

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Summer 2020

IEGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show

We would like to host this annual event and we are cautiously watching as COVID-19 continues its presence. As of this time, we are planning on the meeting happening and we are hard at work setting up an agenda that will make it worth your while. As no surprise, the pandemic has caused havoc with our planned schedule, which, as previously announced, included a great superintendent speaker out of Canada - Brian Youell. We will have Youell participate at a future event.

The Fall Meeting & Trade Show, November 16 & 17, will be at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. We have been in contact with the hotel setting up safety protocols, meeting state and local requirements. Masks will be required to attend - it is important to make this as safe of an environment as possible to attend.

Address Change for IEGCSA

The Inland Empire GSCA has a new mailing address effective immediately. IEGCSA, PO Box 5003, Missoula, MT, 59806. The telephone number and email address remains the same.

Pesticide Meeting 2020

Seeking pesticide re-certification credit? The annual 2020 Pesticide Meeting will proceed (as of this time). This year's event will be moderated by Bill Griffith and it will be shortened to a one-day event for 2020. Join us at Hayden Lake Country Club, October 26. Social distancing and masks will be part of the event.

Online registration will open late September. We are planning for the meeting to qualify for six or seven pesticide re-certification credits. GCSAA EDUs will be available, as well. Watch for an email blast when registration is open.

William Griffith Distinguished Service Award 2020

The Board of Directors of the Inland Empire GCSA unanimously agreed Jeff Gullikson, CGCS, Kalispel Golf & Country Club, Spokane, Wash., was a deserving recipient of the 2020 honor. A long-time superintendent, Gullikson's accomplishments include helping to create First Green – a program now rooted deep in the industry.

The award will be officially presented to Gullikson at the Fall Meeting & Trade Show, November 16, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The award is named for an icon in our chapter who has tirelessly volunteered at a level over the years to both improve the chapter and mentor our members – Bill Griffith, Retired Director of Agriculture Center of Excellence.

Read more about Gullikson's history in the article written by a peer – Mike Kingsley. Kingsley has been the longtime superintendent at MeadowWood Golf Course and we congratulate him on his retirement. Please see article page 2.



2021 GIS Will be Virtual

As GCSAA announced mid-August, the 2021 GIS will be virtual. We were ready with our IEGCSA chapter room block in Las Vegas if the event had taken place, but we had not contracted a venue for the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room. One important benefit to those registering for the GIS event – registrants will have access to the content generated beyond the first week of February. Registration for the 2021 GIS opens October 13, 2020.



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Gullikson Named 2020 William Griffith Distinguished Service Recipient

By Mike Kingsley
MeadowWood Golf Course, Spokane, Wash.

This year's recipient of the William Griffith Distinguished Service Award is Jeff Gullikson, CGCS. Jeff has more than 30 years of experience maintaining both public and private golf courses. With a Master of Science degree in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management from Washington State University, as well as a Minor in Ornamental Horticulture, Jeff pours his heart and soul into ensuring a world-class playing experience for golfers. For the past 20 years, Jeff has been the golf course superintendent for the former Spokane Country Club, now Kalispell Golf and Country Club. Prior, he was the superintendent at Overlake Golf and Country Club in Medina, Wash. for ten years and at Longview Country Club in Longview, Wash. for three years. His first assistant golf course superintendent position was at Mint Valley Golf Course in Longview. Jeff has also coached high school golf at Northwest Christian for the past ten years. He was the recipient of the 2004 GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship and the 2005 TOCA Environmental Communicator of the Year Award. Jeff is a co-founder of First Green, an educational program that partners schools and golf courses to teach the environmental benefits of golf courses and introduce



Gullikson

Sammamish HS, and Jeff was still at Overlake Golf & CC - which was also close by. The program was very local in the greater Seattle area, mainly at

Overlake Golf & CC with Jeff, and at Glendale with Steve and Lynn's classes.

Jeff accepted the superintendent position at Spokane Country Club in 2000. He does a great job of getting the program going in the Spokane area hosting numerous high schools every year at his course. Jeff works with state teacher organizations to promote the program and get teachers continuing education credits for attending First Green teacher workshops around the state. Jeff secures funding from the USGA to assemble teacher resource kits that they can use to help teach the program. First Green survived on funds donated by the WSGA from 2000 to 2005. Bill Meyer was on

“Jeff pours his heart and soul into ensuring a world-class playing experience for golfers.”

kids to the game of golf. So how did First Green become a national program?

In 1997, Jeff and Bill Meyer (Jeff's uncle, longtime president of the WA Junior Golf Association, golf coach, and member at Glendale Country Club in Bellevue) got together and came up with the idea of partnering teachers with golf course superintendents to bring kids to the golf course for outdoor learning. They would use the local golf course as an outdoor learning lab to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). There was a need to get kids out of the classroom and into the real world to learn and get their hands dirty while seeing how things really work. First Green was born.

In 1998, Jeff, Bill, Ron Crawford (WA State Office of Public Instruction and longtime 4H official), Steve Kealy (Glendale CC superintendent), Jeff Shelley (Sand Point Country Club member and longtime golf writer), and Lynn McKay (horticulture teacher from Sammamish High School just up the street from Glendale) were all members of the group who came together. They brain stormed on and off for another year, or so, how to get the program rolling by connecting teachers and superintendents. Glendale CC was the central hub for the program since Bill was a member, Steve was superintendent, Lynn was up the street at



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Take GCSAA's Association Health Programs benefit with you to retirement

Dave Phipps, NW Regional Representative

So, you've been a superintendent now for over 30 years and if you're like me, you are probably trying to figure out what life after golf will look like. Making wise financial decisions will play a big part in how far those funds will go. By now, you have probably already heard that GCSAA is now offering a health insurance benefit through Association Health Programs (AHP), an insurance broker who specializes in unique and cost-effective association insurance solutions. In addition to health insurance, members have access to other related types of insurance, including dental and vision, disability, life, accident, long-term care, and Medicare supplements.

With the exception to "Friends" members, all other GCSAA member categories qualify for this opportunity. That includes both retirement classifications. Whether you're a Class AA or a Class ART, you can take advantage of this program which could save you quite a bit of money each month. Those who have enrolled in the program so far are reporting a 50 percent monthly savings.

To qualify for Life membership (Class AA), one must have retired as a golf course superintendent or assistant golf course superintendent and have been a golf course superintendent or assistant golf course superintendent member of GCSAA for 25

the WSGA board and he and Jeff convinced them that the program was important enough to fund and promote. In 2006, First Green hired Karen Armstead as its executive director (Jeff was the driving force behind hiring Karen) and received 501 C3 tax-exempt status.

The GCSAA officially adopted the program in 2018. Since then, the program has expanded across the county. The late Ken Melrose gave \$500,000 to the program before he passed away and the program has had allied support across the industry. First Green has caught the eye of a major PGA Tour event sponsor and the GCSAA is hoping to share some good news soon. First Green is in strong hands and GCSAA is committed to its success. This is all thanks to the hard work of Jeff over the past twenty years. It's a dream come true for all the original First Green board members. Jeff is the definition of providing Distinguished Service, well deserving of this award.

Thanks to David Phipps for the pictures taken at the GIS

years of which a minimum of 20 years has been as a golf course superintendent. Class AA is free. To qualify for Class A-Retired status, one must not be currently employed as a golf course superintendent and have a minimum of five years of service as a Class A golf course superintendent member. The years of service as a GCSAA member when combined with the member's age must equal or exceed 75 years. Class ART is \$70 annually. Even if you are paying \$70 a year, the continued health care savings will more than cover that membership fee.

Let's say your retirement plans were foiled and you were prematurely let go by your employer. Many times, the best option is to work for an allied company. If that is the case, I would recommend that you continue to keep your membership current so you will qualify for the insurance benefit once retirement is upon you. The other option is to go to work for yourself while still serving the golf industry. As a small business, health insurance really becomes the big obstacle. Simply keep your membership current and pick up a policy through AHP and you could still save considerably.

AHP is now available in 38 states. **Excluded states include Washington.** Once you decide that you are going to retire, AHP recommends you inquire one month prior to when you wish to enroll. This way you will avoid a lapse in coverage. In many cases, you will need to experience a qualifying life event such as birth of a child, divorce, or new employment to enroll. Rest assured; retirement also qualifies as a life event.

(We have members from multiple states of which this applies.)

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“Audubon and the Assistant”

Greg Dillard

Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club, Jackson, Wyo.

The Perfect Lie, March 2020

I remember it like yesterday.... As I am quietly relishing the end of our 2017 season, all I can think is, “Awesome, another one in the books.” The end of the day rolls by and as I leave to ask my super if there is anything else I can take care of for the rest of the day. He replied, “Our Audubon re-cert is coming up next spring, how do you feel about working on it for the club this upcoming season?” I hastily replied, “For sure...”

Unbeknownst to me, this small project would be an amazing step ladder to the different realms we must venture into within our profession. I was really excited to have the opportunity to have a solo project like this to benefit our club and, in general broaden my education into the conservation realm of our world.

For all you assistant superintendents out there, this is a great opportunity to put yourself in that “superintendent” role. It is the chance to put down a stamp on your course and not in the conventional way we might think. The following are great general guidelines to accomplish the site visit, including an example itinerary for your possible site visit.

Reach Out: Search for possible cooperatives or stakeholders who will work with you in obtaining the certification. For example, local animal/ wildlife/conservation non-profit groups will more than likely be qualified and willing to do your site visit. Keep in mind these organizations may have a negative bias of the golf industry. This is a great opportunity to highlight the positive impacts of your golf course and potentially change some attitudes.

Commit to The Plan: Have a layered out plan for how to organize. After reading through Audubon “<https://auduboninternational.org/acsp-for-golf/>”, I sketched out my consolidation plan for what materials I wanted to provide for the site visit. Here is a sample list of some areas I focused on for our site visit:

- Habitat areas (These can vary and be divided into multiple

areas! Where are your resident animals located? Migration paths?)

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For more information and recommended Turfcide 400 application rates to use with systemic fungicides in snow mold fungicide mixtures, visit the AEP Snow Mold website and download the Turfcide 400 Snow Mold Assurance Program.

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Audubon and the Assistant
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- Water bodies (e.g. native buffer zones/
spray buffer zones)



- Playable areas (i.e. Greens/Tees/
Fairways/Rough and the different
agricultural practices we use or are work-
ing towards)

- Maintenance facility (e.g. Proper chemi-
cal storage/logging, maybe you have an
ESD wash station-they will love water
conservation)

- Additional environmental overview (e.g.
Any local groups utilizing the property for
a First Green or conservation field trip?
Girl Scouts/Boy scouts make you any bird
boxes??)

Possible Itinerary: Remember, every
course is different and each organization
might want to see different things. These
points will help guide you along the way
to creating a memorable experience for
your guests.

- Welcome visitors to the clubhouse
(remember, this might be the first time
they have visited a golf course)
- Tour clubhouse/guest facing areas (e.g.
make note of drought tolerate plants in
clubhouse landscape area)
- Tour maintenance facility (remember
that water conservation)
- Tour your property (e.g. drive with them
and make it fun)



- Booklet? (what info are you giving them
as they depart their site visit)

K.I.S.S.: An acronym we all use! Keep It
Simple, Silly! Summarize your plan to a
condensed two-three page sheet with

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Golf Courses, COVID-19 and Copper

Thoughts from a Foolish Golf Course Superintendent

(Grassclippings, April 2020, Idaho GCSA)

Disclaimer: Readers beware! I am not a pathologist, virologist, immunologist, or epidemiologist. I know nothing about viruses and less about COVID-19. I have done scant reading and no academic research in writing this 'article'. Please ponder the ideas with great caution and skepticism. I am a wayward golf course superintendent and a fool among great men. [foolishgolfsuperintendent, April, 2020]

COVID-19 has changed the way we live; it has changed the way we die. Recently, life has taken some unimaginable twists and turns. Every day is new. Every day is full of change. Golf courses have not been exempted from this change. Eventually, some things will return to "normal" but other habits, practices and processes will remain forever changed.

Fortunately, many golf courses remain opened. Most of these have removed frequently handled items like benches, coolers, bunker rakes, ball washers, and divot buckets. This minimizes the potential for spreading disease and makes the course a little safer. Most courses have not removed cups and flagsticks, as they seem too integral to the game. Many have modified the cups and most are disinfecting the flagsticks throughout the day.

Most superintendents are aware that copper, in addition to being an essential plant and animal nutrient, has strong anti-micro-

bial properties. It has been used for hundreds of years in agriculture for its anti-microbial properties. It probably gained its prominence as a fungicide in grapes (Bordeaux, circa 1880). In the golf industry, copper-based pesticides remain a common tool for many superintendents.

In human medicine and pharmacology, ancient Egyptian and Greek cultures used copper as a curative for human diseases caused by various fungi, bacteria and viruses. During the cholera epidemics (1800s), individuals with moderate exposure to copper possessed less chance of being infected by the cholera bacteria.

In more recent times, studies show copper destroys a long list of fungi, bacteria, and virus responsible for human diseases. These microbes include norovirus, coronavirus (possibly the strain causing the current pandemic) and strains of E. coli. Although copper's mode of action appears simple, it is probably more complicated than currently understood. Copper surfaces contain a small amount of 'free' ionic copper. When a virus particle contacts the copper ion, the ion appears to destroy the outer membrane of the virus and degrade the cell. This degradation includes destruction of the cell's DNA and RNA, rendering the virus unfunctional. In some instances, these reactions occur within minutes.

For several years, researchers have promoted the idea using
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Audubon and Assistant continued from page 6

bullet points. The onsite visitors love having a check list for each



topic covered and highlighted points of interest that your club/membership is showcasing.

Don't be afraid to reach out in your community! You as an assistant should take the leap of communicating with

stakeholders and community groups to structure a possible conservation project. Non-profits, schools and sports teams are great starters to get the ball rolling.

Sustainability and conservation are becoming even bigger issues within our industry; taking the step as an assistant gives us even greater experience for the future and stepping up into that superintendent position! Hopefully, a certification like the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses or similar can raise the bar for your facility. Following their guidelines, and adding your course's influences can create a wonderful template for this type of project!



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5



Figure 1

copper-based metals in public areas. Studies show that copper-based items can reduce the presence of microbes by 80 percent. In addition to common public areas, Bill Keevil (professor of environmental health care at the University of Southampton, England), recommends using copper in sports settings and with athletic equipment.

A golf course contains areas and items that receive a lot of handling (rest rooms, carts, ball-washers, bunker rakes, divot scoops, cups, and flagsticks). Most of the items that receive repetitive handling are made of hard plastics, fiberglass, and metals. Research on the longevity of COVID-19 on various materials is new. It seems to last longest on hard surfaces like plastics and



Figure 2

metals. The virus remains viable on these surfaces for 3-7 days. On softer surfaces like paper and cardboard, the virus lasts one to two days. On copper surfaces, the virus lasts only three to four hours.

A couple weeks ago, the management group at my course began contemplating the idea of replacing standard fiberglass flagsticks with copper flagsticks. To test the idea, we built a flagstick out of half-inch copper tubing and some old fittings

(Figure 1). It was easy to build and relatively inexpensive (around \$25). Initially, we were concerned about the appearance of the copper flagstick. However, on a green, it looked pretty good... almost cool. (Figure 2)

The copper flagstick does have a few drawbacks. It is more difficult to see than a traditional yellow or white flagstick. It will likely oxidize and weather, and change in appearance. And, it seems a little flimsy. The flimsiness could probably be corrected with thicker tubing, or a filler (perhaps a wooden dowel).

Converting flagsticks to copper would probably not eliminate the need to disinfect, but it would, in all likelihood, dramatically reduce the microbial count on the flagstick. Ultimately, the use of copper could encompass much more than flagsticks. Undoubtedly, superintendents would create a plethora of ways to incorporate copper into golf course accessories.

COVID-19 will continue to change the way we live, and it will continue to change the way we play. Hopefully, humanity gains ground against COVID-19 in the near future, but our sensitivity to infectious diseases has increased, and the prevalence of infectious diseases will remain. As an industry, golf is almost insignificant in the battle against COVID-19 and other diseases. Yet, if golf courses can utilize more copper accessories, they may improve safety levels to players and the community in general. Although more research is needed, these safety improvements seem a worthy endeavor.

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More than \$61,000 of that is going toward turfgrass research being conducted at Oregon State University under the direction of Dr. Alec Kowalewski. To read the entire report, visit <http://www.nwturfgrass.net/>

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