

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Spring 2019

Palouse Ridge and the Summer Golf Outing

Every time you gather with your peers, it is a learning experience, regardless of the location. And, meeting on a golf course offers a meaningful and applicable opportunity to directly share what is happening in the region.

Enjoy a nice summer drive and great golf on June 19! Don't miss the chance to spend an afternoon with your fellow members before the season and the heat ramps up to get the best of your time.

A box lunch will be included with your registration fee. We thank golf course superintendent Mike Bednar and Palouse Ridge Golf Club for hosting our association.

Hole sponsorships will be available and appreciated! You are welcome to reserve your sponsorship now.

Treat yourself – and your employees - to this experience. Registration is open. Visit the calendar event of our website iegcsa.org to register or to support the event through your hole sponsorship. Pay online or request an invoice.



Team Work!

The silent auction for rounds is successful thanks to the golf courses in our region supporting our programs through their donations and our team that tirelessly collects the rounds, creatively organizes our booth, and spends the weekend representing our association. We offer sincere thanks to Kal Zaranec, Circling Raven Golf Course, and Jake Leiser, Simplot Partners, for leading the event through all steps from the collection to readying the booth for the public. Representing the association in the booth were Buck Allen, Jacob Teaford, and Charlie Jones. Finally, Curt Chambers worked the phones notifying the winners.

Also making a huge impact are the volunteers for the spring meeting silent auction. Our allied members are incredible with their support and Todd Lupkes, CGCS, and Mike Bednar, both of Palouse Ridge, make it happen along with the assistance of Chip Caswell, Gamble Sands.

Way to go teams! Please see our top allied donors on page 6.



Chapter Leaders Symposium

Thank you to Mike Bednar, Palouse Ridge Golf Club, Pullman, Wash., for attending the 2019 GCSAA Chapter Leaders/ Executive Symposium, GCSAA, Lawrence, Kans. Pictured above are Rick Hathaway PPGCSA, Lori Russell, Mike Bednar IEGCSA, and Joe Aholt IDGCSA.

The learning objectives of the program are: *continued page 7*

A publication of the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association

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GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Member Profile

Ivan Gibbs

Leavenworth Golf Club, Leavenworth, Washington

When people ask me what I do for a living and I tell them I am a golf course superintendent, there is often a cross look as if to say, "Why didn't I think of that when choosing a career path?" I am always amazed when they tell me, "I have never heard of a degree in turf management." This baffles me because, for me, it was very intentional; it is the only thing I have ever wanted to do. I knew when I was 17-years old that I wanted to be a golf course superintendent. Now at the age of 38, it is still the only career path I have ever considered.

The passion I have for my job stems from my love of the game of golf. I learned to play at the age of 11 and had a knack for it right away. I think I enjoyed it so much as a kid because I was able to excel at the game while my two older brothers struggled. My brothers were good at everything. To be deemed the golfer of the family was very satisfying. I played on the high school team and made it to the state championships three times. It was then I realized there can be a huge difference from one golf course to another based on the quality of maintenance.

I was raised in Leavenworth, Wash., on an organic produce farm. My parents had me pulling weeds and picking apples at a very young age. I have always had a fascination for watching things grow, it must be in my blood. I am fortunate to now be the superintendent of the Leavenworth Golf Club, the course where I first learned to play the game. Many of our members have known me since I was a kid.

They understand and appreciate that I have been around to see all the changes the club has been through over the last 27 years.



I earned my turf degree from Walla Walla Community College. When it was time to go on an internship, I chose Carmel Mountain Ranch, near San Diego. At the time, it was owned by American Golf and it was the connections I made through them that brought me back to San Diego after I earned my degree. I took a job as the crew foreman at Mission Trails Golf Course, another American Golf property. Ultimately, it was the climate and lack of seasons in Southern California that drove me to move on to Colorado, where I took a job as the irrigation tech at The Aspen Glen Club, a Jack Nicklaus design. After a couple of years, I wanted to move back to the PNW. I was able to get hired on at the Leavenworth Golf Club as the assistant superintendent in 2005 and the rest is history. I took over as superintendent in 2013.

Leavenworth is a wonderful place to live, unless you are trying to find parking on a festival weekend. My wife (Randi) and son (Bruce) are incredibly supportive, even when I am waking up at 3 am to get a jump on the day. Randi works for the Washington State Department of Revenue. She is either assigned out of state or working from her home office. We love being in the mountains and especially the climate it provides. Most of my hobbies involve being outside, so, it is nice to have four distinct seasons.

Our golf season is only seven months - April through October where we have about 22K rounds. I really

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Leavenworth continued from page 2

enjoy getting the course ready for snow cover, and then opening it back up again in the spring. Although, the short season can make it difficult to get improvement type projects accomplished. Most of our off season we are covered in snow. The golf course sits on 80 acres tucked between Icicle Ridge and the Wenatchee and Icicle Rivers. The front nine was built in 1927 and the back nine in 1968. Most of the fairways are lined by old growth timber, and the greens are small and sloping. It has a real classic feel to the layout with spectacular views of the merging Icicle and Wenatchee rivers to the East and the Cascade Mountains to the West. The golf course is short enough to be welcoming to golfers

new to the game, but, it plays tight and fast enough to challenge even the best golfers.

I love what I do and I love where I live. As a 17-year member of the GCSAA, I understand the importance of continuing education and collaborating with my peers. If you are ever in my neck of the woods, look me up. Talking turf never gets old to me.



Greg Baer

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Why do we do what we do?

Darcy Otto, Stoneridge Golf Course, Blanchard, Idaho

You can ask this question to 20 different people and you will get 20 different responses. Everyone has their own reasons, but I'm pretty sure not one person will say, "Because it's a job." The most popular reason will be the challenge not only from Mother Nature, but what comes from the drive within ourselves. A salesman once commented to me, "Superintendents are like dogs, you can kick them all you want and they will keep coming back trying to please everyone." I don't agree with this

statement at all. Again, it's something that comes from within each of us that says, "I'm not backing down from this challenge, I'm not going to fail."

Do we always succeed? Unfortunately, not always, but, it's the challenge. The challenge of a new day, a new year. The days and years are not all the same and I think that is also the allure for some of us. There is no monotony in this industry, no way, no how. To some, I believe it's the variety of

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A Change in Goose Management Practices is Long Overdue Part 2

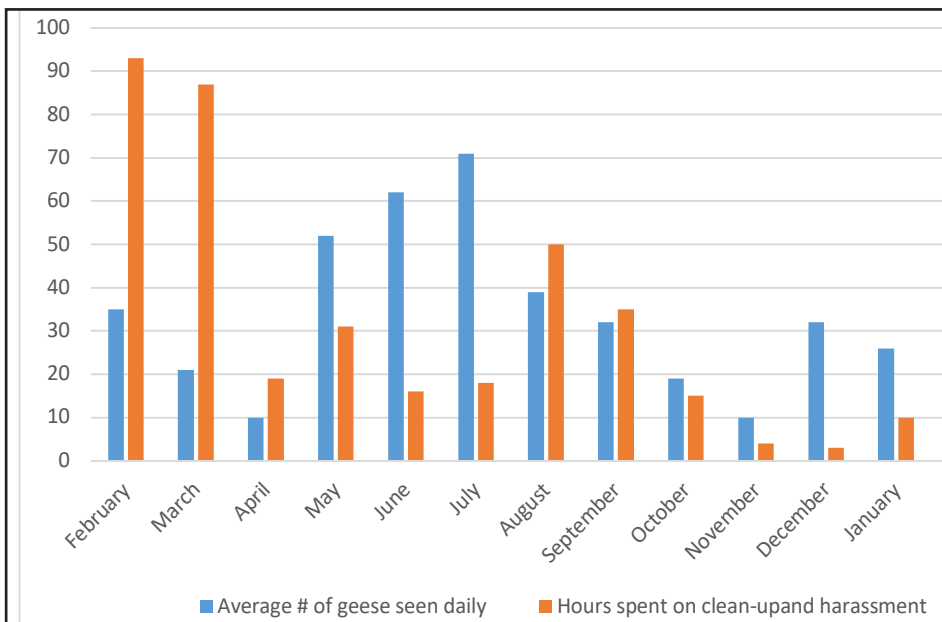
**Joe Aholt, Superintendent, and Aaron Gross, Grounds Crew
Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho**

At this same time last year, I wrote an article about the long-standing problem between golf courses and Canada Geese. As indicated in the article, there is no question that the Canada Goose population is increasing every year. However, more was needed to be done before real change could be discussed. In order for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Fish and Wildlife Services to make real changes pertaining to laws, they needed to see a dollar amount.

Over the past 12 months, we kept track of the amount of time and dollars we spend each month attempting to keep Canada Geese off our golf course, as well as time and costs for clean-up.

The true cost of materials and labor

Figuring an average labor cost of \$12 an hour, over the past 12



months we spent \$18,500 in labor and another \$1,000 in materials for goose management. These expenses include clean-up, which would be criminal not to mention, considering each Canada Goose drops up to three pounds of poop per day. On a warm day in July, when geese frequent the property in high numbers (see graph), basic multiplication states that hypothetically there are 210 pounds of poop on our golf course per day, if we don't chase them off. Harassment and labor costs include using green lasers during low lit times of day, hazing with paintball guns, egg adding, coyote decoys, and a three-foot tall chicken wire fence to keep goslings off the golf course - spanning the whole length of the New York Canal through the property (approximately 800 yards). These costs also include 55 visits from Steve Fuscher of Real Animal Management. This professional dog service is hired to chase geese

off the golf course for approximately one hour each evening May through August. On a side note, if you refer to the graph, in November, December and January, you may also notice a lull in the average number of geese seen daily, as well as the hours spent on harassment and clean up. This past winter, we had three unexpected coyotes reside on the golf course until March, keeping goose visitations and clean-up to a minimum, and proving wild predators to be one of the best goose deterrents.

In one 12-month period, Hillcrest Country Club spent \$19,500 dollars in goose management costs alone. In Boise, we represent only one open space from the Boise Greenbelt, to public parks, to businesses in the city, and any swath of grass in a public space in between.

April 2019, Grass Clippings, Idaho GCSA

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hats that we must wear. We are our own HR team, our own secretaries, our own public relations officers, our own mechanics. We do so many things, yet, we can't do them alone. We rely heavily on our assistants, mechanic and crew. Without our staffs, we are not going to succeed; take the time to appreciate how those around us help. When things go well for us and we are complimented on how great the course looks and plays, our first response is usually, "Thank you, I have a great staff." We don't go seeking recognition, we usually deflect it. We prefer to remain anonymous and this is a practice that has to end!

When we lose long standing peers, colleagues and mentors from our industry, it saddens us because then we question our own mortality. This leads to questions like: "What would I do if I wasn't in the golf industry? What would I be good at?" Don't sell yourself short; we wear many hats and you are great at a lot of things. I get it, golf is a business and it is run like one more today than ever, but when long standing superintendents are let go, it hurts for all of us because there are so few of us. All we are left to do is to wish them well and move on. Our industry has made great strides, but, sometimes, I still feel like the superintendent plays a lesser role in the eyes of powers-that-be, membership, and in public opinion than our partners in the PGA world. Don't kick us because we aren't that dog! We are brothers and sisters of turf and we need to start getting up on our soap boxes and start singing our own praises! If we don't, who's going to do it for us? As we come out of winter, I am hoping for a great season for all of you! Take some time to feel the warmth of the sun on your face, the beautiful sunrises, and most of all, take some time for your families! Have a great 2019!

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Kal grabbed everyone's attention with Caddy Shack and golf available to watch in the booth!



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Thanks to our panelists!

Mike Kingsley, MeadowWood GC

Jeremiah Farmer, Hayden Lake

Darak Bigler, Circling Raven GC

Greg Baer, Baer Design Group

Philip Lagao, Wildhorse Resort



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