

# Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Winter 2015

## We are Coming, Wenatchee!

This is an opportunity to start your growing season off on a positive and informative step. Hear different perspectives and communicate with your peers.

*While you are in the area, take time to enjoy golf, wineries, fishing, or even strolling along the Apple Capital Loop Trail.*

We aren't quite sure what came first – selecting a fun, different location for the Spring Meeting, or putting together a program of real interest to all of our turf heads in the region. Regardless – you

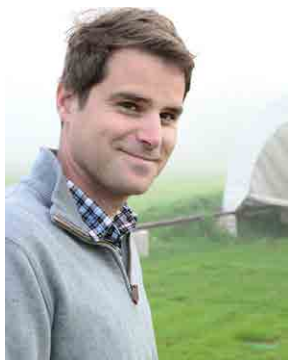
now have two great reasons to update your calendar! Join us for the Inland Empire GCSA Spring Meeting, March 14 & 15, at the Wenatchee Country Club. John Orr is the host superintendent.

**David Soldat, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor and turfgrass extension specialist in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He will be making his first visit to the Inland Empire GCSA. Soldat advises the turfgrass management students at the UW, and teaches courses in the fields of turfgrass management and general soil science. While Soldat has been making a name for himself in the turf industry for the past several years, we have been trying to bring him our way. Finally, our third time request gelled with his schedule. It never

hurts to Google our presenters to make sure something of interest isn't slipping by us. Results for David Soldat brought pictures of a long-distance runner, a soldier, a male model, and even Brad Pitt. We don't know if he has anything in common if any of those folks, but we do know a goal of his research programs is to identify water and nutrient management strategies for turfgrass areas that promote healthy turfgrass and minimize the loss

of water and nutrients from the root zone.

Things always happen for a reason, and apparently **Pat Jones**



was meant to join us for the Spring Meeting. As you know, although a scheduling *"A Very Candid Look at the State of the Golf Business"* *"Tell Your Story Effectively"*

conflict caused us to reschedule Jones for March –it didn't continued page 6

## IEPGA Supports Continuing Education/Research Programs

Inland Empire GCSA offers affordable continuing education - with the assistance of the Inland Empire PGA Section. As turf practices continue to evolve, we keep our members up-to-date with practical solutions to the challenges faced. The annual grant received assists in keeping our registration affordable so all courses may participate, regardless of budget size. We appreciate the board and members of the Inland Empire PGA!

"It takes both parties to work together in the golf industry, and we feel grateful to have you and the accomplishments of all." Kathy G-Jensen, IEPGA, President.

## Commit Auction Rounds Today!

Our silent auction for rounds for four plus carts will take place at The Spokane Golf Show. We are asking for high course participation – and every submission helps.

Chris Concienne, Helena Chemical Company and Jacob Teaford, Manito Golf and Country Club, are our chairs for the event this year and they encourage you to call Chris (509) 840-4074 with your commitment.

Please take time, now, to gather your certificate in either one certificate of four, or two certificates of two, along with a score card and mail them to the association office - P.O. Box 807, Lolo, MT., 59847.

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# *Life Can Hijack Our Priorities*

**Jennifer Camp, Director of Parks and Rec  
Trailhead Golf Course, Liberty Lake, Wash.**

Lori had asked me to write an article a while back. I asked her what she would like me to write about and she said that people like to read about projects. We have lots of projects. Which one would I choose? Do I discuss the mainline replacement project we are planning for in 2017? The new park that we will be installing in the next couple of years along the north side of town? The baseball fields that we just wrapped up? The reorganization of our Parks and Rec Department? Which one is worthy of publishing?

I decided on something a little bit different, and it is not written in a professional format, rather, more blog-inspired.

## **Priorities**

All season long we juggle with priorities. Priorities such as which irrigation break gets fixed first, which task gets listed above another, which projects get tackled first, and the list goes on and on. Some of our priorities are driven by what others' expectations are of us as a department and not necessarily what I think is a priority. And that's ok. Sometimes I find myself getting so wrapped up in priorities, it is easy to forget what should be truly be taking precedence in my life. I was quickly reminded of that.

Around the middle of October, I noticed that my calf muscle was aching. Since my job has turned into less fieldwork and much more desk work over the past several years, I decided I was just out of shape and twisted it wrong. It was a Wednesday that it started

bothering me. After about the fourth day, it was getting worse and really becoming a nuisance. Trying to walk without hobbling so I wouldn't look like a gimp, ailing, old lady was a challenge. I faked it. Sort of.

Over the weekend, it definitely was not getting better. I decided that, if it wasn't better in the early week, I would go get it looked at, more than anything to get something for the pain while my "injury" healed. And, maybe after that, I should think about getting back in the gym, since I am so out of shape. I really just thought I was being a hypochondriac (or a wuss).

Sunday came along and we had our IEGCSA Board Meeting down at the casino. My leg hurt. I couldn't get comfortable. Trying to get my head in the meeting and off of my leg was a battle. I tried fidgeting around so I could get comfortable enough to focus on the meeting and participate. Monday's IEGCSA meetings were a repeat of the board meeting the evening before, regarding my level of comfort and participation. I felt a bit crankier than usual. I LOVE the IEGCSA meetings and look forward to them every year. I look forward to reconnecting with everyone, hearing all of the stories and experiences, and comparing notes with people. It gives me the confidence to know what we do here at the city in our parks, golf and other areas we are on the right track. It's one of



my happier times of the year. I wasn't feelin' it. So for those who know me and felt I was a little "off" that day, you were right.

I didn't attend Tuesday's meetings due to a citywide budget staff meeting. I promised a good friend of mine that I would go to the doctor that day. Sitting in the chair during the meeting listening to our city administrator speak of the plans and projects for 2016, I found myself fidgeting, yet again. Sitting in a chair was almost unbearable. It felt like I had a tourniquet wrapped around my thigh, blood pounding in my leg, tingling, burning. I couldn't take it anymore. That meeting could not end soon enough (and it was another one I had been looking forward to).

I left and checked into Urgent Care on the advice of my doctor. I am 42, not in terrible shape, don't smoke, no recent injuries. The nurse practitioner came in and asked what I had done, did I injure it? Did I try ice or heat? No and no. She said, in a very dismissing manner, "We'll test you for a blood clot." After her return with the results, and the sort of humbled, stunned look on her face, she said my levels were positive. I thought to myself, "Oh, great, now I can get some pain meds and get out of here." Wrong. She informed me that "positive" did not mean it was a good thing.

After an ultrasound, they discovered that I have a blood clot deep in the calf muscle, or Deep Vein Thrombosis. The clot extends the full length of the vein between my ankle and my knee. Thankfully, it had not reached my knee. I was stunned, like she was. I'm only 42, aren't clots what happen to the elderly? Or maybe 42 is elderly?

continued page 4





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# Agronomy Volunteers and the US Open

David Phipps

GCSAA NW Field Staff Representative

In some superintendents' eyes, volunteering for the US Open is like landing tickets on the 50-yard line for the Super Bowl. Personally, after spending a week at Chambers Bay, I'll take the US Open experience any time! I have always had a dream of working the USGA's largest championship but had never found the right time until it was announced that the US Open was coming to Chambers Bay. From the beginning, I knew that I wanted to be part of this northwest historic event and so did 134 other volunteers.

On Sunday, June 14, volunteers arrived from 10 countries including Scotland, England, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Denmark, Caledonia, Panama, and Canada, and all met at the Chambers Bay

agronomy center. Big kudos to the northwest superintendents - including the Canadians - for offering their support. There were well over 20 who came down from the north to assist the team. There were also a large amount of Oregon State grads who helped out, as well. Since Chambers Bay Director of Agronomy, Eric Johnson, and Superintendent, Josh Lewis were both from the OSU program, it was fitting that so many Beavers were there to assist their fellow alumni.

On Sunday evening, the volunteers were greeted by Eric and Josh, as well as Mike Davis from the USGA. Each volunteer was handed a bag containing seven fresh shirts, a jacket, two hats, a water bottle, and a shoe bag. It was made clear from the beginning if you wore the wrong color shirt that you would be responsible for buying donuts for the entire crew the next day. Needless to say, we were all in the correct colors each day. The work assignments were handed out and each group met with their perspective crew leader from the fulltime staff. The volunteers were being housed in three fraternities on the campus of the University of Puget Sound; we were told the busses would be there to pick us up at 3:00 a.m. The 2:30 a.m. alarm came all too soon and each

continued page 5



**Hijacked** continued from page 2

My world got dumped upside down from that point. The doctors told me that I would be off of work the rest of the week. The nurse started informing me on the medications I would be taking. She started telling me about the shots I would need to administer to myself in the stomach until my coagulation blood levels rose to the proper numbers. They advised me what to do if the clot were to break off and go to my lungs or my brain. HOLY COW, WHAT???

The time off was a good thing, as I needed it to get a grasp and adjust to the medications. My mind soon shifted to mom mode. "What about the kids, how will I cook and clean for them? How will I be mom? What will they think? Will they help dear old mom with chores above their normal tasks?"

**This is where my world of priorities was rearranged.**

All of a sudden, the greens didn't matter quite so much (all in

all, they are in great shape), the blowouts that my crew are working on became a hazy blur (my crew is the best ever and have been amazing at carrying on without me!), the tasks I needed to tend to in my inbox /to do list didn't matter for now (they would still be there when I got back). My priorities had been reorganized.

By no means am I going to tell all of you about priorities. You know them too well, and do your own balancing acts. But sometimes, I find myself losing perspective on what priorities are truly the most important, and what should maybe be second fiddle. I could nitpick the grass we grow till the cows come home. In the end, our grass is mostly green and beautiful most of the season. Our mayor and council give great support to what our parks and golf crews provide and the work they do. In the end, it has been a gentle reminder for me, that as long as the grass is "mostly" green, the rest maybe doesn't need to be such the priority that I tended to label it in the past. And this experience has been one of my biggest projects ever.



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**Darak Bigler, EM**  
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*Volunteer*

morning around 2:45 a.m., as I walked across the street to the bus stop, I was strangely reminded of the show, *The Walking Dead*. However, once we all arrived at the agronomy center and had a cup of coffee or three, it was game on!

Josh started each morning by dismissing the 22 new Toro RM 3550-D fairway mowers, followed by the greens mowers and bunkers crews. With the amount of equipment that needed to get out to the course, staggering the crews was the safest and most efficient way. Everything just seemed to run like a well-oiled machine. The fairway mowers were the stars of the morning shift, often looking like a well-choreographed routine, waltzing across the fairways. Most of the work on the course was completed by 7:00 a.m., then it was up to the individual to either take the shuttle back and pick up a few more hours of shut-eye, or stick around and catch a glimpse of the pro's making their practice rounds. The crew reassembled again at 7:00 p.m. for the evening duties, then returned back to the campus by 10:30 p.m.

Being part of the volunteer staff has its benefits. If you are one who realizes the importance of networking, then you were in the right place. While going about your duties, you were likely to

work alongside of someone like Chris Haspell from Castle Stuart Golf Links in Scotland or Chris Dalhamer of Pebble Beach. You might even work alongside Jon Jennings of Shinnecock Hills Golf Club or the host of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics golf event, Masaru Shimizu from Kasumigaseki Country Club. Whether you are a superintendent, assistant or even a college student, the networking opportunities were immense. Second only to the GIS, this is where you ever find so many accomplished superintendents all in one place.

There is no doubt in the USGA's mind that this event was a success, and

the Northwest will once again host another US Open down the road. Whether it is at Chambers Bay or another venue, it is sure to be a success. The overall response from the public was tremendous. Attendance records were set all week, as well as the amount of time it took for volunteers to sign up to assist the USGA. With this kind of support, there is no doubt that the USGA has the Northwest on their radar.

I have to give a big plug to the Chambers Bay staff. As a volunteer, we get to come in and simply manage what was created up to the day of the tournament. If it wasn't for all the hard work and dedication that was put forth from the full time staff prior to the tournament, the US Open wouldn't have been the success that it was.

My role on the volunteer staff was to document all the work going on inside the ropes prior to play each day. Josh and Eric both felt that this would be a great way to provide the volunteers and the regular staff with a memory of the event. You can view my complete photo album of the US Open here on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133457771@N08/B0uh6t>

## Bristol Hotel, Feb. 10

Join us for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room, Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. We will once again come together to enjoy the evening of networking - perhaps under the stars of the San Diego sky – with our return to The Bristol Hotel, 1055 First Avenue, San Diego. The ballroom sits on the top floor (9th) and has a retractable roof. The Bristol Hotel is well situated within a couple of blocks of the Gaslamp District. It is the same location as the 2010 and 2013 events.

This evening is a great way to renew old relationships and make new connections – all thanks to the generous support of our allied partners.

We are seeking sponsors for this event; several sponsorship levels are available. Click on the event on the website home page for more info.



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## Spring Meeting continued from page 1

stop us from offering an outstanding Fall Meeting education lineup. It still all worked out perfectly – and we still had something to look forward to in March. Jones is well known for his candid, tell-it-like-it-is, approach. For the past three decades, Jones has been immersed in the industry. He began his career at GCSAA headquarters, where he oversaw communications, fundraising and lobbying in the '80s and '90s. He later created and launched Golfdom magazine before starting his own company, Flagstick LLC, to provide consulting services to golf/turf companies and organizations. Jones joined GIE Media full-time in 2010 and is a member of the company's executive team.

We are bringing you the perspective of two superintendents: **Steve Kealy, CGCS, Glendale Country Club, Bellevue, Wash.,** and **Kevin Hicks, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.**

Steve Kealy, CGCS, will share his ongoing tree removal project to resolve shade issues on greens and tees.

Some years are better than other years, and some years are only more memorable. **"Year in Review: a year to forget"**

offered by Kevin Hicks.

The networking and great conversations will transition to the golf course Monday afternoon as you enjoy a round at the Wenatchee Country Club. Enjoy an early season round and find out what your peers are planning for the upcoming season.

Browse through – then bid away – at our annual silent auction held during the spring meeting. Success depends on both the generous donations, and the generous bidders. Contact Todd Lupkes, CGCS, with your contribution.

While you are in the area, take time to enjoy golf, wineries, fishing, or even strolling along the Apple Capital Loop Trail. Conference information will be available in January.

## Election Results

Our gratitude for service is offered to our recently elected officers and directors: President - **Brian Woster**, Circling Raven Golf Course, Worley, Idaho; Vice President - **James Curdy**, Desert Aire Golf Course, Mattawa, Wash.; and Secretary/Treasurer – **Jennifer Camp**, Trailhead Golf Course, Liberty Lake, Wash. Elected Directors:

Mike Bednar, Palouse Ridge Golf Club, Pullman, Wash.; Curt Chambers, Yakima Elks Golf Course, Yakima, Wash.; Jamie Colson, Sun Country Golf Course, Cle Elum, Wash.

## A Round Table Discussion

with the Inland Empire GCSA

**Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

**Avondale Golf Club,**

Host Superintendent: Tim Mack

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Roundtable Discussion – enjoy a lively and productive exchange with your peers. Kevin Hicks, Moderator

12:00 p.m. Lunch (*Registration fee includes lunch*)

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*John Maxwell*

The inaugural recipient of the **“William Griffith Distinguished Service Award”** was awarded to William Griffith, Director - Agriculture Center of Excellence, Walla Walla Community College, at the 2015 Fall Meeting & Trade Show.

It is our honor, pleasure, and to our benefit, to have Bill as a member of the Inland Empire GCSA.



## Comfort in Pesticide Credit

Isn't it great to know you can always get pesticide points at the annual Pesticide Short Course? Gwen Stahnke, Ph.D., makes sure this program stays fresh and relevant while you earn 10 pesticide re-certification credits each year. We are fortunate to be able to offer this program focused on pesticide credit, because at the fall and spring meeting it allows us to bring you the vast variety of knowledge you need to know, wearing multiple hats/responsibilities as a turf professional. And we often offer pesticide credit, too.

Thank you for hosting the annual event, Jeremiah Farmer and Hayden Lake Country Club this November. Thank you to Gwen Stahnke, PhD and Bill Griffith for leading the program, and to our speakers and sponsors. In 2016, watch for this program in October!



Thank you to our  
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