

# Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Spring 2020

## COVID-19 Pandemic Resources

Between the time this newsletter is finished and the time received in your hand, we do not know how the COVID-19 will have progressed. If we are fortunate, the crisis has peaked, but according to many models, we are not there yet.

Regardless where we are in the crisis, all of you have been affected personally and professionally and we wish you all a strong network to navigate your experiences. And, please know information is out there to help your facility navigate this crisis. GCSAA is constantly updating COVID-19 Pandemic Resources. While we have offered the link through social media and in our email blasts, the link can simply be found on the home page of [gcsaa.org](https://www.gcsaa.org), or by visiting <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/covid-19-pandemic-resources>

## Healthcare Programs Now Available in 38 States

As of April 1, GCSAA members in 38 states - including Idaho - will have access to quality customized health care options through Association Health Programs. We are sorry to report Washington residents are not eligible.

Product availability, rates, and eligibility vary by state and individual circumstances. States that only allow for their own state-run insurance programs, and/or have certain state limitations, do not allow outside parties to offer options within the state.

If you are insured through an employer's group policy, you will typically need to wait until the group's open enrollment period to make a change. AHP recommends you inquire one month prior to the group's open enrollment. For more information visit [gcsaa.org](https://www.gcsaa.org), or the News page of [iegcsa.org](https://www.iegcsa.org).

## 2020 Summer Outing To be updated as needed!

Save the date, people! Prospector Golf Course, Suncadia, Cle Elum, Washington! June 10, 11:30 a.m.

## Team Work at the Golf Show!

The silent auction for rounds is successful thanks to the golf courses supporting our programs through their donations and our team who 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. We also had a great team representing the association in the booth, including Jessica Lenihan and Bryce Weber, along with Leiser and Zaranec. In addition, we offer our thanks to Curt Chambers, who notified the winners. Great team-work everyone!



## Road to the LPGA Makes a Stop at Circling Raven

Kal Zaranec, Circling Raven Golf Club, Worley, Idaho

The Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort & Circling Raven Golf Club are happy to announce that they have entered into a three-year agreement with The Symetra Tour, largely considered the "Road to the LPGA." With that said, the course will be hosting the Circling Raven Championship on August 28 - 30, 2020, and this new event will be the first time the Symetra Tour has played an event in the state of Idaho.

The three-year tournament commitment is a new stop on the Symetra Tour in which the upcoming ladies in golf will compete at 20 courses throughout 13 states this year. Symetra Life Insurance Company, based in Bellevue, Washington, has been the title sponsor of the tour since 2010. This tour will compete at 20 different courses located throughout the country, while playing for roughly \$4M in annual prize money. With more than 300 ladies playing professionally and coming from around the

*Volunteer opportunities will be available*

(continued page 4)



**Inland Empire GCSA  
Board of Directors**

**Jeremiah Farmer, President**  
Hayden Lake Country Club

**Mike Bednar, Vice Pres.**  
Palouse Ridge Golf Club

**Geoff Haynes  
Secretary/Treasurer**  
Galena Ridge Golf Club

**Jamie Colson**  
Sun Country Golf Course

**Mike Grilley**  
The Links

**Shane Hughes**  
Zintel Creek Golf Club

**Mike Kingsley**  
MeadowWood Golf Course

**Jake Leiser**  
Simplot Partners

**Kalman Zaranec**  
Circling Raven Golf Club

**Jennifer Camp  
Past President**  
Trailhead Golf Course

**Jessica Lenihan,  
Assistant Liaison**  
Hayden Lake Country Club

**Inland Empire GCSA**  
Lori Russell, Executive Dir.  
P.O. Box 807  
Lolo, MT 59847  
(406) 273-7779  
iegcsa@iegcsa.org



For you who may not know me, my name is Darak Bigler and I am the equipment and fleet manager for the Coeur d' Alene Casino Resort. I was hired on as the equipment manager for the Circling Raven Golf Club during construction in 2001.

I always knew I wanted to turn a wrench for a living. Coming out of the diesel program from North Idaho College, I thought heavy iron was where I wanted to be. The only choice I had locally was to go to work in the mines or work on semi-trucks. Neither of these options seemed appealing to me, so I decided to move back to the Seattle area where I had family. I ended up accepting a job with Farwest Equipment, which was a Jac dealer. The funny thing is that I had four job offers and

# What a Ride

## Darak Bigler Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Worley, Idaho

this position was the lowest paying job out of all of them. When I interviewed, I was literally amazed that turf equipment was so cool; I had no idea such equipment even existed. I was hooked.

I worked for the dealership for three-four years before they closed their doors. I was so fortunate to work at a dealership before going to the Raven as it really gave me a great foundation from which to build. Being able to get factory trained as a tech and getting to work with people out in the industry gave me great confidence in my abilities. I have built many great relationships with industry colleagues starting back from my earliest days. The relationships I have built over the years have given me the drive to be successful.

I have been able to hit so many milestones over the years. I would have never been able to do so without the support of my employer and direct supervisor, Brian Woster.

I feel we have a great team from top to bottom. Over the years my duties have expanded from golf equipment manager to fleet manager for the casino. I currently have three full time techs who maintain and repair equipment and vehicles for the entire property. There are just under 300 pieces of equipment/vehicles that we are responsible for maintaining, not including the 100 golf carts with GPS. It is set up that one of my techs takes care of casino equipment and vehicles, one takes care of casino people movers and the golf cart fleet, and the other takes care of golf equipment.

Volunteering for a US Open and working on the iron side of it was one of my career highlights, for sure. Building an autonomous sprayer from scratch was definitely something. Working with the GCSAA as an industry expert to help write the testing exams for the equipment manager's certificate program was very self-gratifying. Working with our local chapter's equipment managers over the years has been great. Working for the Coeur d' Alene tribe for almost two decades has been amazing. At the end of the day, having people in our industry reach out and ask for my advice is one of the best accomplishments of all. I would have never been so successful without the help and support of so many people and I thank you all.

where golf is not allowed. But, as I write this, things are surely to change. *To read Dave's entire blog field staff blog, visit [GCSAA.org](http://GCSAA.org)*

## A Unified Voice for Golf During COVID-19

*David Phipps, NW Field Staff*

A unified voice for golf will always have a greater impact when communicating the value of our game.

If any good has come from the last few weeks of dealing with COVID-19, it's knowing the value of a good relationship between your state's golf industry and your governor's office. I think we have all realized how vital it was to establish a line of communication when we needed to communicate the necessity of allowing golf courses to continue maintenance through the "Stay at Home" executive orders. The same applied to our allied golf associations, as well. We all knew that golf could be a viable activity while social distancing measures were in place, Page 2

but after the executive orders came out, it wasn't clear if golf as an activity was allowed. For the industry's sake, we — as an alliance — had to reach out and help clarify if golf was going to be allowed. This was not done for the sake of maintaining profitability, but rather as a safe alternative for the public to be able to get out and exercise.

GCSAA's field staff, the government affairs team, and Rhett Evans — who enlisted our national allied partners input — began to help a few states and their allied golf members come together and pen a letter that soon became a template for the rest of the states. These letters were soon replicated around the country and, within days, we had letters in all state governor's offices except for Alaska, where the season is still a few weeks out. As of today, minimal maintenance is allowed in most all states, even



# TURF HEALTH BEGINS WITH SOIL HEALTH

## HCU

HCU (Humic Coated Urea) granules are an innovative nitrogen source featuring urea-humate fusion. Clean, spherical, free flowing 44-0-0 granules are 100% soluble for use in both liquid and dry applications and can be applied to all types of cool and warm season turf.

## Foltec SG

Foltec SG is an innovative foliar nutrient technology featuring a proprietary combination of dry soluble granules (SG) that quickly solubilize in the spray tank.

## Contec DG

Contec DG combines premium turf nutrients and our patented Dispersing Granule Technology into a homogenous granule designed to optimize granular applied turf nutrition.

## Humic DG

Containing the full spectrum of humic substances (fulvic acid, humic acid and humin), Humic DG enhances nitrogen and phosphorous efficiency, promotes good soil structure and enhances root system development.

### WILBUR-ELLIS SPECIALISTS

**BRENT RADFORD**  
Spokane, WA | 509-994-4735

**ANDREI OMEL**  
Pasco, WA | 509-545-9329

**DREW ROUNTREE**  
Walla Walla, WA | 509-301-6105



### THE ANDERSONS TERRITORY MANAGER

**ED PRICE**  
Office: 208-772-9290 | Cell: 509-981-9077

[AndersonsPlantNutrient.com](http://AndersonsPlantNutrient.com)

©2020 The Andersons, Inc. All rights reserved. Foltec, Contec DG, and Genesis Rx are registered trademarks of The Andersons, Inc. HCU, VersaGard, Humic DG, CharX, and DI2020 are trademarks of The Andersons, Inc.

## NEW PRODUCTS!

### Genesis Rx Zeolite+

Genesis Rx Zeolite+ 3-4-3 is a comprehensive fertility plus soil amendment specifically designed for use during aeration, new greens construction, renovation and seeding.

Also available: Genesis Rx 5-7-5.

### VersaGard™

Turfgrass diseases can strike during a variety of times during a growing season. The introduction of VersaGard adds a vital weapon in your arsenal to combat a variety of summer and winter diseases.

### Humic DG CharX™

Humic DG CharX is a 50/50 blend of humic acid and biochar in a dust-free, spherical, and dispersible granule. The list of benefits that can be derived from using biochar is very similar to humic acid products like Humic DG™.

### DI2020™ DUAL-IMPELLER SPREADER

Featuring an advanced design dual impeller system, this spreader provides a symmetrical spread pattern, eliminating the potential for uneven application. The dual impeller design provides superior flexibility in spreading a variety of granule types and sizes.



# Chapters of the Northwest '20 and around the GIS!



*Excel Class of 2018 at GIS - Jessica Lenihan, Hayden Lake CC (above)  
Chapter Delegate Mike Bednar, Palouse Ridge GC, GIS Annual Meeting (right)*

## Circling Raven Hosts Symetra Tour

world at any given event, it is reasonable to see golfers from 30–40 different countries.

The tour plays an integral role as the top-10 players in the Volvik Race for the Card earn status on LPGA Tour the following season. Once again, The Circling Raven Championship will take place August 24-30, 2020. If you are interested in learning more about the sponsorships or volunteering opportunities we will have with this event, contact Dave Christenson [atdchristenson@cdacasino.com](mailto:atdchristenson@cdacasino.com), or apply

at <http://events.trustevent.com/index.cfm?eid=3617>

If you are interested in volunteering on the agronomic side, or have any crew members interested in volunteering, please contact Kal Zaranec at [kzaranec@cdacasino.com](mailto:kzaranec@cdacasino.com). All volunteers will receive a shirt/hat combo, one free round of golf following the Circling Raven Championship, meals during shifts, and an opportunity to play in the end of the year volunteer tournament. We are excited to host this tournament and would like to invite everyone to come be a part of the Circling Raven Championship.



Greg Baer

Irrigation Consultant

10027 N. Palisades Wy.  
Boise, ID 83714  
Ph. 208.859.1980  
[greg@baerdg.com](mailto:greg@baerdg.com)

[www.baerdg.com](http://www.baerdg.com)



**CoRoN** Controlled-Release Nitrogen  
**Renova** **Soaker** **RESERVOIR**  
**OSKIE** **INJECTOR**  
**BATTLESHIP III** **RECEPTOR**  
**Hydra-Hume** **LIQUID HISEL**  
**HELENA**  
 People...Products...Knowledge...  
**Chris Concienne 509-795-9175**  
**[conciennec@helenachemical.com](mailto:conciennec@helenachemical.com)**

Horizon is the only professional distributor to offer products, materials and the straight talk you need—from start to finish.

Your local Horizon stores:  
1849 W. Hayden Ave.  
Hayden, ID 83835  
208-762-3399

Your Local Horizon Golf Group Associate:  
Nick Newman  
208-929-2522

4004 E. Francis Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99217  
509-467-6601

**Horizon**  
On Your Course, On Your Side

**Thank you for a great evening!**

***GOLD Sponsors:***

**Bayer  
C & B Operations(Gold)/  
Pacific Golf & Turf(Gold)  
Corteva  
RMT  
Simplot Partners  
Turf Equipment & Irrigation  
/Midland Implement  
Turfstar/Western Equipment**

***SILVER Sponsors:***

**Harco Pipe Fittings  
HD Fowler  
Rain Bird**

***BRONZE Sponsors:***

**Syngenta  
AMVAC Environmental Products  
Aquatrols  
BASF  
Earthworks Carbon Based Fertility  
Enviologic Resources  
Helena Agri-Enterprises  
Horizon Dist.  
Ridgetop Golf  
Superior Tech  
Walrath Sand  
Sustainable Pest Management Solutions  
Wilbur Ellis**



  
**Nathan Cox**  
Owner  
Sport Turf  
& Golf Sales  
509.750.1614

**Tracy Young**  
Office Manager  
Residential  
Commercial Sales  
509.350.0707

**Martin Gallardo**  
Operation  
Manager  
509.989.2200

  
Premium sand based sports turf  
[www.desertgreenturf.com](http://www.desertgreenturf.com)

  
**Richard Strautman**  
President

4651 Ann Court  
Bellingham, WA 98229

 : 3603057619  
 : [stretch@floratinenw.com](mailto:stretch@floratinenw.com)  
[www.floratinenw.com](http://www.floratinenw.com)

# A Lesson on Starting a Bluebird Nest Box Project

David Phipps, GCSAA NW Region Field Staff

Early in my career, I became very involved with the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project. While serving as the assistant superintendent at The Oregon Golf Club in the 90s, bluebirds had finally discovered the golf course so I reached out to the PBRP so they could monitor the nesting boxes and band any young birds that would be hatched. The PBRP's goal is to increase the populations of the Western Bluebird across the Willamette Valley and, by banding them, track their progress.

I have seen bluebirds now during site visits across the region including Southern Oregon where the superintendent had no idea that they were even there. Stone Creek Golf Club, where I tried for 12 years to lure them in, finally had birds show up a few years after I left and are now regular residents.

Bluebirds and golf courses just happen to go very well together, but there's a lot more to starting a bluebird nest box program than just putting up a few boxes and hoping they will come. I would strongly suggest working with a local conservation group such as the PBRP and finding out where to locate the boxes, so they are in a safe and productive place. And don't forget this is a great opportunity to engage local schools through the First Green program and have them construct your boxes and teach them about conservation.

I still receive the PBRP Newsletter and this month they posted

a very good article from the Journal of the North American Bluebird Society, by Bet Zimmerman Smith. I would like to share it for those who have considered a nest box program or for those who may need a refresher course. The following reprinted with permission.



## A Dozen Bluebirding Myths By Bet Zimmerman Smith

**MYTH:** You can put up a nest box and forget about it.

**REALITY:** Bluebird boxes should be monitored at least weekly to check on progress and control house sparrows, blowflies, paper wasps, and to remove unhatched eggs, etc. Boxes need to be cleaned out after nesting. Check boxes at least annually to replace split, rotten or broken boxes that could let rain in and chill nestlings. OR, replace the entire box.

**MYTH:** Bluebirds will remove old nests from a nest box.

**Western**

**Equipment & Irrigation Distributors**

**Dedicated to Providing You with Great Products & Great Service**

Kent, WA — (253)-872-8858  
Spokane, WA — (509)-483-8665  
Tualatin, OR — (503)-691-0250

[www.western-equip.com](http://www.western-equip.com)

**TORO**

*Proud to have been in business since 1972!*

**REALITY:** Bluebirds will not typically clean out old nests. They may build a nest atop another nest, but this promotes disease and parasite infestation and may increase the likelihood that a predator will be able to reach in and nab eggs/nestlings that are closer to the entrance hole. Remove the nest as soon as the young birds fledge (around 3 weeks after hatching) or if nesting fails (as bluebird may attempt another nest in 1 – 7 days).

**MYTH:** If you open the bluebird box or touch the nest or young, the parents will abandon the nest.

**REALITY:** Don't worry that monitoring will make the parents desert the nest. Most songbirds have a poor sense of smell. Adults may pester you (it's their instinct to protect their nest, eggs, and young), but are unlikely to abandon the nest.

**MYTH:** House Sparrows won't bother bluebirds or their nests.

**REALITY:** House Sparrows are probably the #1 enemy of bluebirds. House Sparrows are capable of entering the 1 ½ inch round opening of the nest box. They will attack and kill adult bluebirds (sometimes trapping them inside the box) and destroy eggs and nestlings. These sparrows are non-native invasive pests not protected by law. Their nests, eggs, young and the adults may be legally removed or destroyed. It is better to have no box at all than to allow House Sparrows to reproduce in one.

**MYTH:** If you don't have problems with predators or competitors on a route the first year, you never will.

**REALITY:** It may take time for raccoons, cats, and other predators to discover nesting areas. Unless you don't mind finding broken eggs, abandoned/dead babies, or a pile of blue feathers, take precautions to prevent predators from entering the box.

**MYTH:** If you don't get bluebirds in your nest box/trail the first year, you never will.

**REALITY:** It may take several years for bluebirds to find your nest boxes and choose to use them.

**MYTH:** It's too late in the year to install a nest box because bluebirds have already begun laying eggs.

**REALITY:** It's never too late to install a nest box. Bluebirds may raise two or three broods. If a nesting attempt fails, they may choose to move to another box. Bluebirds may roost in nest boxes during the winter.

**MYTH:** Bluebirds prefer to nest in boxes mounted at eye-level.

**REALITY:** Eye-level is convenient for human monitors.

Bluebirds will nest in, and may even prefer, boxes that are 8-20 feet off the ground. It is preferred to mount boxes at eye level – it won't deter bluebirds and will facilitate monitor safety and maintenance of the nest box.

**MYTH:** You should collect earthworms and put them in a feeder for bluebirds.

**REALITY:** Bluebirds love mealworms but should not be fed earthworms. The nestlings' underdeveloped digestive systems cannot handle earthworms because of the dirt castings in the worm gut. Eating earthworms (sometimes used as a source of food by bluebird parents during bad weather when nothing else is available) can cause severe diarrhea, which can result in dehydration and starvation. Also, bluebirds rarely eat seeds – 68% of their diet is made up of insects: grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, spiders and caterpillars. They also like fruit from plants like flowering dogwood, holly, mulberry, wild grape, Virginia creeper, pokeweed and viburnum.

**MYTH:** Plexiglas roofs/holes in the roof/extra light in boxes can keep House Sparrows out.

**REALITY:** Not true. A change may temporarily deter sparrows, but they will nest in such boxes. Open topped boxes or those with holes in the roof are no longer recommended due to concerns about wet nest and hypothermia.

**MYTH:** Bluebirds were on the brink of extinction, but now they are back and no longer need your help.

**REALITY:** Bluebird population decreased by an estimated 90 per cent from 1920-1970, threatened by competition from introduced, non-native species, loss of open space and nesting cavities, pesticide use, climatic events, and development of new farming methods or developing former farmland into human housing. With assistance from people like you, since none of these issues that cause declines has really gone away, bluebirds and other songbirds have managed to stabilize their population through periods of variable success. There are new climatic events with more profound effects already upon us over the 50 years starting in the 1970s.

**MYTH:** Bluebirds behave the same way, all the time, everywhere.

**REALITY:** Eastern, Mountain and Western Bluebirds in different areas behave differently and show different preferences. The same birds may behave differently as they age; seasons, climate and conditions change from one year to the next. Do whatever works in your area to help bluebirds maintain their numbers and a special place in our lives.



TOP PERFORMING CULTIVARS  
SAND ROOT ZONE  
CUSTOM PRODUCTION AVAILABLE

**MAGIC VALLEY**  
**BENTGRASS**  
*Premium Putting Green Soil*

**Matt Nelson** OWNER  
**208.358.4420**

[www.magicvalleybentgrass.com](http://www.magicvalleybentgrass.com)  
[matt@magicvalleybentgrass.com](mailto:matt@magicvalleybentgrass.com)



**planet turf**™

FERTILIZER • PESTICIDES • SOIL TESTING

3030 E. Mission Ave Spokane, WA 99202 p. 509-921-5421  
Jim Connolly, President – 509.951.0270 Jared Whitaker, Central WA - 509.977.1354  
Jason Otto, Western WA – 425.422.1648 Kelly Bowen, Eastern WA, North ID – 09.919.1145

# 2020 Spring Meeting in Walla Walla!

Disclosure - "please don't stand this close" 😊



Event  
Sponsor:



Lunch  
Sponsor:



## Break Co-Sponsors:

Desert Green Turf  
Helena Agri-Enterprises  
Horizon Distributors  
Ridgetop Golf  
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons  
Zintel Creek Golf Course

## Hole Sponsors:

(Hole + Pin Prize)  
Pacific Golf & Turf  
Harco Fittings  
Helena Agri-Enterprises  
Horizon Distributors  
Planet Turf  
Turfstar/Western Equipment  
Wilbur Ellis/The Andersons  
Zintel Creek 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.*