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"Winter Injury, with Focus on the Impact of Covers on Snow Mold Development"

"Snow Mold Fungicide Persistence"

"Reduced Risk Disease Control"

Paul Koch, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology as well as in the Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Center at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, joining the faculty in January of 2014. Koch's research has primarily focused on the impact of various environmental factors on the persistence and activity of numerous fungicides applied to golf course turfgrass. Specific factors investigated include snow cover, temperature, sunlight, moisture, and microbial activity. Other areas of research interest include the presence and activity of root-infecting diseases, such as take-all patch and necrotic ring spot, and the precise conditions favoring pink and gray snow mold development on turfgrass. Koch also oversees the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab and the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program. The UW Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Program is one of the largest of its kind in the country and tests approximately 200 fungicide treatments annually for efficacy against both winter and summer turfgrass diseases. Koch received his Ph.D, from University of Wisconsin – Madison with a major in Plant Pathology and a minor in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology.

Mike Richardson, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, is a professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas, where his research has focused on cultural practices that impact cool- and warm-season turfgrass production in the transition zone. Richardson is considered an authority on turfgrass, both nationally and internationally. An inventor, he has been actively involved with research to screen and

"Soil Surfactants and Irrigation Management"

"Using Soil Moisture Meters and Sensors to Improve Irrigation Efficiency"

"Using Your Phone to Help Manage Your Facility and a Few More Gizmos/Gadgets"

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PPGCSA Events:

PPGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show
October 27-29, 2015, Billings, Mont.

Peaks & Prairies GCSA Scholarship Education Golf Tournaments, *June 24, 2015, Douglas, Wyo., and September 3, 2015, Bozeman, Mont.*

"Almost" Spring Meeting
March 7 & 8, 2016, Helena, Mont.

Chapter Room Block for GIS is Open

It may be difficult to wrap your head around February 2016 with everything you are juggling right now… but we need you to do just that!

Our chapter room block for the 2016 GIS in San Diego will be open. Consider making your reservation now – and then adjust

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August 2015
Volume 39
Number 3

Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association

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THE PERFECT LIE is published quarterly by Peaks & Prairies GCSA, and is edited by Lori Russell. Our newsletter is not copyrighted, but we would appreciate credit being given when original material is reprinted. Advertising and article deadlines are the 10th of February, April, July, and October.

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"Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to furthering the education of our members for the betterment of golf and its environment."

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President's Message

Sean Sullivan, CGCS
The Briarwood, Billings, Mont.

Another summer is nearly over and where every day seemed to be the longest day of my life, yet the year has seemed to pass by quickly. For most of you, staffing levels will start decreasing and those left working on the courses will have to add a few more items to the list of duties to get done each day. So, while you are reading this, and plotting your strategies for the next day, week, month, and season, be sure to include time to attend the Fall Meeting. Sorry, I had to get the corporate plug in – but it is unquestionably for your benefit. For Peaks & Prairies to be an effective association/chapter, everyone needs to be involved. Whether it is educational opportunities, board service, golf outings, or local/regional get-togethers, it is in everyone's best interest to participate.

PPGCSA Fall Meeting and Trade Show will be in Billings MT, October 27-29, 2015. Just in case you missed the other notices.

July 13-20, I was lucky enough to be involved with the Open Support Team at St Andrews. It was a great experience, but I would not have been selected if I had not been active in the association/chapter. I'm not talking about being president - there are several ways to get involved without being president. I have to say, if my choice is to stay at home and fix irrigation breaks or work at a golf tournament for a week (especially The Open at St. Andrews), I'll step out of my comfort zone and get involved any day! The story of my experience is in this issue of the newsletter.

Hopefully, everyone has managed to survive another summer in the Inter-Mountain West. As with every year, some of us have a tough time, others have good times. But, hopefully you had time to step away from the course and enjoy time with the family and loved ones.

Lastly, schedule time to come to the Fall Meeting and Trade Show October 27-29, 2015 in Billings. Just in case you missed the other notices.

Kind regards to you and your families,
Sean Sullivan, CGCS

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MOVE them Around

Dwayne Dillinger, CGCS
Bell Nob Golf Course, Gillette, Wyo.

*A*s we reach mid to late summer, both players and grounds staff start to get into a routine - or even a rut - where the golf course plays the same every day. Golfers are creatures of habit and have a tendency to always play the same tees. To break this routine, and give players a new challenge on the same course, it becomes your job to "Move Them Around."

On men's day, and at some of our tournaments, we move the blue tees to different boxes to give golfers a different look. This requires them to hit a variety of shots on the same course they play every day, keeping your players excited and the course fresh. It also allows you to spread out play and not have just one tee box always beaten up.

The key to this is keeping the yardage from those rated tees as close as possible; this will require some tees to go back and some tees to go forward. There is nothing wrong with moving tees up and creating a drivable par 4, or stretching a par 3 to 220 yards one week and then playing it from 95 yards the next week. If your scorecard is 6,800 yards and you are within 50-75 yards either way, it is still a postable round for handicap purposes.

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MOVE continued from page 4

The thing you have to be careful of is that if you have a drivable par 4, make sure the hole in front of it is longer to prevent play from stacking up. As you start to do it, you will see where the play backs up and you will be able to easily make adjustments each week. Our goal over the course of a summer is to have our men's club players play every tee box on the course.

We always do this for our Pro-Am. I want people to come to the course and enjoy themselves and have fun. We have all played a course where all the tees were back and pin placement was tough. If you are playing well, it is ok, but if you're not familiar with the course or having an off day, it is not always enjoyable. I have never heard too many complaints from a golfer who plays well, and if they do have a good, round they always like the course.

This is something that every course can do to give golfers a fresh look and keep them excited about playing golf at your facility. Best of all, it doesn't cost a dime. Take some time and look at your holes from the different tees. I bet you will find that some of them look completely different and change the way you would play it.

Give it a try next men's day and see what kind of response you receive. I think you will be surprised at the positive comments you hear if you "Move Them Around."

Hospitality Room Site

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. We will once again come together to enjoy the evening of networking - perhaps under the stars of the San Diego sky – with our return to The Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Avenue, San Diego. The ballroom sits on the top floor (9th) and has a retractable roof. The Bristol Hotel is well situated within a couple of blocks of the Gaslamp District. It is the same location as the 2010 and 2013 events.

This evening is a great way to renew old relationships and make new connections – all thanks to the generous support of our allied partners.

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Fall Meeting continued from page 1

develop new turfgrass for a wide range of turfgrass environments. Richardson has received numerous awards for his research, including being named a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. Only 0.3 percent of the society's 3,600 active and emeritus members may be elected for the honor. Richardson is an active teacher and advisor in the Department of Horticulture, and the primary instructor for Introduction to Turfgrass Management, Golf and Sports Turf Management, and Golf Course Operations. He has served as the Editor of Applied Turfgrass Science, a peer-reviewed journal in the Plant Management Network and an Associate Editor of Crop Science. Richardson has authored over 80 scientific articles on turfgrass management, published 10 book chapters, and delivered over 200 invited lectures on various aspects of turfgrass management around the world. Richardson came to Arkansas from Rutgers University in 1998. He has a B.S. degree from Louisiana Tech University, an M.S. degree from Louisiana State University and a doctorate in agronomy from the University of Georgia.

Erik Ervin, Ph.D., is a Professor of Turfgrass Culture and Physiology in the Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Department at Virginia Tech. Ervin specializes in the physiology and ecology of turfgrass responses to environmental stress and the use of synthetic and natural (biostimulants) plant growth regulators for improved stress response. He has presented over 250 talks to turf professionals nationally and internationally since 1998. Ervin teaches four courses each year including: Turfgrass Management, Golf and Sports Turf Management, Turfgrass Science seminar, and a capstone class on career preparation skills. He is the author of 67 scientific journal articles and hundreds of extension/industry publications. His degrees are from Iowa State University (Horticulture, B.S.) and Colorado State University (Horticulture, M.S. and Ph.D.). His professional positions include Assistant Professor and State Turfgrass Extension Specialist at the University of Missouri-Columbia from 1998 to 2000; Assistant Professor (2001-2005), Associate Professor (2006-2011), Professor (2011 to present), and Assistant Dean of Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (2013 to present) at Virginia Tech. He worked on golf courses in Iowa, Florida, and Colorado for 10 summer seasons. For the past five years he has presented GCSAA national seminars on "PGRs for Fine Turf" and "Aerification and Water Management of Putting Greens by the Numbers" – which he will present on the third day of the conference. Separate registration is required for this special presentation.

It is a great benefit not only to our turf professionals, but also to our association overall that our allied members are so supportive of this Fall Meeting and Trade Show. They are there to support not only your course efforts, but also your association and profession. It is to your benefit to take advantage of the wisdom in each booth – and to show those new to the profession the value our allied members have to offer. Even if you are a longtime member of the association, or you are fortunate to live in close proximity to many of our allied companies – we benefit from your participation.

"Aerification and Water Management of Putting Greens by the Numbers"

To optimize the health and playing performances of your putting greens, proper organic matter dilution in surface root zones is crucial. Reviewing research data and USGA Green Section recommendations for cool season putting greens, emphasis will be placed on cultivation and topdressing practices, specifically the "numbers": surface area removal and sand volume calculations.

Networking. Many have grown tired of that word. Many have tried to come up with a suitable replacement (including yours truly). "Networking" has been around since people have been, well, networking. The word causes a visual response, and encompasses a large meaning. So when we say golf is an opportunity to network with your peers – that tells you just how important it is to take the time to play a great course in the region – Laurel Golf Club. We are expecting sunny skies and a beautiful day for golf – because you deserve it!

We have some really smart members in the Peaks & Prairies GCSA. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of the event because while you will be learning from others, we guarantee someone is there to learn from you!

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A Different Kind of Campaign

Cole Clark
Yegen Golf Club, Billings, Mont.

We've all seen the GCSAA's, "Thank a Superintendent Campaign," and I'm sure that some of us have even gotten some of our own "thank you" or "atta boys" here or there from our membership. It is my opinion that our membership and more importantly, we, need to thank the real superintendents - the Superintendents of Our Households.

For the longest time, I believed that

no one worked harder or longer hours than a golf course superintendent. Don't get me wrong, I know we are a different breed of crazy, but I don't even have to leave my house to know that we aren't the hardest working people. That title goes to our wives, husbands, or moms. I like to call my wife, Mandie, the Superintendent of Our Home.

While I wake early to work long days totaling 60-80 hours a week, Mandie is often up before me. This is the only chance in the day she has for a workout before trying to get ready for her 40+ hour a week job, all while our 18-month old, "June Bug," crawls all over her. She then drives 20 miles round trip to Grandma and Grampa's house before going to "work." Once work is over, the same trip ensues just to come home and hear about the irrigation leak on #7 (which to her just means dirtier laundry)!

As we work to maintain budgets, manage a work force and provide quality playing conditions, someone is usually behind the scenes managing our home's budgets, keeping their spouses and kids (workforce) happy and healthy, and providing safe living conditions.

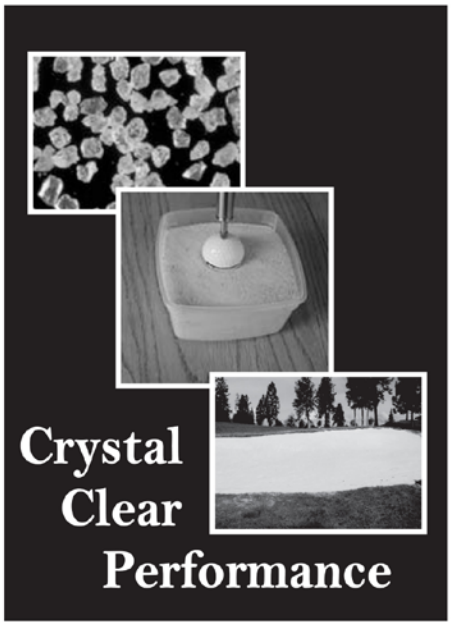
I encourage you all to take a moment to "Thank Your Household Superintendent" for keeping things in order so we can go play in the dirt and grease all day.

Thanks, Mandie. Love Ya

Results are in!

Proceeds from Rounds4Research not only benefited the EIFG, Peaks & Prairies GCSA netted $1,376.00. We owe our appreciation to so many of you, and we will begin by thanking two of our Billings members - Superintendent Cole Clark, Yegen Golf Club, and Assistant Superintendent Cody Schulke, Yellowstone Country Club, who worked the phones to round up courses to participate.

Importantly, we appreciate and thank each course that donated - your participation counted! In the end, it is the bidders that help determine the level of success. We thank those of you who encouraged bidding at your course or in your community.



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GCSAA Member Standards

Class A Member Standards are important for defining who we are both individually and collectively, as superintendents in the golf course management industry. These standards frame each Class A member's professional identity.

Following input from many constituents over the past several months, beginning with the Chapter Delegates meeting last October, the GCSAA Board of Directors revised the Member Standards proposal. Highlights of the changes are outlined below. Additional details can be found at www.gcsaa.org/memberstandards.

Designated Classifications

The "Superintendent Member" (SM) Classification becomes "Class B."

Change to Class A Definition

Current Definition

To Qualify for Class A membership, an applicant shall have, at the time of application for membership, at least three years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in such capacity and comply with all additional qualifications adopted by the membership.

Proposed Definition

Class A member is a golf industry professional; who possesses knowledge, skills and abilities through a combination of education, experience, professional development and environmental stewardship; and continues to fulfill ongoing Class A renewal requirements.

Class A Eligibility

Formal Education Value + Years Superintendent Experience + Education Points = 20

Formal Education Category	Formal Education Point Value	+	Years of Superintendent Experience	+	Education Points	=	Total Points Required
Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Turf/Plant Science	15	+	3 or more	+	Variable	=	20
Other Bachelor's Degree or Higher, plus Assoc. Degree in Turf/Plant Science	15	+	3 or more	+	Variable	=	20
Other Bachelor's Degree or Higher	14	+	3 or more	+	Variable	=	20
Associate's Degree in Turf	13	+	3 or more	+	Variable	=	20
Turf Certificate/Short Course	9	+	3 or more	+	Variable	=	20
Other Associate's Degree	8	+	5 or more	+	Variable	=	20
No Degree or Recognized Certificate	0	+	5 or more	+	Variable	=	20

A State Pesticide License or the successful completion of the GCSAA IPM Exam is required.

EXAMPLES:

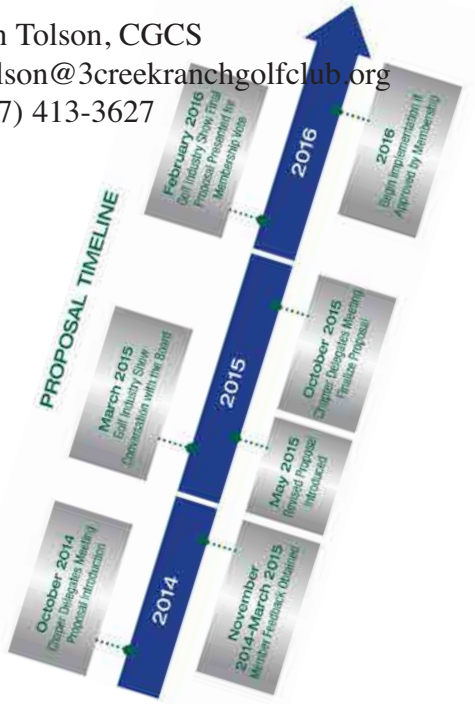
Superintendent #1: I have a Bachelor's Degree in Turf (15 points) and have been employed as a superintendent for five years (5 points). I am now qualified for Class A status without needing any additional education points. (15 + 5 + 0 = 20)

Superintendent #2: I have no degree (0 points); however, I have been employed as a superintendent for 10 years (10 points). To qualify for Class A status , I must now acquire a minimum of 10 education points (10 points). (0 + 10 + 10 = 20)

Superintendent #3: I have an Associate's Degree in Turf (13 points) and have been employed as a superintendent for two years (2 points). I must now acquire one more year as a superintendent to meet the minimum threshold of superintendent employment, and I must acquire a minimum of four education points (4 points) to become Class A. (13 + 3 + 4 = 20)

The proposed GCSAA Membership Standards the chapter delegates will discuss in October at the delegates meeting. Please contact Dan, your chapter delegate, with your opinion.

Dan Tolson, CGCS
dtolson@3creekranchgolfclub.org
(307) 413-3627



Class A Renewal

- Requirements continue to necessitate a total of 5 points over a 5-year period.
- Education Points enhanced to a minimum of 3.0, increased from current 2.0 points.
- Service points for renewal focused on golf-centric activities.

Class A FAQ's

1. *What will be required to maintain Class A status?*
   A. Possess a valid pesticide certification license or pass the GCSAA IPM Exam.
   B. Attain a total of 5 points. Minimum of 3 education points over a five year period.

2. *How will Education and Service Points change?*
   Only golf-centric service points will be eligible. Some Service Point categories will become education points and community service points are being eliminated.

3. *Which service point categories will now be education points?*
   - Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses completion
   - Audubon Signature Program completion
   - State environmental stewardship program completion
   - Published education article in GCM
   - Published education article in trade or chapter publication

4. *What will be changing in terms of "grandfathered" status?*
   Class A status will be based on the new requirements for all members. Members "grandfathered" July 1, 2003 will have through 2016 to attain minimum eligibility requirements for Class A status, after which eligibility will be based on new requirements.

5. *What happens if I fail to fulfill the renewal requirements?*
   You will be reclassified as a Class B member.

6. *How do I reinstate my Class A status?*
   Fulfill the original renewal requirements plus an additional (1) education point and remain a Class B member for a minimum of one year.

Grass Note

"Revamped Proposal"

Pete Grass, CGCS, GCSAA Vice President
Hilands Golf Club, Billings, Mont.

(For a more extensive review, see my article in the November 2014 The Perfect Lie.)

"***W***hen You Talk, We Listen." I am proud to say that I believe your GCSAA Board has followed that advice in regard to the Member Standards proposal that was first discussed a year ago at the 2014 Delegates Meeting.

It started in 2012, with a Board initiated 10-year after review of the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). After that Membership Standards Advisory Group (MSAG) report came back to the board, we took over a year to debate how we felt we should proceed - changing nothing, changing everything or somewhere in between. The Board wanted to get something out to the delegates for discussion and at the 2014 meeting there was not a strong push back to the proposed changes by the chapter delegates. When the delegates took the information back to their chapters, that changed and we began to hear pretty strong opposition to primarily the removal of entry level and renewal educational requirements. There were several avenues for feedback: Field Staff reports from chapter meetings, "Talk To The Board" sessions at the Golf Industry Show and a Member Standards survey, which over 2000 members took. Of the 2,000, 418 of them asked to be contacted, and the Board divided them up and individually called each one.

As a result of all of this feedback, the Board met in March to revamp the 2014 proposal and incorporate changes reflecting what we had 99% unanimously heard. What we came up with is reflected in the exhibit, shown on page 12, which offers a new proposed Class A definition, eligibility and renewal information. Along with this is a carryover proposal to change the "Superintendent Member" (SM) to "Class B."

The new definition allows someone who has met entry requirements and HAS BEEN Class A to remain such if they are not currently a superintendent but are still directly involved as a "golf industry professional" (Chapter Executive, General Manager, Regional Agronomist, Field Staff/USGA Agronomist, etc…). They would have the same renewal timeline and requirements as every other Class A member.

The new eligibility still is a sliding scale format with points

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Membership Standards Proposal continued from page 13

for level of formal education and experience. For all, it is a minimum of three years superintendent experience, but gives flexibility to achieve Class A, from obtaining all college level education, continuing education points or all years of experience. Most will use a combination of each to achieve Class A.

Renewal requirements would remain five points in a five-year cycle, but the number of education points jumps from 2.0 to 3.0 in that five-year period.

Please look all of this information over and let myself or Dan Tolson, our Peaks & Prairies delegate, know your thoughts. This will be a primary focus at the 2015 Chapter Delegates meeting, which unfortunately will take place at GCSAA headquarters the same days as our Fall Meeting & Trade Show in Billings this October.

My contact information is cell # 406-855-6440 and email pghgc@montana.net

GIS Block continued from page 1

as your plan comes together. We often turn disappointed people away from the block as he/she waited for final approval. Especially as a usual participant, the vast majority of the time you receive the thumbs up – so get on board with your hotel reservation, and then cancel with proper notice if you find your plans don't materialize.

We have two properties to offer you – depending on your budget/needs:

One property is the popular-from-experience Residence Inn Gaslamp. Our block was there in 2013 and we received high approval for the property and location. Please keep in mind this property does not have an option of two beds in the room, although most rooms have a sleeper sofa. Enjoy a free breakfast buffet, free wireless Internet, and a kitchenette in the large rooms. Our last go around, everyone appreciated the convention property being just down the street a couple of blocks and near a desirable access into the convention center.

Our second property is the Horton Grand Hotel. This is a grand, older hotel located in a bustling part of the Gaslamp. Enjoy antique furniture in the smaller sized rooms and the classic reflection of the 1880s. Free wireless connection is available. It doesn't offer the buffet breakfast, refrigerator, etc., but the price is lower. It is within walking distance as well, but near the opposite side of the convention center.

When these properties are available to reserve in our room block, you will be notified via email blasts. The Residence Inn Gaslamp is $206 if reserved by November 30, and $217 after that date. The Horton Grand Hotel is $159 if reserved by November 30, and $169 after that date. The rooms in the block are available on a first-come basis.

Instructions to register will be offered through our email blasts.

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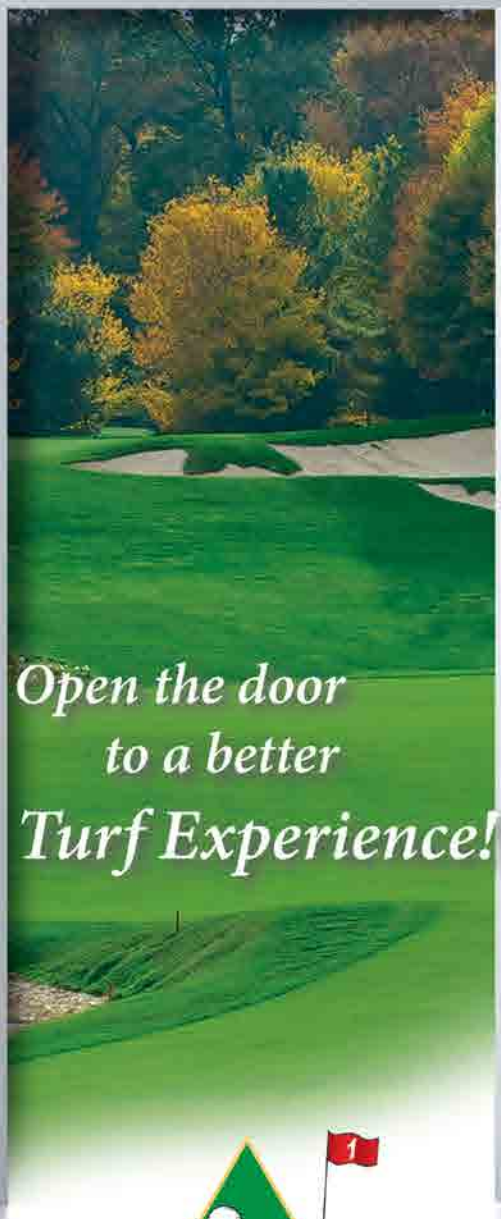

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The Open Experience 2015

Sean Sullivan, CGCS

The Briarwood Billings, Mont.

The 144th Open was at St. Andrews Old Course, in St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland. The Open venue returns to St. Andrews every five years. There are some rumors that The Open will wait for the 150th contest before returning to St. Andrews, for better marketing value. As with past Opens, selection to the Support Team is not automatic. Some criteria needs to be met to qualify for application. I attended the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, England, three out of the last five years, and actively participated in the association. Just like GCSAA and PPGCSA, I try to be as active as I can. Participation pays off, as I was the only American superintendent on the team. In addition to me, there was a greenkeeper from Germany and an individual with connections to Pinehurst, plus 53 greenkeepers from the UK.

I left for the UK on July 13, arriving in Manchester, early on July 14. As we needed to be at our accommodations in Cupar, Scotland by Wednesday afternoon, I had time to visit a couple of courses. Using the power of networking, I contacted Edward Ainsworth, Course Manager of Avro Golf Club, to see if he could pick me up and show me around his course. As always, the British hospitality is wonderful and I was well looked after. Avro is a nine-hole course with two employees to take care of the maintenance (yes, 2)! Eddie is also a beekeeping expert, using his beehives to pollinate the wildflowers around the course. If managing his course wasn't enough, he gives talks about the importance of bees to various clubs and associations, and helps remove or relocate swarms from other courses. At some point in the year, the honey and beeswax are collected and sold off to the membership. Eddie then drove me a short distance to Wilmslow Golf Club and passed me off to Steve Oultram, Course Manager. I had met Steve in 2008, when I was a Bernhard Delegate. Wilmslow was the first course I had ever visited in the UK and this year they were/are celebrating their 125th year as a club. Wilmslow also has one of my custom ball washers on their first tee with their course logo. As was the case in 2008, his course is in excellent condition. Steve was gracious enough to put me up for the evening at his home. The next morning, Tim Johnson, Deputy Course Manager (also on the Support Team), and I drove 4.5 hours to Cupar.

"I was thinking to myself how awesome it was to be on the best course in the world, getting ready to take part in the best tournament in the world."

Our accommodations for the rest of the week were in the Elmwood College dorm rooms, 8.7 miles from the Old Course. We were given our shirts, raingear, cap, and backpack at the same time we were being introduced to the other members of our team. Our matches had already been selected; my first match was Bubba Watson, Ian Poulter, and Charl Schwartzel. A great way to start the tournament! Later in the day, we headed out to the course to meet with Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie, and Paul Armour. After arriving, we were told what was expected of us, thanked for helping out, and given instructions from the bunker master on how to rake the bunkers for this event. The whole time, we were standing around watching all the activities going on about us: The R&A officials checking smoothness of greens, maintenance guys mowing grass, drones flying overhead taking videos of the course, and Support Teams taking photos. I was thinking to myself how awesome it was to be on the best course in the world, getting ready to take part in the best tournament in the world. Thursday couldn't come soon enough!

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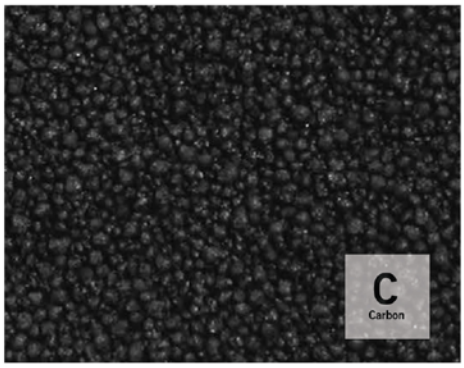

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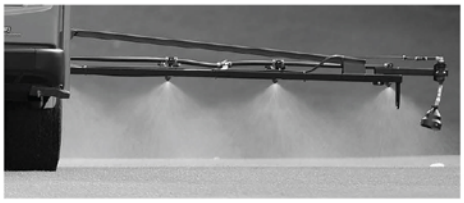

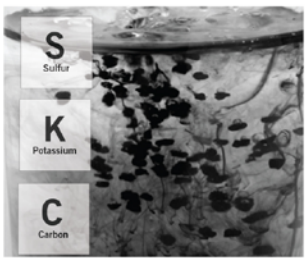

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Open Experience

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Our teams were bused in early in the morning; we had breakfast, and then waited for our matches. Our badges allowed us access to most of the course; we had the opportunity to watch the pros practice at any or all of the three different practice areas, so long as we were ready to go an hour before our scheduled match. Each match had a rules official, official scorer, greenkeeper, and scoreboard person. Part of my notable match included Mike Davis, head of the USGA, as the rules official. Because of the first tee setup, we didn't join the pros until after they hit their drives and they were 60 yards down the fairway. I was much more relaxed for this Open for some reason, maybe the third time is a charm or knowing that the 1st and 18th holes don't have bunkers. As with the previous Opens, we were also collecting data for the R&A concerning number of bunkers raked, which holes, and for which pros. Notable items for this match were: Got to discuss US Open setup with Mike Davis as we followed the players; Ian Poulter was nearly hit in the head by a drive off the 8th tee as we were playing the 10th hole; I saw a spectator in the crowd wearing a Montana cap and naturally I had to go say hello (he was from Missoula, of course); because of some debates concerning J.B. Holmes errant tee shot on hole 15 (after a 20-30 minute wait and some restless players) we were allowed to play through the group in front of us; I photo-bombed Bubba a couple of times on hole 17; Bubba hit several drives over 340 yards; and I walked over Swilcan Bridge with the world watching. What an awesome day. I raked three bunkers for Bubba, two for Poulter, and one for Schwartzel. We shook hands with the pros and caddies as they were coming off the 18th green and went our separate ways. Later that night we received our next matches. I had the last match at 3:00 p.m., consisting of Jonathan Moore, Scott Hend, and Ryan Fox.

Overnight there was a massive rainstorm that flooded the course. The course was unplayable, but the St. Andrews' crew pulled off an epic effort and got the course ready for play later in the day. My match had a four-hour delay and we started at 7:00 pm. We made it to the 7th green, but it was too dark for the pros to putt and we stopped for the day at 9:50 pm. The plan was to finish all of the second round matches in the morning and start the third round as soon as possible afterwards. Another aspect of the Scottish summer showed up in the form of high winds. It took two hours to play 1.5 holes before play was suspended until the winds died down enough so that the ball wouldn't blow around on the greens. We didn't restart until 6:00 p.m., Saturday night. We finished the second round at 9:50 pm, which has to be a record of 26 hours 50 minutes to complete a round of golf at the Open. Notable events for the second round were: finished at dark on two consecutive days to complete the round; a player had no problem voicing his displeasure of playing golf in the wind and rain; witnessed a hole in one on the 11th, and walked over Swilcan Bridge again, but it was too dark for anybody to notice. After all of that, I only raked three bunkers - one for each of them.

For the third round, I was lucky enough to draw a match, which isn't always the case. Because of the cut line and the number of greenkeepers, some did not get a match for the third round. I drew Marc Leishman and Marcus Fraser, both from Australia. I had Marc in the first round at Lytham and St. Annes, 2012. After pointing that out to him, I was shocked he didn't remember me. We played in a revolving weather pattern of sun, wind, rain, repeat. Through all of the weather issues and great golf that appeared to be normal play, Marc managed to shoot eight under for the day and put himself into contention for the final round. Notable events for the third round: Marc Leishman shoots eight under and I get TV time shaking his hand as he is coming off the 18th green; he leaves me hanging for a signed golf ball (again); Marcus Fraser plays great golf, but compared to Leishman's day, it doesn't warrant mentioning on TV; rules official won't allow us to cross the bridge and our scoreboard kid has to go home (to Vancouver) without ever having the opportunity to cross over. Third round action is two bunkers for Leishman and one for Marcus Fraser.

Because the Open was going into Monday for only the second time in history (happened in 1988, as well), some greenkeepers had to leave before the final round. I was lucky that

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Tracy, my wife, and Kevin Bonk talked me into staying the extra day. Tracy sorted out my travel arrangements while I was sorting out how I was going to get from St. Andrews to Manchester to make my flight the next day. Because of the shortage of greenkeepers now, some guys had 2 matches. That's a lot of walking for the day. I drew a middle of the pack match - Greg Chalmers and an amateur, Ashley Chesters, both at –6. Both played well despite the sun, wind, and rain events. Ashley was down to –11 before hitting into a bunker on 16. However, the ball was against the face of the vetted bunker and although he managed to pop it out, it rolled around and re-entered the bunker from the back. Having lost two strokes on 16, he never really regained his momentum and he finished at –9, which was a great score for a young amateur. Greg struggled with his putting and never really made a move. Although disappointed, he never showed it to the crowd. I was lucky enough to be behind the media booths when his wife and kids joined him. They couldn't have been prouder of him for his effort, and he was grateful for their support. Witnessing that reunion was special. Notable events for the day: getting Tom Lehman to autograph an Open flag (for my dad), getting a match on the final day of The Open at St. Andrews, getting to take in the excitement of walking up the 18th with the players, getting to cross over the bridge one more time, more TV time shaking hands with Ashley Chesters coming off the 18th green, and getting to witness Zach Johnson win The Open in a four-hole playoff, making it the longest Open in history.

By the time all the celebrations were over, it was 10:00 p.m., and most everyone was packing up, getting ready to leave. I had $1,400 worth of souvenirs for members and family to cram into my travel bag. It was tight and at the weight limit going back. We were on our way south to England at 10:30 p.m. and at 3:00 a.m. I was dropped off/ picked up by Peter McVicar at a service stop along the motorway. Peter was kind enough to put me up for a few hours (four to be exact), and then take me to the Manchester airport. There is never a dull moment in the UK and the hospitality is beyond belief. Working the Open is a truly great experience, and at St. Andrews, priceless! However, the reality of life soon hit me, when 20 minutes back to work at Briarwood, my irrigation system crashed the day before our Men's Member – Guest tournament. It was worth it, though!

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Fall – Cooler Weather and More Work

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.,
Turfgrass R&D, Inc., Billings, Mont.

When this newsletter hits your desk, I hope cooler weather comes with it. The cooler temperatures of fall mean another golf season is behind us (mostly) and it is time to prepare turfgrass for next season and tackle the projects that are impossible to get to during the peak of golf season.

From talking with superintendents in the Billings area, one of the biggest challenges from mid-August on is the lack of staff. Many summer employees leave around mid-August to enjoy some time off before returning to school. Most superintendents I talked to have reached the conclusion that is not worth it to hire new people in mid-August, since, by the time the new person is adequately trained, it is time to wind down the year. Cajoling current or former part-time staff members to work a few more hours seems to be the best option. While all of you are familiar with the challenge of getting the work done with fewer staff members from mid-August through the end of October, most club leaders and golfers are not aware of the challenge. Take the opportunity to educate golfers that they might see more of the mowers and other maintenance activities than usual since not enough staff members are available to get all the mowing and other routine chores done before the golfers come to the golf course.

Fall and Late Fall Soluble Nitrogen Fertilization

Based on recent research, it is time to rethink fall and late fall soluble nitrogen fertilization in northern parts of the country, like Montana and Wyoming. For many years turf scientists, including me, touted the benefits of applying most of the yearly total nitrogen to cool season grasses in the fall and late fall. Doug Soldat, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, has completed research that shows fertilizing much past September 15 with soluble nitrogen at anything above 0.5 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. results in low nitrogen uptake efficiency by the turf.

Lloyd et al., 2011 (1), conducted a field study in Madison, WI on cool season grasses that were fertilized with either 0.5 or 1.0 lbs. soluble nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. on September 15, October 15 and November 15 and nitrogen uptake efficiency was determined until June of the following year. Results of the study showed nitrogen uptake efficiency of 80% from the September 15 application, 19% from the October 15 application and 11% from the November 15 application.

Based on these results, three questions come to mind: 1) Why was the nitrogen uptake efficiency so low from the October 15 and November 15 soluble nitrogen applications? 2) What happened to the nitrogen that was applied and not taken up? 3) What is a better approach to fertilizing in the fall and late fall in northern climates?

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Based on these results, three questions come to mind:

1) Why was the nitrogen uptake efficiency so low from the October 15 and November 15 soluble nitrogen applications?

2) What happened to the nitrogen that was applied and not taken up?

3) What is a better approach to fertilizing in the fall and late fall in northern climates?

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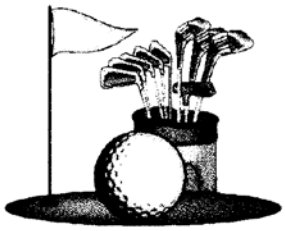

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More Work

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Why was the nitrogen uptake efficiency so low from the October 15 and November 15 soluble nitrogen applications? Turfgrass plants take up nitrogen primarily by mass flow. Mass flow is the process of water moving to plant roots to meet the plant's need for transpiration. The water moving to plants roots for transpiration also carries nitrogen in the water. As the plant takes up water for transpiration, it is also taking up nitrogen.

Whenever transpiration rates are high, due to warm temperatures and high light intensity, like after the September 15 soluble nitrogen application, nitrogen uptake efficiency is high. When transpiration rates are low, due to cool temperatures, short days and lower light intensity, like after the October 15 and November 15 soluble nitrogen applications, transpiration rates are low and nitrogen uptake efficiency is low as well.

What happened to the nitrogen that was applied and not taken up? Lloyd and his colleagues followed the nitrogen uptake until June, following the applications and the nitrogen not taken up by the turf in the spring. Although they did not attempt to determine the fate of the nitrogen applied, it seems reasonable to assume that the majority of nitrogen applied on October 15 and November 15 was lost from the system.

What is a better approach to fertilizing in the fall and late fall in northern climates? For putting greens, if a superintendent is planning to apply soluble nitrogen or a fertilizer that contains a majority of soluble nitrogen at 0.5 lbs. or more per 1,000 sq. ft., Soldat suggests fertilizing no later than September 15. After that, apply 0.1 lbs. soluble nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. every two weeks or so for the remainder of the growing season to provide good green color.

For roughs, fairways and tees, applying a fertilizer at up to 1.0 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. that contains both soluble and slow release nitrogen prior to September 15 should work well.

Creeping Bentgrass

Creeping bentgrass (Agrostis stolonifera) is a fantastic turf species for closely mown greens, tees and fairways. When creeping bentgrass becomes established in tee and green surrounds and in the rough, and mowed at a height greater than 0.5 inches, it becomes a difficult problem. At higher mowing heights it is unattractive and it is difficult to execute a successful golf shot from dense, tall patches of creeping bentgrass.

There are two options for controlling unwanted creeping bentgrass in the surrounds and the rough. The first is to apply glyphosate (Roundup and other trade names), a non-selective herbicide to green, actively growing stands of creeping bentgrass. It will take at least two applications of glyphosate, applied three or four weeks apart, to control creeping bentgrass.

In between glyphosate applications, the creeping bentgrass should be watered to encourage regrowth and the dead plant matter should be removed. Even with two applications of glyphosate, it is highly unlikely to achieve 100% creeping bentgrass control.

After the creeping bentgrass has been controlled, the bare areas need to be reestablished from seed or sod. Timing the control of creeping bentgrass so seeding takes place in mid-August will greatly facilitate the establishment of the seed. It also means there will be dead areas on the golf course for six weeks or more during the peak golf season depending on the spray schedule. If establishing from sod, there is more flexibility in the timing of the glyphosate applications, but be sure to treat the creeping bentgrass when it is green and actively growing.

Tenacity (mesotrione) can be used to selectively control creeping bentgrass in other cool season grasses. According to Patton and Wiesenberger (2), Tenacity is safe on Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and fine fescue with Kentucky bluegrass being the most tolerant to Tenacity. To successfully control creeping bentgrass growing in another cool season grass with Tenacity, three or four applications will need to be made at two-week intervals starting in late August or early September (2). If all aspects of making three Tenacity applications in the late summer/early fall are executed properly, Patten and Wiesenberger (2) state that upwards of 95% control of creeping bentgrass can be achieved in one season. Multiple Tenacity applications per year over a number of years will be required for complete control of creeping bentgrass.

The size, distribution and number of patches of creeping bentgrass in the surrounds will dictate the strategy needed to reestablish the desired turf species in the surrounds after the creeping bentgrass has been controlled. It is critical to have an establishment strategy in place once the unwanted patches of creeping bentgrass have been removed.

Enjoy the beautiful fall and root for your favorite football team.

Clark Throssell, Ph.D., is a turfgrass scientist and works with the turfgrass industry on technical and scientific issues. He serves as the technical resource for Peaks & Prairies GCSA members.

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Steiner Thuesen PLLC
Stotz Equipment
Superior Tech Products
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons

Our new Peaks & Prairies GCSA Members since April 1, 2015!

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(307) 237-4522

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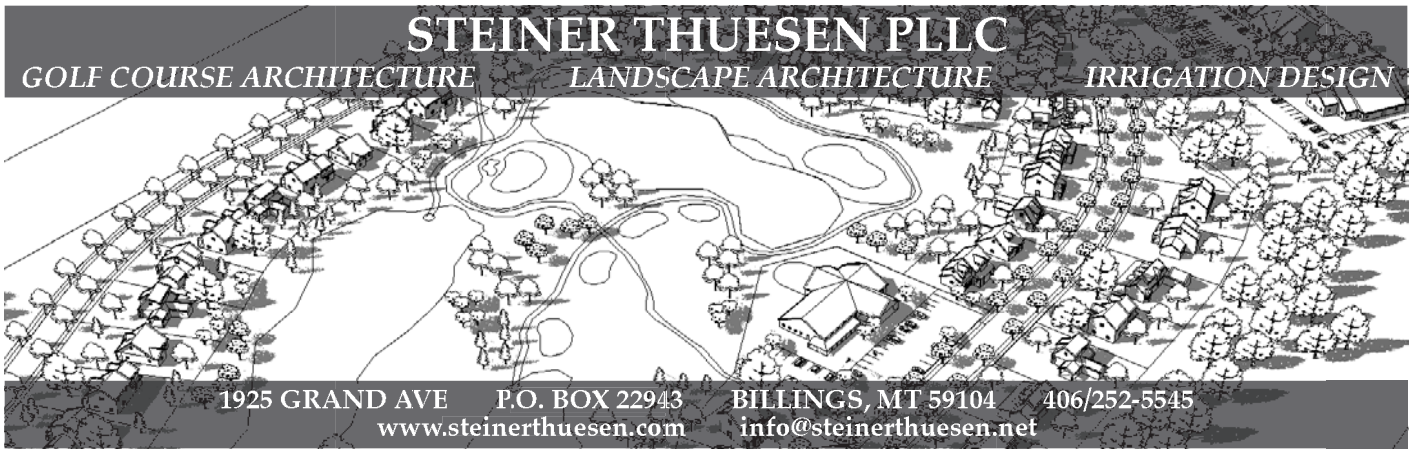
Peaks & Prairies Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
P. O. Box 807
Lolo, MT 59847
www.ppgsca.org

"Peaks & Prairies GCSA is dedicated to furthering the education of our members for the betterment of golf and its environment."

PPGCSA turf education and legacy scholarship applications are due September 20! Download an application from ppgcsa.org, or complete online and submit required documents.

Are you eligible to receive free meeting registration and free hotel nights? Check out the Founding Fathers Scholarship.