

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Winter 2018/2019

A Million Reasons to Attend March 12-13

Let's start off with six reasons. We have a dynamic duo who are ready to help you motivate your employees – and to embrace any generational differences. **Paul Sale, Sr. Director of Human Resources, PGE** and **Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, President, PointNorth Consulting, Inc.**, will offer a two-part presentation titled "Communication and Motivational Strategies for Today's Generational Differences." Secondly, **Ed Nangle, PhD**, will not only share valuable information worthy of a trip to Pendleton, he will keep you engaged and even a little entertained – and the Irish accent comes at no extra charge. The next two reasons are the peer panel/audience discussion talking about projects in the region, and, we have invited two speakers from the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center. We are taking advantage of the local knowledge about pollinators and the impact of aquatic invasive species. Totally worthy of mention are the silent auction and golf opportunity – both unique to our spring conference. Our host superintendent is Phil Lagao.



**Wetting Agents and
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**Niche Products - the
Highs and Lows - and
Some Home Truths**

Edward Nangle, PhD,
Ohio State University

As a bonus, here are three more reasons – GCSAA EDUs, pesticide recertification credits, and the renovated property now even has a movie theater on property! To save yourself from reading the other 999,991 reasons, it is simply easier just to register at this time. Online registration is available by visiting the calendar event of iegcsa.org. There you can register and request an invoice to submit with a check, or register and pay online. Hard copies were also mailed.

Please make your hotel reservation by calling The Wildhorse Resort & Casino, and specifying code #13684,

Tele: (800) 654-9453.

We need participants representing all levels of experience! Not only can we all learn something new every day – the

knowledge everyone brings to the table helps to educate each other.



2018 William Griffith Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Charles Golob was honored as the recipient of the 2018 William Griffith Distinguished Service Award for his years of service to the turf industry. On behalf of the membership, the award was presented to Golob by Mike Bednar, Superintendent, Palouse Ridge Golf Course during the Fall Meeting & Trade Show in November.

Golob's interest in turf goes way back. He was born and raised on a small dairy farm in the Yakima Valley. Growing up, Golob always had a stronger interest in plants - and not cows. He received his B.S. in Agronomy from WSU in 1979. Soon after receiving his degree, he joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer in

"It was an honor to present Charles Golob with the William Griffith Distinguished Service Award. He has touched the lives of many WSU Turf Management students and Northwest superintendents. He has always been an important source of knowledge for me, especially during the early years of my career at the old WSU Golf Course. His hard work and dedication both in the field and in the lab were instrumental to the success of turf research at WSU."

continued page 7

Chapters of Northwest Hospitality Room

see page 8

Summer Outing, University of Idaho GC

June 19, 12:00 p.m., Travis Ricard, host superintendent

A publication of the Inland Empire Golf Course
Superintendents Association

Inland Empire Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Bunker Renovation at Meadow Springs

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Mark Dalton

Meadow Springs Country Club, Richland, Wash.

Meadow Springs Country Club was built in the early 1970s. Improvements have been made over the years to individual holes, but there hasn't been a significant, course-wide improvement project since its establishment. During our 2015 strategic planning meeting, we conducted a SWOT analysis of the club's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. One significant threat identified was the possibility of a golf course being built in our market that would lure members away by virtue of being new. We agreed that the best defense against that threat was to keep our course relevant and keep our membership excited. A project was launched to do just that.

PROJECT APPROACH

The review and selection of an upgrade project was broken into phases:

- Select a golf course architect
- Develop a master plan
- Deliver a proposal to the membership for approval and select an improvement project
 - Identify and hire a golf course contractor
 - Prepare and present the improvement plan to membership
 - Pending approval, begin construction between November 2017 and March 2018

SELECTION OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT AND MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In the early spring/summer of 2015, the

club created a task force to identify and hire a golf course architect to develop a master plan. The task force selected David Druzisky, of Druzisky Golf, from Boise, Idaho.

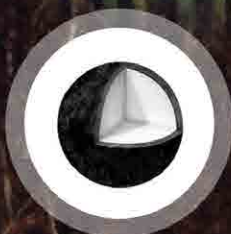
As David reviewed the golf course, he sought input and feedback from a variety of different sources: he met with my assistant and me, as well as the head golf professional and the club manager. As he got further into the design, we began group meetings with different sections of the club and the grounds committee, golf committee and board of directors.

PROPOSAL DELIVERY TO MEMBERSHIP AND SELECTION OF IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Drawing on the feedback he received and the survey that the membership had completed, David presented his master plan to the club in the fall of 2016. The club held two town hall meetings for David to present the master plan to the membership. Consistently, the bunkers were identified as the highest priority for improvement.



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BUNKER IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND SELECTION OF GOLF COURSE CONTRACTOR

Beginning the fall of 2016 and into 2017, David designed the bunker plan. As we developed a cost for the project and plans, the task force interviewed three highly qualified, experienced golf course contractors to bring that plan to life. The club selected Kip Kalbrener and his son, Casey, with Ridgetop Golf. They came highly recommended, had the bandwidth to take on the project, and felt comfortable they could deliver on schedule.

PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE BUNKER PLAN TO MEMBERSHIP

The final plan presented to the membership included the following items beginning November 1:

- Removing 48 old bunkers
- Repositioning 53 new bunkers around the greens and fairways
- A complete remodel and enlarging of the par 3's tees on number 6 and 14
- Installing an 800' concrete path on 6 tee.
- Removing a third of the front of the 13th green and all of the approach to lower it all to better receive golf shots.

The team knew that accurate, reasonable cost estimates were critical for the membership. Working closely with David and Kip, we made some important cost-savings decisions.

- **Use sod liners for the bunkers.** Using sod was economical compared to the more expensive new liners, and they work well in our area.
- **Our staff would do all the irrigation removal and reinstallation.** We played to our strength. Our staff knew the irrigation system and our repair methods, so it made sense for us to do this work and rely on Ridgetop's experience when exposing lines, digging new lines and packing the trenches.



The plan was presented to membership for vote and passed in August 2017. We moved forward with a construction timeline of November 2017 through the middle of March 2018. To say that the plan in this time frame was aggressive was an understatement. However, our ability to deliver on time and within budget was the first step in assuring future enhancement projects.

CONSTRUCTION CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

- **Differences between irrigation "as builds" and reality.** Like most courses, we have "as-builds" of our irrigation lines and their location. However, these types of projects reveal very quickly how close those plans are to reality. Ours weren't as accurate as we'd hoped. We hit lines all over the place. We were pulling out huge sections of irrigation and wire. This posed significant problems because we had to keep the irrigation system running for as long as possible to provide needed water during sod installation.
- **The amount of sod.** As the project began, we decided that my crew and I would handle the sod installation. This was a key factor in our ability to keep the project on schedule and allow Ridgetop to focus on digging, shaping and moving



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earth. That's not to say it was easy.

Everyone was excited when the first semi of sod arrived. Going from dirt to instant grass the bunkers just looked fantastic. The bright November sunshine showed dramatic shadowing—from the contours and edges throughout the bunkers, which were especially prominent without sand in them.

The excitement dropped significantly by the 10th semi and it was nowhere to be found by the 20th. By the end of the project, we hand-laid 28 semis of sod and big rolled another two semis.

We laid sod in every condition winter would bring: icy wind, cold rain and low temperatures. We tried to average at least eight people per truck. However, the actual number fluctuated. We averaged six people.

Ultimately, we devised a schedule to lay sod on Tuesdays and Thursday. With that approach, we could maintain the golf course on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. (A rest day between trucks was critical.) We kept our spirits up with background music—new country and classic rock-and-roll—not loud enough to be a disturbance, but something to break the monotony.

- **Creating disturbance areas.** Before construction began, we decided to create large disturbance areas (out of play areas) to store all of the spoils and avoid the expense of trucking the material off site. Originally, we planned for two to three areas. We finished with seven. After the project was finished, the areas were shaped and overlaid with top soil. After they were grown in, they looked like they had been there for years.

- **Dealing with winter conditions.** We finally blew out the irrigation system in the second week of December. However, we still needed to water the faces of the bunkers. So, we got creative and set up our 300-gallon fairway sprayer with a hand gun. It was tough work, particularly when the wind was blowing, and the temperatures were in the low 30's, but it was effective. (I suspect the members and homeowners thought we were crazy.) Another trick we used to deal with the cold temperatures was storing the sod in our equipment storage area to keep it warm overnight. We then laid it first thing in the morning.

- **Waiting on bunker sod to root.** The bunker construction was done by the third week of February and the tees completed by the first week of March. We had to wait to install the sand until all the bunker sod had rooted. When the sod was rooted, we sprayed Glyphosate in the bottoms of the bunkers, two days before we filled them. A challenge for that process was how to keep the golfers from retrieving their golf balls out of the bunkers before they were dry. We addressed this problem by assigning a staff member with a ball retriever to each green that was sprayed until the green was dry.

- **The sheer amount of sand.** Ridgetop said they

could install the 1000 tons of sand in seven or eight working days, so we stockpiled 200 tons sand in our parking lot. When we began sand installation in the middle of March, Ridgetop was true to their word. They went through our stock pile in a day. We overwhelmed the trucking company by asking for five to six semis per day. It took a few contentious phone conversations, but the trucking company came through for us in part because of our long history with them.

RESULTS

The Bunker Replacement Project was completed by the third week of March 2018. The membership was very happy with all aspects of the project. We laid 300,000 square feet of sod and moved over 1000 tons of white bunker sand. We relocated and realigned sections of seven cart paths and installed 800' of new concrete path. The project was completed on time and under budget. The playability and visual effects of the bunkers are amazing. The tee complexes are equally nice with the concrete path turning out great.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Success with projects of this size and complexity come down to teamwork. Having the architect, contractor and our team work well together was crucial.

My crew went above-and-beyond for this project. After a long, hot smoky summer, you find out what your crew is really made of when you ask them to undertake something of this magnitude. My assistant, Charlie, second assistant, Edy, Mikeal, and the rest of my staff were phenomenal. I couldn't have asked for any better group. We couldn't have done this without their sacrifices and dedication.



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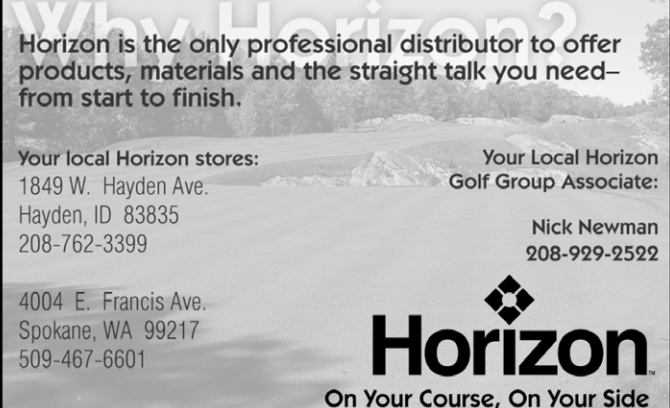
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Horizon
On Your Course, On Your Side

Editor's note:

The staff at Liberty Lake accepted a request and turned it into a beneficial team-building exercise when they were asked to summarize the **IEGCSA Fall Meeting** education in November. It could have been approached in different ways – assigning staff members to specific topics, or, even half-days, as an example. Todd Harper, superintendent, asked his team to simply take notes during the overall event and be prepared to report on their key take-home points. During the conference, Harper noted his team was intently listening and taking notes. Cell phones weren't constantly checked. A few days later, everyone gathered to review their points and to decide what would appear in the article. This spurred great conversation; everyone had different points they felt were article worthy. The results are included as bullet points here. Harper highly recommends this exercise as both a team building exercise and as a way to elevate the learning experience. He plans to meet with his staff to discussion take-home points after future events, as well. Harper's advice to you? Volunteer your staff to summarize presentations!

Take Home Points!

Courtesy of: Jim, Jacob and Todd
The Crew at Liberty Lake Golf Course

“Understanding PGR Performance and Over-Regulation” (Bill Kreuser, PhD)

- PGR's work differently at different times of the year. Use based on GDD calendar. Cooler temps mean longer intervals between apps. Warmer temps, you need to shorten app intervals.
- Use PGR's correctly or don't use them at all. Not good for your grass to be a yo-yo in its growth.
- Doubling rates on your PGR's does not double how long the product lasts. Low rates perform adequately and will keep your costs down.
- To help reduce collar decline from PGR's, lower mowing height to reduce leaf blade surface area or wash off right after PGR application.

“Lessons Learned with Sand-Based Greens” (by Dan Dinelli)

- Top four-inches of green become the only place roots live. (2% organic in the top 4” and 0.5% for 5” to 12” bottom layer).

- Grasses grown in active organics grow in much faster than just sand.
- Picking the right cultivar and using the correct cultural practices is the key. *i.e.* Some cultivars are more resistant to Poa (Pure Distinction), but create more biomass, thus meaning more thatch layer management.
- Top dressing leads to increased lignin and bigger stems. Dan recommends 1/2 verti-cutting
- Regardless of original greens cavity (sand or amended) mix, you will end up with the same organic layer over time.

“What's Eating my Tree? Managing Bark Beetle Attacks” (by Erika Eidson)

- Trees battle boring with toxic resins and pitch.
- Drought conditions limit the tree's ability to create resin and fight off beetles, creating outbreaks.
- Bark beetles spend almost their entire life cycle beneath or within the bark of the tree.

continued page 7

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Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he was involved with teaching improved agricultural methods for growing tropical crops. After his return from Africa, he pursued a M.S. degree in Agronomy under Dr. Bill Johnston. It was there that he began his career at WSU in turfgrass management and Kentucky bluegrass seed production research working with Dr. Johnston for 33 years. During those years, he managed the WSU Turfgrass Research Farm and was also involved with many offsite research projects. The primary focus of the program was weed and disease control in turfgrass and grass seed production. Over the years, the turfgrass program graduated over one hundred undergraduate and dozens of master students. Golob helped generate several hundred research reports and publications pertaining to turfgrass management and Kentucky bluegrass seed production.

Since WSU's decision to discontinue the turfgrass program following the retirement of Bill Johnston, Golob continues to work at



Bill Johnston, Golob continues to work at WSU, managing the Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS) located in Pullman, WA. This job entails regenerating plant germplasm stored at the federal germplasm repository located on the University campus. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, fishing, snowshoeing and spending time with his two grandchildren.

The Inland Empire GCSA certainly found a deserving candidate in Charles Golob. *(Golob left with Mike Bednar and with his wife, Elida).*

Take Home Points continued

- Specific beetles can be identified by the chewing pattern (gallery) in the phloem.
- Symptoms from bark beetles and engravers are pitch tubes, boring dust, fading crown.
- Thinning of dense forests, removing diseased trees, not trimming trees when beetles are in flight, and disposing of slash piles and diseased trees correctly are key to management.

“Phytobiome, How Biochar and Compost Fits in Your Program” (by Dan Dinelli)

- The biochar from grassland burnings help produce healthy growing conditions.
- Some of the best soils were disease prone. Symbiotic relationships between microorganisms exist.
- Shredders (living organisms) are valuable in breaking down organic matter.
- Must have a team and coach for organisms in the soil. Meaning you must have diversity in your soil amendments.
- Compost should be mature, free of contaminants, and have a proper analysis.

“Making Soil Testing Work for You” (by Bill Kreuser)

- Soil Tests are just a number (baseline), don't get overwhelmed by all the information. Pay attention to trends.
- Mehlich 3 soil test is the most recommended.
- Tests should be taken at the same time every year (preferably in the Spring) from similar positions, with at least a 4" sample depth.
- Phosphorus is the only element that can be detected and responds when tested.
- Important components of your soil test include: phosphorus, organic matter, potassium, PH, and salinity.

“Diagnosis of Plant Problems in the Landscape” (by Tom Eckberg)

- Grass can out-compete trees for water. Don't let grass grow up to the trunk of the tree.
- Trees should have a taper (flare) at the trunk. Don't bury trunks with dirt or mulch.
- White Pine Weevil is responsible for killing the leader of the Blue Spruce trees.
- Magnesium Chloride (Road De-icer) can be responsible for killing trees next to roadways and walkways because of increased salt intake by roots.
- To prevent sun scald, use a tree wrap to cover the trunk.




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