

Branham and Karcher Featured Speakers at “Almost” Spring Meeting

And the survey has said... bring Branham back. We have continued to hear this since Dr. Bruce Branham's participation in 2011. Branham has made a huge impact in the turf world – from the start of his career to today. In 1983, he started a research and teaching program in turfgrass management at Michigan State University. While at MSU, the turfgrass teaching program grew from 15 students to over 80. Bran-



ham has trained a number of PhD students who have established respected turf programs across the country. Branham returned to the University of Illinois in 1995 where he continues to conduct research and teach undergraduate and graduate students. His focus is on turfgrass physiology and management, and pesticide and nutrient fate.

Branham is a highly respected researcher who connects to his students, peers, and the turf industry. And somehow, he makes it all look so easy. *continued page 12*

**“Almost” Spring Meeting
 Holiday Inn, Sheridan, Wyo.
 March 4 & 5, 2019**

PPGCSA Events:

GIS Hospitality Room February 6, 2019 San Diego
PPGCSA “Almost” Spring Meeting March 4 - 5, 2019
PPGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show October 15-18, 2019, Billings Hotel & Conv. Center, Billings, MT
 For more events, visit ppgcsa.org

Wyoming State Golf Association 2018 Grant

The WSGA continues to be our partner in the turf industry and a valuable component in keeping continuing education affordable in our region.

It has been another great educational season. This is in part thanks to the regional golf association support for our programs. The 2018 \$1,000 WSGA grant makes a difference.

The annual grant we receive from the MSGA and WSGA help to keep access to our continuing education open to all courses, regardless of budget size.

Please take the time to thank your local state golf association board member.

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

Sponsors are appreciated for the 2019 Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room! Enjoy the evening with your turf industry peers at The Westin San Diego, 400 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Wednesday, February 6, 2019. This is a new location for us and it is a GIS conference property. Complimentary food and beverages will be offered thanks to the generosity of our allied partners. Contact Lori to help sponsor.

Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to our 2018 Peaks & Prairies GCSA scholarship recipients! Applications are due September 20 each year and are announced at the business meeting of the fall conference. Categories include turf management and legacy awards.

Our 2018 deserving recipients are:

- **John Lafko, Assistant Superintendent, Lake Hills Golf Course, Billings, Mont.** \$1,500.
- **Abigail Klonsinski, daughter of Kurt Klonsinski, Riverside Country Club, Bozeman, Mont.,** \$750.



“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

President’s Message	page 3
What I Didn’t Know	page 4
Past President’s Message	page 7
GCSAAPAC - What is that?	page 10
Fall Meeting & Trade Show	page 14
Development of Topdressing Program	page 18
Potassium Content in Sands	page 20
Education for Assistants	page 21
H2B	page 24

Advertisers index

Granite Peak Pump Service	page 4
Ambac Environmental Products	page 4
Desert Green Turf	page 4
John Deere	page 5 & 19
Steiner Thuesen PLLC	page 6
Planet Turf	page 7
Midland Implement	page 8, 13, 21
Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons	page 9
Rain Bird	page 10
Compression Leasing Services	page 10
Growth Products	page 11
Grigg/Brandt	page 12
Johnson Distributing	page 16
2M Company	page 17
Simplot Partners	page 18
Magic Valley Bentgrass Sod	page 20
Tom Roe & Sons.	page 20
Masek Golf Cars	page 22
Baer Design Services	page 23
Floratine Northwest	page 23
Superior Tech Products	page 24

Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association

OFFICERS

President: **Wade Altschwager**, Anaconda Hills Golf Course, Great Falls, Mont., 406/ 727-0127 (S) or 406/ 781-8965 (C) waltschwager@greatfallsmt.net
 Vice President: **Danny Renz**, Douglas Community Golf Course, Douglas, Wyo. 307/ 358-3492(S) or 605/ 890-1113 (C) drenz31@yahoo.com
 Secretary/Treasurer: **Mike Kitchen**, CGCS, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club, Jackson, Wyo., 307/732-4146 (S) mikek@tetonpines.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anthony Benes, Old Works Golf Course, Anaconda, Mont., cell: 970-389-2857, abenes@troon.com
Tom Bengtson, Glacier View Golf Club, West Glacier, Mont., 406/888-5471 (S) or 406/314-5619 (C) t.s.bengtson@gmail.com
Ryan Blechta, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Big Sky, Mont., 406/ 539-4405 (C) rblechta@spanishpeaksmountainclub.com
Rick Hathaway, Rick Hathaway, Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deer Lodge, Mont. 406/846-1446 (S) or 406/560-8371 (C) rhathaway@rockcreekcattlecompany.com
Jeff Jensen, Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club, Jackson, Wyo., 307/733-7802 (S) or 208/881-2189(C) jjensen@gtlc.com
Garrett Turner, The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, Big Sky, Mont. 406/209-5498 (C) gturner@moonlightbasin.com
 Past President: **Jason Lamb**, Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont., 406/ 433-5423 (S) or 406/480-2986 (C) sccgrounds@midrivers.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education: Jason Lamb
 Finance: Mike Kitchen, CGCS
 Government Affairs: Jeff Jensen
 Membership Outreach: Garrett Turner
 Nominating: Jason Busch
 Rounds4Research: Cole Clark
 Scholarship: Jason Busch
 Tournament: Danny Renz & Ryan Blechta
Allied Member Liaison: Julien Pates (Midland Implement)
Assistant Superintendent Liaison: Gregory Dillard, Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club, Jackson, Wyo.

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.

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

President's Message

Wade Altschwager

Anaconda Hills, Great Falls, Mont.



This article is following the Peaks & Prairies GCSA Fall Meeting and Trade Show. There were so many good classes at this meeting. I hope most of you were able to make it for some good education and networking. One thing I have noticed over the last few years is that it is usually a challenge

to get people to write articles for the newsletter. I just wanted to encourage everyone in this area. I am one of those who, when first approached to write an article, really didn't want to and didn't know what to write about. Since that time, I have written several articles and it really isn't that difficult. I think sometimes the hardest part is to come up with something to write about. I know, from reading the newsletter for the last 20 years, that while I personally enjoy seeing information about technical turf related topics, I also enjoy a wide range of other topics. Our newsletter offers such a variety, a person could write about anything from turf science, to new innovations you have come up with at your course, to hobbies you may have to a cool hunting or fishing story. I have even seen people use an article they saw and liked, or even shared their own funny stories about golfers.

I figured I would give a personal example of something I did in my spare time. Last winter, I decided to make my wife a hutch made out of old weathered pallets we had laying around. I made a rough sketch of what I thought it should look like and then started work. I tried to make it using no new screw or nail heads visible from the outside. This presented some challenges, but for the most part, it worked out pretty well. It was important to me to make sure there were no newly cut ends visible on the outside to ensure the whole thing looked like it had been made a long time ago. I began by making an internal frame with some of the boards and screwing them together to make a solid frame for the unit. After this, I covered the frame with weathered boards and fastened them on with a lot of tiny headless nails that would sink into the wood and not be visible. There still ended up being a few places that showed a visible fresh cut, so I used a technique which I had learned to artificially "weather" these spots. I simply brewed some black tea and painted it on the fresh cuts. This added tannin to the wood, which is the substance responsible for weathering. I let that sit overnight and then painted another solution made out of steel wool and white vinegar on the same spots, which also sat

overnight. Final results? You couldn't tell a difference between the natural weathering and my artificial weathering. I used old locks and hinges to complete the "old" weathered look and I believe the whole thing turned out pretty good. The project took about two weeks to complete in my spare time.

To write a longer article, I could have gone into more detail about how I did everything, but I think this gives

you the gist of what I am talking about. Sometimes we learn more about each other and come up with better networking contacts when we connect with each on a personal level. I would love to hear about what some of you do in your spare time or even at work, for that matter.

I hope the winter goes well for everyone. Keep warm!



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

What I Didn't Know

Joe Stribley, Superintendent Yellowstone Country Club, Billings,, Mont.

I did not know 38 years ago there were universities that offered turf grass degrees, much less ever consider the career opportunities in turf management. That changed when Don Tolson, whom I had worked for as a night irrigator (alongside Clark Throssell), suggested I work for him under his new position at Yellowstone Country Club. I had played college golf one year and was not committed to school, so construction work and travels to New Zealand and later Australia had filled my time for five years. Don caught me at a perfect time to go another direction. All I was thinking was how fun it would be to play some golf again. Oh, to be early twenties, as I tell young crew members now, "Don't worry, just keep moving in a direction that makes you happy and it works out." Don had a turf intern from Michigan State. This meeting led me five months later in the same direction, on a course (excuse the pun) I have since been on for 38 years - turf grass.

What I did not know was how lucky I was to have gotten into the business when golf was about to have a great run of 25 plus years of growth. There were opportunities in all directions, from superintendent, assistant, specific titles of spray techs or irrigation tech, construction here and abroad, various

sales positions, and later club managers. It was good to have all these opportunities and the diversification it gave to the industry. As we all know with hindsight, our jobs are different than what we perceived. The health of the industry and this diversification allowed us to navigate the industry to our liking. We still can, there just are not as many opportunities.

I did not know the real challenge would be in employees, not turfgrass. Not to say turf is easy, but having twenty plus employees is like having twenty plus varieties of grass on your



This picture may not be 38 years old, but it is 14 years old! Ed Price and Joe Stribley

continued page 6



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

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"



Rennie L. Kubik
AEP - Northwest Regional Manager

10808 NE. 27th Court
Vancouver, WA 98686
renniek@amvac-chemical.com

(360) 546-5954 office
(360) 546-5987 fax
(360) 921-8019 cell

www.amvac-chemical.com

We appreciate our advertisers - a lot.



Nathan Cox
Owner
Sport Turf
& Golf Sales
509.750.1614

Tracy Young
Office Manager
Residential
Commercial Sales
509.350.0707

Martin Gallardo
Operation
Manager
509.989.2200

Premium sand based sports turf
www.desertgreenturf.com



2500B Riding Greens Mower



JOHN DEERE GOLF



Performance. Reliability. Value. These machines can really cut it.

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

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

What I Did Not Know. continued from page 4

greens, and getting the ball to roll smoothly. The workforce is changing, and as I passed McDonald's today with a hiring sign of twelve dollars to start, I am harshly reminded. The sad part is the lack of turf students, following the decline in golf after the crash of 2008. I believe that will change some, especially if increases are seen in wages for assistants. Also, 65 plus hour work weeks, even with all the fresh air offered, will not have our doors being knocked down.

I did not know we would take the turf and playing conditions to such a level. Demand drives everything and with TV, golfers traveling more, and simply man always pushing, we have certainly made huge strides. Mowing greens below an eighth and having consistent expectations in a hazard says it all. I hope they never get rid of how hazards are defined in the rules. These conditions require adequate budgets to attain and much scrutiny follows these expectations.

I did not know the passing of metal spikes would be such a forgotten improvement. I saw it first hand in a State tournament where it was required and done free by a company for competitors. I will never forget, after the first day of competition, it looked as if no one had played in relation to metal spikes. What a great savings in carpet and all other areas affected. I believe some of the new soft spikes are too aggressive. When we look at how much emphasis is on the putting surface, tennis shoes have served me well. Sorry to those of you too young to have not seen one small step for man but one



Joe Stribley and Rob Golembiewski 2017

giant leap for superintendents. It is the little things that count.

I did not know that mowers one day would cost as much as I paid for my first house. No, it was not a van down by the river, either. Some of the improvements are great, but do we need computers on rough mowers as long as we still have operators on them? This is an area of the industry that needs to focus more on what is really required out of a piece of equipment to get the job done. All this adds significantly to the cost of a round of golf and its sustainability. GPS spray technology would be great if it were affordable for more of us. I should be careful as technology may replace my retirement job, rough mower.

I did not know we would fertilize the turf and then turn around and suppress the growth. I have decided it is another tool in our bag of tricks and use it with some common sense, but I do not think it allows me to go on vacation. Just as moisture meters, all this technology requires superintendents to pay more attention and interpret what is happening. Mother Nature has a way of jerking our chain as to who really has the final say.

I did not know there would be so many experts at our facilities. The work we do and the decisions we make daily are very transparent. I have had egg on my face many times. Farmers, we know a thing or two, because we have seen a thing or two.

I did not know a golf professional and superintendent, working at the exact same facility, could be on different pages, and sometimes chapters. The reality is our jobs are extremely different even though it is all golf. Communication is the key to this relationship, and we need each other to keep things running smoothly. It is great to see how far we have come in being respected at our various facilities. I challenge you all to never give up working on those relationships

I did not know that the guy I partnered with night irrigating would become Dr. Clark Throssell at Purdue. He has become a long time friend, fishing partner, turf confidant, and my hero for dating the same gal for twenty some years. She is a keeper, Clark, and the hook will get set. Just as in turf, we all do it differently.

I did not know 38 years would go by so fast. It is a great profession, and I am curious how the next 38 years will evolve. If you did the calibration, my tank will be empty and the parts will be obsolete.

STEINER THUESSEN PLLC		
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	IRRIGATION DESIGN
		
1925 Grand Avenue Billings, Montana 59102 406-252-5545 www.steinerthuesen.com info@steinerthuesen.net		

Past President's Message

Jason Lamb

Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont

A past president's article; how can that be? Man, did this year fly by. It seems like just 360 days ago I was graced with the leadership role at the joint meeting. Now, the association is in the very capable hands of Wade. I could go on about all the people who made serving as president so simple and rewarding during the past year, but I am not one to ramble on in that manner. So, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who allowed me the privilege of leading Peaks & Prairies over the past year. You know who you are, and if I try to name everyone, I am sure to miss multiple people.

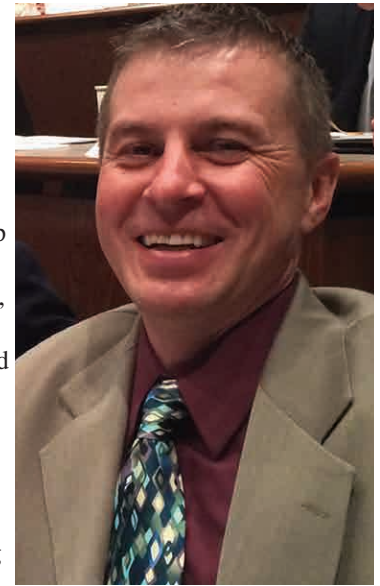
We just finished what I felt was a very informative and fun Fall Meeting & Trade Show in Billings. The speakers were entertaining and engaging. The net-

working with our peers was very valuable. And the trade show continued to present new ideas and products. Thanks to all the allied members for your participation. And, as always, THANKS LORI for all the behind-the-scenes things you do to keep the meetings and Peaks running smoothly. We pay Lori in part with sleepless nights and grey hair while waiting for newsletter articles, registration forms, and other items. So, boy was she well paid by me this year. Maybe Wade will cut this portion of her salary.

Don't think that just because I don't have a regular message spot at the front of the newsletter you will get away with not reading minutia. I still have the delegates report to embellish. Anyone stuck on that word, minutia? Anyone need to

look it up? I had to look up how to spell it, but am accused of being full of it. So, at the writing of this article I am waiting for the delegates' meeting in Kansas. If anyone has any questions or thoughts they would like to

continued page 8



planet turf

Fertilizer, Seed, Turf Care, Soil Testing

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF UNITED TURF ALLIANCE AND PLANET TURF NUTRITION PRODUCTS

ARMORTECH ROTATOR FUNGICIDE

KICK 10-2-4

JIM CONNOLLY 509-951-0270	JARED WHITAKER 509-977-1354	DAN SALOIS 509-919-1145	JUSTIN RUIZ 360-878-0479
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

6422 E. 2nd Ave. • Spokane, WA 99212
509.921.5421 | orders@planeturfusa.com | www.planetturfusa.com

Past Presidents Article from page 7

discuss, I am all ears, some hands, a nose, a couple of eyes, well you get the point, I am available.

So, with that line of rambling, I am going to try to finish tucking the course in for the winter. I hope everyone has a smooth and uneventful winter. I hope to see you in San Diego,

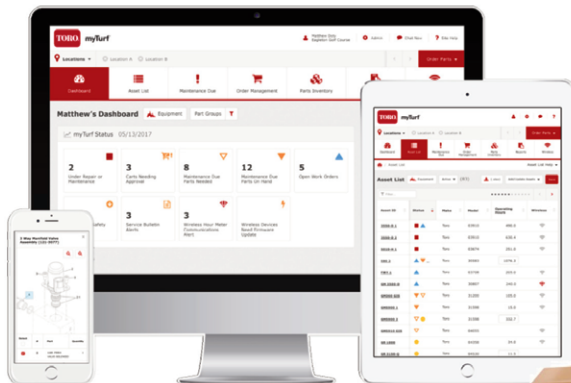
but if not, surely at the “Almost” Spring Meeting in Sheridan. Until then, may your winter be mild and your tees and greens remain moldless.

Jason Lamb, Way Past President

2018 Chapter Delegates Meeting (Lamb second from left)



myTurf® Pro



Powerful, easy-to-use software application that tracks and manages all your assets, regardless of brand. Real-time data helps improve staff efficiency, lengthen the life of your equipment and reduce overall maintenance costs across your entire golf course.



**Order Parts
Online-24/7!**

Please contact Dawn Clark with any questions.
PH. 1-800-677-6426 (ext 242) OR
E-MAIL dclark@midlandimplement.com

**Midland
Implement**
Company, Inc.



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

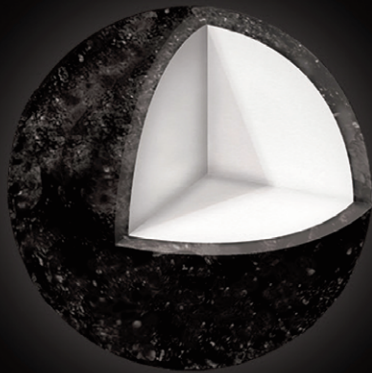
est. 1920

ENHANCED NUTRIENT DISTRIBUTION

Foltec SG

SOLUBLE | SENSIBLE | SUPERB

Foltec SG is an innovative foliar nutrient technology featuring a proprietary combination of dry soluble granules (SG) that quickly solubilize in the spray tank. This combination of soluble granules creates a complete nutrition product that reduces the need for a complex tank mix using a wide variety of products.



HCU NEW!

BLACK IS THE NEW GREEN™

HCU (Humic Coated Urea) granules are an innovative nitrogen source featuring urea-humate fusion. Clean, spherical, free flowing 44-0-0 granules are 100% soluble for use in both liquid and dry applications and can be applied to all types of cool and warm season turf.

©2018 The Andersons, Inc. All rights reserved. Foltec is a registered trademark of The Andersons, Inc. HCU and Black is the New Green are trademarks of The Andersons, Inc. U7

COUNT ON WILBUR-ELLIS® AND THE ANDERSONS® FOR ALL YOUR TURF CARE NEEDS!



WILBUR-ELLIS SPECIALISTS

MIKE DOTY
Billings, MT
800.736.5359

ROB WAREHIME
Great Falls, MT
406.727.4500

BRENT RADFORD
Spokane, WA
509.994.4735

THE ANDERSONS TERRITORY MANAGER

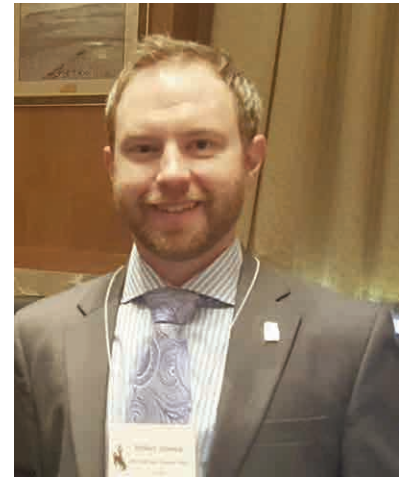
ED PRICE: office 208.772.9290 | cell 509.981.9077

VISIT ANDERSONSPANTNUTRIENT.COM FOR MORE PRODUCT INFORMATION

GCSAAPAC –

What is that?

Jeffrey Jensen, Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club
Jackson, Wyo.



By this point, many of you have heard about the GCSAAPAC, which rolled out this year. While we all know what the “GCSAA” part means, many people might be unfamiliar with the “PAC” part: political action committee. In order to avoid sounding like a political novice you would simply say “pack” not “P-A-C.” In the long version, the organization is called the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Political Action Committee. Which is quite the mouthful, so it is a good thing we can simply say GCSAA- “pack.”


Now that the political linguistics are out of the way, we can get down to the political nuts and bolts. For those of you new to this, a political action committee is an organization that receives contributions from its members and then donates those funds to a campaign, ballot initiative, or particular piece of legislation. In the United States, the term “PAC” also has a legal definition created to help with campaign finance reforms. While state election laws vary, at the United States federal level, an organization becomes a PAC when it spends more than \$1,000 to influence a federal election. There are many more state and federal rules and nuances regarding PACs, this is simply a basic definition. Also, it should not be confused with “Super PACs,” a term you may have heard on the news. Though the term seems like it might be a group of PACs, the primary difference is that a Super PAC cannot make contributions to a candidate’s campaign or political party.

So, does this mean the GCSAAPAC is going to start funding some of those commercials that bug us every election season? Probably not. It means that through the GCSAAPAC, superintendents now have another tool available to engage more effectively in the political space. Simply put, we can safely assume that politicians at least care about two things: their con-

stituents and money. We can debate the varying degrees politicians do, can, or should care about one or the other. But on a basic level, these are the two things that get them elected or re-elected.

The GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador program has been enormously successful in putting superintendents in the same room as lawmakers. This is the constituent part. If you doubt this, I highly suggest you make the trip to Washington D.C. for National Golf Day next spring. Just sign up, make the trip, and the next thing you know, you will be in your U.S. Representative’s or Senator’s office, in addition to taking part in a number of other fun and interesting activities.

For the money part, that is where the GCSAAPAC comes continued page 12



COMPRESSION LEASING SERVICES, INC.
Casper, WY • Gillette, WY • Denver, CO
www.compressionleasing.com

Steve Rich
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

1935 N. Loop (82601) Office: (307) 265-3242
1925 N. Loop (82601) Mobile: (307) 262-6257
P.O. Box 1629 Fax: (307) 265-3221
Casper, WY 82602 USA srich@compressionleasing.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 Willcutt
503-798-7203
mwillcutt@rainbird.com**



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

THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR GREENS PROGRAM

ESSENTIAL Plus 1-0-1

COMPANION
BIOLOGICAL FUNGICIDE



- Stimulates Fertilizer & Nutrient Uptake
- Contains a Natural Sticker/Spreader
- Improves Nutrient Release & Water Holding Capacity
- Improves Cation Exchange Capacity in Soil
- A Food Source for Beneficial Soil Microbes
- Improves Root Development & Seed Germination
- Contains a Natural Wetting Agent

- For Prevention, Control and Suppression of Soil and Foliar Diseases
- Quickly Activates ISR (Induced Systemic Resistance) in Plants
- Stimulates Healthier Roots
- Improves Nutrient Uptake
- Helps Prevent these Diseases:
Botrytis cinerea, Powdery mildew, Fusarium, Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Xanthomonas & more

Growth Products, Ltd. • 80 Lafayette Avenue, White Plains, NY 10603
Toll Free: (800) 648-7626 • Fax: (914) 428-2780 • questions@growthproducts.com • www.growthproducts.com

What is a GCSAAPAC?

continued from page 10

into play. If you are like me, you get an uneasy feeling when you hear “money” and “politics” in the same sentence. There is nothing inherently wrong with that. But we all know that at a certain point it takes cash to get something done! Try to think of it in terms of your IPM program. If cultural practices and chemical applications are the foundations of your IPM program, then the Grassroots Ambassadors and GCSAAPAC are the foundations of a superintendent’s work in political advocacy.

We are now joining our allied partners like John Deere and Syngenta which already have PACs. In doing so, we are adding to the influence our industry can exert on our lawmakers. We should applaud both the GCSAA staff and the GCSAA Board of Directors for all of their hard work to get this piece of our political advocacy program up and running.

“Almost” Spring Meeting

continued from page 1

Bruce Branham is deserving to be one of the highest respected individuals in the turf industry. He stands head and shoulders above so many – figuratively and literally.

Also featured at the Fall Meeting is Doug Karcher, PhD., another prominent standout in the world of turf. Karcher is a sought-after speaker across the United States, and has spoken in Spain, Germany, Italy and Thailand on various topics including

water management, foliar fertility and soil cultivation. He has been a GCSAA faculty member since 2008. Karcher is a professor, department of horticulture, at the University of Arkansas. He earned his BS from The Ohio State University and his Master's and PhD from Michigan State University. Karcher was granted a US Patent as an inventor for determining plant nitrogen levels from digital images. He is a founding board member of the European Institute for Turfgrass Science, an organization dedicated to providing research-based recommendations to the European Turfgrass Industry, and served on the review board of the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance, whose mission is to reduce the water needs of the managed landscape while preserving its functional quality. Besides maintaining an extensive research program, he serves on the Arkansas Turfgrass Association Board and is the past chair of the Turfgrass Science Division of the Crop Science Society of America.



INTRODUCING THE NEW FACE OF GRIGG™

Premier turf products, backed by science and research

Since 1992, GRIGG has been committed to bringing new high quality, science-based nutrition products to the golf and sports market. GRIGG products are backed by university research and field testing, and customers are supported by seasoned GRIGG agronomists and turfgrass professionals. These are a few of the reasons GRIGG products are used and trusted by some of the most notable golf courses and sports stadiums in the world.



To learn more,
contact Michael Steve

michael.steve@brandt.co
330 618 1477





WORKMAN GTX

Dependable • Versatile • Comfortable



Workman GTX has hundreds of configuration options available, and with the combination of comfort, utility, and control the Workman GTX is the best bet to meet all your work needs. Gas, Gas EFI, and Electric.



**Midland
Implement**
Company, Inc.



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

Thank you for joining us at the 2018 Peaks & Prairies GCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show!

Hey... thanks for the thumbs up to the new location, folks!



These trade show participants and sponsors support your profession and your organization.

Please remember them, give them a chance to talk you, and thank them for their support!

EVENT SPONSOR

Excel Turf & Ornamental
I/Precision Laboratories



LUNCH SPONSOR
Magic Valley Turfgrass

TRADE SHOW BOOTHS

2M Company
Affordable Turf & Specialty Tire
Amvac Environmental Products
Aquatrols
BASF
C & B Operations
Compression Leasing
DBC Irrigation Supply
Desert Green Turf
EarthWorks Carbon Based Fertility
Excel Turf & Ornamental
Floratine Northwest
Growth Products
Harco Fittings
Helena Agri-Enterprises
Johnson Distributing
Masek Golf Car Company
Midland Implement
Nutrien Solutions
Precision Pumping Systems
Rain Bird
Simplot Partners
Standard Golf
Stotz Equipment
Steiner Thuesen, PLLC
Superior Tech Products
Watertronics
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons

Full Break Sponsor

AMVAC Environmental Products

Break Co-Sponsors

2M Company
Helena Agri-Enterprises
Nutrien Solutions
Nutrien Solutions
Stotz Equipment
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons

Trade Show Food & Beverage Sponsors

Gold:

DBC Irrigation Supply
Syngenta
Growth Products
Helena Agri-Enterprises
Stotz Equipment

Silver:

Compression Leasing
Rain Bird
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons

Hole Sponsors

2M Company
AMVAC Environmental Products
BASF
C & B Operations
DBC Irrigation Supply
Desert Green Turf
Granite Peak Pump Services
Helena Agri-Enterprises
Masek Golf Car Company
Simplot Partners
Steiner Thuesen, PLLC
Syngenta
Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons

Election Results

Our gratitude for service is offered to our recently elected officers and directors:

Officers: President - Wade Altschwager, Anaconda Hills Golf Course, Great Falls, Mont.

Vice President - Danny Renz, Douglas Community GC,

Pictured below out going president Jason Lamb and incoming president Wade Altschwager



Douglas, Wyo.

Secretary/Treasurer – Mike Kitchen, CGCS, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club, Jackson, Wyo.

Directors elected:

Directors: (re-elected) Tom Bengston, Glacier View Golf Club, West Glacier, Mont.

(newly elected) Anthony Benes Old Works Golf Course, Anaconda, Mont.

Pictured below: Two GCSAA past presidents: **Peter Grass, CGCS,** and **Gary Grigg, CGCS**



Johnson Distributing
(800) 332-7302

www.johnsondistributing.com Great Falls, MT
Mark Costello Cell: (406) 781-6228
Aaron Violett Cell: (406) 270-5881



Club Car




Power and Performance

from Hunter Golf & 2M Company



Hunter®

Because of Hunter's patented technology, every serviceable element of the rotor is accessible through the top. Mechanical and electrical, big and small, you can get to every component without disturbing the playing surface. That means there's no more digging, no more unsightly scars, and more importantly, one less item on a busy superintendent's schedule.



2M can help you select the rotors you need, giving you peace of mind with the power and performance your irrigation system requires.

PROUDLY SERVING MONTANA

BILLINGS 406-245-3008 | BOZEMAN 406-556-8385
KALISPELL 406-755-5961 | MISSOULA 406-549-4427

LEGENDARY SERVICE

2Mco.com

“Development of a Topdressing Program for Golf Course Turf”

Tom Bengtson, Superintendent,
Glacier View Golf Club, West Glacier, Mont.

Editor’s Note: We had about 40 attendees, many of whom were pretty skeptical whether this topic was worthy of four hours class-time. Final comments reflected a resounding, “Yes!” And as many were surprised how quickly the time passed.

For those of you that weren’t able to stay for the Thursday half day seminar at the Fall Meeting in Billings by Adam Thoms, PhD., Assistant Professor Commercial Turfgrass, Iowa State University, its topic was the latest recommended topdressing techniques and practices. I thought I would try to summarize the information the best I could.

- Once you start a topdressing program, don’t stop, or you will get layers.
- Coarse over fine works, but fine over coarse does not - fine particles will slow the drainage.
- Verticutting will help with surface thatch removal, but will do nothing for soil organic matter. If you have a problem with organic matter in the rootzone you will need to remove it with hollow tine aeration practices.
- Layering is probably the largest issue with poorly rooting greens. Water doesn’t flow through the finer layers.
- Make sure your topdressing sand matches the rootzone.
- Topdressing should be done both at aeration and frequently during the year with light applications.
- New bentgrass cultivars produce more organic matter

than older cultivars due to their aggressive growth. You will need to change your management practices if you change to these cultivars.

- For high traffic areas - such as the end of cart paths - consider topdressing with 3/4” crumb rubber as it will help with turf wear and damage.
- Vibratory rolling can help with sand incorporation after topdressing.
- Try to affect 20% of the surface of the green every year with cores to keep organic matter levels from building up.
- Find a sand source and program that works and stay with it for years. It is important to find a sand pit with good quality sand, that will be open for years to come, it’s all about consistency.
- If your current program works, don’t change it.

This is just a brief summary of the four-hour program. I’m sure if you have any questions concerning the situation at your course that Adam would be more than grateful to help you out by contacting him at athoms@iastate.edu.

A banner for Simplot Partners featuring a green grass background with a circular inset showing a close-up of a golf green. The text reads "The right SOLUTIONS for your TURF." Below this, there are three columns of contact information for Bob Lee, Jason Aerni, and Jake Leiser, each with their name, social media handles, email addresses, and phone numbers. The Simplot logo is on the right, with the word "PARTNERS" underneath. A vertical dotted line separates the contact info from the logo. To the right of the logo, it says "Discover more at www.simplotpartners.com".

The right
SOLUTIONS for your **TURF.**

Bob Lee
@SPRobertLee
robert.b.lee@simplot.com
cell: (509) 994-8877

Jason Aerni
@AerniturfGuy
jason.aerni@simplot.com
cell: (970) 231-5632

Jake Leiser
@LeiserJa
jake.leiser@simplot.com
cell: (208) 912-2869

Simplot
PARTNERS

Discover more at
www.simplotpartners.com

Engineered for the long haul.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF



John Deere ProGator 2020A

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

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

Potassium Content in Sands Used in and Around Idaho and Wyoming for Topdressing

Doug Soldat, PhD

Associate Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist

University of Wisconsin-Madison

During one of my presentations I recently shared with the Idaho GCSA at the Fall Meeting in McCall, Idaho, I shared the results of the research we are doing on potassium requirements of bentgrass. In our field plots, we have determined that our bentgrass gets all the potassium it needs from the potassium-bearing minerals in the sand topdressing (potassium feldspar being the most common). Adding potassium fertilizer did not improve the performance of the turf, and actually exacerbated snow mold damage. Our root zone and topdressing sand is quartz-dominated, but has small amounts of potassium-bearing minerals that appear to be enough to grow high quality bentgrass in Wisconsin.

After my talk, I was given sample of a very white colored topdressing sand from Whitetail Golf Club in McCall (Unimin BB 202). My initial impression was that the white sand did not have any potassium in it, because potassium minerals tend to be pink or darkly colored. I also received a sample in the mail from Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club that had a brownish hue (sourced from outside Afton, WY), and from that suspected it contained appreciable potassium. It turned out that both of these sands tested at 1.2% total potassium. This is double the amount of total potassium of the topdressing sand I use in my research (0.6% potassium). I have not yet conducted mineralogy tests of these sands, but I do know that there is at least one white colored potassium mineral (albite). These results suggest that these two sands may be able to provide enough potassium for bentgrass without the need for supplementary additions of potassium fertilizer. We are continuing to study the potassium release from different sands, and by no means am I ready to definitively state that any sand with more than 0.6% potassium will be able to provide enough potassium for the plant. However, it is a good starting point for a hypothesis. All I know

for sure is that the two local sands do contain appreciably more total potassium than my sand source in Wisconsin.

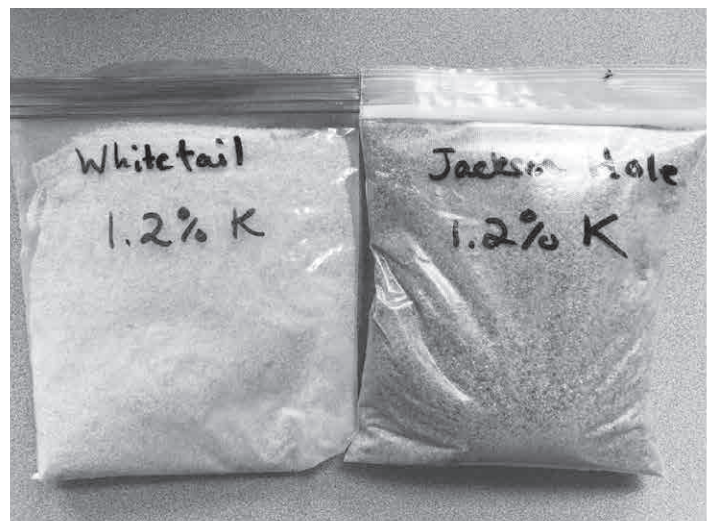
I look forward to providing future updates as we continue to research this topic. Do not hesitate to reach out by email (djsoldat@wisc.edu) or phone (cell: 608-469-0378) with questions or to discuss the implications of these findings.

If you have a sand sample you want tested, send a quart-sized zip lock bag to me at:

Department of Soil Science

Attn: Doug Soldat

1525 Observatory Drive Madison, WI 53706-1207



Start thinking about your silent auction donation for the auction to be held in conjunction with the “Almost” Spring Meeting in Sheridan!

Not only did the attendees have the opportunity to bid on some great items last year, the good-natured bidding wars helped the association to come out on top. Items available for bid included everything from products helping your course be the best it can be, artwork by our members, trips, food, beverages, gift cards, golf items, to personal items. This event will benefit the general fund so we can continue to bring you the most for your membership, for the lowest fees possible.

TOP PERFORMING CULTIVARS

SAND ROOT ZONE

CUSTOM PRODUCTION AVAILABLE

Matt Nelson OWNER
208.358.4420

MAGIC VALLEY
BENTGRASS
Premium Putting Green Sod

www.magicvalleybentgrass.com
matt@magicvalleybentgrass.com

Education for Assistants: GCSAA and Nufarm's EXCEL Program

Jessica Lenihan, Assistant Superintendent
Hayden Lake Country Club
Hayden Lake, Idaho

Turf's Up, Summer 2018, IEGCSA

I find that as I progress through my career, I am always on the lookout for new opportunities to learn and better myself in my current role. At the end of last summer, it was announced that GCSAA and Nufarm were partnering together to create a new leadership program for assistant superintendents. I couldn't pass up submitting my application.

The EXCEL program provides leadership training in career, community, and industry stewardship and is completely focused on assistants, as we are the future of the industry. The inaugural class is comprised of 12 people chosen by an advisory board and a committee of

representatives from Nufarm. Selected applicants were chosen through blind applications and written essay questions. I was pretty excited to have made the cut. The other 11 participants in the program are from all over the US and Canada. The program is on a three-year cycle, with three meetings each year. One meeting is at the GIS; a two-day spring meeting at GCSAA headquarters, and a two-day fall meeting at Nufarm headquarters.

Our first conference as a group was in San Antonio this past February. As part of the program, our education track for the show was laid out for us. This first year is focused on career and networking. We took classes on interviewing and resume writing, tips for networking and working a room, and how to be a decision maker when comes to taking *continued page 22*



INTRODUCING

LYNX[®] SMART MODULE

The Irrigation Technology of Tomorrow
Available Today

Lynx Smart Module is the latest, best-in-class, two-wire innovation from Toro that provides more control than ever before.



SPEED: Provides information faster than other two-wire brands, reducing test times from minutes to seconds



UPGRADEABLE: Upgrade remotely with just a click



PRECISION: Apply water with one-second resolution



DURABLE: Best in class surge protection to help weather the storm

**Midland
Implement**
Company, Inc.



www.midlandimplement.com

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

est. 1920



EXCEL continued from page 21

on a superintendent role. Our class was introduced at the EIFG reception on the Tuesday night of the show. I didn't really realize how important the EXCEL program was to GCSAA until I walked into that reception. You know, one of those.... holy cow there are a lot of really important people in this room right now.... moments. The awesome part about the program is that we were introduced to basically the entire room and it was incredible how many super and directors were so supportive and offering help in whatever ways we may need in our career. It was a great foot to get started out on and totally got me excited for what is to come in the next three years.

At our spring meeting in Lawrence, we enjoyed the opportunity to work directly with Carol Rau, the lady who does the career counseling in partnership with GCSAA. She speaks at the GIS every year and if you haven't had the chance to attend one of her talks, I highly recommend it. She is very, very good at what she does. Personalized resume tips and mock interviews with an expert were great practice for any future job interview. She was very complimentary of our group, saying that we were clearly there for a reason and that she was confident in our abilities to get any position we were after. We also had the chance to network with some of the individuals who were on the advisory board that made the attendee selections. People like Bill Maynard (former GCSAA president), Alex Stuedemann (Director of Maintenance at TPC Deere Run) and Sheila Finney (former super and GCSAA membership director). The awesome part about the next three years is that, at our meetings throughout the year, different members of the advisory board will be in attendance to either speak, or just to network, or even both. We will have a chance to meet a lot of people we wouldn't have otherwise. After all, this industry is pretty much all who you know and the EXCEL program has opened doors that I didn't even realize were there.

Since we are the inaugural class of the program, it has been a learning experience for everyone involved and the 12 of us will have a hand in how the program grows and develops over the coming years. Our input is taken on what we liked and didn't like about what we have learned so far and things will be tweaked as necessary from there. It has recently been announced that the go-ahead has been given to add a second class to the EXCEL program and the application process should begin at the end of the summer. I can't recommend enough that assistants apply for the second class; it's an opportunity too good to pass up.

New Peaks & Prairies GCSA Members!

Daniel Baney (F)
Laurel Golf Club
P.O. Box 247
Laurel, MT 59044
d_baney@hotmail.com
406-855-2731

Patrick Brey (C)
Castle Pines Golf Club
1430 Turnberry Drive
Castle Rock, CO 80104
pbrey@castlepinesgolfclub.club
(970) 456-9496

Keith Crawford (FM)
Eagle Ridge Golf Club
1214 4th Ave
Laurel, MT 59044
crawfordd@live.com
406) 671-4954

Russ Grover (B)
Boulder Canyon Country Club
PO Box 305
Sturgis, SD 57785
rgrover.bccc@gmail.com
(435) 232-5730





H-2B, The Need is Greater Than Ever

David Phipps, NW Regional Field Staff Report, July 3, 2018

I had the privilege to volunteer at the US Senior

toward the hotel which covers golf operations, culinary, housekeeping, etc.

Wayne is one of the workers and he has been returning to The Broadmoor now for 21 years! As a matter of fact, most of the workers are regulars and return each year. They are all well trained, and all, by The Broadmoor's standard, are fluent in English. In my opinion, there is no better workforce out there that can be so dependable and work as hard as the H-2B visa workers do.

Open at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Freddy Dickman and Michael Satori had the course in the most amazing condition to host a major event. Both Freddy and Michael will be quick to say that the credit doesn't fall on them, but rather the work of their outstanding crew. Upon arriving, I found a profoundly calming atmosphere among the staff. As Freddy and Michael got up in front of the team to go over the day's assignments, I could sense a lot of respect coming from both directions.

One key element of the Broadmoor's staff is the H-2B workers that they bring in from Jamaica each year. I learned that The Broadmoor has been using H-2B's since 1997 and, at the peak, the entire hotel has used nearly 300 workers during the season. The golf course generally uses around seventeen and grounds uses close to 13. Most of the labor goes

Unemployment in Colorado is at an all-time low and the need for H-2B labor couldn't be greater. There simply isn't a local labor force to fill the needed positions. Yet this spring, restrictions were mandated by the government, reducing the total potential workforce. The hotel was hit hard and didn't receive any of their housekeeping staff. However, I'm not sure if they were able to bring more in after restrictions were lifted later in the season.

The Department of Labor sets the prevailing wage each year which will vary from region to region. This year in Colorado Springs, The Broadmoor paid \$12.86 an

hour. In Denver the rate around \$2 higher due to the cost of living. Along with mandated pay rates, employers are also required to provide housing, for which the workers pay a stipend. Even though these workers are from out of the country, they are still



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

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

www.baerdg.com

contributing to the economy and paying all the same taxes, including social security. I'm just not following the logic by placing restrictions on the program when the need is greater than ever now.

FLORATINE NORTHWEST

Richard Strautman
President

4651 Ann Court
Bellingham, WA 98229

☎ : 3603057619
✉ : stretch@floratinenw.com
www.floratinenw.com

Private Webcast for PPGCSA Members

The 11th annual private webcast for our members, "Peaks & Prairies GCSA Regional Conversation, 2019" will be announced soon!

Watch our email blasts for more information to register for the webcast. Registration will be available on the calendar event on the homepage of ppgcsa.org.



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."



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.

