

Disrupting Our Own Status Quo at the Fall Meeting!

We were excited about the education program before it was even published in early August. However, now your enthusiastic response to the agenda has us really pumped! Is the positive response about the speakers or is it about the topics? Yes. The answer is “yes” to both, as we return to the Billings Hotel and Convention Center for the Fall Meeting & Trade Show, October 15-17.



J.N. Rogers, III, PhD, (Trey)

“Establishing and Managing the 21st Century Creeping Bentgrasses”

“Breakthrough Concepts in Putting Green Construction”

“Turf Geeks and the Three-Legged Stool”

Remember that feeling when a favorite band is back in town?

Apparently Roch Gaussoin, PhD, is like our favorite band – and whatever is on his playlist, you know you want to hear it. Gaussoin

has been a longtime friend of Peaks & Prairies GCSA and probably holds the record on the number of times one person has spoken at our conferences. His knowledge is extensive; he can address practically any turf subject, and his findings have made a vital difference to course management. Due

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Roch Gaussoin, PhD
“Golf Green Rootzone Organic Matter Management”
 (October 17)

\$5,000 Grant from MSGA

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 all members of the MSGA and the MSGA Board of Directors.

Paradise Exceeded Our Expectations

Every host course of our Scholarship/Education golf event contributes to the association though complementary or reduced fees, not to mention the value of lost play or inconvenienced members.

However, it is important you all know that John Roth and Paradise Valley Country Club has stepped beyond the usual generous contributions to the financial success of the event, and have ramped up their support and donation actually by accepting little in return from the association.

We couldn't be more grateful, John. Thank you to you, your partners and your entire team.

Read more about the event on page 21.

Condos and Hotels Available in Chapter Room Block at GIS

The first of September, our chapter room block for the 2020 GIS in Orlando will be open. A NEW option this year, we offer two and three bedroom condos, in addition to our two hotel properties. Not knowing how popular the condo option will be, we have a limited amount in our block. If we go through these quickly, we may have more added to our block if requested early enough!

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PPGCSA Events:

Scholarship/Education Golf Events Sept. 17, 2019,

Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Big Sky, Mont.

PPGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show October 15-17, 2019, Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT

For more events, visit ppgcsa.org

**Scholarship applications are due
 September 20. Click on
 INFO tab of ppgcsa.org**



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

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President's Message

Being a Superintendent Dad

Danny Renz

Douglas Community Golf Course, Douglas, Wyo.



I, like many of us, have children. Yours may be grown and away from home, or grown and living at home. Many of us have young children. No matter how old your kids are, or even if they

are still a twinkle in your eye, at some point we can all relate. I have a 14-year-old stepdaughter and two sons – one is five and the other is two. They are the joys of my life, which most with children will agree. Although they make life crazy, especially added on to an already crazy career, when you see them after work and they give you a smile and say, “Hi Dad,” or tell you, “Goodnight Dad, I love you.” In that moment, there’s nothing more important.

I often think about how our job can help shape our kids into good respectful hard-working people. We hope! My stepdaughter wasn’t around me when she was younger and didn’t have the chance to go to work with me, see what kinds of things I do, and enjoy a ride on the tractor. But, she has been around long enough and she’s old enough to understand and appreciate the most important things. Some of those things are working long days and weekends. It frustrates them when other kids get to take summer vacations or take a weekend trip to watch the Rockies, while they may only get to take a day trip to the lake. However, over time they understand the summer is my time to work so I can put food on our table and buy them things they want - they get it and accept it. It’s important for them to learn that you have to work hard for the things you want. It also teaches them discipline and responsibility because

they see how much pride you take in your work, and, without you being there a majority of the growing season, the course could suffer. They notice the problem-solving skills you have developed and the ways you solve problems and make smart decisions within your tight budgets. They may not directly see all of this, but they can pick up on it when they hear you talk about it with your spouse, friends, or members.

With my boys, they’re a little younger so some of the things I mentioned above they may not quite understand, yet. But, they want to get involved. They want to help you fix things, cut cups, rake a bunker, and fix a sprinkler head. They learn what all the tools are and how they are used. They learn the basics of how electricity moves a pump that pulls the water from a pond and makes the water come out the sprinklers. They learn how to drive early and even learn how to drive manual transmission - which has become one of the hardest things to teach kids these days. All in all, it teaches them at a very young age basic trade skills that many kids don’t learn until high school, if ever. It also teaches them good personal relations. They watch how you act with members and how to be sociable and calmly deal with angry members. They see how you react to uncomfortable situations with your boss, gm, or board member, and take note of how you stand your ground with justification. They also see the congratulations you receive, the rewards you earn,



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Peaks & Prairies GCSA Extension/Resource Service

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

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.

*Turfgrass Scientist,
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A Superintendent Dad continued from page 3

and the personal satisfaction of doing your job well. They learn the game of golf - maybe the most important lesson of all. Golf teaches them to be competitive, but calm. Golf teaches them to be respectful for others and to be honest. Golf teaches them to be sociable with people of all ages, and, when you fail, put it behind you and do better the next time.

There are hundreds of beneficial skills our kids can learn from being around us at the work place - but we also have to be careful. If you're like me, you say a lot of four-letter words or get angry when something breaks or something goes terribly wrong at the most inopportune time. We need to learn to control these emotions for everyone around us - especially our children. If we don't control these emotions - it will be the first thing they take home and your wife or husband probably won't be appreciative! We have to work to not bring home the stress of our job. Our families don't deserve it, so we have to learn a way to calm ourselves down before we get home. Yes, we need to work hard and long, but life is short. We have to surround ourselves with decent employees who can, for the most part, run the ship, so you can enjoy some time away with your families because they're only young and around once.

I really hope you all take your kids to work from time to time, or as much as you can. I know it's hard when you're busy and maybe even some of your employers frown upon it, but I think it can be so valuable to your kids' upbringing. My five-year-old has been coming daily for over two years and people love him around here. He has learned so much and he

can play great golf for his age. He knows the respect he must show for the other golfers. He will be going to school full-time this fall and I'm sure going to miss having him around, but my almost three-year-old will be taking over for him. They'll both be running weed eaters soon, whether they like it or not - ha ha. Have a great rest of your summer and don't work too hard.

Peaks & Prairies GCSA Scholarship/Education Golf Event Spanish Peaks Mountain Club September 17

This event is on track to sell out! Register today by visiting the calendar event of ppgcsa.org

Rounds4Research Auction

We appreciate all courses who donated, those who spread the word, and our silent auction team chaired by Cole Clark. The 2019 Rounds4Research auction nationally raised over \$360,000, handily smashing the 2018 record of \$313,000. Locally, the Peaks & Prairies GCSA received \$2,583, nearly \$500 shy of 2018 PPGCSA earnings.



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Managed Resources Between Facilities Can be a Big Swing

How this superintendent ventured out of his comfort zone!

Mike Anderson,
East Glacier Park Lodge, East Glacier, Mont.

Before coming to work for Glacier Park Collection as their grounds manager, I spent the previous 20 years as a golf course superintendent in the Houston area. I experienced budgets ranging from marginal to high end and was part of teams that were as small as eight or nine and as large as sixty to seventy. The job

description - regardless of facility - was always similar and extremely lengthy, but could be summarized by simply saying my job was to manage resources. As you can imagine, it was the resources that differed from place to place.

Most of the resources at our disposal can be labeled: labor, budget, equipment, water, fuel, and knowledge. The difference, however, lies in the quantities at our disposal and this is where the adventures outside ones comfort zone exist. At least for me, anyway.

I was introduced to the maintenance side of golf back in the late 80s at Marias Valley in Shelby, Mont. I never knew it at the time, but would later realize that I would never work for another superintendent who did so much with so little. It is a trait I've tried to emulate everywhere I go. It is also a trait that I see more in our industry than any other. The majority of the time our budgets are cut while expectations remain the same or even increase. We are constantly asked to take on new roles to help save money.

"Are you sure we need an



electrician for that?"

"It's just plumbing. That's the same stuff you use for watering, right?"

"Do we really need a mechanic?"

No one will ever confuse me with an electrician or a plumber, and certainly not a mechanic. I can grow grass, all types, in (almost) any conditions; I'm pretty good at it. That is where my resource of knowledge is strongest.

When I interviewed for the job here in East Glacier, there was one thing that scared the heck out of me and almost made me turn the job down when it was offered. Driving around the property during the interview, I saw four people playing golf. Four. After touring the golf course we drove out in front of our lodge to look at the garden and surrounding grounds and I witnessed about thirty people taking pictures of the gardens. I can grow grass. I've forgotten just about everything I ever learned in horticulture classes. My resource of knowledge regarding flowers was slim at best and





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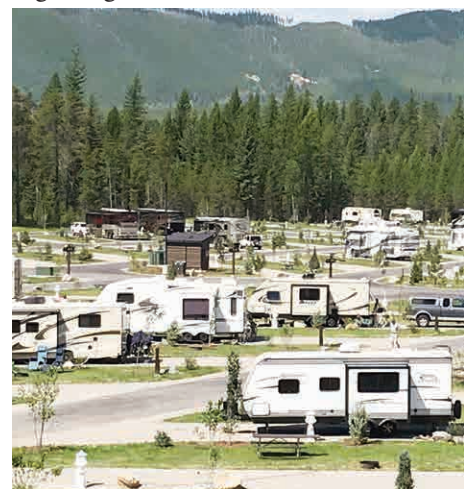












the gardens were obviously one of the greatest assets here.

The facilities I've worked at previously were all golf oriented. The landscaping was just something of an amenity that was worked into the budget and contracted out. Glacier Park Lodge Golf Course is the complete opposite. In the past, my resource of knowledge regarding flowers and landscaping was adequate. Here, it was going to have to improve.

I accepted the job and before I even started packing, I enrolled in a gardening class at the local community college. I also took advantage of online classes through GCSAA and have since enrolled in the Montana Master Gardener Program. Anything I can do to increase that knowledge, that resource, I will do. Many days I still feel a bit out of my comfort zone when having to deal with gardening issues, but I am gradually becoming more comfortable.

Our grounds team also took on a challenge this summer that would put our knowledge and labor resources to the test. We were asked to do all of the landscaping for the company's new RV park and cabins in West Glacier. 102 RV spots, 25 cabins, four bath houses, laundry facility, playground, and registration/retail store. Five acres of turf areas, 350 trees, 550 shrubs, 7 tons of rubber mulch, and 52 yards of cedar mulch installed in less than a month. No automated irrigation and a team of nine. My labor resource was small compared to the task at hand but their knowledge, attitude, and work ethic was amazing. Having new seasonal staff every summer can be a bit of a crap shoot, but I hit the jackpot this season. I can't



say enough good things about our grounds team this year. They made managing my labor resource this year...comfortable.

All of us manage resources. We all manage different resources. We are always asked to do more with less and as we take on new challenges we will inevitably venture outside our comfort zone. My experiences are unique to me, but they are nothing special. We do this all the time. I have succeeded in projects I am uncomfortable with because I can reach out to the superintendent community. It has an incredible pool of knowledge and individuals more than willing to share. To all my fellow superintendents, thank you! And if anyone out there is about to step outside their comfort zone, and I can help in any way, please reach out and allow me to give back.



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A Well-Deserved Retirement

**Terry Nelson and Dick Collins, CGCS
Whitefish Lake Golf Club, Whitefish, Mont.**

Larry Gilhuly, after 36 years with the USGA Green Section, is hanging up his Sunseeker app and suitcase for the bright sunny skies of Seattle. Larry has done countless speeches and thousands of course consulting visits over his career, always with the love of golf, golf course maintenance and golf course design first and foremost in his presentations.

Larry has been associated with the golf business since 1958 when he started as a player, caddie and course maintenance employee. He received the Chick Evans Scholarship for caddies in 1970 and used it to earn his BS degree from Washington State University, where he majored in Agronomy and Turf Science. After a nine-year stint as assistant superintendent at Seattle Golf Club, he joined the USGA Staff in 1983. As the Western Region Director, he served courses throughout the Western United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and four Canadian Provinces. He has accumulated a vast knowledge of all types of golf course operations. As a very talented communicator, he has effectively shared as both a colleague and friend, that experience with the many superintendents with whom he has worked.

We at Whitefish Lake Golf Club have consistently utilized the Green Section visits as a way to help educate our ever changing boards, committees and interested members. The service put a different set of eyes on our particular course situations and not only helped



mitigate troublesome problems, but it also reinforced procedures we implemented to remedy potential issues. We have been fortunate to have worked with high quality agronomists from the Green Section Staff such as Jim Latham, Bob Vavrek Jr., Matt Nelson, Derf Soller and Larry Gilhuly. We tried to implement nearly all of the recommendations provided by these gentlemen, and concluded, as a Club, there has been a very positive effect on our course conditions and total operation functionality.

The personal contact afforded by Larry Gilhuly has been invaluable for our staff, green committees, board of directors and interested parties. We wish Larry the best as he moves on to the next

phase of his long and successful career in the golf industry. We hope to continue our relationship with Larry and look forward to experiencing his friendly personality, keen sense of humor and knowledge.

Job well done Larry!

Editor's note - As so many have witnessed over the years, Larry loves to have fun almost as much as he loves to work. A couple of his old friends offer a salute...

"Ah, Lawrence...the eternal sophomore. Aack, aack a dack. The winner of numerous squished cat awards, Larry is looking forward to playing spikeless golf on seashore paspalum fairways from the forward tees. He also plans to volunteer his time during the summer months with Pacific Northwest reforestation initiatives. At the end of the day...this NW turfgrass legend will be missed by many. Go Golf!"
Matt Nelson, Magic Valley Bentgrass (former USGA agronomist)

"Larry The Legend" has been a fixture in Golf for many years and will be greatly missed. His ability to order drinks and be in the bathroom when the bill comes is second to none. The father of soft spikes has always looked better in a dress than shorts. He has been instrumental in the push for forward tees so he can play them as he travels around the country enjoying retirement. We will miss you Uncle Larry, you truly have made the game better. Dwayne Dillinger, CGCS, Bell Nob Golf Course, Gillette, Wyo.



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The third time is a charm... I hope.

I'm going to share the story of the 18th green at Rock Creek Cattle Company over the past six years.

The eighteenth hole at Rock Creek is not a very long par five that brings you back to the golf house playing along Rock Creek. The creek doesn't come into play usually off of the tee, but it can if you chose to lay up because of the slope of the fairway towards it. Any layup shot landing in the left third of the fairway is most likely going to end up in the hazard.



Rick Hathaway
Rock Creek Cattle Company
Deer Lodge, Mont.

Just short of the green the creek bends away from the hole. Which left the original green location perched just above wetlands adjacent to the creek, but some 20 yards away from the flowing water. The green was well protected with five bunkers in very close proximity to the putting surface. The only bailout on the approach was long and right, and into a closely mown collection area

Third Time Charm?

behind the green.

While the green complex had plenty of bunkers, the green surface itself was the hole's primary defense. It was strongly pitched at about 5% from right to left and dove off hard on the left edge. Almost the entire green surface drained off that left edge between two deep collection bunkers that would keep balls from continuing down into the wetland if they rolled off that left side. Any ball with too much momentum to stop quickly on the green was most likely going off the green to the left if it didn't end up long into the collection area. This made for a maddening second shot for those going for the green in two. The margin for error was razor thin. On the other hand, a layup and a short iron that would stop the ball quickly was a much safer shot into the green.

Tom Doak called the hole an elegant finish. Nothing too fancy, just a nice straight-away par five. Much like David McLay Kidd spoke to us about in Coeur D' Alene a few years ago, there is nothing wrong with an elegant finish that is straight forward and that gives a player a decent chance of finishing the round on a high note.

Mr. Doak also had mentioned that he designed the greens to play between a 9 and 10 on the stimp meter. This was simply too slow for what our members, investors, and owner expect for green speeds. We were asked to maintain the greens at a minimum of 10.5 to 11.0 on a daily basis.

As putting speeds increased, the effect of the slope in the
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Rock Creek continued from page 10

green was increased and it became very difficult to keep a ball on the green even with shots that you would think were safe. In late 2012 the owner, Mr. Foley, asked that we raise the left side of the green high enough that a ball would collect in a shallow valley instead of rolling off the green. I asked Mr. Foley if he would like to contact Mr. Doak for some help on this project and got one of the greatest responses of my career: "Does Tom Doak pay the bills around here?"

So, that being said, my response was, "Yes sir," and we proceeded to come up with a game plan to do so. The surface drainage of the green would change entirely. We ended up having to lower the front of the green so that water

could run off in that direction. In the winter of 2012 we did the materials testing for a matching pea gravel and root-zone mix, and in the spring of 2013 we began the process, much like an archeological dig, of deconstructing a USGA green. Layer by layer it was peeled away, and layer by layer it was rebuilt with the new contours. We decided only to go down to the gravel layer and build it up from there since it didn't really matter if your rootzone mix is sitting on 4 inches or 20 inches of gravel. The original sod was placed on plastic in a parking lot and replaced. Things went pretty well. It just took some time to get all of the tie-ins and seams to establish and get the whole green back in play.

All was well initially with everyone involved happy with the progress we made. Or, not... turned out that any shot hit to the right of the green, in the bunker or otherwise, still had to land on that nearly 5% slope from right to left. Which meant that any shot which ended up right of the green to a pin

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on the right side of the green had virtually no chance of getting up and down. The ball would always travel to the left side of the green when chipped or pitched from the right (but fortunately it did not

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always go off the left side of the green any longer 😊).

To rectify this, our owner once again asked us to remodel the green surface. This time the right side. We were to take it down a foot and get the slope closer to two or three percent from right to left. Coming out of winter in 2016 we once again dove into the eighteenth green. Same basic process as before, except this time, to lower the green, you must remove everything in the cavity, lower the subgrade and drainage, and rebuild it totally from there up. We got it done and everything was great, right?

Well, as we were finishing up the remodel in 2016, we started getting suggestions that the 18th green wasn't even in the right spot at all and should be more closely tied to the creek. The name of the club, of course, is Rock Creek Cattle Company. And so, why wasn't the green up tight to the creek?

Now was the time to get Tom Doak involved, I admitted that this project was much more than my junior designer badge gave me the confidence to pull off. Mr. Doak visited the site, came up with a couple alternatives and presented them to our members. He was not all too thrilled with completely moving his original green, but would be in favor of completely redesigning it since some superintendent had gone in and disrupted all of his contours. Initially Mr. Foley was only lukewarm to the idea as well. That changed when the group of members who wanted to see the green closer to the creek agreed to fund the project themselves.

This project was going to require filling in the wetlands between the original green and the creek, so the first hurdle to

get past was the permitting process. During this process, there was a classic line from Mr. Doak. The members funding the project asked him why he hadn't put the green next to the creek initially since it seemed a natural fit. Tom's response: "I had 30,000 acres to work with, why would I even consider building in wetlands?"

The new green site would be substantially lower than the old one and would have no bunkers (fist pump from this guy, five less bunkers to maintain). In addition to the new green site, Tom would recontour the fairway and adjacent areas to eliminate the kick into the hazard on layup shots. In the fall of 2017, we broke ground on the project and in the spring of 2018, Doak's design assistants came in to help us with the final grading of the project. By the end of June 2108, we were able to open it up for our member-member tournament.

So there you have it - two remodels and a total redo in six years on the same green. The end...? Not quite. It turns out the new green location is substantially easier to access than the old one. There is a steep slope to the right of the green that sends any shot to it down onto the green. Doesn't matter if it's the second or third shot.

Talk of the hole being too easy is prevalent among the key members now. So, I've got the feeling this story isn't over yet. To be continued... and that fist pump for eliminating five bunkers was probably premature.

That's the story so far. Two remodels and one complete redesign and relocation on the same green in six years. But I have a feeling this story is to be continued...

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One Day Closer to Chili Season

Cole Clark, Pryor Creek Golf Club, Huntley, Mont.

We all love our jobs for a variety of reasons, whether it be the daily challenges, a passion for the outdoors, the satisfaction of seeing plans come together, or the love of the game of golf. For me, especially as I get older, the main reason I love what I do is the people who I have met through this profession. I enjoy meeting new people, visiting with old friends, hearing and telling stories, learning new ideas, laughing at stupid jokes and drinking beer. With all that in mind, I started something here locally with fellow superintendents and their families, that I would suggest other regions adopt and put their own spin on. Here in Billings, we call it the Blowout Party. Annually, every year in mid October or early November most local superintendents, their assistants, and, most importantly, families get together for a night of chili, appetizers, beer, and laughs. We share horror stories from the past season, successes from the past season - or not talking golf at all for once! The kids all make new friends and play.

As I talked to one superintendent recently on the phone, he ended the conversation by saying, "Let's not wait until chili season to get together." That always sounds great, but is tougher than it sounds and that is why the Blowout Party in my mind is

such an important thing for us to do. It's a time to unwind with friends who we may only see once or twice a year and for our families to connect among a community of peers. So, if I have any suggestion as we think about the seasons changing it would be to find some place warm, a place where the beer flows like wine and the turf families can instinctively flock like the swallows of Capistrano! One day closer to Chili Season!



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Exciting Fall Meeting continued from page 1

administrative advancement and responsibilities, it has been too long since his last visit. Gaussoin is currently teaching in the Global Undergraduate Programming area at UNL, working with students from Rwanda. His excellence in the turfgrass industry has been well-documented through numerous awards, including the Crop Science Society of America's Turfgrass Science Award and the GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

Our members are open to discussing ideas disrupting the status quo – challenging what they know, and even enjoying a little controversy. We have a presentation by John Rogers, PhD (Trey), to do just that. Rogers is a Professor of Turfgrass Management in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University and he has been part of the faculty since 1988. We have Peaks & Prairies members who were students of Rogers and members who have interns of Rogers – all looking forward to his participation this fall. As a result of research conducted at Michigan State, they believe there is a construction method to keep the turf more consistent, which also results in a dryer turf needing less pesticides. Concepts, case studies and practical applications will be discussed. Rogers's current turfgrass research interests at MSU include performance turf renovations, turfgrass establishment and soil modification. Rogers has enjoyed a long career in the turf industry which includes serving as the lead scientist for the indoor turf project at the Pontiac Silverdome for the 1994 World Cup Soccer matches and the project leader of the Spartan Stadium turfgrass conversion in 2001- 02. He was a turf consultant and project leader for the 2004 and 2008 Summer Olympic Games and the 2008 UEFA Cup. In his career he has consulted extensively on golf courses, athletic fields, and other turfgrass matters throughout the United States as well as China, Greece, Japan, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Wales, England, and Spain.

If only every course facility had the budget to have three people serve in the three key positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent and equipment manager. But, in reality, many have two people for the three key positions, or, even more challenging - one person covering all three key positions. Between cross-over and wanting to also serve the equipment managers in the region, we have two presentations addressing these interests. Cue in Cory Phillips, equipment manager of both the Golf Club of Georgia and Horseshoe Bend Country Club in Alpharetta, Georgia. With 18 years of experience in the turf industry, he is TETCP certified, co-taught several seminars at the 2018 GIS in San Antonio, and has been instrumental with the development of the GCSAA TETCP exam. Phillips also helped create 5-Minute Fix videos, serves on the GCSAA EM's Task Group, and helps develop programs for his local chapter. Phillips was the winner of the 2015 MVT award.

At this upcoming conference, even Peaks & Prairies GCSA is disrupting our own status quo! Included within the program is a field trip to The Briarwood for demonstrations. It is important to note, that it isn't just for equipment. You are welcome to demo your products – including setting up plots in advance. This is something new for us and we are trying to take it all in casual stride. Our goal is to provide space for you to talk about

your products in another way. We don't want to make money off this opportunity. But in all honesty, it is just important to not lose money, either. Our trade show is crucial to our annual budget. Some companies consider participation a great opportunity for their company to meet with many people under one roof, and others consider it a way to support the association. For those companies who support our trade show, we want to offer an enhancement this year with the demo event. You can participate in the trade show without participating in the demo. But you can't be in the demo without being in the trade show. Demo participants won't see a fee if they do not downgrade last year's financial participation.

In addition to the strong line-up, we know you want to be following all rules and regulations when it comes to pesticide storage and use. We want to help you comply and to be ready, so have invited Lyle Scott, Montana Dept of Agriculture, Pesticide Compliance, to address Inspections & Enforcement.



Lyle Scott
"Pesticide Compliance"

To ensure a truly well-rounded educational opportunity, we have a trade show! We didn't lead with that information because you expect us annually to come through with this great opportunity to talk shop. We assure you, we will once again bring you the opportunity to improve conditions and services in the region – regardless of what side of the conversation you are on in the booths. As a conference attendee, it is to your facility's benefit to talk to as many allied partners as possible on the trade show floor. Sometimes the best information or advice comes when you least expect it. Work that trade show floor and take advantage of the knowledge present.

This site was new to us last year and put a bounce in our step. We have plenty of room in the trade show and tons of meeting space, all under one roof. This year we will notice a few newly renovated areas. Oh, and did you check out the two amusement style waterslides in the indoor pool last year? If not, be sure to consider bringing your swimsuit and even your family this fall!

Last – but certainly not least – play golf! Golf with the people who get it. You can't find a better opportunity in the year to be with your people - the people who get what you are doing and share your passion – while you golf. We hear every year, "I never would have really talked to so-and so if it hadn't been for the opportunity given at golf." Just do it.



Cory Phillips
"Let's Trouble-shoot and Diagnose those Turf Equipment Problems!" I&II

SHOCKING Discovery!

Jason Lamb

Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont.

“Thunderbolt and lightning, very, very frightening,” to quote the Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody, came true at the course this year. As many of you may have seen on the news or social media, our 5th green at Sidney Country Club was struck by lightning this summer. It looked really cool from an artistic standpoint. It appeared less cool from a patrons stand point, even though no one was hurt. And from an electronic stand point, it was somewhat costly.

Let me set the scene. The morning of June 28th one of our very early morning golfers came walking by the shop between the 6th and 7th holes and casually asked what we spilled on the green on #5, because it had to be something we had done. I asked what he was talking about. He said you know the black marks on #5 green. So Zac and I got the crew going on their morning assignments and headed to #5 to see what he was talking about. As we approached the green, I knew exactly what had been on the green - a whole lot of electricity. Now, in my 25 year of working on turf, I have seen the aftermath of trees hit by lightning numerous times and I have seen pictures in books of it hitting greens almost always hitting the flagstick and radiating out from the cup in its very distinctive pattern. This was slightly different in the fact that it missed the cup. I guess even

God does not always get a hole in one. Upon further inspection, it was in fact lightning that had made the blackened pattern on the green. It looked like it hit a low spot on the green that was holding water from the irrigation. The incredible amount of heat caused by the energy transfer appeared to have caused the water to flash boil and stream burn the grass at the center of the strike. That is my explanation of the splatter pattern at the center point. From there it radiated out in all directions in a very cool black pattern. The artistic and scientific sides of me found the pattern on the green fantastic. To see the



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awe-
some power and beauty of Mother Nature is a little humbling. The pattern reminds me of a bird's eye view of a wash shed or topography map. I put my drone in the air to get some pictures. But after fighting to get in the just perfect position, the battery gave out and, on top of that, I had forgotten to put a memory card in to save the images. I guess that is what you get for saying God could not hit your cup. When the wind died enough to fly again, the color was brown and faded, so I guess that was that. The putting conditions never really suffered and the surface stayed smooth. It was significantly less noticeable after a week. We aerified the greens on July 22 and now you can't see it unless you know where to look.

The turf faired far better than the electronic components. We had to dig and replace the five heads closest to the green. But, the real damage was done in the two irrigation controllers 300 yards away. The energy surge traveled up the control wires into one box where it then jumped the shared power wire into the second controller. In all, eight cards were destroyed between the two controllers. Lesson learned - have the surge protectors installed on the controllers.

The most fortunate piece would be that it happened at night. So, no people were harmed. Although, I do have to say my mind did jump to the "Rat Farts" scene in Caddyshack. I am glad we did not find the Bishop on the ground in the morning. But, let that be a reminder to all of us about blowing the horn and clearing the course when lightning approaches. I know my members were a lot more cautious after this incident.

All in all, things could have been



worse.

photo

It did give our little course national exposure as the pictures and story were picked up by the Weather Channel, numerous news channels ranging from Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Idaho, Wisconsin as well as North Dakota and Montana. Not to mention the 2600 comments on Facebook. It almost made me delete the Club account for a while. The notifications killed my phone battery in half a day the first day it was posted and almost killed it the next, as well. Overall, it was a learning experience on the resilience of turf, the fragility of electronics and the power of social media. Plus, it will make a great

for the clubhouse wall.





A Message from David Phipps, GCSAA NW Region Field Staff

According to my records, there are one hundred eighty-five Class A and Class B members in the Northwest Region who are qualified to apply for the Melrose Leadership Academy. Unfortunately, there are probably even fewer who apply for the grant nation wide. This grant

year I was employed. Today I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that it gave me to learn and network with my peers from across the country. I don't think that my career would have developed the way it has if I haven't had that opportunity. I honestly don't want you to miss out on the same opportunities that I experienced.

Today, through a more than generous donation by Mr. Ken Melrose, the former CEO of Toro, twenty superintendents are selected from across the country and awarded a grant to attend the Golf Industry Show. I cannot say how fortunate our industry is today to have such a philanthropic individual in our midst. Nothing will bring more happiness to Mr. Melrose than knowing that hundreds of GCSAA members recognize the value of his contribution and apply for this grant each year.

If you received an email from me in August letting you know that you qualify for the opportunity to apply for the grant, then please don't wait any longer. If you didn't, and are curious if you qualify, the following are the eligibility requirements:

enables Class A and Class B members to attend the Golf Industry Show, all expenses paid. Seriously, there is zero out of pocket! So why each year I must twist arms to get individuals to apply for this opportunity?

Grant recipients will receive the following:

- Golf Industry Show full package registration
- Education seminars and leadership sessions
- Airfare
- Five nights' hotel accommodations
- \$200 spending money
- Following the conference and show, grant recipients will continue to receive communications recommending education, tools and resources offered by GCSAA to keep class participants engaged.

- Must be a current GCSAA Class A or Class B member and GCSAA Chapter member in good standing.
- Must be a Class A or Class B member for five or more years.
- Class A or Class B members working for current members of the board of directors or the board of trustees, and children of GCSAA staff members shall not be eligible for the Melrose Leadership Academy.
- Past recipients are not eligible.
- Attendees of the Golf Industry Show in the last five years are not eligible to apply.

I was very fortunate as a superintendent at Stone Creek Golf Club to be able to attend the Golf Industry Show every

Read more: <https://www.eifg.org/education/melrose-leadership-academy#ixzz5w3HTpsPM>

Results: Scholarship/Education Golf Event, Paradise Valley CC

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|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Peaks & Prairies 2019 Pharr, John Bachert, Jaime Harris, Brian Watkins, Garrett 56.1 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Mackie, Bert Rafferty, Jeff Grodie, Doug Joseph, Joe 58.8 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Keith, Mike Thomas, Chris Thomas, Tayte Ward, Doyle 60.3 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Befus, Dave Djeeveian, Braden Hopkins, Colin Johnson, Kim 57.3 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Dillinger, Dwayne Eby, Mike Dillinger, Trent Liff, Bob 56.6 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Meyer, Brad Renz, Danny Butler, Trent Van Boven, Kyrin-James 53.5 |
| Peaks & Prairies 2019 Hanzicker, John J. Cowan, Cecil Wilson, Darren Macmores, Kevin 58.5 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Howard, Brian Bachert, Mike Colman, Tim Good, Dave 59.9 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Mowry, Steve Walen, Matt Paulson, Ryan Hammi, Mark 55.0 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Kern, Clayton Dillinger, Jared Pates, Julian Vandershoof, Dan 61.4 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Norvelle, Randy O'Neill, Bob Popilich, Tom Galles, Shane 50.3 | Peaks & Prairies 2019 Aerni, Jaam Roth, John Huseh, Jasso Snavely, Adam 56.4 |

Wyoming Scholarship/Education Golf Event

Paradise Valley Country Club, Casper, Wyo.

As mentioned on page 1, John Roth and Paradise Valley Country Club generously offered more than just donating rounds and discounting carts. We thank you all for your generosity and your support!

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Above: Renz, Busch and Roth



Building Your Crew

Zachary Leader, Assistant Superintendent
Sidney Country Club, Sidney, Mont.

*F*inding individuals who take pride in their work has been challenging, but it's all up to their leader to find the right times to get their hands dirty, shape habits and build pride in their place of work in order to be successful. I find myself asking, "What have I had them do before that I know they can achieve in a reasonable amount of time correctly?" Each employee has certain jobs that they enjoy and it's never the same for the next

person even so much as day to day for a single employee. Many times, I find it necessary to go along and help so that I'm certain they know the procedure to complete that task. To just ride by and critique every day gets



monotonous to a point where the employees may just shut out your opinion completely. Getting your hands dirty alongside your coworker's shows that you know what they are going through when it's 95 degrees outside and there isn't a breath of wind, but the show must go on. One way we celebrate those long days of completing projects or aerification is by barbecues for lunch after a long week. Each little bonus that you can award seems so small to you but so big to someone who is willing to go the extra mile and it will keep them coming around for the rest of their time in your area. Make the effort to spend time with your crew completing the tough tasks and the dividends will pay out in the amount of trust and pride your employees and customers take in caring for your golf course.



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Chapter Room Block Options

continued from page 1

three options...

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VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES are now available! The 2/3 bedroom condos and townhomes are located within Vista Cay. Vista Cay is a vacation home rental community off of Universal Blvd. When you arrive, you will go directly to your vacation home – no need to check in at an office. All condos include balconies and the townhomes include patios. The complex also offers swimming pools. *(This property was not part of the GIS housing options last time, but it was still popular among GIS attendees - and now available through official GIS housing!)*

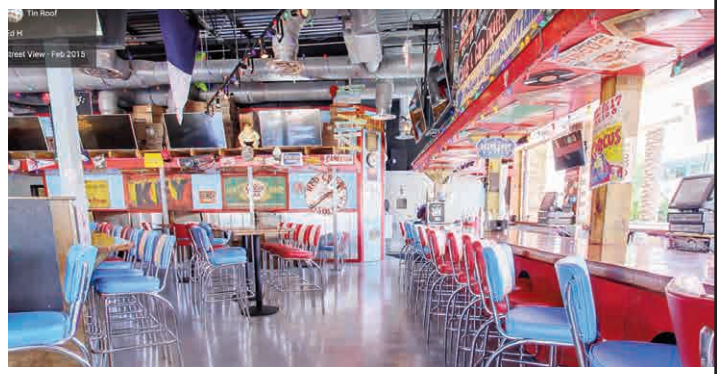
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