

# Turf's Up in the Inland Empire



Winter 2022/2023

## Head to the Spring Meeting for so Many Reasons

Our spring meeting conference agenda is calling you to the Wildhorse Resort! Join us March 14 & 15, 2023, for great education and opportunities for valuable discussions. We have three featured speakers participating with expertise and knowledge to make the venture worthwhile. Regardless of your course budget, or years of experience, these presentations can be beneficial to you and your facility.

Mickey McCord enjoyed a 25-year career as a golf course superintendent (achieving CGCS in 1994), and in 2012 started his own business, McCord Golf Services and Safety. Since starting the company, over 300 golf courses have used his videos to hold safety training meetings. In addition to developing safety training programs, McCord designs and installs golf course drainage systems with a partnering company. He will share his expertise with you through:

***“The Essential Elements of Successful Drainage”*** By applying sound engineering principles you can build a drainage system that delivers the maximum impact and will last for 30 years or more. This presentation will examine the essential elements of golf course drainage often overlooked and misunderstood. You'll learn



how the Terzaghi formula is used to design a proper drainage filter and why gravel is almost never a suitable backfill material for seepage drainage; how classifying a drainage problem correctly is critical to solving the problem; how the differences between surface water and seepage water affect drainage designs; what options and alternatives are available to superintendents when there isn't enough elevation for gravity relief.

### ***“Developing a Safety Program”***

“Safety is important and I know I should have a safety program, but I have no idea what I need or where to start!” If this sounds like something you've said, or thought, this seminar will answer all of your questions about safety programs and get you started

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## Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

Yes, we are returning to the Tin Roof for our 2023 Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room in Orlando! This unique venue was certainly a hit during our last Orlando visit — between the eclectic décor, great options for seating and networking, and the great location.

Enjoy the evening with your turf industry peers at our private event at the Tin Roof of Orlando, Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Complimentary food and beverages will be offered thanks to the generosity of our allied partners.

## Newest Board Members!

Congratulations to our newest board members elected in November at the IEGCSA Fall Meeting & Trade Show! Elected to the superintendent positions — Brent Austin, LaGrande Country Club, LeGrande, Oregon; and Mitchell Larson, Yakima Country Club, Yakima, Washington. Elected to the assistant board position was Mike Dietz, Palouse Ridge Golf Course, Pullman, Washington, and elected to the allied board position was Shane Hughes, Planet Turf, Richland, Washington.

Officers elected were president, Jamie Colson, SunCountry Golf Course, Cle Elum, Washington; vice president Mike Grilley, The Links, Post Falls, Idaho; and Darcy Otto, Avondale Golf Club, Hayden Lake, Idaho, was elected to the secretary/treasurer position. The next IEGCSA board of directors meeting will be held in conjunction with the spring meeting at Wildhorse Resort.

## What's Upcoming?

**Inland Empire GCSA Spring Meeting** *March 14 & 15, 2023*

**Inland Empire GCSA Northwest Crew Challenge** *TBA*

**Inland Empire GCSA Summer Outing** *TBA*

**Northwest Crew Challenge Championship** *TBA*

**Pesticide Meeting** *Oct. 23, 2023*

**Fall Meeting & Trade Show** *Nov. 13 & 14, 2023*

**Inland Empire GCSA  
Board of Directors**

**Jamie Colson, President**  
Sun Country Golf Course

**Mike Grilley, Vice President**  
The Links

**Darcy Otto**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Avondale Golf Club

**Brent Austin**  
LaGrande Country Club

**Mike Dietz**  
Palouse Ridge Golf Course

**Ivan Gibbs**  
Leavenworth Golf Club

**Mitchell Larson**  
Yakima Country Club

**Cory See**  
Fossil Island Golf Club

**Shane Hughes**  
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**Geoff Haynes**  
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**Inland Empire GCSA**

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# Links of My Career Path

## Mike Grilley, Superintendent The Links, Post Falls, Idaho

I am sitting at my desk towards the end of December, looking out at the snow and counting the days until I can see grass again. I am also supposed to be writing an article for the newsletter! I wasn't sure about writing a story, of which there have been many, or doing somewhat of an autobiography. I'm thinking this might be a mixture.

I have been very fortunate to have chosen a career that, after 30 years, I still love what I do. I first started on a golf course in the late 80s at a small 18-hole course in West Glacier, Montana. For three summers, my best friend and I would be at the course together for what felt like dark to dark. We would play our daily "match" with two amazing retired gentlemen who came up for the summers. I played baseball at North Idaho College and would come back to work and golf when school was out. Tom Ask was the superintendent and instilled in me that work can be fun, but, more importantly, to take pride in what I do every day. I then met my future bride, Lori, and moved to Spokane to be with her in '92. Josh was two and Melanie was one when we began dating. I am very thankful to my wife for supporting my career. She changed my life for the better in every aspect of my life and I would not be successful, or the person I am today, without her. We had our daughter Carly; life was crazy, and I wouldn't have changed a thing. I got a job at the Spokane Country Club working for Ron Kuhns. They were doing a complete irrigation renovation and I became an immediate irrigation tech

understand how lucky I was to have gotten that job, but I was very thankful. If not for the help of my past superintendents, and especially my close friend Tim Heydt, I don't know if I would have survived.

There are so many people in this industry who have helped me and shaped my career. I don't have the words to say "thank you" appropriately. In my personal experience, this industry is made up of people who truly care about the success of their peers, and I am fortunate to call many of them friends.

I've served on our board of directors going on my third time now. I have truly enjoyed every meeting and all the interactions over the years being part of that group of people. I strongly encourage anyone remotely interested to give it a try. It's not only a way to give back to the industry, but also a great way to network and meet your peers. I've learned many great tips and tricks through being an active member of our association.

*Editor's note: Entering "Grilley.jpg" in the search bar pulled up a ton of pictures spanning the last 15 years of participation and camaraderie with his peers. Why not share (with his permission, of course)?*



(they gave me a shovel). I was there for three seasons and I learned so much.

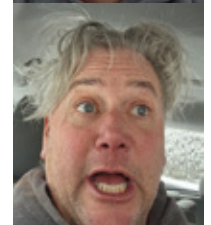
Prairie Falls was being built at that time and I was fortunate enough to be hired as the assistant superintendent for Mark Dringle, who I worked under, at the country club. I worked half a season. Mark then moved on, and I was hired in the spring as the grow-in superintendent. Four holes were built. I grew in and helped design the last five holes of the first nine. I did not feel qualified, but I was dedicated and I worked hard to both learn and to do a good job. I am very thankful to my wife for supporting my career. I was there for three years when I found out The Links was just starting to be built.

I met the entrepreneur, Emmett Burley, in the late summer of 1998. Emmett was another mentor of mine. He was a great person to work for and became a close friend. I was hired part-time to help put the roof on the clubhouse at The Links that same summer. The superintendent at the time was let go that fall and that next spring I was the superintendent at The Links. The mainline irrigation was installed, but no laterals yet. Greens complexes and some tees all had been rough shaped the summer before. I seeded every fairway, tee complex, and green complex that year. We also laid sod around every green. I'll never forget seeing two semis full of pallets showing up every morning. I was too young to



Pictures top and left spanning 2006-2018.

Right — when the course is tucked in for winter, bottom right is after a week of deep subzero temps!





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# New and Improved GCSAA Programs

## David Phipps, GCSAA NW Regional Field Staff Representative

With another season in the books, I reflect on my first year as your GCSAA NW Regional Field Representative — back in 2012. What stands out to me is the increased value GCSAA has offered its members since I joined. The value of a GCSAA membership has never been greater. As you read through my following comments, I think you will agree. I hope you will consider taking advantage of these GCSAA offerings and increasing your knowledge and value as a golf course superintendent, assistant superintendent, or equipment manager.

Not in any particular order, here is my list of new and improved GCSAA programs that I encourage you to take advantage of.

### The First Green

The First Green began in Seattle, Washington, in 1997 as a program to increase the awareness of the golf course management profession and to provide opportunities for children to visit the golf course and learn STEM education. In 2018 GCSAA officially adopted the program and began promoting it across the country. Inland Empire is fortunate to have one of the First Green pioneers right in your backyard. I call him the grandfather of First Green, but you all know him as Jeff Gullickson, CGCS. Last June, Jeff hosted a First Green field trip and we called it a “train the trainer” event. It was great to see so many people take advantage of the opportunity. I am hopeful that after Kal Zaranac



attended the event, his will become Idaho’s first course to host a field trip. Jeff will surely be hosting another event next year, as well. Jeff and I are here to support you and we are willing to travel to your facility to help you with your first field trip! I guarantee it will be one of the most rewarding things you will do in 2023.



### The Equipment Manager Membership

In my opinion, this by far has been one of GCSAA's most valuable new offerings in the past ten years. For only \$95 a year, the equipment manager will have access to all of GCSAA's educational offerings, including specialized EM-focused seminars. The Equipment Manager Certificate Program (EMCP) has been developed to challenge your equipment manager to obtain certificates that will test their knowledge and skills. Topping off the EMCP, GCSAA has implemented the Certified Turf Equipment Manager (CTEM). The CTEM designation is the highest recognition that can be achieved by a turf equipment management professional. Your peers developed this certification under the guidance of a professional psychometrician.

### The Assistant Superintendent Membership

Preparing the assistant superintendent for the next level has never been more important than today. GCSAA has developed the Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series (ASCS) to help fill that gap and prepare the assistant superintendent for their next step. The ASCS contains four competencies: agronomy, business, leadership/communication, as well as, and environmental stewardship. Upon completion of the ASCS, assistants will become eligible for a scholarship to the John Deere Green Start Academy! Also, by completing the ASCS, one of the requirements for the Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) will be satisfied!

### The Certified Golf Course Superintendent Program

The new, modernized CGCS program is here! GCSAA has kept the program’s integrity while streamlining the process to fit

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# Rountable 2023!



## GCSAA Programs continued from page 4

today's hectic life. Gone is the laborious portfolio, replaced by a communication and leadership component and a more subjective golf course attesting process. Since the rollout in 2022, GCSAA has seen a marked increase in participation and completion. So why not go for it? The CGCS designation is the most widely recognized in the golf industry and the highest recognition that can be achieved by the golf course superintendent. For any of the certificates or certifications, please visit [GCSAA.org](http://GCSAA.org) and see Certifications & Exams under the Education tab.

### The GCSAA Conference and Tradeshow, Orlando, Florida

February 6 - 9, 2023. We have rebranded the Golf Industry Show to become the GCSAA Conference and Tradeshow — giving the event a stronger relevance to the golf course superintendent. We have listened to the membership and have condensed the show into four action-packed interactive days for the superintendents to discover, learn, test, demo, connect and grow. Registration has been geared toward providing information for every member, offering specific experiences for each class of member by offering specific opportunities on each day to help you navigate the week.

Don't forget about the GCSAA Golf Championships! This pre-conference event offers four challenging contests over three days for all golfers, from the average hack like me to the more proficient low-handicapper like Aaron Fankhauser. Events include

Thank you to our moderator, Dan Frederiksen, The Club at Black Rock, and our hosts Darcy Otto, and Avondale Golf Club, plus our  
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the Four-Ball, Scramble, Classic, and National Championship. I have never participated but have been told that it's the best networking experience out there.

If you are looking to add to your step count during the week, then look no further than the Health in Action 5K sponsored by Syngenta. This, I have participated in and can tell you that it is best to train a little beforehand.

So, let me challenge you. If you have an assistant that you would like to see improve his/her position within your staff, first, let's be sure they are GCSAA members, then let's encourage them to take the ASCS. The same goes for your equipment manager. This is our fastest-growing member classification, so don't let them get left behind. Please feel free to reach out to me directly for any membership assistance. I also want to challenge you, the superintendent, to take advantage of any of the aforementioned. Especially First Green. This program is dear to my heart, and I will always try to be available to attend any field trip. Finally, I would like to thank all of you, the Inland Empire GCSA membership, for making my job so enjoyable these past ten years. I can't say enough how much I appreciate all of you. It has truly been an honor getting to know you and serve you. As I look forward to future travels to Eastern Washington and North Idaho, please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Wishing you all the best in 2023! *David (503-407-0749)*

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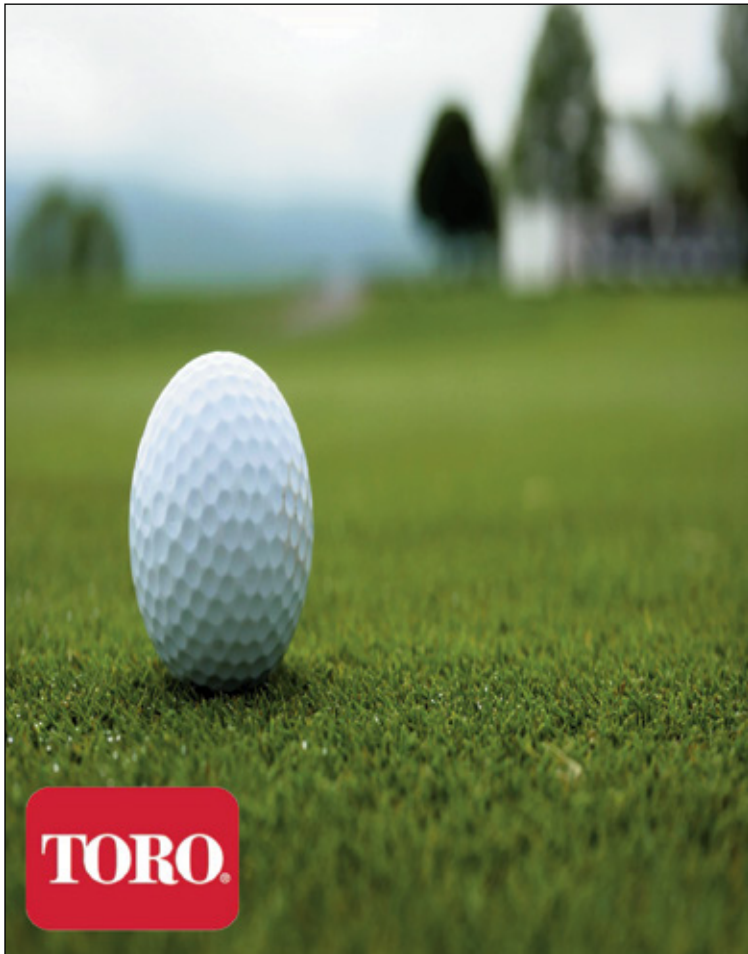
# The November Fall Meeting & Trade Show!



This was a new site for our group and the response from the attendees was great! We appreciate the strong support from our allied partners!



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## Spring Meeting continued from page 1

implementing a comprehensive safety program at your course. We'll describe the key elements of a safety program and take you through a step by step approach to developing your own safety program including: written safety plans, understanding OSHA standards, safety training and record keeping.

Darren J. Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club, is a 33-year member and 82nd President of GCSAA. Davis was hired as the golf course superintendent at the Olde Florida Golf Club in 1992 and he remains in the same position today. Davis feels fortunate



to have stumbled upon the career and will provide his viewpoint on what has led to his tenure and success in the industry with *"Tips for Success from a Tenured Superintendent."* This presentation is for anyone looking to remain relevant in the golf course industry.

Davis's second presentation, *"How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry: The Art of Self Promotion"* will include personal stories and real-life examples to demonstrate the

importance of communication, professionalism and self-promotion as a way to set yourself apart and advance. Davis covers a variety of topics designed to help you present yourself at the highest level and become the "author of your own destiny." The presentation is for anyone looking for tips and techniques to enhance their marketability in the golf course management industry.

Cassie Cichorz is an outreach specialist at the Washington State Department of Agriculture. She is fueled by a passion for education and agriculture. Cichorz works as a coconspirator informing farmers, sovereign nations, agencies, and community members. Her goal is



to help prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species by delivering project information, implementing outreach activities, and creating a positive community momentum. The first of her two presentations is: *"Emerging Pests Update"* To protect state resources, it is important to quickly identify and stop emerging pests. In this session, Cichorz will focus on the rapidly spreading spotted lanternfly (left) and the



newly emerged Japanese beetle. (right) Discussion will include the pests' biology, detail the threats, and highlight eradication. Learn how you can help detect prevent spread, and protect your state from invasive species.

Cichorz's second presentation, "Northern Giant Hornet Response" will address Washington state's eradication efforts to prevent the establishment of northern giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*), and will even include cool samples to pass around the room. Rapid response of state agencies and the public led to finding the first northern giant hornet nest in the United States. Season two's hornet hunt followed with multiple tracking events and three nest eradications. During this presentation, you will learn how season three's investigation ended, and importantly, how you can prevent the spread and establishment of *Vespa mandarinia* in Washington state.

We all know education doesn't only take place through formal education. Extremely beneficial are the conversations that take place in the hallways, on the golf course, with the person next to you at lunch, and even standing around those silent auction tables. With the recent renovation at Wildhorse, you can even have an exchange of ideas over a beverage, while bowling, or while enjoying a game or two. But, it is a good idea to hold off on the thoughtful conversations if you decide to take in a movie at the onsite cineplex.

Our host is Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, the director of grounds of Wildhorse Resort & Casino. After spending over 20 years as the Wildhorse superintendent, Hoolehan accepted another opportunity and spent five years at The Retreat, Links & Spa at Silvies Valley Ranch in Oregon. This past June, Hoolehan "returned home" to Wildhorse, where he has spent more than half his career. Perhaps one factor in his decision was he knew we were coming to visit?



*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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