

# Turf's Up in the Inland Empire



Winter 2021/2022

## 2022 Spring Conference

We are thrilled to meet in person — something we used to take for granted. Join us March 14 & 15, 2022, at Meadow Springs Country Club, Richland, Wash. Host superintendent is Mark Dalton, CGCS.

Your facility is the true benefactor of your participation at our conferences. Joining us to kick off a promising 2022 will be Alec Kowalewski, PhD., Turfgrass Specialist, Oregon State University, and Bruce Clarke, PhD, Rutgers University.

More information about our conference agenda will be available mid-January. In the meantime, save the date. It may be timed with the start of



another exceptionally busy season, but your participation could be an important tool to help insure successful course conditions.

The Inland Empire GCSA Board Meeting will be held Sunday, March 13.

## Live Auction at Spokane Golf Show and an Online Auction

The 2022 Spokane Golf Show will be live February 19-22 at the Spokane Convention Center. In addition, there will be an online golf show. Our 2021 online auction found an audience and exceeded our expectations. Recognizing the value of one-on-one time with the public, we plan to participate both in person and online, depending on our donations for rounds plus carts (preferred). While we always depend on high course participation to be successful, and every submission helps, a second set donated when possible would be outstanding! Proceeds from this auction help fund our continuing education and research programs, and keep our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate as associated expenses continue to rise.

### PICTURES, SCORECARDS, and even PIN FLAGS

Please email a picture of your course to Kal Zaranec at

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## 2022 Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

Our 2022 Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room will be offered in a cool location! Enjoy the evening with your turf industry peers at our private event at The Blind Burro, Wednesday, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., February 9. The Blind Burro specializes in Baja coastal cuisine. Walking distance from both the convention center, and our chapter room blocks, the address is 639 J St., San Diego, CA, 92101. Complimentary food and beverages will be offered thanks to the generosity of our allied partners. Contact Lori to help sponsor the event.

## Vote for Miss December at the 2022 GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego!

Vote for Roobi as the 2022 Dog of the Year at the Lebanon Turf booth in the trade show. Roobi, the faithful companion of Brian Woster, was a loved crew member at Circling Raven Golf Club. **If Roobi is selected**, Woster will receive a \$500 prize and the **Inland Empire GCSA will receive \$3,000!** More importantly, a \$2,000 charitable donation will also be made to K9's for Warriors by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner.

Roobi has retired from the golf course along with Brian Woster. While Roobi enjoyed the golf course over attending events, Woster and his contributions will be missed.



Inland Empire Chapter

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# Caddy or Carl?

**Kal Zaranec, Superintendent  
Circling Raven Golf Club,  
Worley, Idaho**

This past August, Circling Raven Golf Club hosted the inaugural Circling Raven Championship. This was the first of three visits to the course as a part of the Symetra Tour. I would like to share our story of tournament week and the experience I gained as a caddy for one of the players.

**Carl Spackler:**

Where do I begin? How about the beginning of 2020, before the world was shut down due to the pandemic, when it was announced that Circling Raven would host the Circling Raven Championship as a part of the Symetra Tour, a ladies LPGA qualifying tour? We signed a three-year contract with the tour, with plans of hosting the tour in August of 2020-2022. We were very excited about having the opportunity to host the tour and provide a great golf course for the up-and-coming ladies. Fast forward and we quickly realized we would not be having the tour in 2020 as the LPGA and Symetra had halted all events with the uncertainty of what was going to happen. Later that summer, we were informed the ladies started playing again, but our tournament contract would be pushed back a year to have time for makeup events that were cancelled in the early part of 2020. Bummer. On the bright side, we had more time to prepare and we later learned how valuable that extra time to plan was. We managed the course in 2020 as a “practice” to

what we were hoping to achieve in August of 2021. Agronomics, water, fertility—everything was recorded with changes we thought would benefit us in the next year.

As we began our 2021 season, much like the rest of you, we were challenged with finding labor. No big deal, we have months until the tournament. Wrong. We did not fully staff up all year and we only had one applicant in the beginning of August. Talk about being thrown into the fire, “Hi, welcome to Circling Raven. Stay with Brandon and learn how to rake bunkers as we have our largest tournament in three weeks and they need to be perfect.”

Tournament week arrived and our crew had the course in outstanding shape. We were fortunate to have 0.4” of rain the Friday before the tournament. The Symetra Tour infrastructure began arriving on site — semitrucks loaded with equipment, office trailers, tents, porta-pots, Travis Matthew party bus, and Symetra Tour staff and players, as well. It started to look like a very hectic week. We were introduced to the tournament staff and found working with them was an absolute pleasure. They were very organized and excited to be there. Cruise control then took over and it resulted in being the “easiest” week of the year because we had planned for months how to carry out this event. The ladies had



practice rounds on Monday and Tuesday and a few of them played in a hosted Pro-Am for our sponsors on Wednesday and Thursday. Wow, these girls are good. I could not believe the distance and accuracy these ladies had with most shots landing exactly where they wanted to play it. It was incredible.

**Caddy:**

This begins part two of my story. After watching the ladies in the practice rounds and Pro-Am, I thought there is no better way to truly see them play than if I was caddying for one of them. I reached out to the Caddy Master, who helped pair me with Lori Beth Adams. Born and raised in North Carolina, she is currently ranked 53rd and is on her 5th year of tour play. Lori Beth had an 8:50 am tee time, which would allow enough time to finish the round before we started our evening maintenance. We played the golf course in 5.5 hours — a very long round of golf following a very early morning, and still a long evening ahead. I have never caddied before and was unsure exactly how she wanted me to help. Lori Beth was very quiet, but throughout the round I figured out her routine and how to be the best of help to her. She appreciated that I am familiar with the greens and could help read her putts. Motivating her after a great shot was easy but I wasn’t ready for the awkward walk from the tee following a poor shot. The best I was able to come up with was, “It’s playable; this is where I typically play from,” which isn’t very great advice to a LPGA hopeful, but it did create a laugh. After the first round, she finished -1

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and had a 1:55 pm tee time on Saturday. Due to her tee-time, our evening work schedule, and my legs being very sore after a very long day, I was unable to caddy for her on Saturday. Thankfully, a good friend of mine (Keith) jumped in and carried her bag for the second round.

Lori Beth and Keith shot -4 on Saturday and the cut line of -2 was established. Lori Beth made it to the final round. I had only planned on caddying one round, but I couldn't let her go without a caddy on the final round after making the cut. I was back on the bag, my legs barely recovering from the first round and long days. Carrying her bag on Sunday proved to be much easier, likely because we didn't have evening maintenance that night and we could enjoy watching the second-round leaders finish. Lori Beth shot -1 for a final score of -6 and finished tied for 39th. As tired as I was all week, I don't regret caddying for Lori Beth; it proved valuable to me to see the course from a player's perspective and note little things that we can adjust for next year.

I strongly encourage everyone to come see the ladies play next year, or volunteer to be a part of the tournament. We will be looking for volunteers to help on the agronomic side, as well as scoring, registration, player shuttles, etc. I would like to thank Mike Bednar, Mike Dietz, Jessica Lenihan and Austin Allen for volunteering and helping make the inaugural Circling Raven Championship a success! If you are interested in volunteering next year, August 22-28, 2022, please email me at [zkaranec@cda-casino.com](mailto:zkaranec@cda-casino.com). Additionally, these ladies compete in these tournaments entirely on their own funds. If anyone is interested in offering housing for the ladies the week of the tournament, I know they would appreciate it. If you are interested, please email me and I can put you in contact with the housing chair. Lastly, I would like to give a shout-out to Brian Woster for overseeing everything on the agronomic side, and thank Darak Bigler, Buck Allen, Jeremy Armstrong, Jess White, Ralph Choisser and the rest of our groundskeepers for a job well-done that week and the weeks leading up to the tournament.



## Bednar Attends Symposium

Thank you to Mike Bednar, Palouse Ridge Golf Club, for attending the GCSAA Chapter Leaders/ Executive Symposium, GCSAA, Lawrence, Kansas. The March 2021 event was rescheduled to November due to COVID. Two of the many learning objectives of the program included how to be a highly successful team leader for your facility and your chapter, and how to provide a more meaningful chapter experience, through the engagement of members and volunteer involvement.

*Pictured below are Mike Bednar, IEGCSA; Lori Russell, Ryan Blechta PPGCSA, and Bryce Burton, IDGCSA.*



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# 2021 Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo

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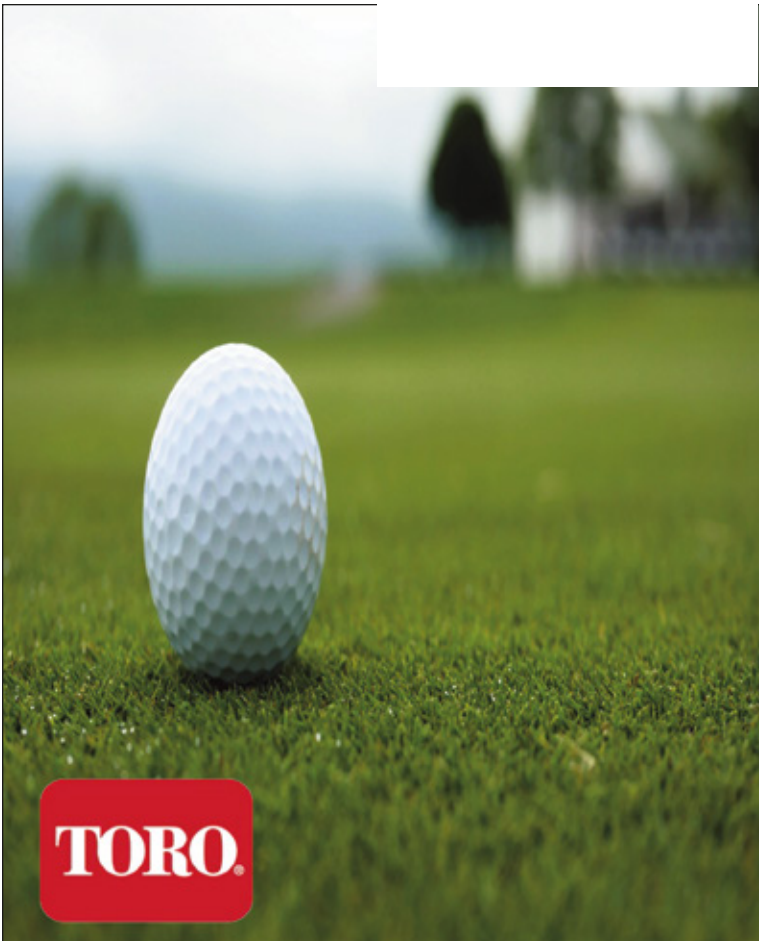
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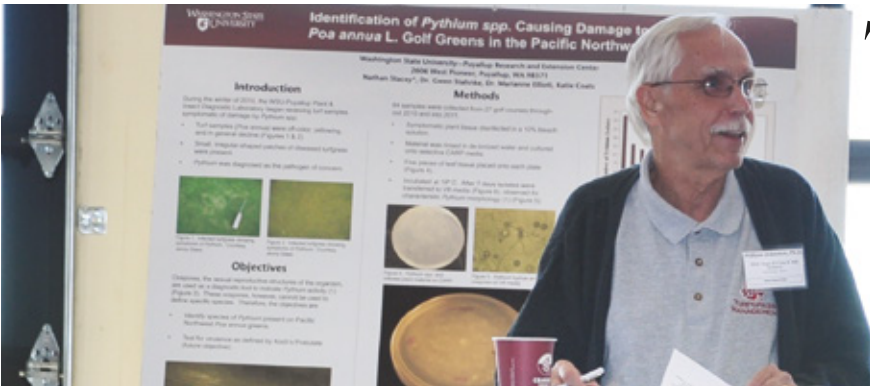
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# Thanks, Bill

**Matt Nelson**  
**Magic Valley Bentgrass**



The recent Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo afforded all attendees an outstanding opportunity to learn about new scientific discoveries pertaining to turfgrass management and golf, observe current industry tools and products, and enjoy direct networking with peers. Whether catching up with old industry friends or meeting people for the first time, networking is arguably the most valuable component of live, in-person conferences. No matter how many monitoring gadgets, predictive models or remote technologies you employ, ours is truly a people business. The many conversations concerning labor overheard during the conference is but one testament to that fact.

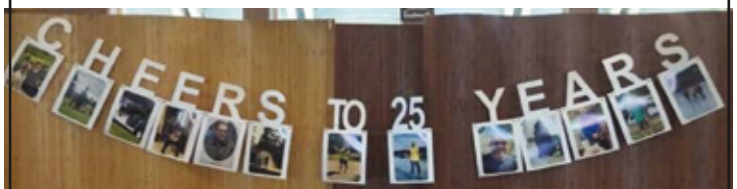
The connective web shared by so many of the members of the Peaks & Prairies GCSA, Idaho GCSA and Inland Empire GCSA is both impressive and welcoming. Many golf course superintendents at the conference can count several former assistants now managing facilities on their own. Former superintendents now employed in industry roles, or vice versa, refine and evolve standing relationships that further strengthen our associations and collective expertise. And for many, this occupation of tending to turfgrass in whatever capacity is a family affair. Getting together in person is a chance to share some laughs, share some war stories and reflect on the many people who have helped shape our industry and our individual careers. Yes, there is still value in face-to-face conferences and tradeshow.

It's sometimes said that an absence is perhaps more noticeable than a presence at events such as the Expo. I suppose there is maybe some truth in that saying, but we live in the moment. An absence I noticed in so many familiar faces without even acknowledging it was Dr. Bill Johnston. Bill was a dependable presence in Northwest turfgrass circles for 40 years. He taught and mentored countless attendees of the Expo, conducted a lot of applied research that helped refine management strategies we commonly use today, and tackled many major issues confronting grass seed production. Whether you think about it directly or not, Dr. J and

his work probably helped just about everyone at the conference improve their success. He is but one of the many heroes of the collective associations and this industry.

And that brings me back to networking. Its value has been emphasized forever, and no doubt a pandemic reinforces our appreciation of it. Appreciate the opportunities to see old friends and catch up on work and family. Appreciate the opportunities to meet someone new and learn new information. Sometimes our seasons seem to never end with interminable duties, weather challenges and other surprises, but time truly does fly. Take the time during these networking opportunities to thank the people that have positively influenced your career, provided you with timely service, shared advice, given time to serve the associations, shared laughs and stories, lent equipment or just been a good friend. Do it before it's too late. Thanks, Bill!

**Congratulations to Terry Holt** (left), shown here with Darcy Otto! In 2021, Holt celebrated 25 years at Twin Lakes Village Golf Club. Thanks to Todd McCord, Circling Raven, for sharing these pictures



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# 2021 Election Results

We offer our appreciation and thanks to our newly elected officers and directors at the Northwest Turfgrass Expo!

Newly elected to the board were Ivan Gibbs, Leavenworth Golf Club, Leavenworth, Wash., and Cory See, Moscow Elks Golf Course, Moscow, Idaho. Re-elected was Kal Zaranec, Circling Raven Golf Club, Worley, Idaho.

Elected as officers: President, Geoff Haynes, Galena Ridge Golf Club, Kellogg, Idaho; Vice President, Jamie Colson, Sun Country Golf Course, Cle Elum, Wash., Secretary/Treasurer Shane Hughes, Kennewick, Wash.

On behalf of our membership, Jeremiah Farmer expressed our gratitude to outgoing president, Mike Bednar, for his years of service. And because COVID cancelled an earlier meeting, Mike Bednar expressed his appreciation to Jeremiah Farmer for his service as president for two years.



**2021 Pesticide Meeting  
Hayden Lake CC**

**Thank you to our recent event sponsors!**



**Roundtable  
Discussion 2022  
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## IEGCSA Plays in PNW Crew Tournament

Two Inland Empire GCSA teams represented our association at the Pacific Northwest Crew Championship Monday, October 25, at Willamette Valley Country Club, Canby, Oregon. A total of seven teams played, representing the Oregon GCSA, Western Washington GCSA and the

Inland Empire GCSA. Palouse Ridge (right) and Leavenworth Golf Course (left) gave it their best shot and placed six and seventh. This was our inaugural participation at the event and all reports are that it was a chilly good time!



## Auction continued from page 1

Kzaranec@cdacasino.com. Mail your rounds plus scorecards at this time to Kal Zaranec at the address below. It would look great to also display our participating courses' pin flags. It is important Kal has your donations in hand because we must include any restriction listed on the certificates. Kal Zaranec, 3850 West Pescador Dr., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.

Thank you to all who have supported us in the past or who are considering a donation this year. It is worth repeating that proceeds from this auction help fund our continuing education and research programs, and keeps our user fees from increasing at a rapid rate.

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



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