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Renz Assumes PPGCSA Presidency Mid-Term

Danny Renz, Douglas Community Golf Course, Douglas, Wyo., became the president of the Peaks & Prairies GCSA in February. Wade Altschwager, who was elected to the position in October, resigned due to employment change. Altschwager accepted a position outside of the turf industry. While we certainly wish him all the best, we are disappointed to lose such a great member who has contributed to the association for so many years.

We are in great hands with Renz and look forward to another successful year. Jason Lamb has stepped into the vice president position and Mike Kitchen, CGCS, remains the secretary/treasurer.

Note: **Membership invoices have been emailed!
 Contact Lori if you need another form.**

PPGCSA Events:

PPGCSA Scholarship/Education Golf Events TBA
PPGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show October 15-17, 2019, Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT
 For more events, visit ppgcsa.org

2019 Montana & Wyoming Scholarship/Education Tournaments

The Montana and Wyoming regions will each host a tournament this season to benefit the continuing education and scholarship programs of the association.

We will be seeking hole sponsors for each of these events. If you are interested in a sponsorship, please contact either Lori or the host superintendent.

We are seeking locations! Once we have locations and dates, we will share this information through email blasts. If you are interested in hosting an event, contact Ryan Blechta, Spanish Peaks for Montana, or Danny Renz, Douglas Community Golf Course for the Wyoming site.

Jason Busch Takes on GCSAA Chapter Delegate Role

Jason Busch, The Powder Horn, Sheridan, Wyo. has been appointed to represent the Peaks & Prairies GCSA as our delegate to the GCSAA. Busch will be responsible for representing our members regarding initiatives and issues affecting the profession and our association. In addition, Busch will be responsible for communicating information received at the delegate's meeting back to our chapter.

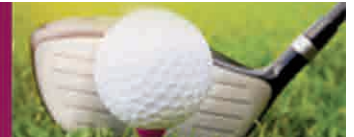


We thank Jason Lamb, Sidney Country Club for his years of service. We appreciate the dedication shown in both representing your fellow members and keeping our membership informed!



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March 2019
 Volume 43
 Number 1



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

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Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association

OFFICERS

President: **Danny Renz**, Douglas Community Golf Course, Douglas, Wyo. 307/ 358-3492(S) or 605/ 890-1113 (C) drenz31@yahoo.com
 Vice President: **Jason Lamb**, Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont., 406/ 433-5423 (S) or 406/480-2986 (C) sccgrounds@midrivers.com
 Secretary/Treasurer: **Mike Kitchen**, CGCS, Teton Pines Resort & Country Club, Jackson, Wyo., 307/732-4146 (S) mikek@tetonpines.com

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Tom Bengston, Glacier View Golf Club, West Glacier, Mont., 406/888-5471 (S) or 406/314-5619 (C) t.s.bengston@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
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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



Danny Renz

Douglas Community Golf Course, Douglas, Wyo.

I'm writing this article because I was the lucky one to take over as president for Wade Altschwager, who resigned early after changing careers. We all wish you the best of luck, Wade.

I received the news only about a week before the spring meeting in Sheridan. I wasn't really excited about jumping into the presidency with a meeting right away, but I thought it went pretty well. It helps having a good board around you and delegates who are past-presidents and understand what's involved, and, of course, it helps having Lori line it all out for you so all you have to do is not fumble your words too much.

It really is an honor leading a board that serves such a great chapter. Our chapter is always very involved with the education conferences and doing what they can to raise money for scholarships. As president, I hope we can build that involvement even more. If you know of new guys in your area or guys who have quit coming to the conference or stopped being involved, I ask you to encourage them to come and give our events another try. Also, if you have ever thought about becoming a board member, I encourage you to run. It's more fulfilling as a member to know you are helping this chapter continue to be strong. It also helps to expand your networking with more superintendents who you may not have gotten the chance to meet otherwise.

Now that the boring stuff is over, I'll fill you with more boring stuff and tell you a little about our facility. We're kind of an enterprise, meaning that the city owns the course, but we lease the golf course from them for a dollar each year. Which means I'm not a city employee, but I go to them throughout the year to discuss what's going on and justify our operating budget and what we need for our capital improvement budget. Since I came to Douglas in 2008, we have really built a better relationship with the city, even though they have changed mayors, city administrators, and, of course, council members over the years. Together we have made some great improvements to our facility. We started with the infrastructure by doing things like rebuilding buildings that were falling apart, putting in new pump systems, and relining ponds. We moved on to building our equipment fleet back to an acceptable level and regularly changing out the older equipment, followed by renovating some greens and tees. It has been a fun process over the years to see the progress we have made. It has been stressful at times and a lot of work at times, as we all know. But in the end, it is all worth it. I think it takes a special kind of person to do what we do as superintendents. We all know we can make more money doing other things and we also know there would be less politics in other fields. However, we appreciate the feeling of hard

work and stress, followed by great personal reward when it all comes together to produce a great product pleasing to our members. Well, most of them, as it's hard to please everyone. As coal and oil kind of took a hit from regulations, the city put all our capital improvements on the backburner and cut our operating funds by \$25,000. Those were a couple tough years, but, in 2018, we got right back on track when the city approved all the capital improvements that we had asked for those two down years, and for 2018, as well. I'm not complaining, but that's a lot of work and a lot of meetings with the city in one city fiscal year that goes from the middle of one golf season to the middle of the next golf season. But, we are making good progress and I look forward to a few renovated tee boxes, along with a driving range tee, a renovated parking lot, new vfd pump system, new green covers and some new equipment.

With that said, I look forward to serving the Peaks & Prairies board as president. As of right now, I'm president until October and I have some time between now and then to decide if I will continue to serve as president for the next year as originally planned, or take a back seat.

I hope you all finally thaw out from this nasty winter and have a great golf season. Remember to enjoy your families and have some fun.



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My Ryder Cup Experience

NaTalia Arlint, Superintendent,
Polson Bay Golf Course, Polson, Mont.

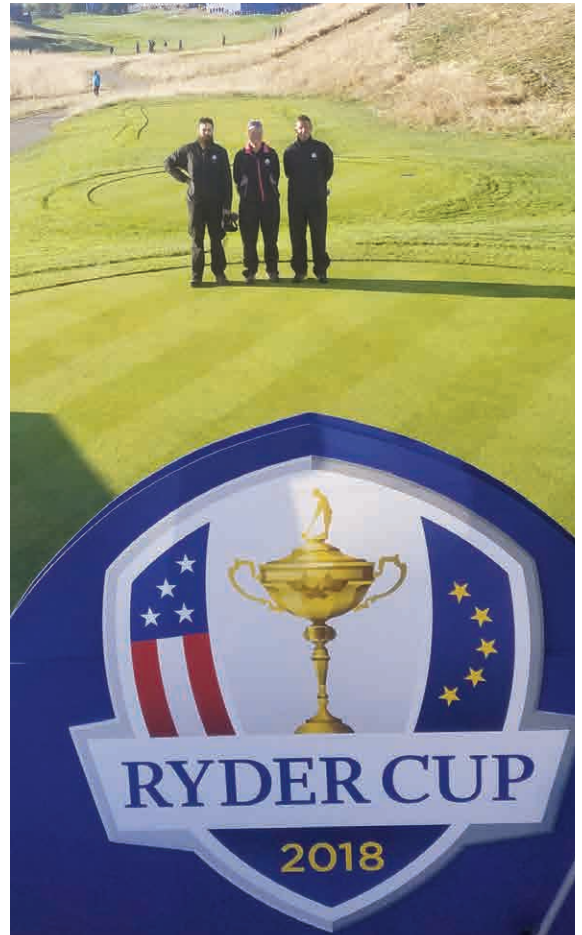
When I first heard about the opportunity to participate in setting up Le Golf National Golf Course for the Ryder Cup 2018, I was fascinated. But, I decided against it because I was afraid of the possibility of such an intense trip. After a bit of thinking, a big part of me said, "Just go for it. The worst that could happen is to not get chosen." So, I said to myself, "What the heck. I have no less of a chance than anyone else and it wouldn't take but fifteen minutes to fill out the application."

When I got the call a month or two later saying that I had been chosen as one of the ten to represent the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), it was a com-

plete shock. I honestly couldn't believe that it wasn't a dream - until all the emails about what I needed to do started coming. Then, reality hit and it was just a wave of anticipation, stress and a ton of excitement. It had actually happened to me! I was going to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity and be able to network with people from all over the world.

I began to make sure I had all necessary paperwork completed in order to travel internationally, as well as make sure my crew at home knew what was expected of them while I was gone. I was nervous to meet the nine other guys

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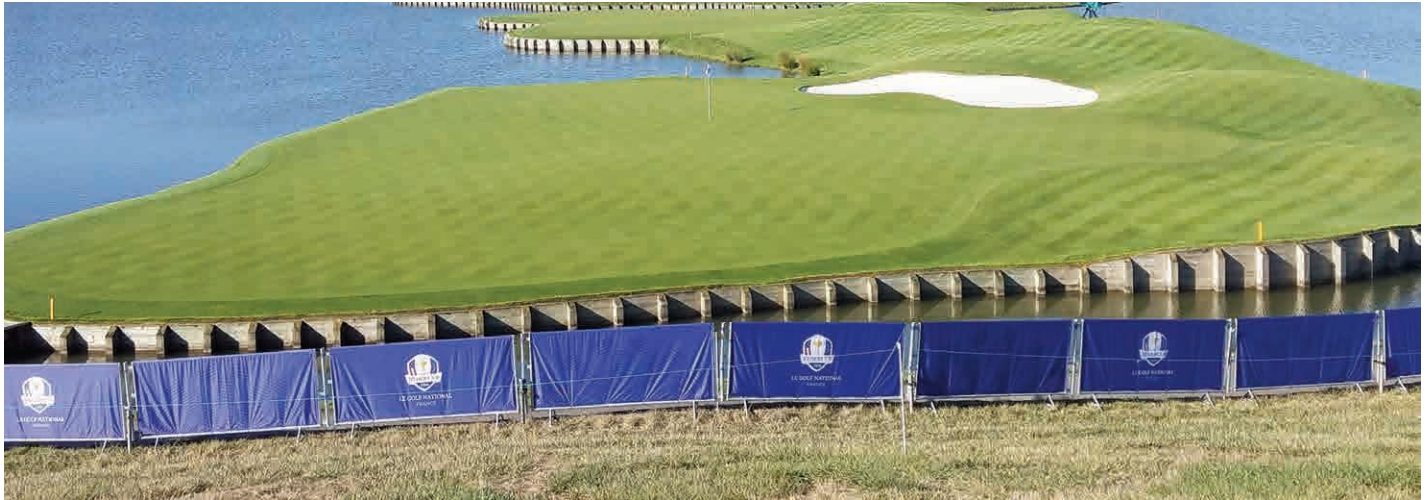
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Ryder

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who were going to be joining me on this journey. Upon arriving at JFK airport and running into the first few guys, we all quickly found things in common that easily kept our conversations flowing. We were all from different parts of the country and even one from Canada. Our years of experience as well as backgrounds were varied from working on University golf courses, to municipal and some private. Getting to know each



of them made the beginning of an amazing journey even better.

Upon arrival to France we went straight from the airport to Le Golf National for our introductions and tour of the course. We were split into our groups the following day and we were told what our tasks were for the week to follow. The group I was in was in charge of mowing holes #1 and holes #15-18. Our group leader told us that we were in charge of some of the signature holes on the course. Our job was to take care of the island green #15, which in the morning created the most beautiful sunrises. Our team consisted of 25 people who were broken into the tee mowing team, the greens mowing team, the stimp meter team, bunker raking team and finally the approach mowing team. I was placed on the tee mowing team along with two other guys.

Beginning the actual work was a little more nerve racking than I would like to admit. It was hard to get past in my mind that one mistake - no matter how small - could be a major one for a tournament of this magnitude. We were all there to help make this Ryder Cup one of the best there had ever been. The leader of our three-person tee mowing group was a worker at the Le Golf National. He, along with the second guy in our group, were the mowers, while I was appointed as the board mover and the final clean up person. At first, I was a little disappointed to not be doing something that in my mind was more important. I started thinking about how things work at my course and I realized something that would change my perspective of my job for the entire week: I remembered that it



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is always the final touch and small things that add up to the big things. Even though I was just blowing tee boxes off and moving boards for the tee mowers to turn around on, my job was one of the most important of all. I was in charge of making sure what the world was going to see on the TV was up to par and to the standards of what people expect from the Ryder cup. After I came to that conclusion on the first practice day, I gained a bunch of respect and understanding for all the little things that make up the complicated game of golf.

The break we all had between the morning shift and the afternoon shift was always exciting because it is when most of us got to know each other. The language barriers were extremely hard; although, I believe that everyone did a great job and had a lot of patience while we all figured out the best way to communicate. Alejandro Reyes, the superintendent of Le Golf National, was amazing both on and off the course in this aspect along with many others. He was



able to speak both English and French so he helped out with a bunch of language barriers along with most of his staff. The best part to watch was how much it seemed like charades was being played out to get what each person was trying to say across to someone else. During these breaks is when many great stories were told, some great laughs were shared, and bonds were created.

Being able to work the grounds and

walk on the course with the pros was one of the most amazing experiences I will ever have. During the practice rounds I walked with one guy from the Netherlands, who was picked to rake bunkers behind Dustin Johnson's group, and my mind was blown. The caddies are hilarious and almost have the same attitude as their players. I was most surprised by how the players showed

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appreciation for all the grounds crew and how there was a sort of mutual respect between them and us. Being able to stand five to six feet away from players such as Tiger Woods, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Rory McIlroy, and Ricky Fowler was a dream come true.

The first official day of the tournament I was blessed with

being chosen as one of the greenskeepers to go and rake behind one of the groups. The group that I was chosen to rake behind was Tiger Woods's group. It was breathtaking to see how many people were there watching the event. Everywhere you looked while following Tiger Woods seemed to be a sea of people. I

continued page 10



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can not say how it was for all of the other players since I was assigned to this one group, but it seemed like no matter where I looked all I could see were people. Even the amount of people who were allowed to walk inside the ropes with the players was large, in my opinion. It was hilarious to watch everyone's reaction to seeing a person walking inside the ropes holding a bunker rake. We did not leave any rakes in the bunkers, so we had to carry one along with us while we walked.

The last couple of days almost went by in a blur. There were so many things to do and almost no time to get them done. Luckily, when you have 180 people to do the job, everything gets covered in one way or another. It was very encouraging seeing 180 people from different parts of the world all coming together with one goal in mind - making Le Golf National look the best it possibly could for the week. It left me speechless watching people jump in when they saw the need and helping without being asked. Learning how other people did certain jobs inspired me to possibly try new things back home. It was hard not to just stand in awe of what had been accomplished during that week.

While the outcome for us Americans was not a win, I would have to say that the whole experience for me was a huge win. I learned more than I could have even imagined possible all while making connections with others that I am hoping will last a lifetime. Although I do have to say the best day I had there was when I got the chance to meet Rory McIlroy and he signed my hat. That is the day that made my trip the most epic one I have ever taken, and most likely will ever take.

I have been so blessed and am so thankful to the GCSAA for giving me this opportunity to be a part of such an amazing experience. I will never forget the camaraderie, hard work, dedication and laughs that I had during my week working the Ryder Cup 2018. So far in my life, it is the greatest experience and event that I have ever had.

NEW
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Members!

Daniel Drinkwalter
Missoula Country Club
P.O. Box 3057
Missoula, MT 59806
406-330-8820
danieldrinkwalter@gmail.com

Jason Hinkley
CPS Distributors, Inc.
1105 West 122nd Ave
Westminster, CO 80234
(720) 749-0628
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Ways to Hire and Retain Millennials

from a Millennial

Yes, I know how to drive a stick, and, yes, I know what it means to, “Roll your window up.” I reluctantly am in the age range of the “stuck-in-their-phones” and “not-wanting-to-work” individuals. But, I was lucky enough to be guided toward a golf maintenance position in high school. I ended up falling in love with the work almost immediately, just like many of you. But this was in the mid 2000s as golf was really hurting and I watched our budget and employees shrink year after year. We had a couple of rough years and after a few superintendent changes, a course closure, and new owners, we had to make a large paradigm shift in regards to who we had on our team. This included who we went after and how we went after them. We wouldn’t hire to just fill a seat anymore; we would hire to fit our team. We learned it’s much easier to pass on potentially bad employees in an interview rather than hire them and have them be a frustration the whole season.

First, we developed good relationships with the staff and coaches at the local high schools who would suggest kids to come work for us in the summer. This was a major plus as in they could do some of our vetting for us since they saw these kids everyday and knew who would work and who wouldn’t. As for the college aged kids, they wanted an easier to get to kind of job that was more flexible with their summer schedules. We would catch their parent’s attention by putting up flyers at the gyms in town, local hardware stores, and just by word of mouth. So, when kids would come home for the summer and need money, their parents could send them our way. But, probably the best source I’ve used is Indeed.com. It’s free to set up a job posting (unlike craigslist), and you can have questions that the applicants answer before you even make contact.

The biggest thing that millennials want, in my opinion, is free time. Yes, this may sound counterproductive, but wouldn’t you rather have some employees who show up for 30 hours a week than not at all? We came up with a dynamic schedule where we gave all our employees a half day every other Friday off, a day off during the week, and every other weekend, as well. This included our superintendent and assistants and it is a game changer. Another way to give free time is to pick any

slow day on the course and give everyone the afternoon off once set up is done.

This would only happen if the work was up to course standards, so it kept everyone accountable. Yes, projects or details might not get done as fast, but it would help keep morale up so the days when we did have to pull a 10+ hour day (i.e. aerification), they wouldn’t be burnt out.

*By Brent Vardsveen,
Assistant Superintendent
Old Works Golf Course,
Anaconda, Mont.*

“...that may be implied, but potential employees who don’t know golf course maintenance have no idea unless you list them.”

Millennials work better when they have incentives. Everyone loves free stuff, so the more you can offer, the more attractive your open position. Things like free golf, free uniforms, or free lunch are huge. You’d be surprised how that may be implied, but potential employees who don’t know golf course maintenance have no idea unless you list them. Another incentive that worked rather well for us was reference bonuses. If an employee had a friend come apply and work for at least three months with having zero no-call-no-shows, they would get a \$100 bonus. We had one employee who got three buddies to work for us and he would drive them every day so none of them ever missed work. He received \$300 at the end of the season and it was well worth it.

Probably the easiest thing to do is create a fun work environment. No one wants to spend their time at a place they hate. Simple things like having a bbq for lunch once a month can go a long ways with morale. During the major golf tournaments, have pools and have the tournament on TV during the lunch break. Not only does this get employees more interested in golf, it exposes them to some of the best golf courses in the world. You can point out things and teach while watching with your crew. Also, any time we had a chance to take employees to other golf courses, we would. I would treat it like a field trip and make them look for three things that the course did differently from us. This helped them learn to be more aware on our course and feel more involved at the same time.

These are just a few examples of things I have seen work, but there are many more. Just try and adopt a couple to your operation or spin off from them. It doesn’t hurt to try. With how hard it is to find “good help” now-a-days, we all have to be creative. I had a mentor once tell me that this could be the best job these kids ever have and I try and make sure that is the case.

(Left: Benes, Vardsveen, Heiydt, and Radford - Old Works Scholarship Education Golf Tournament)





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“Almost” Spring Conference Review 2019 Sheridan, Wyo.

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

I was fortunate enough to attend our “Almost” Spring Conference in Sheridan, Wyoming. For

those of you who couldn’t make it, I thought I’d share a brief summary on what you missed.

always do. The topics covered something of interest for everyone. Bruce Branham, PhD, from the University of Illinois, talked on optimizing our spray applications. He pointed out the many variables to be aware of. Many factors can affect pesticide uptake, such as water pH, water hardness, and environment (i.e. temperature, relative humidity, weather before and after application). He also emphasized that lower spray volumes usually increase uptake efficiency, and, of course, that good tank formulations matter. Be sure to read the labels and work with your product supplier for best formulas for each product.

We were all thankful for good roads to travel on and beautiful weather to and from. Which, as we all know in our country, was a real blessing.

On the lighter side, one topic that came up on several occasions was the possibility of having to rename this conference. If these late winters continue as they have the last few years, maybe a more appropriate name would be “Hoping for Spring” or “Will Winter Ever End?”.

Bruce also talked about the challenges of organic turf maintenance. He feels, that at this point, combining organic choices with low risk, conventional herbicides may be the best practice

We had an excellent line up of speakers, as it seems we

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“Almost” Spring Meeting

Sheridan, Wyoming

Thanks to the ‘locals’ - Jason Busch and Jory Horsley, The Powder Horn, for preparing the presentation, “**Bunkers and Butterfly Gardens.**” *Jory had an emergency come up and could not participate, but Jason carried the presentation!*

Gilhuly’s last official “site visit” to Peaks & Prairies before his retirement



Always a privilege when Bruce Branham, PhD participates



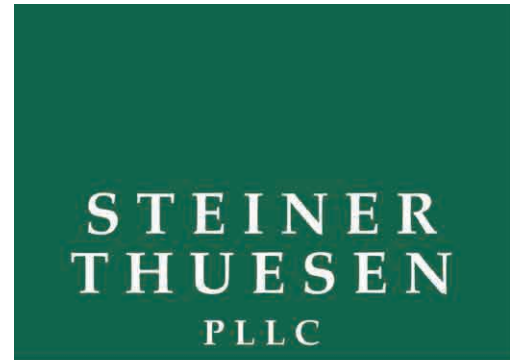
Evening Roundtable Discussion

Jason Busch (above)



Yeah, things got a little chilly for a while there when there was a an issue with the heating system!

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Almost” Spring continued from page 16

for those who are working toward the goal of going organic.

He also talked on the success of Tenacity for control of *Poa annua* on greens, tees and fairways. It is very effective, but is a fairly expensive process. He emphasized that controlling Poa is not a one and done affair, but a continuing maintenance challenge.

Jennifer Thompson, Outreach Coordinator with the University of Wyoming, gave an enlightening talk on promoting pollinators on our facilities. She had an excellent power point presentation showing all the landscaping possibilities to improve our courses for beauty and pollination. Jennifer shared ideas and recommendations using hardy native plants for our climates and those best for minimum maintenance.

Jason Busch, Superintendent of The Powder Horn, Sheridan, Wyoming offered a presentation on a bunker renovation his course did. He had suggestions and ideas of bunker design, placement and even removal, always keeping in mind both reasonable maintenance and playability.

Larry Gilhuly, Director of USGA Green Section for the Northwest was, as always, fun to hear. Larry started his career in 1983. He pointed out how the top 10 main topics of concern in the maintenance of courses back then are just about the same as they are today - except for a couple of practices that didn't exist back then. Rolling of turf was one not on the list then. Larry feels that our focus should be on smooth and enjoyable green speeds, not excessively fast. 10' - 10'6" provides plenty of speed for the average player while minimizing turf/superintendent stress. Even this speed may be excessive for small greens or greens with excessive slopes.

Larry still encourages the removal of trees whenever they are harming turf condition. The benefits are always remarkable and more than what was expected.

Another subject Larry is religious about is building more forward tees. The three main complaints about the game of golf are: it's too slow, it's too hard, it cost too much. His attitude is that shortening up every course with forward tees to meet the needs of the young, the average and the older player will impact all three of these complaints. USGA has a tee calculator formula now to help you make decisions on which tees to move, and where to locate them. Usually, just working with the

superintendent, pro, owner, or GM, you can formulate a plan on the best locations. They can be built at fairly reasonable cost, usually right in the fairways; a minimum height of 4" for savings of materials and keeping maintenance cost to a minimum. He also recommends doing away with the stigma of the (ladies red) tee markers all together, literally doing away with red tees. So that everyone will begin to play up where they should be playing, not up to the (ladies red) tee markers but just to the forward tee boxes. The pace of play will increase, player enjoyment of the game will improve and this will help with economic sustainability. Definitely something we should all be working into our future improvement projects.

Shane Howe, Pesticide Inspector from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, gave a good review of the major concerns we need to know as pesticide applicators, starting with the importance of maintaining accurate, detailed and time sensitive documentation of all we do. He also spoke on handling procedures, storage practices, environmental issues and the most important safety of ourselves and our employees using proper PPE.

Breyanna Hanson, Compliance Officer from Wyoming Dept of Workforce Services, finished out the second day of classes with an informative talk on issues we all deal with on a daily basis: labor laws and regulations. She covered wage and labor laws, child labor, employment discrimination, termination procedures, American Disabilities Act, sexual harassment laws, and hostile work environments. There was a lot of discussion on the employer's responsibility and expectations of proper and legal actions required by law on dealing with these and more. By the amount of participation in this class, it's obvious these are subjects we are all attempting to (and absolutely have to) become more informed on for the betterment of our facilities.

There was plenty of great education, and as always good networking, connecting and socializing with fellow superintendents and friends.

I'll finish this off with a quote that Larry Gilhuly provided from Old Tom Morris— "Bunkers are not a place for pleasure - they're for punishment and repentance."

Hope everyone has a safe and successful season, and are able to include time for family and friends in our busy schedules.

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SPRING IS COMING?

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.

Turfgrass R & D, Billings, Mont

As I write this article in early March, there is still too much snow cover to determine the extent of turf damage from snow mold. As the snow melts we will learn together, along with the golfers, the extent of turf damage from snow mold.

Superintendents are well aware that there is nothing that can be done now (March and April) to prevent snow mold damage.

The damage is done. But do golfers know that there is nothing superintendents can do in March and/or April to prevent snow mold damage? Be sure you are communicating with the leadership at the golf course, your staff, the pro shop staff, general manager and golfers that fungicides needed to control snow mold must be applied in late October or early November. Don't assume that everyone at the golf course has the same understanding of snow mold control that you do.

If the turf has been damaged by snow mold, there isn't much superintendents can do except break up the matted areas and stand the grass as upright as possible. And hope for warm weather so the surviving grass will grow and fill in damaged areas. Let leadership and golfers know you have taken the appropriate steps to encourage recovery from snow mold damage

but the rate of recovery is weather dependent. The warmer the weather, the faster the turf recovers, and if we have a cold spring it may be well into June before recovery is complete. Keep in mind cool season grasses grow best when air temperatures are 60 to 75° F, and on many spring days we barely reach 60° F, and then for only an hour or two at mid-day.

If there is snow mold damage at your golf course, use this as an opportunity to educate golfers and decision makers at the golf



course about the need to apply fungicides in fall so they won't have to experience snow mold damage next spring. If need be, start small by treating two or three fairways, or portions of fairways, this fall as a means to demonstrate the effectiveness of fall applied fungicides for snow mold control. Take pictures of the damage this spring and keep them handy in case people forgot how extensive the snow mold damage really was this spring. Keep track of how long it takes the grass to recover this spring and summer. This information will be helpful to support your cause.

Pushing Grass in Spring

I am not a believer in the concept of pushing grass to grow in spring, or any other time of year for that matter. Some people believe that fertilizing with nitrogen above normal rates will push the grass to grow and fill in. Yes, grass needs sufficient nitrogen to be healthy, but once nitrogen is present in a sufficient amount, the extra nitrogen only leads to excessive leaf growth. Excessive leaf growth is not productive and results in more mowings and more clippings.

Grass will green-up and grow because of warmer air temperatures. Cool season grasses grow the best when air temperatures are between 60 to 75° F. Stay patient and let the grass grow on its schedule.

Compost to Improve Turf Performance

Compost offers an opportunity for long-term improvement of turf performance on sites where soil is poor. Compost will improve soil chemical, physical and biological properties. Sites with clay soil, sandy soil or subsoil where it is consistently difficult to maintain turf at the desired quality should be considered for compost addition. Droughty areas, areas with thin turf, slopes, banks, ridges or high areas can also benefit from the addition of compost.

Do not apply compost to putting greens or any site where the soil has been modified with a large volume of sand to improve drainage. Compost contains a high percentage of fine particles that will likely clog the drainage of a modified soil.

Small and large areas of tees, fairways and rough where the soil is poor are prime candidates to consider for compost addition. There is no need to apply compost to an entire fairway; focus on only those areas where soil is poor.

Compost can be made from many organic materials and is most often made from grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste. A brief outline of the compost process is the raw materials are mixed together and placed in long windrows for com-



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

10027 N. Palisades Wy.
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posting. The windrows are turned by machine approximately every three weeks to add oxygen to compost and further mix the materials. It can take six months or more, depending on the raw materials, size of the raw materials and weather to complete the composting process.

Once the composting process has been completed, the compost is finished by screening, mixing, and, in some cases, bagging. The final product should be trash free, rock free, contain no large pieces of wood, be a rich brown color and have an earthy aroma. It should look and feel like top soil. For application to established turf the compost should pass through a 3/8ths inch screen.

When selecting a compost for application to established turf, use a compost with a proven track record; ask for the names of people who have used the compost and contact each of them to learn about their experiences, obtain a sample large enough to try on 5,000 sq. ft. or so of turf, ask for copies of chemical and physical test results and go see the composting operation yourself.

Apply compost to established turf by topdressing with a thin layer, 1/4 inch deep (approximately 0.75 cubic yards/ 1,000 sq. ft.) evenly over turf surface. Do not apply more than 1/4 inch in a single application to prevent the formation of a layer at the soil surface. Apply compost first, then aerate with hollow tines followed by dragging with a heavy drag mat to break up soil cores and move compost/soil mixture into the holes.

Most people find it is best to topdress established turf with

compost in spring or fall, when the turf is actively growing, to give the compost time to work into the turf before there is a busy maintenance and golf schedule. Topdressing with 0.75 cubic yards/ 1,000 sq. ft. will require a large volume of compost and it will take considerable amount of time to apply that much compost.

If interested in applying compost to established turf, start with a small area of about 5,000 to 10,000 sq. ft. to learn and practice on. A large paved area will be needed to stockpile the compost. The stockpile should be located near the site where the compost is to be spread in order to minimize travel time back and forth to the stockpile. A loader will be needed to fill the topdresser and a larger capacity topdresser will be needed to spread compost at a rate of 0.75 cubic yards/ 1,000 sq. ft. In short, topdressing established turf with compost is a time intensive process.

On established turf, topdress with 1/4 inch compost every year or every other year for three or four years and evaluate as you go. It is possible to apply too much compost, either in a single application or over a period of years. Do not apply more than 1/4 inch compost in a year. The maximum amount of organic matter in the soil should not exceed 10%.

Consider compost addition to improve soil properties on troublesome areas of the golf course. Topdressing established turf with compost is a big undertaking. Start by topdressing a small area and learning as you go.

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Chapter Delegate's Update

**Jason Lamb
Sidney Country Club**

*H*ello everyone. I hope you had a great winter and starting nice spring. I will just provide a quick recap of the delegate's report I gave at the "Almost" Spring Meeting. Now, I know many of you were at the meeting, but for those few who were unable to attend, here is all the important information.

Much time was spent at the delegate's meeting in November discussing by-law changes. Mostly one that would allow the discounting of membership rates to either large multi-course facilities and management companies and also small very low budget mom and pop courses. Also, we discussed the creation of a Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent classification. Both were driven by the goal of reaching 20000 members by 2020. Now, this is not a get more members to get more money scheme. It is the reality of there is strength in numbers. The Friends of the Superintendent would also allow more people to be eligible to fund our PAC efforts, since they have to be in our association to contribute. When it was all said and done, there was quality discussion from all sides of the issue. Then, it was on to candidate breakouts. All running for the board of

directors were more than qualified. Overall, it was a very productive delegate's meeting. I am kind of sad to say it is my last one for a while. I have completed my three year commitment and Jason Busch will be taking over the duties for the next three years.

At the Annual Meeting in San Diego, the voting went very smoothly. Rafael Barajas, CGCS, was elected President. His story can be read in the GCSAA magazine. John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, became our new Vice-President. Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, was elected as the new Secretary/ Treasurer. Jeff L. White, CGCS, T.A. Barker, CGCS, and Paul L. Carter, CGCS, were all elected directors. I have no worries that these gentlemen will do an incredible job steering our association in the coming year. As far at the other voting goes, here are the results. A small dues increase of \$20 for Class A/B members and \$10 for Class C members passed overwhelmingly. The discounted by-law change passed with a large margin. And the Facility and Friends of the Superintendent classifications passed with 80+% approval.

Again, I am very pleased with the direction the board and staff of GCSAA are moving our association. Everyone is working to improve and strengthen our influence on our industry, and make us the leaders as advocates for our profession. Now it is in Jason Busch's capable handle to relay Peaks' position at the meetings, which I am sure he will have no problem doing if you have any questions, comments, or how you would like your votes cast, reach out to Jason.



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MORE "Almost" Spring Meeting!



Thanks to all who donated to the silent auction, and to our chairs - Greg Dillard, Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis and Brent Vardsveen, Old Works!



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We appreciate the sock fashion sense of our Jackson Hole board members!

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