

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Summer 2018

Strike it Rich with Opportunities

The 2016 move to November for the Inland Empire GCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show was such a hit – we would have been crazy to not repeat the timing. Join us November 13 & 14 at the Coeur d'Alene Casino and Resort Hotel in Worley, Idaho! Besides offering relevant education and the opportunity for vital interaction with your peers, our allied partners will be on hand to help provide you the knowledge, guidance, tools, and service you need to maintain course expectations.

Because we were such fans of Roch Guassoin, PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it was hard to imagine the new assistant professor who came on board in 2014 could be even nearly as impressive. But, it has taken no time for Bill Kreuser, PhD., to become a familiar name and sought-after speaker in the turf industry. His GIS conference presentations and webinars are highly rated. After receiving exuberant thumbs up in other regional chapters, it is finally our turn to welcome Kreuser (Kroy-sir), an assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He joined UNL in January of 2014 after receiving his Ph.D. at Cornell University, where he studied turfgrass physiology. He also serves as the state's Extension Turfgrass Specialist with a focus on soil and water management. We look forward to welcoming Kreuser – I believe you will find we haven't met anyone from the University of Nebraska turf program who wasn't a great fit with our association.

Dan Dinelli, CGCS, may be familiar to you. Dinelli is a



Bill Kreuser, PhD.

"Understanding PGR Performance and Over-Regulation"

"Drive Your Clipping Yield"

"Making Soil Testing Work for You"



Dan Dinelli, CGCS

"Lessons Learned with Sand-Based Greens"

"Phytobiome, How Biochar and Compost Fits in Your Program"

Dinelli's hobbies are even interesting. He is a registered falconer who successfully reintroduced the Peregrine Falcon to the Chicago area.

respected superintendent and manager of one of the best-known living laboratories in the country at North Shore Country Club, Glenview, Ill. His research is followed by many peers across the country. Over the years, he has appeared on the Golf Channel and GCSAA TV discussing course projects and the PGA Senior Encompass. His articles have been published in the top turf publications. Dinelli, a third-generation superintendent, received the 2009 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. "Dan is known by his colleagues as a critical thinker and continually works to apply practical environmental management to golf," said GCSAA President David S. Downing II, CGCS in 2008.

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October Pesticide Conference

Our annual pesticide meeting will be October 8 & 9, 2018 at the Hayden Lake Country Club, moderated by Gwen Stahnke, PhD. Earn 10 Washington and 10 Idaho Pesticide Re-certification credits and enjoy an incredible lunch!

Summer Outing at Galena Ridge

It was a beautiful day in the mountains! On July 18, some very lucky people enjoyed our Summer Outing at the Silver Mountain Resort. Hopefully while you were there you also took the opportunity to enjoy the water park, mountain biking, or one of

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A publication of the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association

Inland Empire Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

2018 Chapter Leadership Symposium

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Jeremiah Farmer Hayden Lake Country Club, Hayden Lake, Idaho

After years of corresponding with GCSAA Headquarters, I was very excited to finally get my opportunity to attend the



Leadership Symposium and see the 'Mothership' first hand. I am always happy to get the chance to learn and meet other superintendents from around the country.

After a long travel day (they're all long for me; I

don't like to leave my reservation), I met up with Lori, Mike Kitchen (Teton Pines) and Josh Benson (Idaho Falls CC). After having a quick get to know you beer at the airport, I was happy to get settled in our hotel and grab a bite to eat. Lori suggested that we go to The Burger Stand for their famous 'duck fat' fries. As we waited for our meals, our hotel's (The Eldridge) history came up in conversation - specifically the fact that it was haunted. I asked Lori for specifics and she said the ghost was on the fifth floor. Josh and I were both on the fifth floor and simultaneously said which room! Checking on line, Lori replied, "Room 506." Josh's face went blank and he said,

"I'm in 506!" I was in 505 (phew!). We told him that no one would think less of him if he switched rooms, but he stuck it out for two nights without an encounter.

Our day and a half at headquarters was packed. We enjoyed great speakers, a lot of good information and a chance to meet all the people who work behind the scenes to keep us well-informed and very capably represented. From Rhett Evans' inspirational talk on "Coming Together, Working Together, Succeeding Together," to a very informative and inspirational talk from Henry DeLozier; it was time well spent.

It is special events such as the symposium, and many others, which make serving on your chapters board of directors a very special experience in your career. I would highly recommend to anyone who hasn't yet had the chance to get involved, go for it; you won't regret it and Lori makes the job very accommodating to our busy schedules.

P.S. Just one little warning to any of you who might attend the symposium and stay on the fifth floor at the Eldridge, the ghost is not exclusive to room 506! He came into my room (505) the second night and turned my alarm off!



Summer Outing continued from page 1

numerous outdoor activities offered. Host superintendent Geoff Haynes took wonderful care of everyone and offered great conditions paired with stunning views. The proshop was even a huge hit! We hope you checked out more pictures included in the email blast.



We greatly appreciate our hole sponsors for the Summer Outing at Galena Ridge!

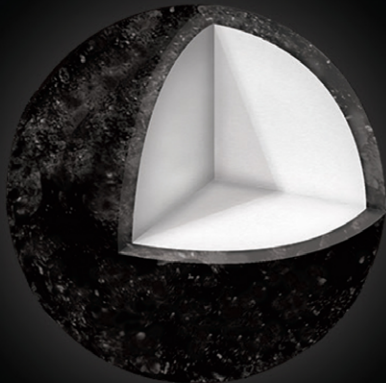
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Education for Assistants: GCSAA and Nufarm's EXCEL Program

*Jessica Lenihan, Assistant Superintendent,
Hayden Lake Country Club
Hayden Lake, ID*

I find that as I progress through my career, I am always on the lookout for new opportunities to learn and better myself in my current role. At the end of last summer, it was announced that GCSAA and Nufarm were partnering together to create a new leadership program for assistant superintendents. I couldn't pass up submitting my application. The EXCEL program provides leadership training in career, community, and industry stewardship and is completely focused on assistants, as we are the future of the industry. The inaugural class is comprised of 12 people chosen by an advisory board and a committee of representatives from Nufarm. Selected applicants were chosen through blind applications and written essay questions. I was pretty excited to have made the cut. The other 11 participants in the program are from all over the US and Canada. The program is on a three-year cycle, with three meetings each year. One meeting is at the GIS; a two-day spring meeting at GCSAA headquarters, and a two-day fall meeting at Nufarm headquarters.

Our first conference as a group was in San Antonio this past February. As part of the program, our education track for the show was laid out for us. This first year is focused on career and networking. We took classes on interviewing and resume writing, tips for networking and working a room, and how to be a decision maker when it comes to taking on a superintendent role. Our class was introduced at the EIFG reception on the Tuesday night of the show. I didn't really realize how important the EXCEL program was to GCSAA until I walked into that reception. It was like the who's who of our industry. You know, one of those.... holy cow there are a lot of really important people in this room right now.... moments. The awesome part about the program is that we were introduced to basically the entire room and it was incredible how many supers and directors were so supportive and offering help in whatever ways we may need in our career. It was a great foot to get started out on and totally got me excited for what is to come in the next three years.



At our spring meeting in Lawrence, we enjoyed the opportunity to work directly with Carol Rau, the lady who does the career counseling in partnership with GCSAA. She speaks at the GIS every year and if you haven't had the chance to attend one of her talks, I highly recommend it. She is very, very good at what she does. Personalized resume tips and mock interviews with an expert were great practice for any future job interview. She was very complimentary of our group, saying that we were clearly there for a reason and that she was confident in our abilities to get any position we were after. We also had the chance to network with some of the individuals who were on the advisory board that made the attendee selections. People like Bill Maynard (former GCSAA president), Alex Stuedemann (Director of Maintenance at TPC Deere Run) and Sheila Finney (former super and GCSAA membership director). The awesome part about the next three years is that, at our meetings throughout the year, different members of the advisory board will be in attendance to either speak, or just to network, or even both. We will have a chance to meet a lot of people we wouldn't have otherwise. After all, this industry is pretty much all who you know and the EXCEL program has opened doors that I didn't even realize were there.

Since we are the inaugural class of the program, it has been a learning experience for everyone involved and the 12 of us will have a hand in how the program grows and develops over the coming years. Our input is taken on what we liked and didn't like about what we have learned so far and things will be tweaked as necessary from there. It has recently been announced that the go-ahead has been given to add a second class to the EXCEL program and the application process should begin at the end of the summer. I can't recommend enough that assistants apply for the second class; it's an opportunity too good to pass up.



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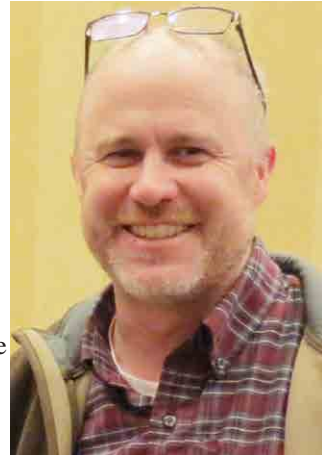
A Change in Goose Management Practices is

Long Overdue

Joe Aholt, Superintendent, and Aaron Gross, Grounds Crew

Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho

The Grass Clippings, April 2018



Joe Aholt

Canada geese have become a problem for golf course maintenance crews everywhere across the United States. Those of us in the field know that all too well. Annually, golf course superintendents and maintenance crews alike spend hours attempting to keep Canada geese off their golf courses. What is rather unfortunate about the relationship between golf courses and Canada Geese is that a golf course is a goose's ideal habitat. Aside from mass expanses of grass to eat, grass at the golf course is cut particularly short, which provides them with a safe habitat free from predators and visual obstructions, as well as water features providing them with sanctuary. More or less, golf courses or other open spaces, with grass and water features for roosting, basically invite geese to their property. What is even more unfortunate is that the Canada goose problem is becoming more widespread every day. From the Boise Greenbelt, to public parks, to businesses in the city, any swath of grass in a public space has become a safe haven for the Canada goose.

Unfortunately, the relationship between golf courses and Canada Geese has been a long-standing problem. Numerous management practices have been implemented in the past with only limited success: coyote decoys, swan decoys, dead goose decoys, bitter grape extract applied to turf, noise makers, and goose lights. We have found the following to be the most effective in keeping Canada Geese off the golf course temporarily: green laser pointers in low light or dark, trained dogs, paintball guns, and fences to keep goslings off the property. Golf courses out of city limits may

not face the same problems. Hunting is allowed outside of city limits during the appropriate season, obviously the most effective deterrent.

Unfortunately, this is not an option for any goose haven located within city limits.

While this problem is ongoing, so is our knowledge of these birds and their lifestyle habits. We know that, during the winter months, there is a population boom in the Boise city limits. Based on observation from bird marking by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, we know that many migratory geese move into the city during the fall and winter months. The city provides them with a refuge; constant human interaction becomes the norm and they

become less and less timid around people. The geese that nest within the conterminous United States in the months of March, April, May, June, July or August are collectively referred to as "resident" Canada geese. While these birds nest here, many of them still go on molt migration that take them to Canada and back each year. The more we continue to learn about these birds, the better our knowledge will be in attempts to manage their population.

What is also rather unsettling is the amount of money this problem costs. With labor allocated toward daily cleanup, harassment, and any other means necessary to keep these birds away, Canada Goose management cost more and more each year. We all want to see a change, but more needs to be done. I recently sat down with Rick Ward, the Idaho Fish and Game regional wildlife manager, Jeff Knetter, the Upland Game & Migratory Game Bird Coordinator of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Todd Grimm of the United States Department of Agriculture and Wildlife Services, and Steve Fuchser of Real Animal Management to discuss this problem. There was no question that the Canada Goose population is increasing every year and changes need to be



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made. In order for this to happen, there is a need for accurate documentation from all golf courses being impacted by Canada Geese. We need evidence documenting how much Canada Geese cost you in labor hours and dollars. How many hours do you spend on clean-up and harassment daily? What are the approximate costs? By compiling data from many golf courses, we can use this evidence to implement change.

Canada geese are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Regulations governing the issuance of permits to take, capture, kill, possess, and transport migratory birds are authorized by the Act, and issued by the USFWS. However, with Idaho Fish and Game, Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) all on board to see changes made, we are optimistic for the future. With enough evidence in hand we hope to implement the following changes: increases in egg addling programs on a much larger scale, large scale transplants, and modifications to laws pertaining to the hunting season. Technically, the season cannot go longer than 107 days in place. Currently, the season cannot run beyond the last Sunday in January. The hope

would be to extend that framework end date, perhaps into February with a 107 day season. We would also like to see an increase in bag limits. The state of Utah recently extended their hunting season framework into February and believe they have seen positive results.

For those of us being impacted by Canada Geese, there is hope, but we need your help. We will be contacting you via e-mail or phone to discuss the details of your goose problem and the costs. I hope to give a report on the cost per each golf course at the end of the season. Below are some things to keep in mind when documenting the cost of your goose problem:

- Hours Spent Chasing
- Hours Spent for Clean Up
- #'s of Geese Seen Daily
- Cost for Cleanup, Chasing, and Deterrents for Total Season

Chapter Room Block at GIS

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Most every golf course includes sand bunkers (bunkers) as part of the design. Some courses have a few and some have over 100. The condition of the bunkers is a constant source of concern among superintendents. Golfer complaints about sand bunkers are too numerous to mention; some are justified and some are not. In any event, every superintendent must fully understand and be able to communicate the issues that involve bunker maintenance.

The perception of the cost to maintain bunkers is often inflated because of the constant complaining about the condition of the sand by golfers. Bunkers get a lot of attention, but a good percentage of that attention may be mental!

“I think we believe that sand bunker maintenance is a larger part of the budget due to the fact that we are constantly hearing complaints from golfers and that they are never satisfied with the bunker condition,” says Steve Renzetti, superintendent at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Westchester County, New York.

Superintendents are experts, or should be, at buffering golfer complaints and putting the comments in perspective. If there are complaints about slow greens, he/she works to increase speed based on Stimp-meter readings. Unfortunately, there is not a Stimp-meter for bunker conditions. The complaints about bunkers range from specific sand color to vague comments such as, “I don’t like the feel of the sand.”

COMPONENT	CURRENT	OPTIMUM	BENEFIT
Sand Particle Size	Contaminated, 10% Silt 5% Clay 50% 0.7- 1.0 mm	80% 0.7 – 1.0 mm <3% Silt <3% Clay	Firm, consistent playability
Sand Color	Contaminated	White	Aesthetic
Sand Depth	6-8-inches	4-5 inches	Reduced buried lies
Base Liner	None	Included	Protect quality of sand
Drainage	None	Included	Better playability
Perimeter Irrigation	None	Need on some holes	Grass surround quality, less hand watering
	No access for Machine Rake	Create access	Reduce long term maintenance

Tackling the subject of bunker maintenance and developing a logical approach to defining the type of bunker condition that the golfers want starts with knowing how much you spend to maintain the current bunker condition. Without some sort of starting point you are destined to wander aimlessly.

Sand bunker maintenance costs must include the cost to maintain the sand and the surrounding grass area. The architectural design of the area surrounding the bunker has the biggest impact on overall costs. The cost to maintain bunker-surrounds typically represents 30-50% of the total bunker maintenance cost. Therefore, bunker design that does not allow for triplex mowing around the edges will cost twice as much to maintain.

One superintendent who tracks sand bunker maintenance is Tim Mack of Avondale Golf and Tennis Club. His data shows that about 4.3% of his total budget is spent on the following items related to sand bunker maintenance. The golf course is located in a low rainfall area with a playing season of about seven months.

Raking 50.9 %
Edging 9.8 %
Screening 6.7 %

Mowing
Surrounds 19.6 %
Adding Sand 13.0 %

To prove the extreme variance in sand bunker maintenance between golf courses, consider the costs for a golf course with a ten-month season and 50 inches of

Sand Bunker Economics

Jim Connolly, Planet Turf
Spokane Valley, Wash.



rain - frequent heavy rains. In addition, the club hosts a PGA Tour event each year. The sand bunker maintenance represents 15% of the total budget:

Raking 55 %
Edging 9 %
Screening/Cleaning 2 %
Washout Repair 1 %
Adding Sand 12 %
Repairing Drainage 1.5 %
Mowing Surrounds 14 %
Compacting Sand 0.5 %
Hand water surrounds 5 %

It is important to evaluate each maintenance practice on the golf course, but before this can be done, a baseline budget cost should be established. The steps to minimizing the trouble with bunkers is:

Establish a baseline cost of maintenance and accurate description of the current condition of the bunkers.

Too often, the superintendent is trying to maintain bunkers without a clear picture of what is expected. In addition to the current cost of maintenance, a physical description of each bunker must be recorded. The current physical condition will be compared to the optimum requirements needed for a well-built bunker with the desired color of sand.

Providing information about maintenance costs and objectives is a critical part of reducing the bunker headache syndrome.

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Fall Meeting continued from page 1

He breeds red-tailed hawks, donating them for educational programs everywhere from Disney World to Germany. Dinelli also enjoys going off road to remote locations to hike, camp, and learn about the natural wonders of the area. Notice in the picture of Dinelli to the right - there is no grass.



*Erika Eidson
Forest Health Specialist*

“What’s Eating my Tree? Managing Bark Beetle Attacks and Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer in your Landscape”

Specialist for the Idaho Department of Lands since June, 2017.

Tom Eckberg is an entomologist and the Forest Health Program Manager for the Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. He started working for the Idaho Department of Lands as a Forest Health Specialist in December 2007, coordinating insect surveys and providing technical assistance and training to forest landowners and managers statewide. In December 2016, Eckberg became Forest Health Program Manager.

We are tapping local experts for their knowledge topics and resources pertaining to this region. Joining us will be Erika Eidson, Forest Health Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands. Eidson was an arborist diagnosing sick trees and performing hazard analysis for the City of Aurora, CO. During her time there, the Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Colorado for the first time. She returned to school in 2015 and earned her master’s degree in Forestry at Utah State University in

Logan, Utah, focusing her thesis on bark beetles and tree resistance. Eidson has worked as a Forest Health



We are going to close the event with the meeting of the Triple T Support Group (Talking Turf Together). Roundtable discussions are always a highlight of our gatherings. This discussion may be moderated by Kevin Hicks,



*Tom Eckberg
Forest Health Program Manager,
Entomologist*

“Diagnosis of Plant Problems in the Landscape”

but will ebb and flow as the attendees ultimately have the topic control at hand.

BUT, WAIT! Before we see you at the Fall Meeting, the pesticide meeting the Hayden Lake Country Club – a great opportunity for you or your staff to earn those pesticide points. The meeting will be moderated by Gwen Stahnke, PhD.

Online registration offers the option to register and request an invoice to submit with a check, or the option to pay by debit/credit card. We use PayPal for processing - but you don’t need a PayPal account.

If you are submitting your registration for payment by check to your office - why not register online and request an invoice to be sure you receive early registration rate?!

Visit the calendar on the home page of iegcsa.org. Click on the event listed and you will find information about the event, to register for the education, be a sponsor, or to reserve a booth.

Sand Bunker Economics

continued from page 7

A thorough explanation with clear details will give the membership the information needed to make decisions about how much money to invest in the bunkers. The superintendent must be able to evaluate each bunker and compare it to the desired

optimum with an explanation about the benefits of optimum physical components.

Give the membership the information that is needed for them to make a decision and provide a realistic goal for the maintenance program of bunkers.

QUANTITY DOES NOT MEAN QUALITY

As a golf course manager with a budget, you must consider the value and purpose of

the bunkers on your golf course. With the assistance of a golf course architect and the input from the membership, it may be possible some bunkers are unnecessary and eliminating them would not affect the function of the hole. Or, maybe, the goal is to reduce maintenance costs. There are plenty of great golf courses with only a handful of bunkers. Augusta National had only 26 bunkers, but now has 40. The Olympic Club has only one fairway bunker! Because bunkers are so important to golf course design, we must be careful to consider the purpose of every bunker on the golf course.

The Inland Empire GCSA is established to serve members, advance the profession and promote the enjoyment of golf through responsible golf course management practices.