

Fall Golf Opportunities in Two Fantastic Locations

In September, our Montana and Wyoming regions will each host a tournament to benefit the continuing education and scholarship programs of the Peaks & Prairies GCSA. This includes — as added in 2024 — (2) \$500 scholarships available to the Jr. Golf programs of two member's facilities.

First up will be golf at Big Sky Golf Course, an award-winning course designed by Arnold Palmer. Join your peers and our host, Matt Fregley, GCS, September 16. The links-style course offers spectacular views at 6,500 ft.



On September 23, enjoy The Golf Club at Devils Tower, Hulett, Wyo., hosted by Shawn Stutzman, GCS. In 2025, Golf Week designated the course a Top 200 Residential Course in the US, and in 2024 it was voted a Top 5 Wyoming Private Golf Course. Somewhat unique is the 5,500-foot-long runway nearby with rental hangars and shuttle service to the course. Designed by Rick Phelps and Kevin Atkinson, the challenging course is privately owned. The history of the Neiman family's four-generation sawmill and course history is an interesting read on The Golf Club of Devils Tower's website.



Registration will open soon and hole sponsors are welcome. Make your own teams or sign up as a single/partial team. We try to pair partials with a mixture of allied partners and course representatives when possible.

PPGCSA Upcoming Events:

- Big Sky Golf Course, Mont. Scholarship/Edu., Sept. 16, 2025*
- The Club at Devil's Tower, Wyo. Scholarship/Edu., Sept. 23, 2025*
- Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo - October 13-14, 2025*
- Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho*
- Private Webcast, PPGCSA - January 2026*
- Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room - Orlando, Florida, Tin Roof, February 4, 2026*
- PPGCSA "Almost" Spring Meeting - March 2-3 2026, Fairmont*

Conference and trade show registration will open in June for the Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo III, October 13 & 14, 2025.

Our impressive speaker lineup is included on page 11.

Congratulations Pat Finlen, CGCS

Denehy Club Thinking Partners

**Recipient of GCSAA's
 2025 Col. John Morley
 Award** for his significant contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession!



Call for PPGCSA Member Directory Updates and Advertising

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" on our website home page ppgcsa.org.

Allied Liason Position

Are you an allied partner interested in serving as the allied liaison to the Peaks & Prairies GCSA Board of Directors? This position offer the perspective of this important faction of our membership. As a liaison, we ask you to attend the two board meetings each year held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting and the "Almost"

continued page 4



“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
Leishner Retires	page 4
Show Up, Keep Up, Shut Up	page 6
Northwest Expo Flyer	page 11
Effective Control of Voles	page 12
New Members	page 14
My Journey to Golf Course Management	page 16
Golf Course Tour Highlights BMPs	page 18
Embracing Automation	page 21
Factory Service School	page 22
Written and Approved Standards	page 23

Advertisers index

Magic Valley Bentgrass Sod	page 3
Helena Agri-Enterprises	page 3
Tom Roe & Son	page 4
Midland Implement	page 4, 13, 24
Floratine Northwest	page 5
Steiner Thuesen PLLC	page 6
Stotz Equipment	page 7
Nutrien Solutions	page 8
2M Company	page 9
Desert Green Turf	page 12
Baer Design Services	page 13
Simplot Turf & Horticulture	page 14
Pacific Golf & Turf/Rain Bird	page 15
Planet Turf	page 16
Turf Solutions Inc.	page 17
Johnson Distributing	page 18
Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons	page 19
Granite Peak Pump Service	page 20
Masek Golf Cars	page 21

Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association

OFFICERS

President: Ryan Knapp, Stock Farm, Hamilton, Mont. 406/396-6009
 Vice President: Pat Nowlen, City of Polson, Polson, Mont. 406/249-5121
 Secretary/Treasurer: Brandon Barkley, 3 Creek Ranch Golf Course, Jackson Hole, Wyo., 307/413-2544

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justin Bishop, Kendrick Golf Course, Sheridan, Wyo., 703/774-5189
 Russ Grover, Buffalo Hill Golf Club, Kalispell, Mont. 435/232-5730
 Abe Colsey, Rochelle Ranch, Rawlins, Wyo., 307/871-5796
 Cody Schulke, Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont. 509/432-3744
 Sean Sullivan, CGCS, The Briarwood, Billings, Mont, 406/696-0612
 DJ Woodruff, Purple Sage Golf Course, Evanston, Wyo., 571/238-1202
 Past President: Garrett Turner, The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, Big Sky, Mont. 406/209-5498

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education: Sean Sullivan
 Finance: Brandon Barkley
 Government Affairs: TBD
 Membership Outreach: Garrett Turner
 Nominating: Garrett Turner
 Rounds4Research: Board Members & 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: Dustin Nelson, Buffalo Hill Golf Club

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

PEAKS & PRAIRIES GCSA OFFICE

Lori Russell, Executive Director
 P.O. Box 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

Ryan Knapp, Stock Farm Club, Hamilton, Mont.

I have had the pleasure of working in the golf industry for longer than I would care to admit. It has been very interesting as I reflect back on seeing the changes in how courses are maintained, how much data is collected, and how fertilizer and irrigation decisions are made.

The first golf course that I worked on in the 90s had an irrigation system that was in need of a serious upgrade. Irrigation heads were cobbled together with parts robbed from other sprinklers, pipe sizes were all over the map, inconsistent head spacing created either chronic wet or dry areas, and central programming was non-existent at that facility. Irrigating with that system was not nearly as customizable as things are now.

Fast forward to today, and it is easy to see how far things have come in the last thirty years. The number of tools and technologies available to us now would seem pretty far-fetched looking back — from better irrigation software giving us the ability to change watering times with the click of a button to the widespread use of weather stations and the advent of portable moisture sensors that enable us to see exactly where water needs to be applied. It is my opinion that the technology around the precise and proper application of water has been seen as the biggest technological bump in the last 30 years.

In a region where without irrigation, you don't have turf, the proper and precise application of water is crucial to all of our successes for many reasons. Over- and under-irrigation can lead to chronic wet and dry areas, leading to increased disease pressure and localized dry spots. Although many of us do not have to monitor irrigation water currently, there could be a time in the not-too-distant future when water monitoring becomes a requirement and we are held to some of the same restrictions that are more common in the southwest part of the country. In addition, more consistent irrigation will provide the golfers with more consistent playing conditions throughout the golf course. Irrigation is not the only aspect of our industry that has gone through a rapid technological growth spurt. GPS technology,

automated mowers, fertilizer and chemistry tracking, even digital job boards that help us track labor hours to areas on the golf course, just to name a few. Almost every aspect of our industry has seen a significant increase in technological advancements in the past twenty years.

As technology continues to evolve, it is important to stay up to date with the current trends and advancements that are happening. Our allied partners can be a great resource when researching newer technology and often have insight from their perspective that can help us make decisions about the management of our facilities. Peaks & Prairies meetings are also an important method to stay up to date with the latest technologies, which is a good justification for attending.

For many of us who've lived through some of this evolution of technology, the day of managing turf is more data-driven and less of an art form. We are required, either by boards or governing bodies, to justify the decisions that we make about maintaining the golf course with solid data and science. As we swing into our busiest time of the year, it is important to think about capturing some of that data for future use. Whether it is historical weather data, mapping out areas of perennial dry spots or wet spots, or even measuring clipping volume, the decisions that we make in the future will be more justified if they can be backed up by good data and science.



Chris Concienne
Sales Representative
Northwest Specialty

HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY
4802 N. Florida St.
Spokane, WA 99217
Dir: (509) 795-9175
Bus: (509) 536-2634
Fax: (509) 536-3244

Mob: (509) 795-9175
Home: (509) 840-4074
ConcienneC@HelenaChemical.com



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

Longtime Industry Professional Retires

Peter Grass, CGCS (Retired)

Peaks & Prairies GCSA members wish Doug Leishner well in his recent retirement. Like many children of superintendents, Doug began working for his father, Elmer, at Yellowstone Country Club in Billings at the age of 14 in 1967. When Elmer retired in 1979, he and Doug saw a need for somewhere that golf courses, especially smaller rural facilities and landscape companies, could have their equipment serviced and reels sharpened. They opened West Turf Sharpening and Repair that year and continued for 10 years until closing at the end of 1989. That's when Doug accepted a position as a service technician at long-time P&P Allied Member and supporter, Midland Implement. After 35 years of dedicated service at Midland Implement, Doug retired on February 1st of this year. Like many of us retirees, Doug looks forward to more time with family, resting his body (and mind) after years of the physical and mental demands of working. He looks forward to still helping deliver some equipment once in a while as needed for Midland Implement.

We wish him well and offer him thanks for 57 years of service to the golf industry in our region.

Allied Liaison Position Open

continued from page 1

Spring Meeting, as well as participate in online board discussions throughout the year, as needed. We also encourage you to keep in touch with your fellow members so you may offer their voice during board discussions.

Please contact Lori or a board member by August 15 to submit your name for consideration or for more information about the position. The position will be appointed at the board meeting held this fall.

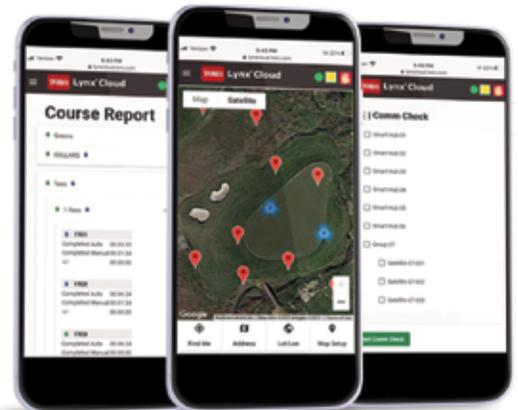
We would like to offer our thanks to Jason Aanestad, Pacific Golf & Turf, for his years of service as our allied liaison.



MAXIMUM MOBILITY

Toro Lynx Central Control System with Cloud-Based Enhancements

- Trouble shoot and perform critical issues
- View sprinkler snapshots



Lynx[®] Smart Modules

Whatever the future hold, they're ready.

- Remotely upgrade software from Lynx Central Control or plug laptop into Smart Hub
- LSM upgrades actually are better and easier than updating your cell phone

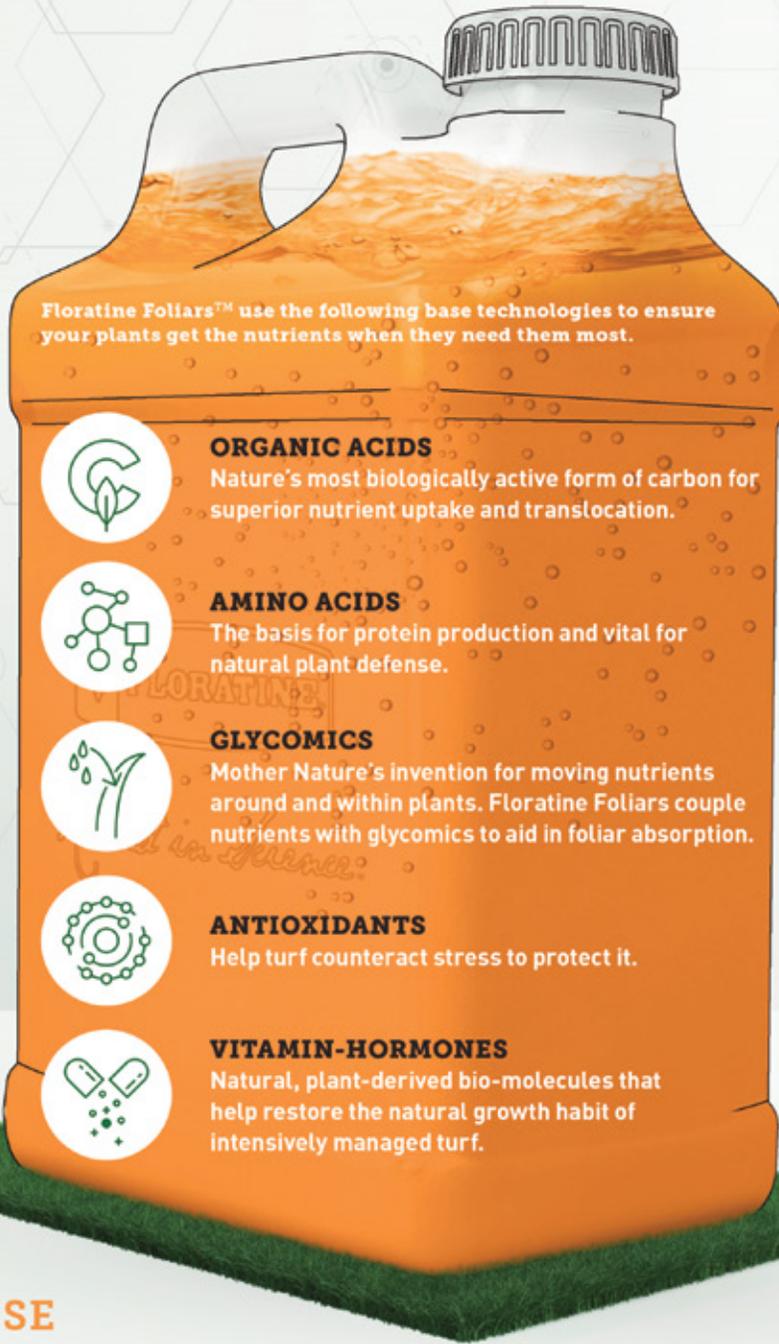
Midland Implement
Company, Inc.



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



Show Up, Keep Up, and Shut Up

Dane Gamble, Bridger Creek Golf Course, Bozeman, Mont.

Recently, on one of our many snowy winter days, I checked in on the Golf Channel just to see some sunshine and green grass. I was somewhat shocked to see Mike, “Fluff” Cowan walking off the green and picking up a bag. Yes, it was a PGA Champions Tour event;

yes, the players are a bit older, yes, they are 54-hole events and the golf bags might be just a bit lighter, but here we had a caddie who started his career in 1976!

Fluff already had 20 years on Tour, mostly with Peter Jacobsen, when he went on the bag for Tiger Woods. When Tiger Woods made his debut on the PGA Tour as a professional at the Greater Milwaukee Open, Fluff was the caddie for him. He was on the bag for Tiger’s first Green Jacket at the 1997 Masters. Their collaboration was short-lived and Cowan went to work with Jim Furyk for the next quarter-century. In the past year, Furyk’s injury limited play and Fluff’s own limitations following hip replacement have led to a bit more uncertainty for Fluff as he looks to wind down his Caddie Hall of Fame career. After all, the guy’s 77 years old. He could probably retire to Maryland and play golf at Congressional Country Club where he is a member, yet here he was, eight months following hip replacement surgery, working for Billy Andrade, doing what he loves — picking up the bag and heading to the next tee.

Seeing Fluff led me to think about caddying in general, the fact that it is almost a lost summer learning and earning opportunity for young people, and a lost port of entry into the game and industry that we all find ourselves in. It also brought to mind a saying about caddies often attributed to Jack Nicklaus: A caddie’s job is to “Show up, Keep up, and Shut up.” Following Nicklaus’s final Masters win in 1986, “Jackie,” his son who was caddying that week, backed that up to some extent when he said Jack makes his own club selection, seldom asks for second opinions on a greens read, and always takes responsibility on the golf course.

When and where the phrase came about is undetermined, but it pops up in many times and places. Dave “Muzzie” Musgrove was a long-time European Tour caddy who adhered to the mantra. It worked out for him as he was part of Sandy Lyle’s 1985 Open victory and Seve Ballestero’s 1979 win.

Going back a little further, to 1971, a time when local caddies were still on the bag at The Masters, Walter “Cricket” Pritchett snuck away from his regular job for the week. Thinking his boss would not find out he was caddying, he soon found himself with the leader and eventual winner, Charles Coody. Cricket certainly kept to the “Shut up” dictate and hoped not to “Show up,” at least as far as his boss was concerned.

For his part, Coody appreciated the seven-word phrase and went so far as to say that he enjoyed the conversation and companionship of his caddie but he pulled his own clubs and read his own greens.

In today’s world, “Show up, Keep up, and Shut up” can be looked at in a new light. In our role as golf course superintendents and course managers, it’s not hard to see how the mantra might apply.

We Show Up every day, don’t we?

It’s a little more involved than driving to our regular parking place and saying, “Check, Showed up.” We’re showing up to our golf course, our co-workers, our golfers, our environmental responsibilities, our neighbors, our equipment challenges, our irritation...uh...irrigation systems. You get it, we show up in lots of places with lots on our plate. Make some time in your individual situation to take it all in and prepare yourself for what follows, just “Showing up.”

We Keep Up all the time, don’t we?

We’re hiring for a new season, we’re prepping all our equipment, we’re sharing our plans with all the key stakeholders at our facilities and setting the stage for success the best we can. We’re keeping up by attending the GCSAA Conference

continued page 8

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



JOHN DEERE



STOTZ EQUIPMENT



ONLINK

Golf Course Management



Operations Center
Download the app



OPERATIONS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Customizable dashboards let you see the information you need all in one place in a format that is optimized for mobile viewing.



LABOR MANAGEMENT

See the areas of the course that are costing the most in labor. Understand your labor costs for every aspect of your operation.



EASILY ASSIGN WORK

Easily assign work and display the assignments on a monitor in the maintenance facility.

CUSTOM PRECISION SOLUTIONS | DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS



Contact your local Precision Golf Specialist for information about solutions for you.

← SCAN ME TO CONTACT

| WWW.STOTZEQUIPMENT.COM/FIND-YOUR-STORE

Show Up continued from page 6

and Trade Show in San Diego, we're headed to Peaks & Prairies and then the pesticide training and recertification. In-season we try to Keep Up on our agronomic plan when weather, golf events, equipment SNAFUs, and staffing shortages seem to conspire against us. Sometimes it feels like we've got the hamster wheel going as fast as we can and it might help to jump off for a while, realize you may not be able to do everything you hoped to, and appreciate what you and your team have accomplished.

We Shut Up all the time, don't we?

Well...we DON'T Shut Up, at least not all the time. The great songwriter Kris Kristopherson told us in "To Beat the Devil," that:

"If you waste your time a-talkin'
To the people who don't listen.
To the things that you are sayin'
Who do you think's gonna hear?"

Kristopherson is telling us to use our time wisely, know our target audience and command their attention by being prepared, having the right information and having the ability to deliver it in a manner that will be most impactful.

The caddy/player dynamic is easy to see as it's one-on-one. To describe the superintendent and the interactions in so many directions at their facility would take several chapters of a rather long book. It is the superintendent and staff Showing Up,

Keeping Up, and NOT Shutting Up on a national scale that can inspire us heading into the new season.

On the National scene, Peaks & Prairies members regularly Show Up. Usually they Show Up because they are doing something that demonstrates they are Keeping Up.

The fact that they are being recognized is de facto evidence that they are NOT Shutting Up:

☞ Tim Furan, Meadow Lark Country Club, Great Falls, Mont., profiled in September 2024 Golf Course Management.

☞ Pete Grass, CGCS, retired, presenting at the 2025 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego.

☞ NaTalia Eggebrecht, Polson Bay Golf Course, selected for the 2024 GCSAA Women's Golf Leadership Academy and previously selected to assist at the Ryder Cup in Paris.

☞ Ryan Blechta, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Big Sky in the December issue of Golfdom sharing his experiences working with Tom Weiskopf developing a new par 3 course, "Tom's Ten." Ryan was also featured in Golf Course Architecture.

☞ Hope McAtee, GCSAA Legacy Scholarship Award winner and grand-daughter of Peaks & Prairies member, Larry Newlin, recognized in August GCM OnLine.

☞ Pat Finlen, CGCS, Executive Vice-President, Denehy Club Thinking Partners, Peaks & Prairies member, was on the cover of Golf Course Management as the recipient of the Col. John Morley award from GCSAA.

☞ Nick Marquesen, GCS, Missoula Country Club, in the same GCM publication, photo-bombed in with Pat Finlen,

continued page 10

LEADING THE FIELD

0110101101101010

CRAIG NUTHAK (208) 299-8575
LOGAN PEARCE (208) 604-5650

Nutrien Solutions

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

Show Up continued from page 8

on the grounds at MCC.

☞ Rhett Evans, CEO, Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America. OK, so maybe not a member of Peaks & Prairies, but being featured in a mass circulation publication like Golf Digest, and detailing his thought processes and philosophy in preparing to climb Mt. Everest and his approach to life is a pretty great example of Showing Up, Keeping Up, and NOT Shutting Up.

No doubt there are many, many examples of Peaks & Prairies members being recognized for a myriad of activities. Those cited above are on a national level from just the last few months. If we were to consider regional, community, and facility-level achievements, we can only begin to imagine the ways that golf course superintendents and our association members today Show Up, Keep Up, and DON'T Shut Up.

How does a Prom picture of Tim Hitchcock, GCS, Hamilton Golf Club land in The Perfect Lie?

He was part of the group with pictures taken at the executive director's house years ago!



Barkley Attends Chapter Leadership Symposium

The Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium, held annually at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas, provides an opportunity to connect with other association leaders from across the country. This event offers leadership training, development, and support to chapters.

Peaks & Prairies GCSA

Secretary/Treasurer, Brandon Barkley, The Club at 3 Creek, Jackson, Wyo., represented our chapter and shared his experience, "The GCSAA Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium was a wonderful learning opportunity and candidly more than I expected. It was great to see how association across the golf industry are united in commonality and also face many of the same challenges. The GCSAA is committed to giving its members an elevated platform and providing continuous leadership opportunities. The growth mindset is ever present at the national headquarters and gives me confidence in the direction we are going!"

Pictured: Lori Russell, Brent Austin (IE), Old Tom, Brandon Barkley (PP), and Paul Venable (ID)



Our pilgrimage to the GCSAA headquarters each year includes Kansas City BBQ after leaving the airport and duck fat fries in Lawrence!



Save the date!

Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo III

October 13 & 14, 2025, The Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Conference opportunities will open on all three websites in June: idahogcsa.org, iegcsa.org, ppgcsa.org



*Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA,
Jan Bel Jan Golf Course Design*

Jodi Cunningham, SPHR SHRM-SCP, Optimus Talent Partners



*Paul Koch, Ph.D.
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison*



*J. Rhett Evans, CEO
GCSAA*



*Dane Gamble, Bridger Creek GC
Master of Ceremonies*



*Mike Richardson, Ph.D.
University of Arkansas*



- ◆ Outstanding education.
- ◆ Valuable trade show networking.
- ◆ Incredible golf experience.
- ◆ A memorable — and worthy — event created to benefit key turf professionals of all experience levels.
- ◆ Registration opens in June.

Conference & Trade Show



Golf Locations



*CDA National Reserve, Zach Bauer, CGCS, Host
The Coeur d'Alene Resort, Tom Walker, Host*



When conference registration opens in June, allied partner members of record on April 30 will enjoy the first 30 days of trade show booth opportunities, before opening to all new allied partners (joining after May 1), as well.



The conference is brought to you by these three chapters and supportive partners, but participation has no state boundaries.

Effective Control of Voles on Golf Courses

D.J. Woodruff, Superintendent,
Purple Sage Golf Course, Evanston, Wyo.



Maintaining pristine fairways and immaculate greens is essential to the success of any golf course. However, one small yet destructive rodent threatens this aesthetic and functional ideal — the meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). These small, burrowing mammals can quickly cause significant damage to turfgrass and landscaping, particularly in areas with thick vegetation or adjacent natural habitats. At Purple Sage Golf Course in Evanston, Wyoming, as well as at many other golf courses in the region, meadow voles have been an issue. For years voles have been left unchecked, causing damage to fairways and rough. The winter of 2022-2023 was the last straw. The voles chewed up several green covers and they chewed up part of a green as well. Proactive management is essential to minimizing their impact and preserving the playability and appearance of the course.

In order to properly control a pest, one must know all about it. Meadow voles are highly prolific. A single female can produce up to ten litters annually, each containing 3–10 offspring. Their populations tend to spike in the fall and winter months, when grass is left longer or under snow cover. Voles create surface runways through the turf and feed on grass stems, roots, and even tree bark. These runways scar the turf, cause damage to expensive green covers, and increase maintenance costs.

We have unintentionally invited voles onto our golf courses by providing an ideal habitat for them. Golf courses, especially those surrounded by natural areas, are ideal habitats for voles due to the availability of food and cover. Areas with tall

grass, ornamental plantings, and dense roughs are particularly vulnerable. If left unchecked, vole activity can quickly escalate into widespread turf damage, leading to unsightly patches and expensive repairs.

Our control methods at Purple Sage last year were in two stages:

Stage 1- During the golf season, we put out bait boxes near trees and native tall grass areas where the voles spend most of their time. By doing this, we are able to exterminate the younger, less intelligent voles. We move bait stations around based on bait consumption.

Stage 2- After we covered the greens, we put out bait stations around the greens. These bait stations were placed in low areas around the greens with historically high vole activity. These bait stations were secured to the ground and they have risers that reach above the snow for easy locating and refilling through the winter.

This spring, we had very little vole damage to the course and most of the damage was concentrated around the vole bait stations by the greens. Although this winter was not as snowy as in years past, there was no damage to the green covers. The true test will be a snowy winter like the one we had a couple of years ago, but overall, we are pleased with the results thus far.



Desert Green Turf
PREMIUM SAND BASED SPORTS TURF

Jessica Lenihan VP of Golf Operations 208-661-5490 jessica@desertgreenturf.com	Nathan Cox Owner 509-750-1614 nathan@desertgreenturf.com	Jazmin Orozco Sales + Trucking Coordinator 509-350-0707 jazmin@desertgreenturf.com
--	--	--

PPGCSA supports the Montana FFA!



Thank you to Dave Phipps who took the lead and provided a fantastic booth representing the GCSAA and PPGCSA at the 2025 Montana FFA Convention in Bozeman.

Thanks to all who worked the booth on our behalf: Sean Sullivan, CGCS, Sam vanHoornebeck, Beau Backstrom Carey Hofner, and Dane Gamble!



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

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

www.baerdg.com



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

Welcome New Members!

Sean Gregson
Bell Nob Golf Course
304 E Tonk St, Gillette, WY 82718
sean.gregson@campbellcountywy.gov
(716) 799-2010

Hydraway Drainage Systems
Chuck Ermisch
8250 Bunkum Road, Caseyville, IL 62232
(417) 677-6390
cermisch@intechanchoring.com

continued page 22

Now Available: GCSAA Crew Training Series Videos!

We're excited to announce the release of the brand-new GCSAA Crew Training Series Videos, created to support you and your teams with accessible, high-quality education. These short, informative videos are perfect for onboarding new staff and reinforcing key skills with your existing crew.

Video Titles in the Series so far:

Crew Etiquette – Covers professionalism, communication, and working as a team.

This is a Golf Course – Helps new crew members understand the big picture: who we serve, why details matter, and how our work impacts the golfer experience.

Walk Behind Greens Mowing – Step-by-step guidance on proper technique, pattern following, and mower care.

Greens Mowing (Triplex) – Focuses on using ride-on units for efficiency while protecting putting surfaces.

Bunker Maintenance – Demonstrates best practices for raking and shaping bunkers consistently and effectively.

Hand Watering – Emphasizes when, where, and how to hand water to promote healthy turf and water conservation.

Handheld Equipment – Includes training on string trimmers, blowers, and edgers with a focus on safety and precision.

Ride-on Equipment – Highlights safe operation of fairway mowers, utility vehicles, and other ride-on machines.

Safety Basics – Reinforces core safety practices that every crew member should know and follow daily.

These videos are a great way to support your team's development without pulling them away from their work for extended classroom time. They're easy to watch, straightforward, and grounded in the real-world knowledge superintendents value most.

The videos are available now through the GCSAA website within the My Learning Hub. You can watch them individually or integrate them into your team's onboarding or weekly training routines. Let us know your thoughts on the videos and any topics you'd like to see covered in future releases.

David Phipps, GCSAA Northwest Region Field Staff



Way beyond fertilizer.



Your PerformancePack® advisors

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

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

Visit TH.simplot.com and follow us @SimplotTurf on X.



©2025 Simplot AB Retail, Inc. All rights reserved. The foregoing marks are owned by the S.R. Simplot Company. Always read and follow label directions. Confirm registration prior to sale or use.

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, jaanestad@pacificgolfturf.com
(208) 477-3755

Nick Crum, ncrum@pacificgolfturf.com
(208) 986-0277

503.282.6022 - Parts

www.pacificgolfturf.com

9900 W Fairview Ave, Boise, ID 83704



My Journey to Turfgrass Management

James Anderson, Assistant Superintendent,
Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont.

— this field demands a lot from you every single day. You're dealing with nature, weather, expectations, and a lot of moving parts. But when you get it right and everything comes together, it's incredibly rewarding.

After working at Yellowstone Country Club for a few seasons, I decided that this industry was the career I wanted to pursue. As the 2024 season began, I asked the Head Superintendent, Cody Schulke, what it takes to become a Superintendent. He recommended the two-year Professional Golf Turfgrass Management Program at Rutgers University. Four months later, I traveled to New Brunswick, New Jersey, to start my career in the turfgrass industry. Now, I am currently halfway through the program, and I'm grateful I took that next step.

The Turf Management program at Rutgers University has provided me with an opportunity to further my education in all aspects of the industry, including turfgrass diseases, pest management, irrigation, weeds, and soils, to name a few. One of the most valuable aspects of the program is the network it has created. I am surrounded by classmates from across the country (and beyond), each bringing different experiences and perspectives. This has allowed me to gain knowledge and understand how people from various regions handle challenges on their courses.

After moving to Billings, Montana, in the summer of 2021 for school and baseball, I began searching for a job to keep me active and busy during the summer months. I asked a former teammate if he knew of any places that were hiring, and he connected me with an interview at Yellowstone Country Club for a seasonal grounds crew position. "A golf course? How tough can it be?" I thought to myself. I had picked up the game of golf during the COVID-19 pandemic and had a fair understanding of how it was played, but I had no previous experience working on a golf course. It didn't take long for me to realize how challenging it is to manage a golf course.

On my first day on the job, we edged bunkers by hand, and it took us eight hours to finish seven holes. I remember coming home amazed by it all, and wondering, "What does the rest of this career entail?" Ever since that first day, I have found this field more and more intriguing. What captivated me was the challenge and the way teamwork shaped everything



EB 2024

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND SALES

North America and International

JIM CONNOLLY | 509-951-0270 | jim@planeturfusa.com

Pacific Northwest and Western States

JARED WHITAKER | 509-977-1354 | jared@planeturfusa.com

Eastern Washington, North Idaho and Western Montana

JORDAN ANDERSON | 816-217-7363 | jordan@planeturfusa.com

Western Washington and Oregon

AARON STAMPER | 509-301-4589 | aaron@planeturfusa.com

Southeastern Washington, Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho

SHANE HUGHES | 509-954-5773 | shane@planeturfusa.com



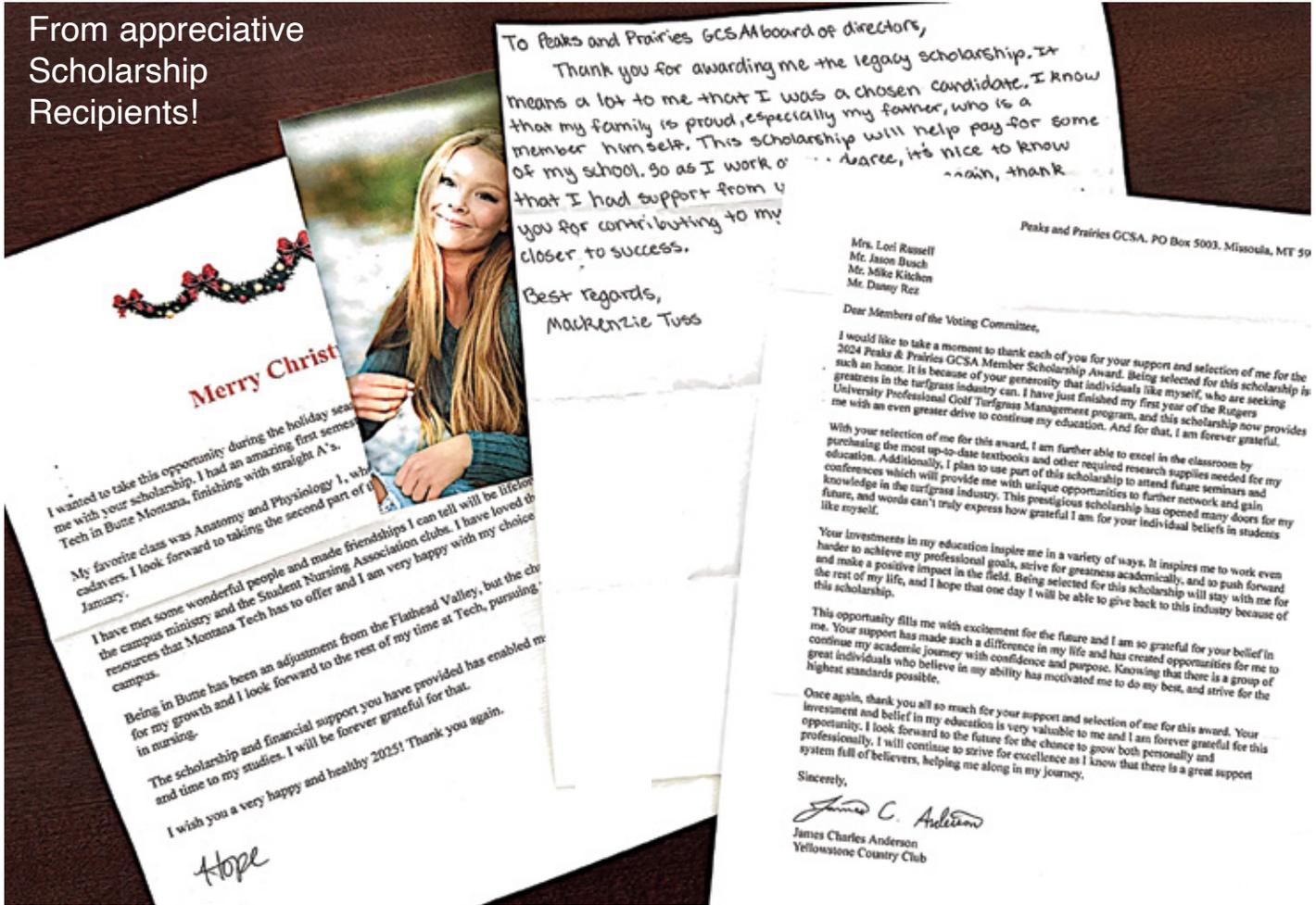
SPOKANE OFFICE

6422 E. 2nd Ave. | Spokane WA 99212
PHONE: 509-921-5421 | FAX: 509-443-3683
orderup@planeturfusa.com

www.planetturfusa.com

KNOWLEDGE | TRUST | SERVICE | SUCCESS

From appreciative
Scholarship
Recipients!



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!



Golf Course Tour Highlights BMPs for State Pesticide Regulators

David Phipps, GCSAA, Northwest Regional Field Staff

pesticide lead agency representatives from West Coast states, held in Vancouver, Washington. Topics included pesticide user training, worker protection standards, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

I first connected with Abigail at an ESA workshop, where we discussed GCSAA's Best Management Practices (BMP) initiative. She immediately recognized the value of our science-based approach and suggested adding a golf course visit to the tour schedule—an idea that took root quickly.

On April 30, as much of the golf industry was convening in Washington, D.C., sixty pesticide agency representatives traveled across the Columbia River to Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, Oregon. Superintendent Jim Myers, CGCS, and his team graciously

opened their doors, giving attendees a firsthand look at how BMPs help protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

To add depth to the tour, we enlisted several subject matter experts. Tom Calabrese, RG, CWRE, of EnviroLogic Resources, Inc., who has been instrumental in BMP development in the Northwest since 2008, provided foundational context. We were also joined by Ross Niewola of the USGA and Chas Schmid, Ph.D., from Oregon State University, who both contributed valuable insights into agronomic research and environmental stewardship.

Our message throughout was clear: golf courses are professionally managed green spaces where science drives environmental protection. Attendees received a copy of the 2009 study, *Surface Water*

continued page 20

While GCSAA's government advocacy efforts span a broad spectrum, few initiatives match the visibility and impact of National Golf Day. Still, targeted local efforts can leave a lasting impression when the right opportunity arises.

One such opportunity came this year when Abigail Nickelson of the Washington Department of Agriculture reached out with a unique request. She was helping coordinate the Western Region Pesticide Meeting, a gathering of

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



THE INNOVATION CONTINUES

From industry-leading spreader technology to groundbreaking nutrient delivery systems and next-generation soil amendments, innovation is at the heart of everything we do.



CastAwayTM DG

TEA SEED MEAL FERTILIZER

- Natural fertilizer with high protein content
- Features Dispersing Granule (DG) Technology
- Labeled for all turfgrass heights and species

HCAS

HUMIC COATED
AMMONIUM SULFATE

Signify DG

BROAD SPECTRUM
GRANULAR FUNGICIDE

RejuvaSoil

ALL-NATURAL
SOIL ENHANCER

Hydra Charge

BIOSOLID FERTILIZER
PLUS SURFACTANT

For more information, contact your local authorized distributor or your territory manager from The Andersons, Ed Price.

Ed Price, CGCS | 509-981-9077 | ed_price@andersonsinc.com

AndersonsPro.com | [f](#) [@](#) [X](#) @TheAndersonsPro | [v](#) AndersonsPro



© 2025 The Andersons, Inc. All rights reserved. Signify and RejuvaSoil are registered trademarks of The Andersons, Inc. CastAway, HCAS, and Hydra Charge are trademarks of The Andersons, Inc. C25

Golf Course Tours

continued from page 18

Quality Impacts from Golf Course Fertilizer and Pesticide Applications by Hindahl, Miltner, Stahnke, and Cook—research that underpins many of our current BMPs.

Since fewer than half of the attendees had ever stepped foot on a golf course, the tour also introduced the daily tools and practices we use. Interest was high, from foliar versus granular feeding, data-driven water management, and aeration practices to discussions on pollinator habitat and conservation efforts. One particularly memorable moment came when Jim Myers was asked about mosquito control. His response? “I’ve never treated for mosquitoes—we rely solely on the Little Brown Bat, which is native to the Portland area.”

We wrapped up the visit with a Q&A session and informal networking around the equipment displays. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and it was clear that many attendees walked away with a new appreciation for golf course management—and the professionals behind it.

Written and Approved Standards

continued from page 23

DETAILED PROGRAM APPROACH

Outline the programs for all course sections and detail each program separately. What is the club's tolerance for weeds and other pests? What are your programs to meet those tolerance standards?

For example, what is your program to eliminate and control mole crickets? Grubs? Cutworms? Sod Webworms? Etc.

Detail the chemicals needed, staffing required, other resources needed, and the cost of each. Do the same for weed pests such as goosegrass, crabgrass, annual bluegrass, etc.? Outline your fertilization program for every part of the course, including soil and tissue tests, and clearly state that you will follow scientific guidelines to meet their standards. They must fully understand that when cutting money from the budget — they are cutting programs, and if they cut programs, then the agronomy team will not be able to meet their stated and approved standards.

For example, If they tell you, "We need to cut your cost by 20%." You can lay out your programs and their 'Standards Policy' and reply, "Which programs do you want to amend or eliminate?" or "How can we adjust the standard affected by that program?"

If funding is problematic, the club must adjust its stated standards to accommodate the available resources. Those who manage the club's expenses may find it much more difficult to eliminate or change programs needed to maintain their standards than to reduce budget dollars.

The club standards policy will be a book. A table of contents and tabs on each program are needed to help the committee navigate it. Put your contact information on the first page and invite those who would like to come and discuss the standards to make an appointment with you.

2025 Rounds4Research Auction

We appreciate the wonderful participation of the courses in our region for the Rounds4Research Auction. The new courses jumping on board this year made an impact.

The 2025 auction broke past records on a national level. In both Montana and Wyoming, while our number of rounds donated declined a bit, we expect the value of rounds sold to reach a new high.

As we wait for our final tabulation, please know we are very appreciative of all new courses that donated and the generosity of our returning courses. In addition, we thank our board members who volunteered their time to reach out to courses in the region to encourage sponsorship.

Annual Membership Directory Advertising Available!

**Please contact Lori for more
information or see email blasts.**

Jay Glen

Granite Peak

PUMP SERVICE

Billings, MT
(406)698-6313
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"





Embracing Automation: A Smarter Way to Manage Course Maintenance

Justin Bishop, Kendrick Municipal Golf Course, Sheridan, Wyo.

This time of year, everything moves at full throttle. Golf course managers and superintendents are busy preparing the grounds while waiting for seasonal staff to arrive—or scrambling to fill remaining open positions. Meanwhile, aging equipment breaks down just when it's needed most, and the to-do list keeps growing.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution for this seasonal crunch, but one strategy can make a measurable difference: focus your team on specialized tasks rather than routine labor. Shifting labor this way not only boosts productivity—it also improves employee satisfaction. Workers are more engaged when they're trusted with meaningful, skilled responsibilities. The result? A well-maintained course that requires less supervision and runs more efficiently.

Autonomous Mowers

One of the most promising advancements in turf management today is the rapid evolution of autonomous mowers. These machines have become increasingly reliable and are now used in various areas—from roughs and fairways to driving ranges and around the clubhouse. Superintendents are leading this shift, and patrons are beginning to notice the difference. Manufacturers such as Echo, Kress, Nexmow, Husqvarna, and Fire Automatrix now offer mowers tailored for specific course needs. Retrofit kits can even convert existing equipment into autonomous units. Meanwhile, innovations like the Tertill—a robot for weeding gardens and mulch beds—and fully automated ball pickers and cleaning systems highlight how far this technology has come.

What Is an Autonomous Mower?

An autonomous mower is a self-operating, battery-powered device that trims grass without human intervention. These machines use GPS, boundary wires, and sensors to navigate designated areas and maintain a consistent cut height. Unlike traditional mowers that use large rotating blades, robot

mowers rely on small, razor-sharp blades that trim grass gradually with frequent passes—a method known as micro-cutting. This results in a healthier, more uniform turf.

How Do Autonomous Mowers Work?

Autonomous mowers operate using a combination of:

- Boundary wires or GPS to define mowing zones
- Onboard sensors to detect obstacles and terrain changes
- AI-driven software to optimize mowing patterns

Once programmed, the mower navigates the course in randomized or guided paths, returning to its docking station when the battery is low. Most models include mulching systems, finely shredding grass clippings to naturally fertilize the turf.

More advanced units can:

- Detect denser patches of grass and adjust cutting speed
- Modify cutting height automatically
- Controlled via a mobile app for scheduling and adjustments

Basic Maintenance for Autonomous Mowers

While autonomous mowers reduce labor, they still require some maintenance to perform reliably:

- Regular cleaning: Remove grass buildup from the blades, wheels, and sensors after every few uses.
- Blade replacement: Change blades every few months to ensure a clean, healthy cut.
- Battery care: Monitor battery performance—most last several years before replacement is needed.
- Software updates: Keep firmware current for improved efficiency and new features.
- Check sensors and boundaries: Inspect periodically to ensure accurate navigation.
- Maintain the docking station: Keep the area clean and unobstructed to ensure consistent charging.

Regional distributors and independent companies now carry a wide selection of autonomous mowing systems and can
continued page 22

ADAM KAMPBELL (308) 765-5040 Adam@Masek.com
MasekGolfCars.com YamahaGolfCar.com



Toro Factory Customer Service School: Leveling Up My Expertise

Zach Gross
Yellowstone Country Club, Billings, Mont.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Toro Factory Customer Service School. This training provided a deep dive into the intricacies of Toro's equipment, focusing on crucial systems and emerging technologies.

One of the foundational elements covered extensively was the hydraulic system. We explored the principles of hydraulic power, tracing fluid pathways, identifying key components like pumps, valves, cylinders, and motors, and learning their individual roles within the overall system. A significant portion of the training focused on troubleshooting common hydraulic issues. We learned practical techniques for diagnosing problems such as leaks, pressure drops, and slow or erratic movement. Hands-on exercises allowed us to apply this knowledge, disassembling and reassembling hydraulic components.

Another critical area of focus was electrical schematics. Deciphering these complex diagrams is essential for diagnosing electrical problems effectively. The training provided a structured approach to reading and interpreting Toro's electrical schematics, covering symbols, wiring conventions, and circuit layouts. We practiced tracing circuits, identifying components, and understanding the flow of electrical current. We also learned how to utilize multimeters to test circuits and pinpoint electrical faults. This deeper understanding of Toro's electrical systems will allow us to troubleshoot issues more efficiently and reduce downtime.

A significant portion of the training was dedicated to Intelli 360, Toro's advanced control system. We dived into the architecture and functionality of this intelligent platform, learning how it integrates various machine functions and provides valuable diagnostic information.

We explored the user interface, understanding how to navigate menus, access system data, and interpret error codes. The training emphasized the importance of understanding the sensor inputs and actuator outputs, enabling us to diagnose issues related to engine performance, cutting unit control, and other critical functions. We also learned about software updates and calibration procedures.

Perhaps the most forward-looking aspect of the training involved an introduction to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Toro's equipment and customer support. We learned about how AI is being utilized for predictive maintenance, identifying potential issues before they lead to downtime. We also explored AI-powered diagnostic tools that can assist in troubleshooting complex problems by analyzing data

and suggesting potential solutions. While still in its early stages, understanding the direction Toro is heading with AI will allow us to better support future generations of their products.

Overall, my experience at the Toro Factory Customer Service School was incredibly valuable. The in-depth knowledge gained in hydraulics, electrical schematics, advanced control systems, and the introduction to AI will significantly enhance my ability to diagnose and resolve issues effectively. I'm eager to apply these learnings in my daily work.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Midland Implement for the incredible opportunity by sending me to the Toro Customer Service School.

Automation continued from page 21

provide the technical knowledge and support needed for successful implementation.

If you're considering making the switch, here are your next steps:

- Do your research
- Speak with superintendents already using autonomous systems
- Demo different models on your course
- Run a cost-per-acre analysis
- Decide whether to buy and self-maintain or lease with a service package

The ultimate goal is to elevate your operations by embracing smarter tools and modern management techniques. With remote access, customizable settings, and reduced labor requirements, adopting autonomous mowing technology may be easier—and more impactful—than you think.

Welcome New Members! continued

Jared Miller
Riverside Country Club
2500 Springhill Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 380-0719
miller.jared17@gmail.com

Mike Nelson
The Powder Horn Golf Club
51 Powder Horn Rd, Sheridan, WY 82801
(701) 212-9421
mike.nelson@thepowderhorn.com



The Value of a Written and Approved Standards Document

Gary T Grigg CGCS, MG

A standard is a level of quality regarded as the norm or ideal outcome, often used as a benchmark for evaluation and grounded in factual criteria.

Expectations are beliefs that something will happen in the future or feelings that someone or something will achieve something. They are

based on fiction.

Your owners, board of directors, and members certainly have expectations for you and their facility. Without standards to support and measure their expectations, you will be defenseless when their "fiction" meets reality. Well-defined standards by the same group as expectations will elevate your success!

Develop and publish a Written Standard Document for your club – no matter if rich, poor, private, public, etc. THEN, link the 'expectations' to the proper resources (defined in your standards document).

The primary issue today is that expectations frequently surpass the resources available to the superintendent, often resulting in conflicts, a loss of credibility, and, eventually, a change in superintendents.

A well-thought-out, written standard document for your club may help you maintain your position.

A well-written standards policy will clearly state how the club wishes to maintain each component of the course and club and should also identify all the agreed-upon expectations. This document is now your source for defining how "Expectations become Standards" and protecting you from inevitable change.

Committees, management, and ownership may want to alter expectations when change occurs, so protect yourself with a written Standards Policy.

A small Standards Committee can often help maintain the document and change expectations.

** NOTE: Ownership may be the "standards committee," but does not remove the need for a written document.

A short survey to determine what the membership wants or needs can be valuable in establishing your standards policy.

A well-written survey can help this standards committee. The owner, general manager, golf professional, women's group members, and green committee members should be present to discuss the standards policy. Take the time to be detailed and thorough.

THREE STEPS TO BIND EXPECTATIONS & STANDARDS TO THE NECESSARY RESOURCES

Your written standards provide a solid foundation from which to develop all programs.

1. Tell me what standards you want, expect, and endorse.

2. Then, I can develop the programs to achieve those standards and meet those expectations.

3. I can then accurately estimate the costs, aka budget & resources.

In a perfect world, money or budgets would not dictate standards. In the real world, however, budgets too often drive standards. The key is to make the Expectations & Written Standards (further detailed in your programs) drive the money approved in your budget!

IT IS NOT "YOUR" BUDGET. IT IS THE GOLF COURSE'S BUDGET.

Written standards are the foundation of all maintenance programs, including budgeting. Selling your budget may be the most important thing you ever do. I strongly recommend that you do a program-based budget to shift the burden of spending the club's money to "them" - based on "their" standards, written and approved in "their" document, defining what it will take to meet "their" expectations.

ACCEPTANCE IS KEY

Once the club has agreed on its expectations and the Standards Policy, you can take your program-based budget to them with "acceptance" already in hand. The key to the whole concept of a "program budget" is the universal ACCEPTANCE that underpins it. It is "THEIR" budget, and every dollar is needed to achieve "THEIR" Standards.

LESS MONEY INEVITABLY MEANS A CHANGE IN STANDARDS

As many golf courses aim to spend less, they reduce budgets, leaving superintendents to maintain the same standards with fewer resources. Adjust the Standards Document to reflect these budget changes. The club must decide which standards to compromise to reduce spending.

The club must understand that the agronomy team needs every dollar in the budget to meet their standards and expectations. Regularly review the standards, expectations, programs, and budgets to ensure everyone is aligned. Not everyone may agree to lower standards while insisting on spending less—there will always be dissenters. Some believe that imposing a smaller budget will make superintendents "rise to the occasion" or they will find someone else who can.

PROGRAMS ARE CRITICAL FOR MEETING THE OBLIGATIONS AND APPROVING THE DOLLARS

Your programs should be detailed to meet all expectations defined in the Standards Policy.

What are the club's standards for the greens, tees, fairways, bunkers, roughs, out-of-play areas, shop, and crew? Each deserves its program, so no one can arbitrarily cut dollars without detailed line items attached.

continued page 20

THE PERFECT LIE



Peaks & Prairies Chapter

P. O. Box 5003

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Missoula, MT 59806

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

2025 Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo October 13 & 14, 2025, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



VENTRAC
VERSATILITY THAT WORKS



Midland Implement
Company, Inc.



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