushwood Briefing: Kick off with a no-host casual meet-up at Coeur d'Alene Taphouse Unchained on October 12.
- Trade Show: Connect with top distributors showcasing the latest products and services.
- Golf Challenge: Enjoy the opportunity to play golf at either the CDA National Reserve or The Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course. IMPORTANT note to all golfers – please read the PDF found on our website calendar event to see how course location will be assigned.

Important Dates:

- Ultimate Sponsors planning to golf: Due by August 10, please complete the online registration form in its entirety if there are golf

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Don't Wait Until Deadline for Turfgrass Expo Room Block

Enjoy a memorable stay at The Coeur d'Alene Resort for an incredible rate! We have our block within two towers at this upscale property, each offering a living space (Park Tower: mid-sized, Lake Tower: spacious), oversized windows, contemporary decor, a pillow-top mattress with fine linens and down comforter, coffee maker, mini fridge and modern enhancements. In the Park Tower (\$155 plus surcharge and tax), the views are not guaranteed, but may include the marina, park, hills, or part of the resort. The Lake Tower offers a few more bells and whistles (\$199 plus surcharge and tax) with a lake, city, or mountain view (specific view not guaranteed). Parking is available in a paid lot nearby for a separate fee, or in valet, also for a separate fee.

Please reserve your hotel room at this time for this beautiful property — waiting until the block deadline of September 11 does not ensure we will still have availability. If we sell out early, we may have a chance to get more rooms added to the block. If it is nearer to the deadline we do not believe our price will be honored for any additional rooms! Rooms may be reserved through telephone or online link. Please see the calendar event on our website idahogcsa.org for more information on how to reserve.

Orlando Chapter Room Block Open Soon

Our chapter room block for the 2026 GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando will be open soon with two hotel options. Located on International Drive, we are returning to Homewood Suites. The location works well and attendees liked the hot breakfast included daily. All rooms are suites with a complete kitchen and offer free Wi-Fi. On property is a fitness center and outdoor pool.

Our second property, the Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando continues to be an option within our chapter block as 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).

While in Orlando, plan to attend the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room at Tin Roof.

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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.

Welcome NEW Idaho GCSA Members!:

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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.**
- * Be sure to check the job announcements on a regular basis — found in the member's only section of the website.

"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

Mid-Summer Check

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



Well, due to my forgetfulness, procrastination, and actual work emergencies, I'm a little delayed in getting this article done. However, all things considered, it sounds like it's been a good season all around for our golf courses so far. Talking to other superintendents from around the state, it sounds like most everyone came out of winter all in all pretty good. Nothing above average as far as snow mold, voles, and other winter kill situations. Which is great to hear; everyone wintered well.

It's now mid-summer, and we are all on a status pro program of maintaining healthy playable turf. We should have all our new employees trained up by now; our high school and college kids are back and starting to take their family summer vacations they forgot to mention to you when you hired them a month ago. It's time to deal with busy tournament schedules and dealing with heat stress. Most of us had a wet spring and early June; now the test of summer is here. Peak rounds and tournaments make it challenging to keep up with our cultural practices and spot water-

ing to help the turf, but we have all been here before. There's nothing like the first big heat wave of the summer and losing a pump station on a weekend; you know it's

all happened to you before, and you do your best to face the challenges and do your best to fight through it. We are all problem solvers; at the end of the day, that's what it really comes down to; it's what your employees ask and what your ownership expects. We handle whatever challenges are in front of us.

We are all in this together. Now is a great time to reach out to your neighboring course, whether it's down the street, across town, or another state over. Good chances they are having the same issues and difficulties. Maybe you can help them by letting them know what you have been doing, or they can help you by talking to you about how they have been dealing with problems. There's a good chance you both have similar problems or, more so, similar solutions to whatever problem we may have. We all have the same goals and strive to be the best, so why not talk to your neighbors? We should be here to help each other.

It's mid-summer now and halfway through the season, depending on how you look at it. Before we know it, the days will begin to get shorter, the sun angle will lower, and heat and drought stress will start to fade. Hopefully, when you are reading this, we are much closer to the end, and most of our problems are behind us.



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

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Reserve your booth at the Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo III! Trade Show is October 13, 2025

Individual booths are available and include:

- Recognition in promotional and onsite material
- (1) 6ft table and 2 chairs
- Up to four named company booth registrants
- Free access to education for up to four named company booth registrants (Additional participants register as a meeting attendee)
- Lunch and golf opportunities for an additional fee
- Single Space (approx 8'x8') \$575.00

Three chapters represented under one roof!

Benefits of Collaboration

Randy Hall, Warm Springs Golf Course Boise, Idaho

As an assistant superintendent, I've seen how essential it is for general management and course maintenance to work together. This connection goes beyond just job titles. It plays a vital role in our daily operations, improves course conditions, and ultimately enhances the experience for our players.

When communication flows smoothly between general management and our crew, we can achieve remarkable improvements in how we operate. Aligning our goals and strategies leads to more effective decision-making. For instance, communicating start times, especially as the seasons change. Sharing insights and coordinating efforts allows us to allocate resources wisely, ensuring that maintenance tasks are completed quickly and efficiently.

A strong partnership between management and maintenance is key to delivering a quality product. When general management understands the challenges we face, they're more likely to support investments in tools, materials, and technology. This collaboration allows us to adopt best practices in turf management, pest control, and irrigation, resulting in healthier grass and better playing surfaces. A well-maintained course not only meets our members' expectations but also strengthens our reputation in the golfing community.

The bond between management and maintenance sets the stage for how

players perceive their experience. When players see the care and attention that goes into maintaining the course, their satisfaction grows. Positive feedback often stems from the teamwork between our departments. Regular meetings and open lines of communication allow us to gather player feedback and adapt to their needs effectively. This responsiveness builds trust and fosters loyalty among our players and employees.

In summary, the camaraderie between general management and course maintenance is crucial. It drives our efficiency, enhances course conditions, and leads to positive player experiences. As we continue to pursue excellence in our golf operations, let's prioritize collaboration and communication between these two vital departments. By doing so, we can create a thriving golf environment that benefits both our staff and our players.

An advertisement for Nutrien Solutions. The background is a dark, stylized image of a golfer in mid-swing, silhouetted against a bright, hazy sky. The text "LEADING THE FIELD" is in the top left corner. In the bottom right corner, there is contact information for Craig Nuthak and Logan Pearce, and the Nutrien Solutions logo.

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Golf Course Tour Highlights BMPs for State Pesticide Regulators

David Phipps, GCSAA, Northwest Regional Field Staff

While GCSAA's government advocacy efforts span a broad spectrum, few initiatives match the visibility and impact of National Golf Day. Still, targeted local

efforts can leave a lasting impression when the right opportunity arises.

One such opportunity came this year when Abigail Nickelson of the Washington Department of Agriculture reached out with a unique request. She was helping coordinate the Western Region Pesticide Meeting, a gathering of pesticide lead agency representatives from West Coast states, held in Vancouver, Washington. Topics included pesticide user training, worker protection standards, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

I first connected with Abigail at an ESA workshop, where we discussed GCSAA's Best Management Practices (BMP) initiative. She immediately recognized the value of our science-based approach and suggested adding a golf course visit to the tour schedule—an idea that took root quickly.

On April 30, as much of the golf industry was convening in Washington, D.C., sixty pesticide agency representatives traveled across the Columbia River to Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, Oregon. Superintendent Jim Myers, CGCS, and his team graciously opened their doors, giving attendees a firsthand look at how BMPs help protect water quality and wildlife habitat

To add depth to the tour, we enlisted several subject matter experts. Tom Calabrese, RG, CWRE, of EnviroLogic Resources, Inc., who has been instrumental in BMP development in the Northwest since 2008, provided foundational context. We were also joined by Ross Niewola of the USGA and Chas Schmid, Ph.D., from Oregon State University, who contributed valuable insights into agronomic research and environmental stewardship.

Our message throughout was clear: golf courses are professionally managed green spaces where science drives environmental protection. Attendees received a copy of the 2009 study, *Surface Water Quality Impacts from Golf Course Fertilizer and Pesticide Applications* by Hindahl, Miltner, Stahnke, and Cook—research that underpins many of our current BMPs.

Since fewer than half of the attendees had ever set foot on a golf course, the tour also introduced the daily tools and practices we use. Interest was high, from foliar versus granular feeding, data-driven water management, and aerification practices to discussions on pollinator habitat and conservation efforts. One particularly memorable moment came when Jim Myers was asked about mosquito control. His response? "I've never treated for mosquitoes—we rely solely on the Little Brown Bat, which is native to the Portland area."

We wrapped up the visit with a Q&A session and informal networking around the equipment displays. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and it was clear that many attendees walked away with a new appreciation for golf course management—and the professionals behind it.



*Are you interested in serving on the Idaho GCSA board of directors?
If so, please contact a board member or Lori!*

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Connecting with Agricultural Educators in Montana and Utah

David Phipps, GCSAA, Northwest Regional Field Staff

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Montana and Utah Associations of Agricultural Educators' conferences to introduce the First Green program and its value as a hands-on learning experience for students.

Montana AAE – Kalispell, June 9–10

In Kalispell, I met with a great group of educators to discuss how First Green brings STEM learning to life through field trips on golf courses. I shared curriculum resources and encouraged teachers to connect with local superintendents to plan future outings. We also coordinated a First Green field trip for the teachers at Buffalo Hill Golf Course, thanks to host superintendent Russ Grover and his team. One teacher told me it was the most informative field trip he'd attended in seven years of teaching—a strong testament to the power of this program.

Utah AAE – St. George, June 11

A couple of days later, in St. George, I gave two sessions on how First Green connects classroom learning with real-world career paths. We focused on how teachers can coordinate with local superintendents and highlighted golf course maintenance as a viable and rewarding career. Five teachers expressed interest in hosting First Green field trips. Since a teacher field trip wasn't feasible at the time, we brought the golf course to them—Ken Yates and Ross Laubscher of Black Desert Golf Resort joined us to



share their stories and talk about their commitment to developing the next generation of skilled employees in the turf industry.

These visits reinforced just how impactful partnerships between golf course professionals and agricultural educators can be. I'm excited to see what grows from these seeds we planted in Montana and Utah!



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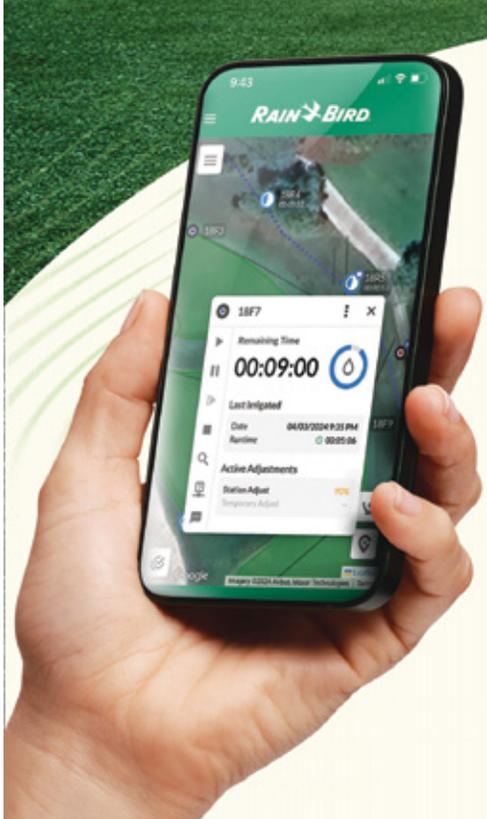
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PGT

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Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo

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course preferences.

- **Registrants with golf course preferences:** Due by September 1. Course preference will be based on points and in place until September 1. After September 1, first-come for preference if both properties are still available after all play is assigned to date.
- **Hotel Reservations:** Due by September 11
- **Early Meeting Registration:** Available until September 22

Tees - The Long and The Short

By reviewing sample golf courses of various total distances and evaluating individual holes from the tees offered, attendees will be able to determine if additional back or more-forward tees may be necessary at their courses for present-day golfers. Assessment of holes relative to the club's range of handicaps and the orientation and elevations of tees, landing areas, hazards, and greens will enable thoughtful relocation or placement tees that can provide a positive ROI. Proper tee placement can improve the flow and speed of play and engage the strategic mindset of the competitive golfer and encourage success of the social golfer.

Your Golf Course's Design and How It Affects Everyday Golfers

By learning the origins of golf course design and the evolution of design styles, attendees will be able to assess golf holes on their courses for contemporary play. They will be able to evaluate golf hole features and how they impact various players: long and short, precise and wayward, seasoned and youthful, skilled and novice. Appreciation of the era in which your course was designed can help in prioritizing golf course conditioning, planning for golf hole/course renovation, and upgrading or adding practice areas to encourage more rounds, increase golfer fun, improve pace of play and augment club revenue.

Giving Effective Feedback & Performance Management

You were promoted because you were good at doing the work. Now, your job is to lead the people who do the work. But that's no easy task! Call-outs, conflict, and poor performance are a few of many issues you likely deal with as a manager. The challenge: It takes skill and practice to navigate your people issues effectively. Anxiety, apprehension, uncertainty, insecurity, procrastination...likely you've experienced all of these when faced with giving tough feedback and addressing poor performance. That can change! Learn tips on performance management preparation and tangible ways to

improve your team's performance and engagement through effective feedback.



*Jodie J. Cunningham,
SPHR, SHRM-SCP*

Our offerings will benefit your facility, enhance your management skills, demonstrate how AI tools can assist, offer ways to improve your course conditions and control disease, and inspire you through the connections you will make.

Register by visiting the calendar event of idahogcsa.org



*Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA,
Jan Bel Jan Golf Course Design,
Jupiter, Florida*



Leading Out



We all face unexpected challenges that feel like an uphill climb. GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans will share lessons he learned while successfully summiting the highest peak on earth, Mount Everest. Learn how these same principles of purpose, passion and perseverance can help you overcome difficulties you may encounter and lead to greater personal and professional growth.

*Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO,
Lawrence, Kansas*



Tech Meets Turf: Real-World AI Tools for Superintendents



Artificial intelligence (AI) has been described as the most important advancement in human history. It is already seamlessly integrated into many aspects of our daily lives, but how can golf course superintendents take advantage of AI to improve their operational efficiency? This seminar will cover a wide range of ways that AI can be used, including correspondence, mathematics, language translation, and equipment repair. It will also be interactive in that we will apply AI in real time to real problems.

*Mike Richardson, Ph.D, Professor,
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Ark.*



Modern Strategies for Snow Mold Control in a Shifting Environment

Root-infecting diseases are some of the most frustrating and misunderstood diseases of golf course turfgrass. In this presentation we will list the primary root-infecting diseases of cool-season turf, identify the cultural and environmental conditions that lead to their development, and discuss strategies for effectively managing each disease.

The Danger Lurking Beneath: Strategies to effectively manage root diseases on cool-season turf

Snow mold control is difficult under normal circumstances. But recent years have brought increased regulation of fungicides commonly used for snow mold control and warmer winters that make snow mold control more uncertain. In this presentation, we will discuss how research on fungicide persistence and disease modeling can aid superintendents in managing snow mold in the future.

*Paul Koch, Ph.D, Professor,
University of
Wisconsin – Madison*



My Trip to Southeast Asia

Brandon Crim Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, Idaho

This last winter I took my longest trip ever, distance-wise and time-wise. My buddy, Greg, and I flew into Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, on January 4 to start our journey. Ho Chi Minh, formerly called Saigon is a crazy big city in the south of Vietnam. We started out by making a questionable decision, thinking we would walk from the airport to our hotel. This was extremely tricky because there wasn't much of a sidewalk anywhere, and crossing the street was no easy feat, especially with our bags. There are mopeds everywhere going in every direction. Crossing the road is pretty much like playing Frogger, except you do not want to take a step backwards. You gotta just commit and go for it.

After a day and a half checking out Ho Chi Minh, we flew north to Da Nang, Vietnam. Da Nang was beautiful and much more of a comfortable temperature than Ho Chi Minh. We checked out Marble Mountain, did some hiking, and saw some caves. You could get just about anything made from marble there. From little animal and Buddha carvings to car-sized lions and elephants that must have weighed



a few tons. We also checked out the tallest Lady Buddha statue in the world, or at least that's what they told us.

They have three large Buddhas surrounding the inlet to the city from the sea, and that was to protect them from typhoons. They told us they haven't had a really bad one since the Buddhas were completed. We took a train from Da Nang up to the ancient city of Hue, which is where their monarchy used to live. We were able to check out the palace and the burial sites of the former kings and queens. Lots of temples and pagodas! On our last day in Da Nang, we went to Hoi An, where so many of the clothes made for the rest of the world are produced. You can get just about any piece of clothing you want, custom-fitted for you. I got myself a couple of suit jackets and was able to pick them up the next day before we flew out.

We then flew up to Hanoi. The weather in Hanoi was much nicer, like mid-60s to mid-70s. We started out by taking a day trip to the Ninh Binh mountains. We took a bike ride through rice paddy farmlands and some small villages. We also took a small



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boat that the boat operator would paddle with their feet. And finished by climbing one of the peaks, where on top there was a large dragon carved into the mountain. The next day we took

another day trip to Ha Long Bay. It was probably the most stunning visual thing I have ever seen in my life. There are hundreds of limestone rock formations covered in dense forest. We took a cruise through it and just sat on the deck in awe. Halfway through we were able to get on some smaller boats to check out some caves and do some swimming. Then we came back to the port as the sun set over the bay and finished things up in Hanoi by going to a Hanoi FC soccer game. It cost like two bucks to get in and wasn't the most exciting game, but it was pretty entertaining.



Next it was time to head

to Cambodia. We flew into Siem Reap in the dark at what looked like an abandoned airport, hah. We then got hounded by cabbies because there were not any Grab rides that far out. Grab is the Uber of the area. The cab driver that ended up driving us drove like 20 mph the whole way while he tried to sell us day trips. That was a nightmare. We thought Vietnam was cheap; Cambodia was super cheap. We went to a restaurant by our hotel and entrees were \$2.99. We tried a few different things and our bill was \$12.



Siem Reap is where the famous Angkor Wat is, so the next few days, we checked that and the surrounding area out. I imagine it would be similar to seeing the great pyramids in Egypt. There are temples all over an area of about 400 acres dating back to the early 12th century. There are over 1,000 Hindu and Buddhist temples in the area. It was the capital of the ancient Khmer people. You could spend a week there and not get close to seeing everything. Some of the things they were able to do without modern tools or equipment is mind-boggling.



Lastly was Thailand. I flew into Bangkok. Bangkok is definitely a crazy place. You could find yourself in some trouble there. A few days of seeing palaces and temples and trying to stay out of trouble, we flew south to Krabi. This was a bit more my speed. Some coastal hikes and hanging by the beach. And making sure not

to get too close to the monkeys. One of my favorite parts of the continued page 14

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Southeast Asia
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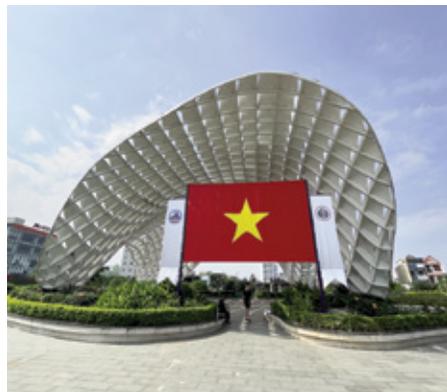


trip was going to two different elephant sanctuaries. I went to one in Krabi and one in Phuket. We got to feed the elephants and give them a mud bath. Walking around with giant elephants is quite the experience. I definitely felt humbled around these gentle giants. We spent the last few days checking out some Thai islands, hanging out on beaches, and swimming around in the sea.

My favorite area was central and northern Vietnam with stunning views and vistas. All the people were super

friendly. In some areas, maybe a little too friendly ha-ha. The masseuses in Thailand would basically try to grab you to get you to come in and get a massage. Gotta be careful out there, hah.

The flight getting over there sucks, but it was definitely worth it. I didn't even try to golf, but if I went again, I would want to check out some courses. I lived off fresh passion fruit smoothies. You could get them anywhere and everywhere for a dollar or two. If you make the journey, I would recommend going to a travel doctor before and getting some antibiotics. We both got food poisoning/sick one time and luckily both had the pills to help keep it under control. If you get street food, make sure it's fresh!



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SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR GROWTH



Exclusive Distributors of
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for Turf and Ornamentals

Tyler Jacoby, Ph.D. · Buford Creech · (863) 825-4494 · CCA Lakeland FL 33811

**Available in 5-gallon jugs
and 250-gallon totes**

When overcast, cool and wet conditions
are present, low rates of 3-2-1 feed turf, not algae

Two Stunning Courses — Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo!



CDA National Reserve
Zach Bauer, CGCS, Superintendent



Coeur d'Alene Resort
Tom Walker, Superintendent

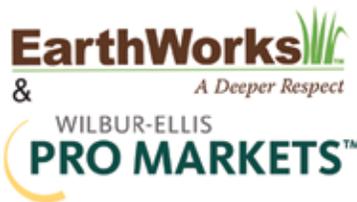
October 13 & 14, 2025

Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

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Rooted in Science™
WHEN QUALITY MATTERS.

Floratine Foliars™ use the following base technologies to ensure your plants get the nutrients when they need them most.



ORGANIC ACIDS

Nature's most biologically active form of carbon for superior nutrient uptake and translocation.



AMINO ACIDS

The basis for protein production and vital for natural plant defense.



GLYCOMICS

Mother Nature's invention for moving nutrients around and within plants. Floratine Foliars couple nutrients with glycomics to aid in foliar absorption.



ANTIOXIDANTS

Help turf counteract stress to protect it.



VITAMIN-HORMONES

Natural, plant-derived bio-molecules that help restore the natural growth habit of intensively managed turf.

OUR PROMISE

We understand that your **professional reputation and livelihood** are largely dependent upon the quality of the turfgrass you manage. With that in mind, Floratine promises to deliver the purest, most technologically advanced foliar and soil-based solutions with expert agronomic support to help you maintain superior turfgrass quality in formidable conditions.

floratine.com



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Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons**

2015 Pro-Super	2015 Pro-Super	2015 Pro-Super
Score	Score	Score
Stevens, Leland	Brandell, Justin	Strautman, Richard
Hanbey, Grant	Nickson, Preston	Archer, Sharon
Brandell, Dart	Rasmussen, Jim	Hankutt, Greg
Nixon, Alex	Kincheloe, Brandon	Coast, Taylor
68	68	70
66	73	68

2015 Pro-Super	2015 Pro-Super	2015 Pro-Super
Score	Score	Score
Brasse, Taylor	Cahill, Nate	Hiler, Alex
Hachett, Travis	Horton, Sam	Constock, Baglar
Spraltes, Mark	Benson, Josh	Sherek, Pat
Reinke, Tim	Jacobsen, Jason	Makuch, Rndy
67	70	61
62	66	82

STEINER THUESSEN PLLC
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Foltec SG

Each Foltec SG product contains a specific N-P-K ratio along with essential micronutrients, UltraMate® SG, and sea plant extract, simplifying sprayable nutrition programs.



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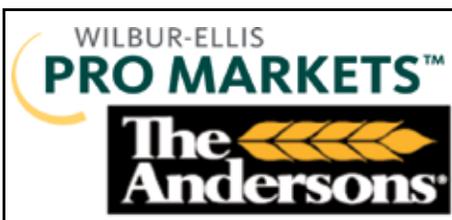
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