

Benefit from Someone Else's Successes and Failures

The "Almost" Spring Meeting, March 7 & 8, 2016, Helena, Mont., extends the chance to have great conversations with peers who have had challenges and successes the past year. This is a valuable way to begin the new season - talking to your fellow members and taking in educational opportunities offered by leaders in the turf industry. Registration material will be available after the first of the year.

Election Results

Our gratitude for service is offered to our recently elected officers and directors: President - Dan Rootes, Ponderosa Butte Golf Course, Colstrip, Mont.; Vice President - Jason Busch, The Powder Horn, Sheridan, Wyo.; and Secretary/Treasurer - Jason Lamb, Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont. Elected Directors: incumbent Wade Altschwager, Anaconda Hills Golf Course, Great Falls, Mont.; Rick Hathaway, Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deer Lodge, Mont.; and Mike Kitchen, CGCS, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club, Jackson, Wyo. (Sullivan thanked by Rootes below)



PPGCSA Events:

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room
 February 10, 2016

"Almost" Spring Meeting

March 7 & 8, 2016, Helena, Mont.

PPGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show

October 25-27, 2016, Billings, Mont.

MSGA Supports Our Continuing Education

Peaks & Prairies GCSA offers affordable continuing education - with the assistance of the Montana State Golf Association. As turf practices continue to evolve, we keep our members up-to-date with practical solutions to the challenges faced. The \$5,000 MSGA grant received assists in keeping our registration affordable so all courses may participate, regardless of budget size.

We appreciate the board and members of the MSGA!

Scholarships Awarded

It was not an easy decision for the PPGCSA Scholarship Committee to award three scholarships this year with such a deserving field of candidates.

As announced at the 2015 Business Meeting, our 2015 Scholarship recipients are:

- \$1,500 - Jesse Vincent, Yellowstone CC, Rutgers
- \$ 750 - Victoria Rootes, Montana State University
- \$ 750 - Anthony Price, University of Nevada, Reno

Chapters of Northwest Hospitality Room

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., The Bristol, San Diego. This evening is a great way to renew old relationships and make new connections.

Perhaps the evening will be enjoyed under the stars of the San Diego sky. There is a real possibility as 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 Gas Lamp District. It is the same location as the 2013 event.

We are seeking sponsors for the event. Our event partners make all the difference and the evening would not be the same without their support. Please contact Lori with your pledge.



Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association

OFFICERS

President: **Dan Rootes** Ponderosa Butte Golf Course,
Colstrip, Mont. 406/ 748-3326(S) or 406/ 749-3045 (C)
dlrootes@hotmail.com

Vice President: **Jason Busch**, The Powder Horn, Sheridan,
Wyo., 307/ 674-6700 ext.120 (S) or 307/ 752-3579 (C)

Secretary/Treasurer: **Jason Lamb**, Sidney Country Club,
Sidney, Mont., 406/ 433-5423 (S) or 406/480-2986 (C) scc-
grounds@midrivers.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wade Altschwager, Anaconda Hills Golf Course, Great Falls,
Mont., 406/ 727-0127 (S) or 406/ 781-8965 (C)

waltschwager@greatfallsmt.net

Cole Clark, Yegen Golf Club, Billings, Mont.,
(406) 850-8611 (C) colepar3@live.com

Rick Hathaway, Rick Hathaway, Rock Creek Cattle
Company, Deer Lodge, Mont. 406/846-1446 (S) or 406/560-
8371 (C) rhathaway@rockcreekcattlecompany.com

Bert Mackie Buffalo Golf Course, Buffalo, Wyo.,
307/684-5266 (S) or 307/ 620-1699(C)

bertlittlemac@yahoo.com

Danny Renz Douglas Community Golf Course, Douglas,
Wyo. 307/ 358-3492(S) or 605/ 890-1113 (C)

drenz31@yahoo.com

Mike Kitchen, CGCS, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club,
Jackson, Wyo., 307/732-4146 (S) mikek@tetonpines.com

Past President: **Sean Sullivan**, CGCS, The Briarwood,
Billings, Mont, (406) 248-5153 (S)

briarmain@pop.180com.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Education: Jason Lamb

Finance: Jason Lamb

Membership: Jason Busch

Nominating: Sean Sullivan, CGCS

Rounds4Research Cole Clark

Scholarship: Jason Busch

Tournament: Danny Renz

Allied Member Liaison: Jason Aerni (Simplot Partners)

Assistant Superintendent Liaison: Cody Schulke,
Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont.

THE PERFECT LIE is published quarterly by Peaks & Prairies
GCSA, and is edited by Lori Russell. Our newsletter is not copy-
righted, 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.

PEAKS & PRAIRIES GCSA OFFICE

Lori Russell, Executive Director

P.O. Box 807, Lolo, MT 59847

Phone & Fax 406/273-0791

ppgcsa.org ppgcsa@gcsa.myrf.net

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

Inside this issue

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Presidents Message | page 3 |
| Past Presidents Message | page 4 |
| 138 Easy Steps | page 6 |
| Learned at Fall Meeting | page 10 |
| Red Lodge Golf Course | page 14 |
| Grass Notes | page 16 |
| Fall Meeting | page 18 |

Advertisers index

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Simplot Partners | page 3 |
| Johnson Distributing | page 4 |
| Graff's Turf Farm | page 4 |
| 2M Company | page 5 |
| Treasure State Seed | page 6 |
| John Deere | page 7 & 11 |
| Abrasives | page 8 |
| Southwest Turf | page 8 |
| Midland Implement | page 9, 20 |
| Magic Valley Bentgrass Sod | page 10 |
| Lane Mountain Bunker Sand | page 10 |
| Granite Peak Pump Service | page 12 |
| Masek Golf Cars | page 12 |
| Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons | page 13 |
| Steiner Thuesen PLLC | page 14 |
| Grigg Bros. | page 15 |
| Baer Design Services | page 16 |
| Rain Bird | page 16 |
| Growth Products | page 17 |
| Tributary Environmental | page 18 |
| Superior Tech Products | page 19 |



President's Message

Dan Rootes

Ponderosa Butte Golf Course, Colstrip, Mont.

The Fall Meeting & Trade Show is over and the end of the 2015 season seems to finally be coming to a close. It's time for most of us to take some much

deserved time off to spend with the family or catch up on that list of home duties we have put off since last February. Another thing we do is answer the age old question, "What do you do in the winter?"

We all answer that with the company line of, "maintenance, catch up on projects, do paperwork," or whatever comes into your head at the moment the question is asked. Well, a couple other things should come to our minds when answering this question. Why not, "I educate myself," or, "I am involved with the local organization," or, maybe even, "I am a grass roots ambassador." These are three things that will help the future of the golf industry.

With the ever-changing atmosphere in the golf industry, it is very important we continue to educate ourselves to keep up with the times. Take some time this winter to explore all the opportunities at your fingertips - from the recently concluded

education conference and trade show in Billings to the many free webinars through the GCSAA website, to the upcoming "Almost" Spring Meeting. There is no excuse to not stay on top of things in our region. Take advantage of these and make yourself better at your craft.

"... a few things we can do as golf industry professionals to make sure we stay at the top of our fields."

Getting involved with the local organization is yet another way to not only stay on top of industry trends, but a great way to give back to people who have preceded you. Superintendents across the region have made Peaks & Prairies one of the top regional organizations in the US. It will stay on top only with new and fresh ideas from members all over the region. So, no matter who you are or where you are from, contact an officer, board member, or the director herself, if you want to get involved and help out the association.

The above-mentioned Grass Roots program is the newest addition to GCSAA. I believe this is going to become one of the most important programs for the continuation and improvement of the game of golf. It is important that we, as an industry, have a voice in the policies made that directly affect us. The recently tabled (for the time being) WOTUS is a great example of getting together and educating the uneducated. I can't help but wonder what issues are going to come up in the future that are going to need to be addressed. This program is going to be around for a long time. Log in to gcsaa.org and see how easy it is to help.

These are just a few things we can do as golf industry professionals to make sure we stay at the top of our fields. So, the next time someone asks that annoying question, maybe you can have a little better answer for them.



SIMPLOT PARTNERS
turf & horticulture

A Different Perspective

Maintaining a golf course requires long hours, dedication to excellence and attention to detail. Golfers only see what's on the surface; we know it's what goes on below the surface that makes your golf course appealing. Simplot Partners provides the right mix of quality turf products, service and consulting. Please contact your local Simplot Partners representative to assist you.

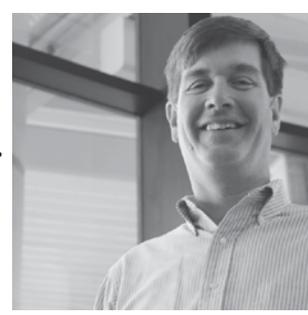
Jason Aerni (970) 231-5632
Bob Lee (503) 262-0475

www.simplotpartners.com

**Peaks & Prairies GCSA
Extension/Resource Service**

**Specify you are a Peaks & Prairies GCSA member*

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.
Turfgrass Scientist,
Turfgrass R&D, Inc.
406-656-1986
clarkthrossell@bresnan.net



Past President's Message

Sean Sullivan, CGCS
The Briarwood, Billings, Mont.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of PPGCSA for 2015. As stated before, during my last stint as President, it is an honor to be included in the list of all past presidents. Going forward, Dan, Jason, Jason and the other board members will make the best decisions they can. Every decision made is done so with the thought of strengthening the chapter and providing the member-

ship with timely info and opportunities. Thanks to Lori for making it easy to be on the Board of Directors. I, once again, urge everyone to consider becoming more involved in the association, either on a committee or on the Board. There are a lot of similarities to the work you do at your course, already. So, you will find that your participation will enhance your professional skills.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful winter season. With your downtime comes ample opportunities to write an article for the magazine. Topics can be about almost anything: technical stuff, projects, planning, problem solving, equipment modifications, and interesting experiences. To stay in this business, you are going to need to be comfortable using writing as a form of communication. We can help with that!

Kind regards, everyone,
Sean Sullivan, CGCS



Premium Golf Turf

Grown on USGA Spec Sand



GRAFF'S
TURF FARMS

1.800.280.8873 • www.GraffsTurfFarms.com



JOHNSON DISTRIBUTING

Johnson Distributing
(800) 332-7302

www.johnsondistributing.com Great Falls, MT
Mark Costello Cell: (406) 781-6228



Club Car



IMAGINE A
BIG BLOCK 454 THAT GETS
*100 Miles
Per Gallon.*

INTRODUCING THE G885 GOLF ROTOR
The ultimate combination of power and performance.

Boasting the highest torque output of any golf rotor available, the G885's patented gear drive will push through anything that gets in its way. With just one rotation of the turret by hand, you can clearly feel this rotor's supreme durability. Throw in Total-Top-Serviceability, a wide range of efficient dual-trajectory nozzles, and Hunter's great reputation for customer support, the G885 becomes the must-have rotor for any golf system, anywhere.

GOLF IRRIGATION | Built on Innovation
Learn more. Visit hunterindustries.com/golf



The G885 and G85B Golf Rotors



| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| 2M Billings | 800-234-7426 | 1215 Cordova Street, Billings, MT 59101 |
| 2M Missoula | 800-326-6795 | 2901 Latimer Street, Missoula, MT 59808 |
| 2M Bozeman | 866-556-8385 | 165 Quail Run Road, Bozeman, MT 59718 |
| 2M Kalispell | 866-610-5961 | 1075 Trumble Creek Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 |



How to get a New Irrigation System

in 138 Easy Steps

Dan Smith
Larchmont Golf Course
Missoula, Mont.

I remember my first day at Larchmont... I was walking from the maintenance yurt to the pro-shop with my little dog, Fondue. I was stunning in my little blue and white checked dress (you only get one chance to make a first impression). I had sensible, but stylish, black pumps, and matching ribbons for my pig tails. It was windy and everything was in black and white. Suddenly, I was sucked up by a twister. When I came to, I was standing in front of the new color touchscreen of a brand new 1.7 million-dollar irrigation system. I know what you're thinking. Why did he say blue in a black and white hallucination? Because, I am writing this after everything turned to technicolor, duh.

I wish it went just like that, but it did not. We spent the first 20+ years trying to fix the original system. We wore out two backhoes and five guys from Butte trying to keep the system working. We shattered pipe like nobody's business. We only seemed to break pipes on holidays, tournament days, weekends, in the middle of the night or the middle of the day, or just after we had clocked out - ready to head home. We had almost cornered the market on repair parts. I even knew the pump repair guy's kids, their names and even their birthdays. In fact, I am little Timmy's godfather. It was time for a new

system.

At that time, I thought we could do a new irrigation system and pump stations for around \$750,000. Right there should tell you how long ago this was. The reality is that irrigation systems are crazy expensive.

Over the next couple of years, we began to document everything we could think of to help the cause. We spent time documenting costs, electricity, repairs, labor, etc. I photographed everything. I even tried to calculate the amount of water we were leaking and how much it cost to pump it. I brought show and tell stuff to board meetings, such as a rusty eight-inch cast iron gate valve. Either working or not, it is a nice touch to have visual aids. (Safety tip: you cannot hang one from an easel.) Slowly, I began to wear them down. I even took a golf irrigation auditor course in Atlanta to become a certified golf irrigation auditor. I performed exactly one audit and was able to show the board how poorly and inefficiently the system had become - or maybe always was. I capped the whole thing off with an audit of our worn out pumps. That was the trifecta of irrigation system replacement (worn out pipes, worn out pumps, worn out parts).

Finally, the board relented and the project was a go.

Okay, so with the project green-lighted, what was next? We needed an architect. What I did was to let my fingers do the walking. I called guys I knew; I called guys I didn't know. I asked the stupid questions of the guys I didn't know. At some point you get a list of architects. From there, we collected proposals and references. Then it was back to the phone calls to gather more information. But, we did end up with a great architect, and then we had meetings, more meetings, all followed with more meetings...

This is what we have. This is what we want. This is how much we want to spend. You can expect having to justify all of your wants and needs at this point. Why do you need this over that? Why is this necessary and that isn't? Committees, boards and owners want to know where their money is going, and to be assured they are getting the most out of every dollar spent. You do the research and make the best arguments you can while trying to get the best stuff you can afford.

Now you have an architect, a plan, drawings, cost estimates, and, in our case, the project goes out to bid. After the bid opening, more phone calls checking references, followed with checking more references, and topped off checking

continued page 8



Treasure State Seed, Inc.



FOR ALL OF YOUR TURF SEED NEEDS:

- Putter & other Bentgrass Varieties
- Elite Kentucky Bluegrass
- Perennial Ryegrass
- Fine Leaf Fescues
- Fairway & Rough Blends
- Wildflower Mixes



2380 US Highway 89
P.O. Box 698
Fairfield, MT 59436
Phone: (406) 467-2557
Fax: (406) 467-3377
Toll Free: (800) 572-GROW
Email: treasure@3rivers.net

We take your greens as
seriously as you do.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF



C & B Operations
5121 Midland Rd
Billings, MT 59101
(800) 823-9242

Pacific Golf & Turf
6615 E Mallon Ave
Spokane, WA 99212
(509) 953-6482

Stotz Equipment
352 Blackmore Rd, Evansville, WY
10801 Hwy 789 Riverton, WY
(800) 359-0250

138 Steps continued from page 6

references, and topped off by checking references. This is where your choice of an architect will show. It's my theory that an architect should act as a lubricant, not unlike the tin man's oilcan. Our architect was the go-between guy between the contractors and us. The key was to ferret out any discrepancies or shortcomings before things were finished. Nobody likes to redo work they have already completed; the trick is to find the mistakes early in the process. This is the place where a contractor finds chinks in your contract. If your contract does not specify screened backfill, guess what? You won't get screened backfill. A good architect should be an asset and an advocate for your team.

Once construction finally started, my job was to ride herd on the contractor and relay that information to the general manager and the architect. I took pictures. I showed up unexpectedly and I tried to catch them doing evil. I never caught them doing anything weird (except this one guy, but that's a whole article in itself). I spent a lot of time on the phone with the architect, the construction manager, the general manager, and the wife. We tried to have good communication with golfers. We spent a few dollars on signage, posting notices at the pro shop, spreading the word to the golfers about the project. Finally, the Munchkins or maybe flying monkeys, were finished.

I had kept a running list of items and things that I noticed as I looked everything over. We went through the knock list item by item and addressed all the issues we had. Finally, at some point, everything was resolved and it's finally over. They all went home - the entire cast and crew. It's a wrap. And there you have it, easy peasy, how to get a new irrigation system in 20 years and 138 easy steps.

Elections continued from page 1

Lodge, Mont.; and Mike Kitchen, CGCS, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club, Jackson, Wyo.

Playing for a Cause

We appreciate Bridger Creek Golf Course, and host superintendent Dane Gamble, for hosting the Montana 2015 Peaks & Prairies GCSA Scholarship/Education Golf Event! It is great when we can exchange information year round in different regions, while contributing to these important programs.

We appreciate our sponsors of the event!

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Midland Implement | Larchmont Men's Golf League |
| 2M Company | Magic Valley Bentgrass |
| Big Sky Western Bank | Masek Golf Cars |
| Casey's Corner | Planet Turf |
| CPS Professional Products | Rain Bird Golf |
| Desert Green Turf | Riverside Country Club |
| Granite Peak Pump Systems | Simplot Partners |
| Growth Products | Southwest Turf |
| Headwaters Golf Club Men's Association | Spring Hill Sod |
| Johnson Distributing/Club Car | Steiner Thuesen PLLC |
| Knife River | Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons |
| Lake Hills Golf | Whitefish Lakes Golf Club |

It's a
SAND thing



Scan this QR code for more sand info.
Need a QR reader?
Download a free app on your smartphone!

DAKOTA GOLD™ Superior Silica Sand

Meets USGA specs and outstanding for:
Greens Dressing - Bunkers - Construction
Want a different look for your bunkers? Try Black Slag!

**We deliver - where you need it,
when you need it.**

Bulk or Packaged (50 lb, 80 lb bags, Jumbo Cells)

Distributor
& Blender of
DAKOTA PEAT

Abrasives
INCORPORATED

call us!

800-584-7524

4090 Hwy 49 • Glen Ullin, ND (I-94 Exit 110 south)
slagnsilica@abrasivesinc.com • www.abrasivesinc.com



Southwest Turf, Inc.

42-335 Washington St., #301
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(760) 360-9280
Cell (760) 902-3550
Fax (760) 360-6641

3102 Marguerite Blvd.
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 656-4328
Email: planetgolf1@aol.com

Wally Michotte
President

DISTRIBUTOR OF

Floratine
GRO POWER



INVESTING IN SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Trust the leader in golf irrigation to help you with your water management efforts while also helping you achieve optimum playing conditions. From integration with your pump station, to the most flexible sprinklers featuring Trujectory™ adjust, to the industry's most widely-used control system - and now the new Toro® Turf Guard™ Wireless Soil Monitoring System - Toro is your best source.

Toro is reinventing the way mowers perform—
From Quad-steer models, sidewinding rotaries, and contour deck
Mowers, Toro rotaries deliver unprecedented
performance and productivity.

The new walk flex and triplex greens mowers offer innovative
designs,
enhanced
Performance,
and reliability—
taking Toro's
industry lead-
ing cutting
performance
to a whole
new level.



TORO Count On It

- Genuine Parts
- NSN Support
- Financing
- Protection Plus
- MyTurf
- Passion

The king of
the fairway...
Reelmaster mowers—agile, easy on
the turf, powerful, easy to operate
and service. Nothing cuts like a DPA.



Work vehicles and sprayers are
designed with your toughest work
challenges in mind. Multi Pro Sprayers
deliver the ultimate in precision,
simplicity, and convenience.



Midland Implement

Company, Inc.



EST. 1980

www.midlandimplement.com

402 DANIEL ST. • BOX 30358 • BILLINGS, MT 59107 • PH. (406) 248-7771 • FAX (406) 252-5772

THINGS I LEARNED AT THE FALL MEETING

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.,

Turfgrass R&D, Inc., Billings, Mont.

The fall meeting was a great time for me to learn a few new things which I am going to share with you in this article. Here goes:

- Bob Popp, superintendent at the Laurel Golf Club, and his staff do a fantastic job. I already knew that and playing at Laurel as part of our meeting only confirmed what I had experienced earlier this summer: great playing conditions. The greens were firm, fast and a joy to play. I only putted off of one green, and in my defense, I was above the hole about 35 or 40 feet putting downhill. And I did not four-putt a green. Or at least I don't remember four-putting. Regardless of the sorry state of my game, it was a wonderful afternoon at the Laurel Golf Club. Thanks to Bob and his staff.

- Mike Richardson, Ph.D., University of Arkansas, and perhaps other Razorback fans would like for Bret Bielema, the football coach at the University of Arkansas to return to his former job at the University of Wisconsin. Paul Koch, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, and perhaps other Badger fans would like for Mr. Bielema to remain as coach at the University of Arkansas. Football passions run deep.

- Mike Richardson made a great presentation that covered some of the wetting agent research that he and his colleague, Doug Karcher, Ph.D., and

their students at the University of Arkansas have conducted. Mike

shared some great pictures that showed the benefits of using wetting agents to manage localized dry spots on putting greens. If you have localized dry spots on greens and are not using wetting agents to help manage them, make your life easier and incorporate wetting agent applications into your management program. Mike also said that, in their research, they have not been able to document any cases where a wetting agent performed as a penetrant or held excess moisture at the surface of a green. He did advise that after a wetting agent application, it would be a good idea to reduce the amount of water applied to a green to take advantage of the improved uniformity of water distribution in the root zone.

- Dwayne Dillinger has not pulled an aerification core from his greens at the Bell Nob Golf Course in Gillette, Wyoming in 17 years. Dwayne wasn't part of the formal education program but it was interesting to catch up with him at a break and ask him about his aerification and topdressing program. As Dwayne explained to me, he topdresses frequently, especially in the late spring and early summer when the creeping bentgrass is growing rapidly and organic matter is



TOP PERFORMING
CULTIVARS

SAND ROOT ZONE

CUSTOM PRODUCTION
AVAILABLE

MAGIC VALLEY
BENTGRASS
Premium Putting Green Sod

Matt Nelson OWNER
208.358.4420

www.magicvalleybentgrass.com
matt@magicvalleybentgrass.com

accumulating. By topdressing frequently, Dwayne is able to dilute the organic matter with sand as it develops and prevent layers from forming at the surface of the root zone. He does aerify with solid tines to

continued page 12

Crystal
Clear
Performance

Lane Mountain Company
Valley Washington 99181

Toll Free (866) 470-5850
Fax (509) 937-2523

Valley, WA

Situated one hour north of Spokane, Washington, Lane Mountain is located close to the main trucking lanes into Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, British Columbia and Alberta.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF



How to keep your course moving.

C & B Operations
5121 Midland Rd
Billings, MT 59101
(800) 823-9242

Pacific Golf & Turf
6615 E Mallon Ave
Spokane, WA 99212
(509) 953-6482

Stotz Equipment
352 Blackmore Rd, Evansville, WY
10801 Hwy 789 Riverton, WY
(800) 359-0250

Things I Learned continued from page 10

various depths several times each year. The solid tine diameter, depth and spacing depend on the time of year and on what Dwayne is trying to accomplish. While not pulling aerification cores is not for everybody, the frequent topdressing program to prevent organic matter layers from accumulating at the root zone surface should be for everybody.

- Paul Koch, Ph.D., talked about several aspects of snow mold control. He and his staff conduct snow mold control trials with over 100 different fungicide treatments at several locations in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Treatments may include one, two, three or even four fungicide active ingredients. Fortunately, most of the treatments in Paul's snow mold control trials provide acceptable control or better, giving superintendents many fungicide options to select from. Results have shown that the longer the duration of continuous snow cover, the more difficult it is to achieve acceptable snow mold control. Paul suggested thinking about the number of days of continuous snow cover at your location and basing your fungicide treatment for snow mold on the duration of continuous snow cover. The longer the duration of continuous snow cover, increase the number of fungicide active ingredients, each from a different fungicide family, that are applied.

- Jason Busch, superintendent at The Power Horn in Sheridan, Wyoming, is currently rebuilding all the bunkers on nine of his 27 holes. The bunkers on the Mountain course are being completely rebuilt, which includes eliminating five bunkers, reducing the size of most of the rest of the bunkers, changing their shape, elevating the bottom of many bunkers, installing completely new drainage and installing Capillary Concrete™ on the faces and bottom of all the bunkers. The bunkers are being rebuilt due to drainage and contamination

problems beginning when they were constructed. Extensive flooding this spring was the final insult that spurred the rebuild this fall. Capillary Concrete™ is a proprietary porous concrete that allows water to drain both horizontally and vertically within the concrete. Staff from Capillary Concrete™ came to Sheridan and worked with the local concrete plant to teach them how to make Capillary Concrete™ to the desired specifications. Jason and his staff are doing all the installation of the product and just have to call the concrete plant to place an order for delivery. The Capillary Concrete™ is being installed to a depth of two inches on top of firmed soil. After hardening for 24 hours, sand is placed on top and the bunker is ready for play. Sod has been planted around the edges of the bunkers and rolled over the faces to the edge of the Capillary Concrete™ liner to prevent contamination and eliminate the need for edging. The bunkers will be hand raked going forward, but could be machined raked, if desired.

- Erik Ervin, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University, presented a seminar titled 'Greens Aerification and Water Management by the Numbers'. There were many interesting aspects to the seminar and the one that stuck with me were the two systems that were presented to help make watering decisions on greens. One system was based on probing the putting surface with a pocket knife at many locations to determine the firmness and moisture content of the green. After the probing was completed, the person doing the probing rated each green on a predetermined scale for firmness and moisture content and created a color coded map to guide hand watering the following day. The second system relied on soil moisture sensor readings at multiple locations on the green. After recording the data, the person taking the readings created a color coded map of each green to guide hand watering the following day. While each system is labor intensive, a systematic approach to determining water needs that you develop for your greens is worth trying.

- I would starve if I was a fishing guide. Erik Ervin had never been fly fishing, so I took him to the Big Horn River on Friday for a day of fishing. After a brief casting lesson, we hit the river. I managed to land three fish, one of which had to be all of three inches long, and Erik landed one, about four inches long. In short, it was lots of fishing and little catching. I blame the wind, the high, cloudy water and abundant vegetation in the river. You know; the usual excuses. Erik and I had fun but I'd better stick to being a turfgrass scientist.

Enjoy a little down time the next few months. You've earned it. *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 and Prairies GCSA members. (This article can only be reproduced with written permission of the author).*



919 Betsy Dr.
Billings, MT 59105
Ph: (406) 254-9972
Fx: (406) 254-9533

Granite Peak
PUMP SERVICE

Jay Glen

jay@granitepeakpumpservice.com
www.granitepeakpumpservice.com

Your Local Factory Authorized:
Watertronics pump station service provider
Precision Pumping Systems service provider
Rain Bird pump station service provider

Sales, Service & Installation:
All types of pumps, controls & filter systems

"The Summit of Customer Satisfaction"



JUSTIN ALLRED
Regional Sales Manager
308.436.2100
jallred.masekgolfcars@yahoo.com

"Largest Golf Car Distributor in the United States"

Toll Free: 800.800.8987 • Fax: 308.436.2800 • Cell: 308.672.8593
425 M St. • Gering, NE 69341
www.masekgolfcars.com



WINTER FUNGICIDE PROTECTION

The Products To Protect All Winter Long!



PRE-TREAT

Prophecy

- Broad spectrum and systemic disease control and suppression for turf
- Dispersing granule fungicide
- easy to spread formula

11-0-22 Fertilizer Plus Fungicide VIII

- Broad spectrum fungicide
- Combines two synergistic active ingredients that provide both fast-acting and sustained disease control by utilizing both foliage activity and root uptake of the active ingredients
- Controls brown patch, dollar spot, red thread, pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), leaf spot/melting out, anthracnose
- Controlled release nitrogen



WINTER

FF III Snowmold Fungicide

- Broad spectrum granular snowmold fungicide
- Unique combination of active ingredients that utilize systemic and contact modes of action

SPRING

Fungicide X

- Recommended for use when brown patch is frequently a problem.
- Prevents and controls brown patch, leaf spot, red leaf spot, pink snow mold and gray snow mold.
- Consistency of particle sizes for optimum turf coverage and disease control with less susceptibility to drift.

23-3-25 Fertilizer Plus Fungicide VIII

- Broad spectrum fungicide
- Combines two synergistic active ingredients that provide both fast-acting and sustained disease control by utilizing both foliage activity and root uptake of the active ingredients
- Controls brown patch, dollar spot, red thread, pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), leaf spot/melting out, anthracnose
- Controlled release nitrogen

Count on Wilbur-Ellis® and The Andersons® for all your turf care needs!



WILBUR-ELLIS®

WILBUR-ELLIS SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Mike Doty | Jake Leiser | Rob Warehime |
| Billings, MT | Spokane, WA | Great Falls, MT |
| 800-736-5359 | 509-994-4735 | 406-727-4500 |



ANDERSONS TERRITORY MANAGER

Ed Price: Office 208-772-9290 • Cell 509-981-9077

Visit AndersonsPro.com for more product information.

The golf course is located on the west bench overlooking the resort community of Red Lodge, Montana.

It is an 18-hole, par-72 public course, surrounded by a residential subdivision. With a mid-high slope of 126 spread across a generous 160 acres, Red Lodge Mountain Golf Course has enough challenging holes to keep you on your toes. For the size of our community, we are fortunate to have an 18-hole course for the enjoyment of golf enthusiasts and blessed by amazing vistas of the Beartooth Mountains.

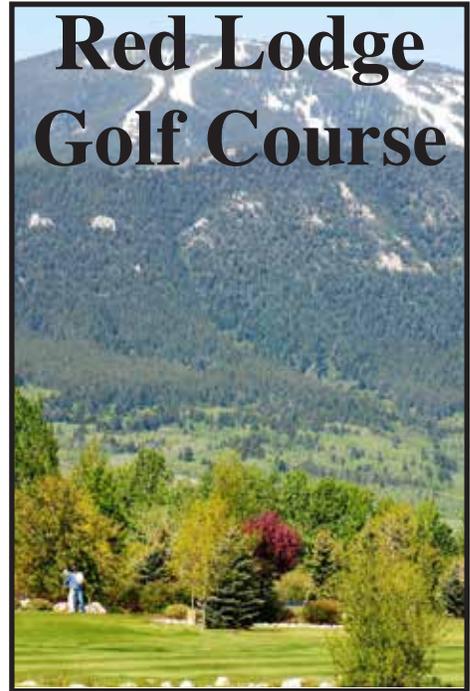
The front nine was built in 1982 and the back nine the following year. The same group that manages the Red Lodge Mountain ski area manages the course.

Our designer, Bob Baldock, transformed a hay meadow into a golf course, with plenty of challenging terrain to navigate. Numerous tree lined streams and small lakes make a ball retriever a necessary addition to a golfer's bag. The small greens provide added difficulty with approach shots. With an elevation of 5555 feet, we do have a shorter season than most courses in our area. We open as soon as the spring snow melts; usually mid-May and golf through mid-October.

Our signature hole is the famed #15. It is a par 3 that drops 80 feet from the tee to an island green located in the Rock Creek valley. It is a unique hole and everyone's favorite. Hole #16 then stretches into a long par 5 and hole #17 features another par 3, stopping halfway back up the bench and takes you to the top of the rim to the par-5 hole #18.



One of the major challenges we face is our irrigation system. It is not yet automated and requires two workers watering each night. We also have numerous moose, deer



**Gary Kane,
Golf Course Superintendent**

and bear wandering on our greens, creating constant repair issues.

After spending thirty years in the education and coaching profession, I took on the superintendent position ten years ago.

Although I was finished with teaching, I remained the golf coach for the high school until a year ago. Our peak season employs four full-time and two part-time employees. I am fortunate to have a crew who is meticulous in the maintenance of the course, doing an excellent job with limited resources.

STEINER THUESEN PLLC

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IRRIGATION DESIGN

1925 GRAND AVE P.O. BOX 22943 BILLINGS, MT 59104 406/252-5545
www.steinerthuesen.com info@steinerthuesen.net

NEW AND IMPROVED
with added Magnesium

GARY'S GREEN ULTRA®

13-2-3 + micronutrients

6 PRODUCTS IN ONE

(no mixing required)

Gary's Green Ultra® is a sophisticated combination of Gary's Green® and Ultraplex® containing Grigg Brothers® exclusive Elicitor® technology and is designed for use in all seasons. Gary's Green Ultra® is an important component to most Grigg Brothers® foliar programs for improved plant health and stress tolerance. Gary's Green Ultra® includes the following components:

- **Macronutrients, N, P, and K**
(also available in a no Phosphate version)
- A complete organically chelated, phosphate stable micronutrient package including Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, and now with Magnesium.
- Additional Sea Plant extract (*Ascophyllum Nodosum*)
- Effective natural biostimulants, organic and amino acids.
- A water buffering agent.
- A natural, non-ionic and organic surfactant for improved foliar coverage and absorption.



For more information
scan or link.
<http://gri.gg/info1318>



VISIT

<http://griggbros.com>



JOIN

<http://gri.gg/join>



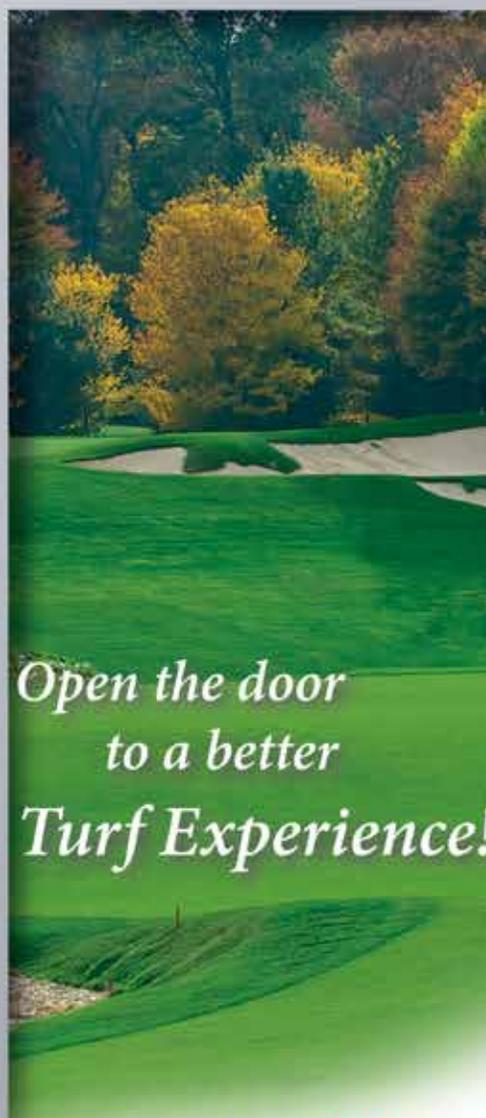
LIKE

<http://gri.gg/fb>



SUBSCRIBE

<http://gri.gg/tv>



*Open the door
to a better
Turf Experience!*



Proven Foliar®

For a Distributor Near You Call:
1-888-246-8873
or find us on the web at: www.griggbros.com

Grass Notes

**Pete Grass, CGCS,
GCSAA
Vice President**

**Hilands Golf Club,
Billings, Mont.**



It is usually easier to piggyback on (steal) someone else's ideas rather than create your own. For this quarter's article, I want to expand (in my own words) on something that GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans shared with us during the "Almost" Spring Meeting in Jackson this last March. Rhett shared a story (and video - internet search it) of Kyle Maynard. He is a quadriplegic amputee who climbed 19,400 ft. Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa back in 2012. As Kyle continued to struggle towards the summit, he became discouraged. He would often look up and see how far he still had to go. In a moment of despair, he thought to look back, causing him to focus instead on how far he had come, providing a renewed outlook and frame of mind to press on. Rhett used that story to talk about how far GCSAA and the golf course management profession have advanced, although there is still much more of the "mountain" to climb. The story hit home for Rhett as he also climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2013.

I believe we all have some type of parallel story we could share, maybe not as extreme as climbing a mountain, but something we have been struggling with, trying to reach the "end" as we had envisioned. It could be either a personal (physical, relationship, employment, etc.) or professional (facility project, staffing, sales, etc.) goal. I personally have several goals that I don't think I have achieved, but am in a continual mode to improve on, such as being a better husband and father for Charlene and our kids. At Hilands Golf Club, I want to be a better boss for my staff and be a better employee for the facility. Looking back on 2015, I think I made progress, but I know that every one of those mentioned above, and I include myself, would say I could make improvements, still.

As we close out 2015, look back on what went well and

what goals you achieved, then look forward to thinking about what you can do better. Set new goals for 2016 and beyond.

I am excited to be, Good Lord, GCSAA and Hilands Members willing, the next and first from a 9-hole facility, President of GCSAA in February. That responsibility will provide many challenges, but also many unique and exciting opportunities to share the story of what golf course superintendents, assistants, equipment managers and our industry partners do for the game worldwide. There are so many positive stories to tell about the great men and women in this industry, who, both as individuals and professionals, enhance the environment, economy and community where they work in, not to mention providing recreation and enjoyment of those who play the game of golf. The people I know the best and can tell the most personal stories about are you, my fellow Peaks & Prairies GCSA members. The variety of my experiences and stories range between my first boss, Don Tolson, and Dane Gamble (with the most respect - our senior founding active member), to several of you whom I have learned with and from for over 30 years now, to NaTalia Arlint and my son Stephen. They are both recent turfgrass management graduates who will be the future of both P&P and the GCSAA.

For each of us, there are many personal and professional challenges ahead. Some are minor and some may seem like mountains in front of us. My message to you: remember, if you saw someone on the street, like Kyle Maynard, and thought, "no way could that person go that far up a mountain, much less start that journey and accomplish it," then we have no excuses to hold us back from trying to accomplish great things. We should look back once in a while to see how far we have come and then keep on "climbing" to the summit of our goals.



Greg Baer
Principal Landscape Architect
Irrigation Consultant

10027 N. Palisades Wy.
Boise, ID 83714
Ph. 208.859.1980
greg@baerdg.com



**SOLVING
TODAY'S IRRIGATION
CHALLENGES**



**Rain Bird International
Corporation - Services Division
Pacific Northwest**

**ID, MT, WY
Pete Morris**
541-604-5848
pmorris@rainbird.com

**Oregon
Mark Willcut**
503-798-7203
mwillcut@rainbird.com



Alan Nicksic
Regional Sales Manager
(970) 218-1042
ANicksic@GrowthProducts.com

Build Your Custom Premium Greens Program



**Companion® Liquid
Biological Fungicide**
For Prevention Control and
Suppression of Soil &
Foliar Diseases



Essential® Plus 1-0-1
100% Natural Organic
Soil Amendment



18-6-12
With 60% Slow Release
Nitrogen from Nitro-30



The Classic 18-3-6
Liquid Fertilizer Solution With
50% SRN With Micronutrients



15-2-15 Pro-Balance
With 50% Slow Release
Nitrogen

www.GrowthProducts.com • Questions@GrowthProducts.com • (800)648-7626 • Made in the USA

You make a difference! Whether you are an allied partner reserving a booth or you are a conference attendee, your participation helps improve turf conditions in so many ways!

C & B Operations / Break co-sponsor
 Stotz Equipment / Break co-sponsor, Gold T.S. F & B
 Pacific Golf & Turf
 Midland Implement
 2M Company / Break co-sponsor / Hole sponsor
 Affordable Turf & Specialty Tire
 Agro Systems

Amvac Environ. Products / Hole sponsor / Silver T.S. F & B
 BASF

Compression Leasing Services
 Granite Peak Pump Service / Hole sponsor
 Growth Products / Gold T.S. F & B
 HARCO Fittings / Hole sponsor
 Johnson Distributing / Hole sponsor
 Masek Golf Car Co.

Nufarm / Hole sponsor
 Precision Pumping Systems
 Rain Bird International / Hole sponsor / Silver T.S. F & B
 Standard Golf / Hole sponsor
 Steiner Thuesen, PLLC
 Simplot Partners / Hole sponsor
 Southwest Turf / Hole plus pin prize sponsor
 Superior Tech Product / Silver T.S. F & B
 Water Logic Technologies
 Winfield

Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons / Break co-sponsor, Hole sponsor,
 Silver T.S. F & B
 Unimin Corporation / Hole sponsor

2015



Tributary ENVIRONMENTAL

aerial surveying | pond & stream construction | geologic investigation

WHAT CAN TRIBUTARY ENVIRONMENTAL DO FOR YOU?

Tributary Environmental (TE) specializes in **pond and stream restoration**, aerial surveying, and bathymetric surveys for fish habitat, aquatic vegetation, and wetland improvements. An **affordable and accurate** bathymetric survey can provide you with detailed water volume information, sediment depth and thickness, and aquatic vegetation mapping. Aerial mapping gives you a unique view of your property for yardage books, promotional documents, or topographic surveys. TE has **20+ years** of combined experience working in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and Idaho.

SERVICES TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS:

- Pond and Stream Construction
- Aerial Surveying and Photography
- Habitat Assessment and Improvement
- Topographic and Bathymetric Surveying
- Fish Habitat Restoration and Improvement
- Sediment Mapping and Dredging
- Geologic Assessments
- Wetland Improvements



Jason Rolfe, PG (307) 690-7258
 jason@tributaryenvironmental.com

P.O. Box 6854, Jackson, Wyoming 83002
 www.tributaryenvironmental.com

Case Brown (302) 905-7864
 case@tributaryenvironmental.com



Superior Tech Products

Leading Edge Turfgrass Solutions
Golf Courses | Sport Fields | Parks

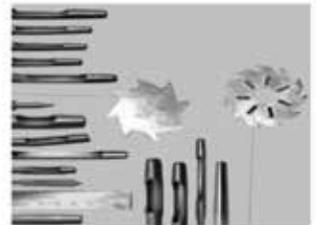
www.stproots.com

Nick 605-391-2435

Steve 320-760-0215



- * Liquid & Granular Fertilizers
- * Organic Fertilizers
- * Post Patent Pesticides
- * Aerification Tines & Bedknives
- * Natural & Artificial Turf grooming equipment.



THE PERFECT LIE

Peaks & Prairies Chapter
GCSAA P. O. Box 807
Lolo, MT 59847
www.ppgsca.org

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
"Peaks & Prairies GCSA is dedicated to furthering the education of our members for the betterment of golf and its environment."

PRESRT STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 569
Missoula, MT

With NSN Connect, Lynx is with you when and where you want.

Integrated Turf Guard soil sensor helps you Save water.

Simplified decision making with Dynamic Drill down.

Flexible and editable map simplifies irrigation control.

WHY IS LYNX THE EASIEST IRRIGATION CONTROL SYSTEM IN THE INDUSTRY?

Midland Implement Company, Inc.  est. 1920

Simple! You helped design it. The Toro Lynx Control System delivers Precision Irrigation easier and more intuitively than ever before. But don't take our word for it. See what superintendents are saying at toro.com/leaderboard

www.midlandimplement.com
403 DANIEL ST. • BOX 30358 • BILLINGS, MT 59107 • PH. (406) 248-7771 • FAX (406) 252-5772