

Meet for Great Golf and Conversations at Three Crowns



We are fortunate to have so many fantastic golf courses in our region! Whether this is your first opportunity to enjoy Three Crowns Golf Club in Casper, Wyo.,

or another opportunity to appreciate this Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed course — you want to save the date! Join us September 19, for the Wyoming Peaks & Prairies GCSA Scholarship/Education Golf Event. Host superintendent is Jared Dillinger.

Registration is open now and hole sponsors are welcome. With the cooler nights of September, it is easier to get away and check in with your peers. Remember, you don't have to be a member to play. This might even be a perfect crew activity!



PPGCSA Upcoming Events:

PPGCSA Wyo. Scholarship/Education Golf Event - September 19, 2023,

Fall Meeting & Trade Show - November 7-9, 2023, Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, Mont.

Private Webcast, PPGCSA - January 2024 (TBA)

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room - Phoenix, Ariz., January 31, 2024

PPGCSA "Almost" Spring Meeting - March 4-5, 2024, DoubleTree by Hilton (downtown), Billings, Mont.

Thank you, WSGA

We thank the Wyoming State Golf Association board of directors, and their executive director, Dave Snyder, for their support of our continuing education programs. They understand the value of golf course superintendent continuing education to benefit golf. \$500 was received for 2022 support and \$500 for 2023 support.

BMPs for All

If your facility does NOT have a BMP manual either started or in place online with GCSAA, on May 23, 2023, GCSAA provided a facility BMP manual via GCSAA's online facility BMP planning guide, modeled after your facility's state.

Please refer to the GCSAA email of May 23 or gcsaa.org for more information on how to access your BMP facility manual, and how to update it for your facility.

Montana Golf Community Meeting

Thank you to Mike Sweeney, USGA; executive director Nick Dietzen; and the Montana State Golf Board of Directors for bringing together all factions of golf for the Montana Golf Community Meeting. Representatives traveled to Butte Country Club in April for an afternoon of communication and valuable conversations. One attendee was surprised to learn there was an association for the continuing education of golf course superintendents!

Representing Peaks & Prairies GCSA were Dane Gamble, Derek Hofer, Rick Hathaway, Pat Nowlen, Jason Aanstad, and not pictured, Lori Russell and our host, Casey Schlepp.

We agree with Nick Dietzen, MSGA, when he followed up with the group, "Thank you to all who traveled, attended, shared information and discussed the great many topics on our collective minds. It is clear that there is a need and enthusiasm to meet more regularly and to continue the conversations."



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

Inside this issue

President’s Message	page 3
Winter is Over and Repair has Begun	page 4
The Future of Golf	page 8
Hilands Tournament	page 12
Building a Better Mousetrap	page 13
Staff	page 17
New Members	page 18

Advertisers index

Masek Golf Cars	page 3
Midland Implement	page 4, 16, 20
Floratine Northwest	page 5
Steiner Thuesen PLLC	page 6
Helena	page 6
Desert Green Turf	page 6
Stotz Equipment	page 7
Johnson Distributing	page 8
Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons	page 9
Simplot Turf & Horticulture	page 10
Magic Valley Bentgrass Sod	page 10
2M Company	page 11
BASF	page 12
Planet Turf	page 13
Turf Solutions Inc.	page 14
Pacific Golf & Turf/Rain Bird	page 15
Baer Design Services	page 17
Granite Peak Pump Service	page 18
AMGUARD	page 18
Tom Roe & Son	page 18
DCI Engineers	page 19

Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association

OFFICERS

President: **Ryan Blechta**, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club,
Big Sky, Mont., 406/ 539-4405 (C)
Vice President: **Garrett Turner**, The Reserve at Moonlight
Basin, Big Sky, Mont. 406/209-5498 (C)
Secretary/Treasurer: **Ryan Knapp**, Stock Farm, Hamilton,
Mont. 406/ 396-6009 (C)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brandon Barkley, 3 Creek Ranch Golf Course, Jackson
Hole, Wyo., 307/413-2544 (C)
Derek Hofer, Green Meadow Country Club, Helena, Mont.,
406/422-2963 (C)
Justin Bishop, The Powder Horn, Sheridan, Wyo.,
703/774-5189 (C)
Pat Nowlen, City of Polson, Polson, Mont. 406/249-5121
Cody Schulke, Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont.
509/432-3744 (C)
Sean Sullivan, CGCS, The Briarwood, Billings, Mont.,
406/696-0612 (C)
Past President: Rick Hathaway, Rock Creek Cattle Company,
Deer Lodge, Mont. 406/846-1446 (S) or 406/560-8371 (C)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education: Jason Lamb
Finance: Ryan Knapp
Government Affairs: TBD
Membership Outreach: Garrett Turner
Nominating: Rick Hathaway
Rounds4Research: Justin Bishop, Lori Russell
Scholarship: Jason Busch
Tournament: Justin Bishop & Ryan Blechta

GCSAA Chapter Delegate: Pat Nowlen

Allied Member Liaison: Jason Aanestad, Pacific Golf & Turf

Assistant Superintendent Liaison: Craig Ross, Green
Meadow Country Club

THE PERFECT LIE is published quarterly by Peaks & Prairies
GCSA, and is edited by Lori Russell. Our newsletter is not copy-
righted, but we would appreciate credit being given when original
material is reprinted. Advertising and article deadlines are the 10th
of February, April, July, and October.

PEAKS & PRAIRIES GCSA OFFICE

Lori Russell, Executive Director
P.O. Box 5003, Missoula, MT 59806 ppgcsa.org
Phone: 406/273-0791 ppgcsa@ppgcsa.org

*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

Getting the Most from Your Team

Ryan Blechta

**Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
Big Sky, Mont.**



As the snow melts here in Big Sky, I think about my TEAM for this summer and how I can get the most out of them. We still have 20" on our course, but it is melting fast. Although we don't open until June 16, we still have lots of work ahead of us to get our course in top condition before we open. This year in SW Montana we had an above-average snow year, 128% above average, to be exact. This kept the skiers/snowboarders very happy with endless fresh powder, but now that it is melting, the time has come to get the team ready for the rollercoaster ride of getting the golf course in shape. It takes a dedicated, hard-working team to get the job done and I am a firm believer in creating and retaining a great team.

It all starts with the first impression on their first day on the job and how we treat them. They are studying us as much as we are studying them. Knowing your employees is the key to great leadership. Whenever we hire new employees we have them go through our two-day orientation, which not only teaches them about our company, but also teaches them about our core values:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • Learning | Teaching and Mentoring |
| • Integrity | Doing the right thing |
| • Gracious | Kind & Courteous |
| • Humility | Grateful & Appreciative |
| • Trust | True to your word |
| • Communication | Listening |
| • Passion | Attitude |
| • Respect | Team Player |

When interviewing new employees, I always look to see if they have any of the above values and what they can bring to the team. I am a firm believer in hiring the right people, rather than just hiring a body to fill a position. Interviewing and hiring

the right person from the start makes my job a lot simpler down the road. I am all about honesty, do what is right, and do everything with honesty — ethics. Once you start creating that awesome team, you need to retain that team year after year. I know we have all been there and we have had great team players, and some not-so-great team players. I always revert back to our values and if I can teach these values, then I will create a great TEAM.

When performing reviews this year to my full-time year-round staff, I asked them, "What is your purpose? What makes you come to work every day?" This is the information I learn from and this is the information that helps me be a great boss. If I cannot give them the tools or resources to make them want to come to work every day, then I cannot expect them to show up on time and do their best.

In the end, there is only one person who controls your performance at work. If you think that person is not you, then you are wrong. You control your performance. You are the one who decides how well you perform. You have to be at your job a set number of hours every day. Why not be your best? You will feel good about yourself when you know you have given your all.

"None of us is as smart as all of us."

Ken Blanchard

**Thank you to all golf courses
who donated to the
2023 Rounds 4 Research!**



Winter is Over and Repair has Begun

Rick Hathaway

Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deer Lodge, Mont.

The bluebirds are back. That must mean spring is here in the Rockies. It was a long time coming this year. Here at Rock Creek Cattle Company we went about 110 days of consecutive snow cover. I know for those of you up in the mountains this might not seem like a long time, but for us folks down in the lower elevations, this was quite a long winter.

As the snow receded this spring, a few issues became apparent due to the prolonged snow cover. The most obvious of these was the vole damage. In a typical season, we measure vole damage in thousands of square feet. This year we are measuring it in acreage. All that extra time for those voles to be living out in the fairways (and greens for that matter) under the snow cover resulted in a massive amount of damage.

There are a few schools of thought about how to treat vole damage. In conversation with USGA agronomist Cory Isom, he summed up these in three procedures. The first was to rake the duff off of the damaged areas, followed by seeding, then placing the duff back over the seed to protect it. Others simply remove the duff, clean up the mess, and hope the extra sunlight

will promote recovery. And lastly, just leave the duff to protect the damaged areas and new shoots to encourage them to grow back.

There's no magic solution. The good news is that it almost always grows back given enough time.

What we decided to do this spring here at Rock Creek, was sweep up the duff and fertilize the damaged areas with one lb. of nitrogen to promote as much growth as possible. It's still early here and we are not seeing very much recovery, but the fertilizer should help things along.

Another result of the long snow cover was some breakthrough in our fairway snow mold fungicide. We are fortunate

continued page 6



Innovative Seeding, Top Dressing and Debris Management
Products to meet your ever changing Turf Maintenance Practices.



Minimal disruption when seeding into damaged

**Midland
Implement**
Company, Inc.

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





Rooted in Science™
WHEN QUALITY MATTERS.



Floratine Foliar[™] use the following base technologies to ensure your plants get the nutrients when they need them most.



ORGANIC ACIDS

Nature's most biologically active form of carbon for superior nutrient uptake and translocation.



AMINO ACIDS

The basis for protein production and vital for natural plant defense.



GLYCOMICS

Mother Nature's invention for moving nutrients around and within plants. Floratine Foliar couple nutrients with glycomics to aid in foliar absorption.



ANTIOXIDANTS

Help turf counteract stress to protect it.



VITAMIN-HORMONES

Natural, plant-derived bio-molecules that help restore the natural growth habit of intensively managed turf.

OUR PROMISE

We understand that your **professional reputation and livelihood** are largely dependent upon the quality of the turfgrass you manage. With that in mind, Floratine promises to deliver the purest, most technologically advanced foliar and soil-based solutions with expert agronomic support to help you maintain superior turfgrass quality in formidable conditions.

floratine.com



Contact Richard Strautman for more info
(360) 305-7619

Richard Strautman
(360) 305-7619
stretch@floratinenw.com

Mike White
(425) 941-8083
mike@floratinenw.com

Forrest Goodling
(503) 849-9249
forrest@floratinenw.com

Troy Russell
(541) 297-1078
troy@floratinenw.com

Repair has Begun continued from page 4

enough to be able to treat our fairways. Historically we have used PCNB but decided to make a change to Contend A and Contend B from Syngenta. We were happy overall with how the product worked, but in the toughest spots we had some breakthrough. The activity of the fungicide kept these spots to a minimum and as soon as we got a few warm days, new shoots were coming up through the damaged leaf tissue.

And lastly, the long winter led to a lot of hungry elk looking for food. Despite our best efforts, the elk damaged a great

deal of turf both in terms of pawing the ground, removing snow cover in areas they feed, and the thousands of areas damaged by elk urine. Not much to do here, except provide the right growing conditions with irrigation, fertility, and cultivation and hope mother nature helps us out for as speedy a recovery as possible.

The winter of 22-23 was about as long as it gets around here. I guess it should not be a total surprise that the voles were massively destructive, our snow mold fungicide didn't quite make it, and the elk were diligent in tearing things up searching for food.



STEINER THUESSEN PLLC
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IRRIGATION DESIGN

1925 Grand Avenue Billings, Montana, 59102 406-252-5545
www.steinerthuesen.com info@steinerthuesen.net

 	 <i>People...Products...Knowledge...</i>	
Chris Concienne 509-795-9175 concienne@helenachemical.com		

	Nathan Cox Owner Sport Turf & Golf Sales 509.750.1614	Tracy Young Office Manager Residential Commercial Sales 509.350.0707	Martin Gallardo Operation Manager 509.989.2200
Premium sand based sports turf www.desertgreenturf.com			



Lawn & Garden

Government >

Agriculture

Military Solutions

Construction

Landscaping & Grounds Care

Golf & Sports Turf

Forestry

Dealers

State, Local & Cooperative Contracts >

Parts

Service

Support

Financing

Zero-Turn Mowers

Golf & Sports Turf >

Compact Construction Equipment

Front & Wide-Area Mowers

Tractors

Gator™ Utility Vehicles

Compact Utility Tractors

The perfect finish right from the start.

Out in the field or on the course, we've got you covered with the quiet, comfortable 1200A Field Rake – the go-to workhorse for sports turf pros everywhere. And back at the office? Thanks to contract pricing, wide selection and experienced local dealers, count on a process that makes getting the right equipment for the best price about as smooth as it could possibly be. JohnDeere.com/Local.

Exactly what you want, for everything you need to do.



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



The Future of Golf

Cory See, Superintendent
Fossil Island Golf Club, Kemmerer, Wyo.

The rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer. The future of golf will simply be between the haves and have-nots. Some courses will have the resources

and some won't. The biggest resource that golf courses will have to fight for is water. A quick look at the Southwest will tell you about everything you need to know about water and golf courses. The Colorado River is at historic lows, Lake Mead is apparently lined with dead bodies, and everyone is trying to secure water for their golf course for the future. All of this is happening while many places in the country are having historic rain and snow, although it is just only temporary help to a long-term problem.

The rich will always have the money or connections to secure water for their course. What if you are not at an exclusive private course? What if you do not have money or connec-

tions? You will be left to fend for yourself. And that's okay... for now...because we live in the Northwest and it's a small issue at this point. But, the issue is gaining momentum. It would be wise to look at water- reducing options on your course while you still have control.

What do the BMPs say?

"Potable water supplies in many areas ... are limited, and demand continues to grow. Our challenge is to find solutions to maintain quality of golf while using less water." *Page 24, Best Management Practices for Wyoming Golf Courses.*

1. Use effluent water when and where possible. This is an absolute no brainer for courses that have this option. This is basically recycling water.

2. Convert out-of-play turf areas to native, no mow, or

continued page 10



JOHNSON
DISTRIBUTING

Johnson Distributing
(800) 332-7302
www.johnsondistributing.com Great Falls, MT
Aaron Violett Cell: (406) 270-5881
Greg Dozier Cell: (406) 868-9443



Club Car



HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREENS NUTRITION

The combination of Contec DG® - Gen 3 dispersing granules and Foltec® SG soluble granules provides ideal premium nutrition for greens, tees, and other fine turf.

Contec DG®
— GENERATION 3 —

Featured on select Contec DG products, these granules are easier to spread and easier to see, saving turf managers both time and money.

Foltec SG

Each Foltec SG product contains a specific N-P-K ratio along with essential micronutrients, UltraMate® SG, and sea plant extract, simplifying sprayable nutrition programs.



Use the Turf Nutrition Tool (TNT) to build customized nutrition programs featuring Contec DG, Foltec SG, and more!



WILBUR-ELLIS SPECIALISTS

Mike Doty
Billings, MT
800-736-5359

Brent Radford
Spokane, WA
509-994-4735

THE ANDERSONS TERRITORY MANAGER

Ed Price, CGCS
509-981-9077

AndersonsPlantNutrient.com



©2023 The Andersons, Inc. All rights reserved. Contec DG, Foltec, TNT, and UltraMate are registered trademarks of The Andersons, Inc. B23



With formulations designed for specific agronomic concerns, PerformancePack™ specialty products offer you the tools you need for healthy, vibrant, beautiful turf no matter the season, no matter the conditions.



Brian McGiff
brian.mcgiff@simplot.com
cell: (208) 569-8756

Jason Aerni
jason.aerni@simplot.com
cell: (970) 231-5623

Learn more at TH.Simplot.com
and follow [@SimplotTurf](https://twitter.com/SimplotTurf) on Twitter.

©2023 Simplot AB Retail, Inc. All rights reserved. The foregoing trademarks are owned by the J.R. Simplot Company. Read and follow label directions. Confirm registration before use.

Future of Golf continued from page 8

alternate ground cover.

3. Use drought-tolerant grasses to help maintain a high-quality surface while minimizing water.

4. If you have water rights, do your due diligence to make sure everything is in order, and know what your rights entitle you to, what order you are in and how much water you are entitled to.

“BMP and educational programs are necessary to change the public’s mindset toward the inevitable changes in water-related issues.” *Page 24, Best Management Practices for Wyoming Golf Courses.*

This wording above tells me just how drastic the inevitable changes are going to be. Apparently, they will be so drastic that we will have educational programs to “change the public’s mind(set) toward the inevitable changes.” If these changes are going to be so drastic that we are having classes for the golfers to understand the inevitable changes, then these changes sound like a little more than replacing some rough and using different types of grasses here and there. Instead of cutting 20% of your water use they may ask you to only use 20%. That’s drastic! That’s worth a golf intervention education program. What would you do? What could you do?

While these changes may be years off for us, it is a new reality for many courses in the country and it will make its way to us. Consider thoughtfully preparing your golf course.



MAGIC VALLEY BENTGRASS

- Top Performing Cultivars
- Sand Root Zone
- Custom Production Available



MAGIC VALLEY TURFGRASS

fine fescue • tall fescue • native mix
Kentucky bluegrass • perennial rye

Office: 208.326.2220

mvturf@outlook.com

Matt Nelson: 208.358.4420

matt@magicvalleybentgrass.com

THE MOST ADVANCED IRRIGATION SOLUTION IN THE INDUSTRY. Heavy-duty TTS-800 rotors provide maximum uniformity and longevity in the field. The rotors have an extra-large, fast-access flange compartment that comfortably accommodates wire connections and two-way modules. No-dig Total Top Serviceability means maintenance is a breeze.



Hunter®

TTS-800 Series Golf Rotors



*Photos courtesy of
Hunter Industries*

**CHECK OUT HUNTER'S PILOT COMMAND CENTER
SOFTWARE THAT MAKES GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION
EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE**

PilotCCS is simple to use because it works the way you do. You can manage thousands of individually controlled sprinklers and perform all schedule changes from one screen in seconds. Simply update your course watering plan with a few clicks and turn your attention elsewhere — Pilot takes care of the rest.



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

2MCO.COM

Thank you to Hilands Golf Club, host of Peaks & Prairies GCSA Scholarship/Education Golf Event!

Thank you to Pete Grass, CGCS and his team for making it an enjoyable day for all with wonderful course conditions and serving a great meal.



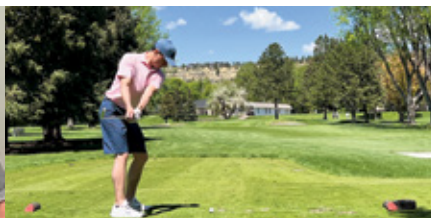
Moonlight Basin - 1st Place



Powell Golf Club - 2nd place



Exchange Club - 3rd place



Simplot Turf & Horticulture
Hole plus pin prize

2M Company
Briarwood Golf Club
Desert Green Turf

EarthWorks Carbon Based
Fertility

Granite Peak Pumping Service
Hilands Golf Club
Johnson Distributing

Larchmont Men's Association
Magic Valley Bentgrass

Masek Golf Cars
Midland Implement

Pacific Golf & Turf
Soil Diva

Steiner Thuesen, PLLC
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons

A REVOLUTIONIZING INNOVATION

Maxtima® fungicide is an advanced turf-safe DMI that can be sprayed anywhere on your course for unrivaled broad-spectrum control of the toughest cool season diseases — from brown ring patch to anthracnose and more.

Patrick Peterson PCA
Turf and Ornamental Sales Specialist
patrick.peterson@basf.com | 971-286-1457

Maxtima®
Fungicide

Visit betterturf.basf.us for more information.
Always read and follow label directions.

Maxtima is a registered trademark of BASF.
© 2022 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.

This article originally appeared in the fall of 2009, The Perfect Lie. Times change and Tolson is no longer a superintendent. What hasn't changed is the value of the information.

Building a Better Mousetrap

Dan Tolson

3 Creek Ranch, Jackson Hole, Wyo
The Perfect Lie, 2009

Managing turfgrass in the mountain west offers unique challenges that stimulate creativity and experimentation. This time of year in other parts of the country, superintendents are worried about dis-

eases, insects, flooding, drought and more. In our part of the country, we're battling voles. I suppose snow mold, ice damage, wind, elk or drought get their share of conversation during doughnut



breaks at the fall meeting. But, at my golf course, the most significant damage in winter comes from voles. After permanent snow blankets the fairways, voles move in and enjoy fine dining mid-December through March. Anticipating my seventh winter at 3 Creek Ranch, I've been thinking all season about new ways to ensure the golf course emerges in spring with vole damage at an acceptable threshold.

I wanted to share a brief summary of what we intend to do this year to protect the course. I hope it generates some ideas for others. This is not university research, just a turf nerd trying to find a better way to control a pest. If you have vole

continued page 14



Jim Connolly- Distribution & International Sales
509-951-0270
Jim@planeturfusa.com

Jared Whitaker- Alaska, Central Washington, Wyoming
509-977-1354
Jared@planeturfusa.com

Jordan Anderson- Inland North West
816-217-7363
Jordan@planeturfusa.com

Aaron Stamper- Western Washington & Oregon
509-301-4589
Aaron@planeturfusa.com

Shane Hughes- Southeastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho
509-954-5773
Shane@planeturfusa.com

<https://planeturfusa.com>



Edge of Nordic Ski Trail



Better Mousetrap continued from page 13

problems and can offer any suggestions, I welcome your comments.

Habitat Modification:

We have 100 acres of native grass surrounding 80 acres of bluegrass fairways and rough. After a wet spring, the native grows thick and offers an ideal vole environment all summer. Our first step is to go in after them, mowing the native and burning lake edges in the fall. After mowing, we can easily identify areas of heavy activity. Also, disturbing their summer homes encourages migration to un-mowed areas far from the golf course. In addition to mowing the native, we reduce the height of cut in the bluegrass rough from two inches to one inch, gradually stepping it down starting in mid-September. I believe this discourages them from feeding on the Bluegrass because the rough canopy no longer offers burrowing shelter and the forage is less desirable. We especially focus on bunker faces where the voles are drawn to the steep, thatchy slopes and deep drifted snow that persists late into spring.

Poisoning:

Numerous poisons are registered for controlling voles. Most require an applicator's license to purchase. We have tried them all with varied success. 3 Creek Ranch is an environmentally sensitive property with abundant and diverse wildlife. We use poisons with care and have not tried broadcasting as some labels recommend. After mowing the native we patrol the bluegrass perimeters and place poison inside recently used tunnel

continued page 16

Turf Solutions Inc.

5445 S. 600 W.
Riverdale, UT 84405
Office 435.239.7400
David Combe 801.458.5541
Nanette Combe 801.643.6497



Dealer For



Sand products. Formerly
Unimin Sand



Bedknives, Tines, Infinity
reels, Grinding Wheels &
Mower Blades



Peat Products



Rollers for Reel Mowers,
Rotary Deck Mowers &
Greens Rolling Machines

**We also offer custom deep tine aerating, overseeding & top dressing
Contact us for pricing and scheduling!**

IRRIGATION HAS
ALWAYS BEEN IN
YOUR HANDS.
NOW IT LITERALLY IS.

CIRRUSPRO™



See how you can Be Fluid with
the only mobile-first irrigation
system on the market.

RAIN  BIRD

PACIFIC
GOLF & TURF

Jason Aanestad - Irrigation Specialist
jaanestad@pacificgolfturf.com
208.477.3755 (cell)

503.282.6022 - Parts
www.pacificgolfturf.com
9900 W Fairview Ave, Boise, ID 83704

Better Mousetrap continued from page 14

systems. All valve boxes, irrigation satellites, and catch basins are baited and poisoned as well.

Trapping:

There are many ways to trap a vole, some more cost-effective than others. We have had success laying 18" long sections of poly pipe throughout the course with a small amount of poison and aromatic bait (apples or peanut butter) inside. We place the "condos" along every ~50 yards of the native edges, next to catch basins, around greens and buried in the lip of bunkers. 1 1/4"- 1 1/2" pipe works best, 2" or bigger and the voles will build their nest inside the pipe. Installing a T with 3' of vertical pipe and a cap allows re-baiting throughout the winter. A roll of poly pipe is inexpensive and allows us to keep the poison protected under snow cover and safe from non-target species.

Deterrents:

Logical thought would say if you apply a product to the foliage that makes it taste bad to voles or makes them sick, they would avoid eating it. While spraying our fairways for snow mold, we make a pass with the sprayer around the perimeter of each hole. In the past I have observed where fungicides were applied, voles stayed away. Timing the spray to immediately precede snow cover is critical. Last year we applied fungicides early and the snow came late. The result was no observable benefit from our fungicides as a deterrent.

Another product we haven't used before, but intend to try on small areas this year, is castor oil impregnated on clay particles. Available under many labels and formulations, we are using "Dr. T's Mole Out," spread at 4 lbs./1000 and watered in. I have talked to sod farms and nursery growers who have had great results with this product.

Exclusion:

We are fortunate to have a snow cat for maintenance of a Nordic ski trail in winter. Though the voles can chew through valve box lids, plastic catch basins and sometimes concrete, it seems they are unable to burrow through the ice wall created by the groomer. As soon as there is enough snow, we will loop the perimeters of each golf hole where the slope and access permits the groomer or a snowmobile. We will mark grass lines with pin flags before snowfall. If you allow any bluegrass on the wrong side of the trail and voles can access it, damage will be worse than if there wasn't a trail.

The "Boom-Boom":

This is the best one of all. Results are immediate. It's not as effective as C-4 explosives, but almost as fun. Developed by a rancher in Nevada fed up with prairie dogs, it kills instantly, is painless, humane, all-natural and buries the pest in its hole. The device has a long handle with an electric igniter on the end. Oxygen and propane tanks feed fuel in proper proportion through hoses and out the bell end into the rodent hole.

continued page 17



Workman® UTX Series

AWD UTILITY VEHICLES

The Workman UTX is a straightforward, no-nonsense, 4-wheel drive utility vehicle built to stand up to the toughest tests without compromising performance. With Standard Commercial-grade components, the highest payload in its class, and a proprietary speed control system, it's designed for the rigors of a long work week. To raise the standard further, every Workman UTX features an integrated plow mount, power steering, turn signals, brake lights and a spray-on bed liner.



**Midland
Implement**
Company, Inc.



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

Staff

Derek Hofer

Green Meadow Country Club, Helena, Mont.



I have been working on golf courses since I was 14. Being 51 now, I have seen 37 seasons go by. Please know, I don't use this to qualify myself as any kind of authority, but to explain the point I'm trying to get to. The first four golf seasons

I was a crew member being taught by other employees: the mechanic, the assistant superintendent, and the superintendent. I was taught to show up on time, be prepared to work, finish the job, be reliable, the importance of the quality of work, and to also hurry up, dammit. I was also taught to smoke, chew tobacco, cuss, and drink beer after work. Being impressionable on all fronts and accountable to those around me, I wanted to fit in with the group. Mostly at that age, fitting in required me to do

as I'm told, learn what they are teaching me, and don't complain. I quickly took to the work and I learned to fit in. I acquired all the habits, good and bad.

Many of the embedded attitudes I carry with me today were shaped by that great bunch of people over thirty years ago in the late 1980s. Examples would include political views, unwavering stance on employees being on time to work, or if a golfer takes more than five seconds to hit the ball once it is addressed, they should really excuse themselves from the game forever. Also, golf course staff get plenty of breaks while waiting for golfers, hence beyond lunch we don't really need organized work breaks built into our day. I'm sure most of you can think of the individuals in your life who shaped you, as well.

Since those days of becoming whomever I was going to become, I have now become the one in the position to do the influencing. The point is, we all have an opportunity to be

continued page 18

Better Mousetrap from page 16

Upon igniting, a small explosion resembling a rifle blast sends a 500-psi shock-wave through the tunnel system. After mowing the native and before patrolling with the poison, we patrol with the "Boom-Boom." It also works great on pocket gophers, muskrats, badgers or any other tunneling mammal. It is labor intensive but 100% effective assuming the pests are in the hole. This year we are going to try a vole mega-plex to allow "Boom-Boom" use all winter. In a notoriously problematic area, 200' of poly pipe *PPE a must — Boom-Boom in Action*

with open ends, bait and three riser pipes should do nicely.

I refuse to think vole damage is something we "just deal with" or "is part of growing grass in the Rockies." The amount of labor required for spring cleanup, cost of extra fertilizer to grow damaged areas back in, labor to mow the ensuing hay, and the evidence all summer of munched turf makes it worthwhile to be proactive all season and especially in the fall. I've read that vole populations increase continually year to year then naturally crash every three-five years. I've been chasing voles for six years and still awaiting a crash. Until then, I plan to

keep experimenting until we find the best way to keep the turf looking and playing its best. Happy hunting...



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

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

www.baerdg.com



Joe Chavarria

Amvac Environmental Products

15902 NE Noble
Vancouver, WA 98682

360-952-0399

joe@amvac.com

Staff continued from page 17

examples for all sorts of people, including youth that never worked before. To lead by example. This means we get to shape attitudes in many arenas, such as general attitude towards work, how to create value for yourself, how to communicate with others, how to have patience, how to teach, show up on time, etc.

It's really crazy when one thinks about how many staffers are at each golf course, and therefore, how many people are influenced by the culture you create at your club. Specifically, in your work zone. For us, natural attrition on our golf course maintenance seasonal jobs equates to three-six new people per year. Add that up for 30 seasons, it could be 90 to 180 people that were influenced by me and by existing staff over the years. If it's the same case for the 15,500 other courses in the country, that would equate to 1.4 million to 2.8 million people getting some sort of influence from working to some degree at a golf course. I feel like that is substantial and also something to be responsible for.

What I am getting at is something I always incorporate into a new employee's orientation — be aware of your surroundings.

New Peaks & Prairies GCSA Members:

Scott Dillinger
Cheyenne Country Club
800 Stinner Rd
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 631-5188
scott@cheyennecountryclub.com

Hunter Industries
Michael Underwood
8900 Bellechase Rd
Granbury, TX 76049
(817) 578-7785
Michael.Underwood@hunterindustries.com

TORV, LLC
Eric Foerster CGCS, MG
260 Woodruff Rd
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 409-9874
eric@torv.me

Tim Kramer
Cheyenne Country Club
800 Stinner Rd
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 637-2201
timkramer966@gmail.com

Lane Mountain Bunker Sand
Wesley Hemphill
375 Erickson Ave NE Ste.222
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 842-0748
HEMPHILLW@gmail.com

Our year just started
April 1 - this is still a great
time to have your
employees join the
Peaks & Prairies GCSA!



With regards to a new employee, I do in fact mean that at face value with awareness to equipment, golfers, safety issues, weather, etc. With regards to myself and staff leaders, it means all of that, plus awareness to the eyes, ears, and minds of those who are tuned in to our conversations, actions, and responses to adversity.

Your staffers are watching and they are learning, so teach them something good. Teach them something useful that can benefit their future. Be a positive influence in their life to create value for themselves and for your operation. Have fun doing your job, while being proud of it. Whatever it is you're doing, they are absorbing it and processing it. If you want them to work responsibly, carefully, and thoughtfully, then you be a responsible, careful and thoughtful teacher. That is it, that is the message.



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

Jay Glen

jay@granitepeakpumpservice.com
www.granitepeakpumpservice.com

Your Local Factory Authorized:

Watertronics pump station service provider

Precision Pumping Systems service provider

Rain Bird pump station service provider

Sales, Service & Installation:

All types of pumps, controls & filter systems



"The Summit of Customer Satisfaction"



DCI ENGINEERS: **GOLF COURSE BRIDGE EXPERTS**

DCI Engineers offers **turnkey bridge services** - from **structure rehabilitation** to **full-scale design**—with hands-on involvement, starting with inspections through construction administration. We're here for every step and every major decision!



YOUR LONG DRIVE PARTNER

Our team has provided hundreds of bridge design and inspection services across the intermountain region and West Coast, ranging from new to rehabilitation design, in the following areas:

- » Bridge Inspection
- » Bridge Rehabilitation
- » New Bridge Design
- » Design Build Services
- » Geotechnical Services
- » Abutment Design
- » Permitting
- » On Site Consultation
- » RFQ and RFP services
- » Designed to any Bridge Load Configuration
- » Complete Civil Design

LET'S CHAT!

Cory Claussen

Technical Sales Director & NHI-Certified Bridge Inspector
cclaussen@dc-engineers.com | (406) 546-6983
www.dciengineers.com



LEARN MORE



With full in-house bridge design, DCI Engineers provides comprehensive support on any golf course bridge design concept. Our team understands the expectations of these structures have unique performance and aesthetic properties that make up the on-course golfing experience. We partner with pro-level subconsultants for additional survey, geotechnical, environmental and hydrological design services that meet the expectations of our clients.

SERVICE | **INNOVATION** | VALUE

THE PERFECT LIE

Peaks & Prairies Chapter P. O. Box 5003
GCSAA Missoula, MT 59806
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America www.ppgcsa.org

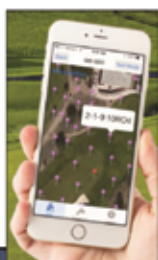
"Peaks & Prairies GCSA is dedicated to furthering the education of our members for the betterment of golf and its environment."

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



LYNX CENTRAL CONTROL

Remote access to your
 turf management is more
 important than ever.



Upgrade to the latest irrigation system control technology with the new Lynx® 7.0 Central Control System. The new operating system offers unprecedented precision, along with a range of significant advances designed to save time and simplify your daily irrigation system processes.



TORO INFINITY SERIES

One Sprinkler. Countless Benefits. Infinite Possibilities.

With all the efficiency and performance features of the 800S (Flex) and DT Series, and a patented SMART ACCESS™ design which enables you to add new technology for decades to come—using only a screwdriver.



**Midland
 Implement**
 Company, Inc.



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