



Peaks & Prairies Chapter

**GCSAA**

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

# THE PERFECT LIE

## Two Great Opportunities for PPGCSA Golf

Enjoy our 2022 Wyoming Scholarship/Education Golf Tournament at Olive Glenn Golf Club in Cody, Wyo., Tuesday, July 12, at 11:00 a.m. The last time the tournament was played here was in



2017, prior to the passing of longtime superintendent, Bob Kline. Our host superintendent, Mike Kelly, was Kline's assistant before his passing and the two formed a strong friendship. Hopefully many of you had an opportunity to meet Mike Kelly in Bozeman at the "Almost" Spring Meeting. Plan on staying after the golf event for the buffet meal, camaraderie, and to offer a

toast to Bob Kline! Registration will be open the end of May for the four-person scramble event. Partial teams are welcome to play and will be paired. Please register by July 5 so the course may prepare for your participation. Hole sponsors or hole + plus display sponsors are welcome for a fee.

As announced in our March issue, the 2022 Montana Scholarship/Education Golf Tournament will be at Rock Creek Cattle Company, Wednesday, September 21. Our host superintendent is our PPGCSA president, Rick Hathaway. Rock Creek Cattle Company continues to be recognized year after year, including recently by Golf Digest 2021-2022 as #1 Best Golf Course in Montana and #81 Top 100 Golf Courses in America. Because of the limited access to this



### **PPGCSA Upcoming Events:**

**Scholarship/Education Golf Events - Wyo. July 12, 2022, Olive Glenn Golf Club, Cody, Wyo.**

**Scholarship/Education Golf Events - Mont. September 21, 2022, Rock Creek Cattle Co., Deer Lodge, Mont.**

**Fall Meeting & Trade Show - October 11-13, 2022, Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, Mont.**

**PPGCSA "Almost" Spring Meeting - March 6 & 7, 2023, Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda, Mont.**

facility, we expect to fill the field quickly. Registration will be open in June for the September 21 event, rather than July as previously announced. Hole sponsors or hole + plus display sponsors are welcome for a fee.

Proceeds from our tournaments benefit the scholarship program and the continuing education programs of Peaks & Prairies GCSA.

## Last Call for PPGCSA Member Directory Updates

Our annual membership directory will be going to print soon. Please take a moment to review your personal or company profile and make any needed changes by clicking on "your profile" under the members only tab. Need to reset your password? Visit "Be in the know" of our website home page [ppgcsa.org](http://ppgcsa.org).

## Different Dates for Fall Meeting

Our Fall Meeting & Trade Show dates have bounced around a bit over the past few years to give as many people as possible an opportunity to come, even if only periodically, due to end of season conflicts. Compression rental often is the biggest competitor for your time — and everyone's week can be different. We hear you! **The next three years will offer a variety of dates:** October 11-13, 2022; November 7-9, 2023; and October 29-31, 2024. Make note and save these dates — especially for 2022!

## 2022 Rounds4Research Auction

We appreciate the incredible participation of the courses in our region for the Rounds4Research Auction. Numerous courses have even jumped on board with the three-year cycle and it simply makes it easier for everyone.

For the courses that cannot donate for whatever circumstance, please remember there is an option for a cash donation to the cause.

We can't thank you all enough for your support and we look forward to sharing the results of the event.

May 2022  
Volume 46  
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

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Tournament: Jason Busch & Ryan Blechta

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**Assistant Superintendent Liaison:** Available

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*Remember - you will never be solicited by a board member, or the office, to purchase gift cards and provide the card number to the solicitor.*

# President's Message

## Staff Brought Together for a Common Cause

**Rick Hathaway**

**Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deere Lodge, Mont.**



Sorry I missed everyone at the "Almost" Spring meeting. I'm looking forward to catching up with you while Tim

and I are cooking burgers for those of you attending our Scholarship/ Education tournament this fall. I'm thankful my club is able to accommodate our group. It should be a great day!

I want to share a short story that brought my staff together for a common cause last summer. Our club hosts an annual Wine and Art Festival with proceeds benefitting The Folded Flag Foundation, which supports families that have lost a loved one in the course of military service.

There were a few staff members who were interested in participating in the festival, hoping to sell some of their art. In order to participate, the artists must donate a piece of art valued at a minimum of \$500. On behalf of the employees, I went to the event organizers and asked them if I made the donation piece, would that suffice for any employees who wanted to participate in the festival. They said it would.

So, I was on the hook for a \$500 piece of art. The staff knows I am a bit of a rock hound. So every day for about a month, staff started bringing interesting rocks they would find during the course of their day and leaving them outside my office. I didn't really know what I was going to do with them, but it became a daily ritual for staff to bring their rock of the day to me. From there we would try to identify them and decide if they had any value. All sorts of agates, small geodes, and pieces of chert and jasper were accumulating outside my office.

One day a couple staff were digging a hole and came across a big brown basketball-sized rock that looked layered. I didn't think much of it when they brought it to me. That changed when an ex-miner on staff looked at it and said, "If that's not petrified wood, you can kiss my butt." Another staff member donated a large 10" tile saw to cut it open.

When we cut it open, it was magical. It turned out to be agatized petrified wood with a perfectly preserved grain structure. Even the ancient worm holes within it were perfectly preserved. Another staff member, who is a retired tile tradesman, donated a Makita rock polisher to try to make it shine. The rock took a flawless polish.

We decided to cut the stone to look like a 4"x4" piece of dimensional lumber. It turned out perfectly and looked just like one of the old fence posts found throughout the ranch — except it was 50 million years old.

When we entered it as our donation piece, I was nervous

that it wouldn't meet the \$500 minimum. When the bidding started, the opening bid was \$1,000. The piece eventually sold for \$2,500 to benefit the foundation.

It was such a memorable experience to get the majority of the crew focused on a common task outside of our normal day-to-day routine. Talking rocks and researching geology to figure out what type of rocks we were looking at became our escape from the dog days of summer. It connected us with the land we are maintaining every day. And, I know for myself and a few others, it gave us a new appreciation for the environment we are working in and how it connects to the geology of southwest Montana and the historic Missoula floods. Going forward we are trying to develop a complete set of tee markers of petrified wood found on the property.

Thank you for indulging me to share my story of last summer. Again, we are looking forward to hosting the 2022 Montana Scholarship/Education Golf Tournament on September 21. We will be playing the petrified wood tees.



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# Life Brought Me Back to Turf

## Fred Skogen

Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont.

I first became involved with Peaks & Prairies GCSA back in the fall of 1987. The first fall meeting I attended was at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. At the time, my wife, Tammy, and I had two little ones, and I

was newly graduated from MSU (1986) and had just started my first job on a golf course at Mission Mountain Country Club in Ronan. Tom Roe & Son Construction had just seeded our first nine-hole layout in late August, so things weren't too crazy for me, yet. Besides, with my turf degree in hand, I was ready to conquer the turf world — or at least 80 acres of it. I got a small taste of what I didn't know at that first fall meeting. Most of the speakers talked snow mold and weed control. But the speaker that really woke me up was talking about how to manage your staff. Manage your staff?? At this point, I had no staff. It was just me growing those nine holes of turf. And I was a "turf guy." What could go wrong? Those first few years the golf course was in great shape and I seemed to do most of the work

myself. Not because I was so short-handed, which I was, but because I was a terrible manager, and didn't know how to delegate authority. Some of you might remember a lady named Jane Barry, who was the secretary of the organization, and she was a character. One of our most regular speakers was George Evans, my turf professor at MSU. I remember talking to my wife one night after the trade show and telling her how old most of the guys were at the conference.

I stayed at Mission Mountain for 21 years, along the way learning lots of life's lessons. Most of those lessons involved how much I didn't know about people and relationships. My wife and I raised our four kids on the golf course in the quiet little town I had grown up. I coached lots of boys' and girls' sports along the way, and became involved on school boards and with church activities. In December of 2007, I resigned my position and took a job with a local fertilizer and grass seed plant. I was to become the grass seed manager after a year's training from the current manager — who was set to retire soon. A raise in pay, a fresh start; I was ready. Then in the fall of 2008, after only eight months on the job, I was diagnosed

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with colon cancer, stage three. I had three months of chemo and radiation, and lost 70 lbs. The treatment was successful, but after having nearly 3/4 of my colon removed, I would have a colostomy bag the rest of my life. I was 45, almost empty-nested, with new start at a new job, and my world was turned upside down. I now had a new appreciation for my life and for the things that were truly important. Things like my wife, my kids and my new grandkids. Things like sunrises and sunsets, laughing, crying, and my dog curled up next to me. And I missed the golf course and wondered why I had ever left. I stayed at the new job for three years. It never quite panned out the way I expected, partially due to my illness issues.

Then in 2012, I took a job with my son-in-law in the last place I ever thought I would be... the oilfield of North Dakota. I went mostly for financial reasons. Tammy and I weren't young anymore, and as most of you know, you become a golf course superintendent not because the money is awesome, but because you

love it. But for us, the hard truth was that we were nearing our 50s and we had very little to show for years of hard work. If we were ever going to retire, we would have to go somewhere and make enough to put some cash away. That just happened to be the oilfield for us. My wife stayed home and worked, while I went to work doing fracking and flowback, and oil and natural gas production over the next nine years. Most of the time my schedule went something like this: 28 days on, followed by seven or 14 days off. The days were 15 hours, if you counted travel time to and from locations, which was rarely paid. Of the nine years I worked, six-and-a-half of those were on night shift. I worked in North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Utah, and was even headed to Pennsylvania before being stopped by weather. The hours were long, the work was physical, and at times dangerous. But the men I worked with were awesome. I was usually the oldest guy on the crew, which set me up to be a trainer and supervisor most of the time, which became somewhat less physical, but more stressful. In the oilfield, the con-

stant answer to the question, "How do you like the oil patch?" was "I'm livin' the dream!" said in a sarcastic voice.

Unexpectedly, but maybe most importantly, being the oldest made me the "old man," which made me a mentor to hundreds of young guys looking for answers to some of life's hardest questions. Here they were, young guys with new trucks and other toys, lots of cash, maybe a child support payment, the title of "supervisor," and yet for many of them, dissatisfaction and unhappiness. "What is life about?" This was a question I heard in one way or another, many times. I didn't have all of the answers, but I had some, and I was willing to listen. I was able to find satisfaction myself by helping others try to make sense of things.

Another thing the oilfield gave me was a deeper thankfulness to God for my family. After a year, my wife and I relocated to Greeley, Colorado, where the company I was with was located. When I would get days off, my wife and I would frequently travel to see our four kids and their children. Grand parenting has

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become our favorite thing to do, and we are currently expecting our 12th grandchild any day now.

By 2019, I had had enough of the oil field, and had put away at least some retirement. I was looking to get out and try something different. March of 2020 came, and we had the perfect opportunity to get out — COVID 19. I was laid off for the first time ever when the pandemic caused oil prices to fall incredibly low, incredibly fast. Overnight, worldwide demand for oil plummeted. My wife and I had been looking and praying for a reason and a time to get out, and here it was. We sold our house in Greeley and we headed back to Montana. One of our sons and his family were in Billings and had been wanting us to move near them for a few years. I made the move in June, slept in my son, Alan's, and wife, Kelsey's, laundry room on an air mattress, and started looking for work. My wife came in September. I was willing to work at almost anything. The golf business was on my mind, but I really didn't think it was a great time to be looking for golf course work being mid-summer. In the middle of job interviews with Home Depot, Sam's Club, Costco, cable companies, UPS, FedEx and several others, I saw an ad at Yellowstone Country Club. I interviewed in late July, got the position, and by August I was back on a golf course as a second assistant superintendent. Seriously, now I really was "Livin' the dream!!!!" I really couldn't believe I was back on a golf course doing what I loved. For the entire first year I was pinching myself every day.

Living life gives a person much needed perspective and I feel like I have a bit more of that than I used to have. I've been married to the same beautiful woman for almost 39 years and I wouldn't change a thing about that. When I was first in the golf business and my kids were young, I worked way more hours than I should have; I now wish I could have some of those hours back. I've found over the years that people are pretty much the same wherever you go — the vast majority are good, but some are not so good. I try to give everyone the benefit of the doubt now; most folks are honestly trying to work through this life as best they can. I believe and trust in my Creator more than ever and I've seen His hand more times than I can count. I value people as individuals more than I ever have before. I love sunrises and sunsets. I'm really appreciating "weekends" these days. I went nine years without having very many of them. I used to take myself very seriously — not so much now. Life is fun and I think I laugh more. I try to listen to people more than I used to listen. Now I'm not so busy trying to think of what I'm going to say back to them. Grandkids are much more fun than kids. When they get mouthy or poopy, you just give them back to mommy and daddy. Working on a golf course now is so enjoyable, it's like not working at all. Life is all about perspective.

Now, 35 years after attending my first Peaks & Prairies meetings, I'm there again. I'm even recognizing some faces. When I first attended these meetings, I was the dumb kid and the youngest. Now I'm most likely the oldest, but that's ok. It's great to be back. I have a bit more perspective now, and I've earned it...



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# Diamonds in the Rough

Kyle Fick

Bully Pulpit Golf Course, Medora, ND

I grew up the son of a hoarder. That might sound harsh, but it's true. We lived on a small hobby farm about three or four miles from a town of around 450 in population. The nearest communities of stature were 20 and 25 minutes away. When I went to college at the U of MN, Twin Cities Campus, I became aware of how accessible goods and services are to so many others out there. Throughout my career in the green industry, I've been fortunate enough to work in rural, or very rural, areas the entire time. I've had a fair number of interns and assistants that have come and gone, and they've come from all walks of life. The deeper I get into working with the next generation, and this is not a millennial dissing piece, the more I see individuals coming from urban settings. The one constant that they leave with is an appreciation of the resourcefulness of the operation here at Bully Pulpit.

I think it goes back to the hoarding trend of my father. They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, and boy do I hate to admit that to be true. I always saw his tendencies as cluttered and disorganized, with a plethora of junked out pieces and parts here and there. Now that I've been in the golf course trade for

going on 20 years, I've had to look back in the mirror and say, "You are your father's son." While growing up, even through the disorganized shelves, boxes, and corners, my dad seemed to know and remember where everything was. As I near my newest season at this particular golf course, I've become aware of how many times I've catalogued these same types of junked out and seemingly worthless items. And as the increases in inflation keep going, along with restricted availability, I'm realizing more and more the importance of that recognized hoarding, make that resourcefulness!

The reason I've agreed to share my thoughts is that we are entering unprecedented times of challenges in our industry. I've watched the increase in goods skyrocket in the past year. Living in the remote west of North Dakota, we don't have the luxury of running downtown for this, that and the next thing. What was once one-or two-day shipping is becoming longer, and the availability of the good might not be what I wanted, either. So, I've learned to adapt and hold onto certain things until I can think of a way to fix either by myself, with the help of others, or outsource to the proper teams to get it done.

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My focus today is going to be on irrigation heads. We have a RainBird system here at the BP, but I'm sure the prices of the Toro folks will ring true as well, and the same challenges arise. What I'm about to say is probably a poor reflection on my management style, but it's the reality.

- How many times have you gone out in the field to work on a stuck or improperly performing irrigation head?
- How many times do you attempt to fix it before you get pulled into something else and have to either delegate the issue to an irrigation tech or assistant (if you have one!)?
- How often do you become frustrated and realize you've wasted the same amount of time messing with that head vs if you'd have just dug it up and screwed a new one on?

We've got some challenges with water quality out here in the arid region of the west. There are several impurities that cause some issues with our rotors and casings, in general. For whatever reason, I just can't fix some issues in a timely fashion and I have to realize it's easier to cut my losses, isolate a zone and twist a new head on the swing joint. I'd prefer to keep teaching and mentoring, but I'm sure I'm not alone when I say we've worked on heads and got them to perform, only to have issues a couple of days later. If you are pulled in multiple directions, you may not have the time to run back and forth to answer questions and teach new staffers every time there's an issue. So, when that frustration and time restriction takes center stage, and you decide to dig up the head and twist a known

working one on, what do you do with the old one?

- Do you have a testing station where you can then diagnose the issue without golfers bombarding you?
- Do you have folks on your staff who are irrigation savants that can diagnose and fix issues rapidly?
- Do you ask a staffer to properly identify the rotor/head in a way that you know what its issues and problems are, so when you have the time to try something together, later, there's a systematic approach to the diagnosis and repair?

I try for the last one. But the reality is, the kid I asked/delegated to make that distinction, probably just threw it in a corner and then left for school before ever getting to it. With all the flooding and changeover in seasonal staff, I looked at our accumulation of "troubled heads" a few winters ago and thought, "We have to do something about this!" The money tied up in undiagnosed problems was eating me up. I then recalled either an advertisement or flyer in the mail from a company called Sports Turf Irrigation, out of Placentia, California. They basically advertised that they'll fix any head or rotor, Toro or Rainbird, for a fraction of the cost of a new purchase. I saw a recent flyer for the pre-season sale on Rainbird 900/950s and 700/752s, and it reinforced my decision to keep working with these guys.

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Diamonds continued from page 11

**I had items to consider and steps to take:**

1.) I had to send in a sample of enough heads to see what the cost was going to be. I started back in 2020 with a dozen heads. I made full assemblies out of 750s and 751s that had quit turning, and paired them with cases that were marked one way or the other as chronic weepers, stuck, etc. Same for some 950s. I sent them all off to the company. For an average cost of \$98 per unit, they went through and repaired them. I compared that to a new out-of-the-case assembly at around \$300 (at the time), or a rotor replacement, which was probably the same cost.

2.) I had to look at the time I, an assistant, and usually another, spend on repairs — one, if not two, times. The value of that per-hour can easily exceed \$100 bucks. For me, in my operation, it's cheaper for me to put those troubled heads into a known location and send them off annually in the winter (reduced rates!) for repair. They'll fix what needs fixing — usually new selector keys, pilot tubes, and bottom valves are common. If something is unfixable, they'll let me know and I can then make a decision.

3.) I repeated this in 2021 with nine assemblies at an average of \$80 per unit, and again this past year with 17 pieces that cost around \$132 each for repair. Out of new cartons, those same 17 assemblies would set you back around \$5600.

I believe I've saved our club a

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substantial amount of cash, and have also resourced troubled or damaged pieces back into the field. Sports Turf Irrigation does a few good things: Pay shipping to get repair heads to their factory (customer pays return), pressure test with water, and clean up everything. They also have a few things for sale that could be of interest. One item I read about on Turfnet, and saw they carried, was a repair fitting called KwikRepair. Look them up. I've been begging one vendor to carry them — they are great. If things get tough to find, you can even purchase full, reconditioned assemblies. It might be you are simply trying to get by for a couple of years till a renovation, and need a cost-effective alternative to get by.

Maybe someday I'll have more time

and will be able to ween myself off of Sports Turf's services, but for now, I'll continue to do my business with them. Oh, and for anyone doing irrigation upgrades or new systems, they buy old rotors, assemblies, cases and I think even controllers. Instead of filling a landfill or dumpster, think about your hourly value, and what it costs to even work on a delinquent irrigation head!

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# The Runaway Tractor or Why I give Staff a Pass (Sometimes)

Brian Roth, CGCS

Oquirrh Hills Golf Course, Tooele, Utah

*Grass Clippings, Idaho GCSA*

***This is a story deserving to be shared!***

I started my career in golf course management in northern Utah at Sherwood Hills, a nine-hole “mom and pop” course. Located in Sardine Canyon, between Logan and Brigham City, it was a very

scenic setting flanked by towering cliffs above and heavily forested with native Gambel Oak, Big Tooth Maple, and some aspen interspersed with majestic towering Douglas Fir. The course was built by the owner/operator in the early 70s and was run by him, his wife, and a daughter, with some summer/seasonal help. The course was run very... frugally, shall we say, as most courses of this nature are. I remember that none of the flagsticks were the same height. When one would break, we would just drill out the old ferule and glue it back on the bottom of the stick. The flags were old and tattered with different versions of the course logo, depending on the time of purchase. During my second year there, I was in charge of the seasonal staff and oversaw pretty much all of the daily maintenance activities like mowing, bunker raking, changing holes, irrigation repair, etc. I even did some mechanic/repair work, mostly on the old golf cart fleet that was way past its prime. The equipment was

well-used — Toro 300s for greens and tees, and the standard three-wheel Cushman Truck with the shift stick on the steering column. We used tractors, an old Ford, and a solid Massey Ferguson, to pull gang mowers — a 7-gang for fairways and a 5-gang for roughs.

On this particular day, I was mowing the roughs on the Massey, with its large wide turf tires, and the 5-gang. Mowing the rough usually took four to five hours, but I would try to finish it all before taking lunch. The course routing was an out-and-back layout, with the first hole heading south from the clubhouse, continuing mostly south through the fifth hole. Starting with the sixth hole, the course headed back north through the ninth hole, ending near the clubhouse. The first few starting holes and last couple of returning holes were constructed along a bench/side hill area, so the fairways tended to slope from right to left on the outbound, and left to right on the inbound. Hole one and hole eight were adjacent to each other, separated by about 200-250’ of sage brush and native grasses, and about a 30’ elevation between holes. We had a fairly flat spot on the right side of hole number one, up behind some trees and out of the way, where we would park the gang mowers for the night.

I finished mowing roughs, pulled the tractor and mower up on the hill to the “flat” area, and hopped off to pull the tow pin from the mower/tractor connection. After doing so, I decided to stretch my legs and take a short walk through the trees for a few minutes to look for wayward golf balls. I took only 10-12 steps and, out of the corner of my eye, saw something moving. I abruptly (and with panic) turned back to see the big



*Brian Roth, CGCS*

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***“Get out of the way,  
get out of the way!!!” I screamed,  
almost hysterically...”***

tractor slowly creeping forward. I had neglected to set the park brake before getting off! I stumbled through the trees back towards the tractor. I had a short moment of relief as I was gaining! I would be able to jump up into the seat and get control of the big yellow machine. I was getting close to the rear tire and with just a couple of more steps, I could grab on... when the tractor started picking up speed! The tractor had rolled through the flat spot and crested the slope above the fairway. It rolled down the hill and then started across the fairway, as I ran behind in panic, losing ground with every step. I ran as fast as I was able, but could see that I was steadily falling behind. In my mind, everything seemed to be in slow motion, but not in the real life episode I was experiencing. As the Massey reached the far side of the fairway, it paused momentarily before renewing its journey down the next slope. It bounced and bounded down the sage covered slope above the eighth green — gaining speed every second — as I stumbled, resolute in my hopeless pursuit. I glanced up past the bouncing tractor, and, in alarm, saw a foursome putting on the eighth green oblivious to the massive steel monster bearing down on them.

“Get out of the way, Get out of the way!!!” I screamed,  
continued page 16

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**Runaway Tractor** continued from page 15

almost hysterically, waving my arms frantically in the air. “MOVE, MOVE!!!” Floundering and staggering through the brush, I finally succumbed to the native tangle of sage and grass, and sprawled to the ground. As I lay on the ground, gasping for air, I could see below me the golfers scattering like ants on a recently disturbed anthill. It appeared the players would make it, as they sprinted off of the front of the green. The tractor continued, relentless, toward the back edge of the green... targeted right at a lone, innocent golf bag. I was envisioning a violent collision with clubs, bag, and other golf gear, exploding into the air. The barreling beast turned slightly, following the

slope as it approached the bag. It blew by, barely tickling one of the bag stand legs. The bag wobbled and fell slowly to the ground. Thump, everything was unscathed and intact as the runaway tractor continued to bounce and careen through the native mountain landscape. At that point, the last obstacle in sight was the four-lane highway below, a mile and a half down the mountain. In despair, I watched helplessly, imagining a horrific end to the journey of the yellow beast. About half of the way down the mountainside to the highway, the tractor curiously appeared to pause. I cautiously look closer, “Is it slowing down? Is it still moving?” I asked myself warily. Maybe...

continued page 18



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## Runaway Tractor

continued from page 16

maybe... I stood gingerly, and slowly worked down the slope to where the machine was sitting. As I got closer, I could see that the tractor was definitely immobile, caught up and high-centered on a huge pile of logs and tree stumps. Above my racing, pounding heart, was a soft, melodic sound. The low, gentle rumble of an idling motor.

To this day, I still get chills when I think about the Runaway Tractor and the multiple grim possibilities avoided that day. They were avoided only by chance, or Divine intervention. We all make mistakes and sometimes things just happen. Other than for safety related concerns or repeat offenders, I tend to give my staff the benefit of the doubt when slip-ups happen. It's not like they are going out and thinking, "How can I really screw up today?" I recall an incident several years ago, fresh after an exasperated reminder

during a morning staff meeting about making sure equipment is fueled up before going out on the golf course. It was a couple of days later that I raced out of the shop early one morning, chasing down several stuck sprinkler heads. My mechanic got a humble phone call about 30 minutes later. With a quiet, embarrassed whisper I asked, "Can you please bring me some gas?" I can still hear the laughter.

### Are you employed at a municipality?

Join the discussion with those with like challenges. Contact: [greg.vanhollebeke@seattle.gov](mailto:greg.vanhollebeke@seattle.gov) to be part of the email list.



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# Chapter Leadership Symposium

GCSAA hosts a Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium in the spring at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. The symposium provides leadership training, development and support to chapters. It also highlights the programs and services available to chapters through GCSAA, and provides an opportunity for chapter leaders and executives to network with their peers from around the country. The program is limited to 25 chapters.



*Garrett Turner*

Attending the March 2022 event was Garrett Turner, The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, along with Idaho GCSA member, Jason Sigmund, The Valley Club; and Inland Empire GCSA member, Mike Grilley, The Links; and Lori Russell, Executive Director.

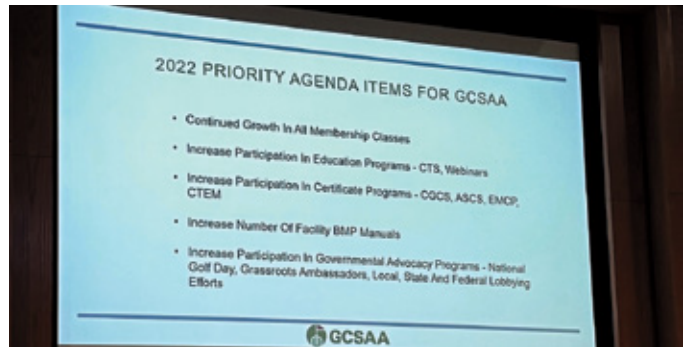


“I felt like we were on a “mission from God,” as the Blues Brothers say. Not only to learn about leadership skills, but to conquer the duck fat fries at the Burger Stand.”

*Jason Sigmund, The Valley Club*



*(above) Russell, Grilley, Old Tom, Turner, and Sigmund*



“Attending the GCSAA Chapter Leadership Symposium was a great experience. Visiting the headquarters and meeting the people behind the scenes gave me a new perspective on how important the organization is for our industry.”

*Garrett Turner,  
The Reserve at Moonlight Basin*



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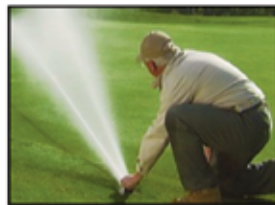


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