

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire



Our Fall Meeting & Trade Show Offers New Discussions

November 13 & 14, return with us to The Centennial Hotel — a location that received a resounding thumbs up in 2022! Not only do we have an opportunity to learn about some 2023 course experiences of your peers, here we will welcome (a speaker highly recommended by a neighboring chapter) Becky Bowling, Ph.D., assistant professor and extension specialist, Turfgrass Science and Management, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA). Bowling began her educational journey at Texas Tech University where she gained both her bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture. She earned her doctorate in crop and soil sciences at the University of Georgia (UGA), where she researched environmental turfgrass science, including precision turfgrass management and improved resource use efficiency. There is something else special about Bowling that offers a little extra "street cred" to her knowledge — she understands many of the challenges superintendents face. After all, she is married to one. **Water x Weeds: Building an Integrated Weed Management Approach and "WATER" you Doing About Irrigation Water Quality?**

We kept the promise made to you in 2021 that Mike Richardson, Ph.D., University of Arkansas, would be invited back to speak, soon. Richardson falls under the category of our attendees saying, "I can listen to him all day." We are confident in saying that a highlight of this upcoming event will be "Open Mic with Mike," offered by Richardson. We didn't hear enough from him at the 2021 Northwest GCSA Turfgrass Expo in Coeur d'Alene and we are fortunate to continue the conversation. In addition, Richardson will offer "Wetting Agents and Pesticide Efficacy."

We look forward to welcoming Claire Phillips, Research Soil Scientist with the USDA-ARS Northwest Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit, Pullman, Wash., where she studies greenhouse gas emissions and soil carbon sequestration in dryland cropping systems. Her presentation will offer an overview of the climate impacts of turfgrass, discuss how climate benefits can be

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Our Chapter Room Block & Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room Phoenix, Arizona

Chapter preparations have been made for the 2024 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Phoenix, Arizona. We are ready for this exciting new location!

Let's first discuss our chapter room block, which is now open. It will only be available for a few months — so it is important to act soon using the link sent via email blasts. We have 50 rooms reserved on the peak nights in our block for the Idaho GCSA, Inland Empire GCSA and Peaks & Prairies GCSA attendees. While our turnout will far exceed that, we limit our block request because not everyone is prepared to reserve early. For those who are ready, we have a great location about a 10-minute walk from the convention center, at the Hyatt Place Phoenix Downtown. The Hyatt Place is close to numerous restaurants and activities. As the hotel boasts, you are near "celebrated museums, major shopping, buzzed-about restaurants, and the light rail station for easy transport to venture out." With your stay you will enjoy a free breakfast. And on site is Adams Table Patio and Bar with shareable appetizers, bistro-style burgers, sandwiches, and salads. There is even a 24/7 Espresso Bar. The price is \$229 +tax. Parking is an additional charge. In case you are wondering, the hotel price range within the GCSAA block is \$189 - \$329, with light rail service required for the lower-range properties. The Hyatt Place is also about three blocks from the Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room at State 48 Brewery, on January 31.

Both the Hyatt Place and State 48 Brewery are located within Phoenix's designated Entertainment District — filled with micro-breweries, bars and restaurants in historic buildings. Before the designation in 2015, businesses could not get liquor licenses if they were located near a church.

A little history for you. State 48 Brewery opened in 2018 and was the second State 48 location. There are now six breweries

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No Idea that Being a Superintendent was a Career

Brent Austin, Superintendent
LeGrande Country Club, LeGrande, Oregon

While pondering what to write about, I looked back on my last ten years in this association and realized I do not know many of you very well and therefore, not many know who I am.

Twenty-one years ago I had no idea that being a golf course superintendent was a career that existed. So, how have I ended up where I am today?

It all started 22 years ago while I was serving a mission for my church. I was serving in the state of North Carolina and had spent several months in the city of Pinehurst. Every turn I made in Moore County, NC, there was a golf course (40+ in a 30-mile radius). This is what got golf on my mind and as soon as I returned home to Utah, I applied for a job at Riverside Country Club in Provo. After two years at this facility, learning all I could with hands-on work, which for me has been the best way of learning, I decided this was the career I wished to pursue. After some research on which school to attend, I decided to move back to the Pinehurst area and attend the golf course turf management school at Sandhills Community College.

Jumping ahead to the year 2004, I had started school, and procured a job at Pinehurst #2. The resort was preparing for the 2005 US Open. My time in Pinehurst was invaluable between school and work, but mostly for the time spent on course #2 preparing for a major tournament. At the Pinehurst Resort, part of



Austin enjoyed a hole-in-one at Wine Valley in 2020!

1. I will forever be learning. No facility is alike.

Adjustments have to be made with how you cultivate,

how you deal with members or players, and how to deal with the economy we live in at the present time. It is a constant shift, even if you have been 30 years at the same facility.

2. If you are not careful, it is easy to let the job take over. It is important to have life balance. Take time to be home with family and to vacation. I've seen the stresses — it does affect relationships and health. Find the person or persons you need so that you can get away without worrying the course might sink away in the few days you're gone. A trustworthy assistant is key to you getting time away to destress and refocus.

3. There is always another day. If you don't finish your tasks, or if it all falls apart: Stop, go home, and re-center. Tomorrow will be better. A fresh start always helps.

Now you know a little about me and my philosophies about work, I hope to get to know more of you at our wonderful conferences. Until we meet again, have a great summer, and don't let the rays beat you down.

the responsibilities of our course was to maintain the lawn bowling and croquet courts, as well as the practice facility and the hotel putting green.

For my final semester of school (winter of 2007), I went back to Riverside Country Club in Provo to intern because Steve Budge, the superintendent, had held a position for me as his assistant as soon as the internship and graduation concluded later that spring. I spent the next six years as the assistant at Riverside Country Club. During this time Riverside went through an overhaul — a complete teardown and rebuild of the clubhouse and golf shop. On the course we built all new tee boxes and sand traps, extended the length of the 15th hole, and built a new practice facility. These builds helped me learn a little about the course design and construction.

During this time in Utah, I met and married my wife. Fifteen years, five kids, and eight moves later, we are here in La Grande, Oregon. I have been the superintendent at La Grande Country Club since February, 2013. My wife is a massage therapist. My kids range from 14 down to six and are involved in soccer, track, dance, and musical theater. I have been part of the Union County Vector board for the past five years, and most recently was placed on your IEGCSA board.

What have I learned so far?

Room Block & Hospitality Room continued from page 1

found in the state. Our event location in downtown Phoenix has a scratch kitchen, a full bar, and is considered one of State 48's largest locations. There is a second-level mezzanine and a two-level patio. Inside you will enjoy funky artwork and you can even see into the brewery from much of the seating. The success of this private event will be thanks to our supportive allied members, who come through for the region each year. It is not too early to contact Lori with your commitment for the evening, January 31, 6:30 - 9:30 pm. The GCSAA CTS is January 27 - February 1, 2024, Phoenix Convention Center.



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Signify™ DG	DG Pro®	Azoxystrobin, Propiconazole	100	40 lbs
Chlorothalonil 5G	Pulp Carrier	Chlorothalonil	75	40 lbs
Fungicide X	Pulp Carrier	Iprodione	75	40 lbs
6-0-12 + Fungicide VIII	Fertilizer Granules	Iprodione, Thiophanate	75	40 lbs
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Prioritizing Tasks with the Eisenhower Matrix

Mike Bednar, Palouse Ridge Golf Course, Pullman, Wash.

Prioritizing tasks is an essential skill for successful superintendents, and the Eisenhower Matrix offers a structured approach to ensure that important activities take precedence over the merely urgent or trivial ones. Named after former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, this matrix is a four-quadrant system that helps individuals categorize and tackle tasks based on their urgency and importance.

In the first quadrant, tasks that are both urgent and important reside. These are critical tasks that demand immediate attention due to their significant impact. These might include impending deadlines, emergencies, or crucial projects. The Eisenhower Matrix advises dealing with these tasks promptly to prevent them from escalating into crises.

The second quadrant comprises tasks that are important but not urgent. These tasks require long-term planning and are often related to personal and professional development, relationship-building, strategic thinking, and preventive measures. This quadrant highlights the importance of proactive planning and allocating time for activities that contribute to long-term goals.

The third quadrant is for tasks that are urgent, but not important. These tasks might seem pressing, but they don't contribute significantly to your goals and can often be distractions. Delegation or automation of such tasks is a key strategy here, freeing you to focus on activities that align with your objectives.

The fourth quadrant holds tasks that are neither urgent nor important. These are time-wasters and should be minimized. Activities like excessive social media browsing, aimless web surfing, or mindless entertainment fall into this category. Being aware of these activities and consciously reducing their presence in your routine can lead to increased productivity and time for more valuable pursuits.

By using the Eisenhower Matrix, you can gain a clearer perspective on your tasks and make informed decisions about where to allocate your time and effort. It encourages you to tackle tasks in a strategic manner, ensuring that you're not just reacting to the urgent, but also dedicating time to the truly important. This approach minimizes stress, prevents burnout, and contributes to a more balanced and fulfilling life.

However, it's important to remember that while the Eisenhower Matrix is a valuable tool, it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. Each individual's priorities and circumstances vary, and the matrix should be adapted accordingly. Regularly reviewing and adjusting your task categorizations within the matrix is essential to its

effectiveness.

In conclusion, the Eisenhower Matrix empowers superintendents to take control of their time and make conscious choices about task prioritization. By focusing on what truly matters and efficiently managing urgencies, this method can lead to heightened productivity, improved decision-making, and a greater sense of achievement in both personal and professional endeavors.



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2023 Crew Outing!

Thank you to our hosts,
Mike Bednar and
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2023 Summer Outing!

Thank you to our hosts,
Jacob Teaford and
Manito Country Club!



CDA Public #1 Palouse Ridge GC



CDA Resort CDA Public #2

Hole Sponsor:

- AMGUARD
- BASF
- Desert Green Turf
- Helena Agri-Enterprises
- Pacific Golf & Turf
- Planet Turf
- TurfStar Western
- Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons

Crew Challenge Results:

CDA Public #1	52
Palouse Ridge GC	56
CDA Resort	59
CDA Public #2	63
Leavenworth GC	64
The Club at Black Rock	65
Trailhead GC	66
Yakima Country Club	67

Hole Sponsor & Pin Prize:

- Desert Green Turf
- DCI Engineers
- Pacific Golf & Turf
- PBI Gordon
- Ridgetop Golf

RESULTS:

- 1st Place -21:** Christian Woyt, Kalman Zaranec, Chris Conciencie, Geoff Haynes
- 2nd Place -18:** Joseph Zubaly, Levi Zeik, Brandon Pyle, Chuck Green

Hole Sponsor:

- Aquatrols
- BASF
- Earthworks
- Floratine NW
- Harco Pipe Fittings
- Helena Agri-Enterprises
- Horizon Distributors
- Planet Turf
- TurfStar Western
- Wilbur-Ellis/The Andersons

- 3rd Place -15:** Mike Kingsley, Kyle Kingsley, Tim Ansett, Joe Van Hoomissen

Long Drive - Luke Burger and Nick Newman

KP - Andrew Allen, Tim Ansett, Mike Presho



Kalispel Golf Course #1

Open Challenge:

Kalispel GC #1	60
Kalispel GC #2	70
AMGUARD	no score

Long Putt: Brandon Depaulo, Cory Dickinson

KP: Geoff Haynes, Luke Burger

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Fall Meeting & Trade Show continued from page 1

maximized through managing turf and roughs, and facilitate a conversation about climate change planning. She has been a research associate with USDA-ARS in Corvallis, Oregon, where she worked with grass seed producers and collaborated with the Oregon State University Turfgrass Program led by Dr. Alec Kowalewski. Together with the OSU Turf Team, she researched soil carbon changes and greenhouse gas emissions from cool-season PNW turf systems. Phillips will offer “Soil Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Turfgrass.”

This summer Jeff Gullikson, CGCS, hosted a First Green event for students. Dave Phipps, GCSAA Field Representative, helped to document this event in photos and he will speak on the value of these events to the industry, and the importance of hosting this program. He saw the interest first-hand with his recent interaction with Idaho teachers at a STEM meeting in Boise. “The Idaho Teachers are Ready. Let’s get First Green Field Trips

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on the Books!”

Closing the event will be the anticipated “We Made it Through 2023.” The following members will share a story on a topic of their choosing! Zach Bauer, CGCS, CDA National Reserve, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Brandon Bubar, Coeur d’Alene Public Golf Course, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Ivan Gibbs, Leavenworth Golf Club, Leavenworth, Wash.; Terry Holt, Twin Lakes Village Golf Club, Rathdrum, Idaho.

Educational opportunities come in many formats — especially on the trade show floor. Allied partners will join us to not only support your association and profession, but to share their extensive knowledge of products and services that can make a difference at your course. Make new contacts, renew and strengthen previous relationships and take advantage of the wisdom in the room. *Featured speakers left to right: Becky Bowling, Ph.D., Claire Phillips, Ph.D., and Mike Richardson, Ph.D. Also participating will be your peers!*



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The Evolution of the Great Alaskan Turfgrass Conference

David Phipps, Northwest Region Field Staff Representative, GCSAA

Per GCSAA's bylaws, Article 1, Section 1 reads: Application for Membership: Effective July 1, 1997, all Class A and Class B applicants for membership residing in the United States, except Alaska, must be a member of an Affiliated Chapter...

When I took on this role as the GCSAA NW field staff representative, I knew that something needed to be done to bring relevant information to the Alaskan GCSAA membership. Without a local chapter to provide education and networking, their opportunities were few when it came to continuing education. My first couple of visits to Alaska were, in fact, very educational for me. Learning of the extreme temperatures and length of day issues seemed mind-boggling to me. With only a few superintendents with a turfgrass education, it was evident that there was a need to bring in some local education.

My first visit came in July of 2012. Then, I learned that Anchorage Golf Club had over 9100 rounds in June alone. I also learned that getting mowing equipment was a struggle. Many of the distributors would not spend the resources to visit the golf courses. The availability of certain pesticides was also an issue. Manufacturers didn't register their products in Alaska, feeling like it wouldn't be profitable for them. Labor can also be a challenge in Alaska. However, some have discovered the J-1 Visa program for seasonal labor.

I traveled again to Alaska in 2014. This time I started in Fairbanks and met George Howe, CGCS at Chena Bend Golf Course. George was a 33-year GCSAA member at that time (42 years today) and Alaska's only certified golf course superintendent. I was simply astounded at the quality of his golf course. My ignorance led me to believe that grass could not be grown at that latitude. Boy was I wrong.

I then traveled down the Kenai Peninsula and visited two of the four courses in that region. Ingenuity was the keyword there. I saw how a golf course could make the most with less and also how they could make too much of a good thing. It was clear that there needed to be education on how to calibrate fertilizer applications.

With two visits under my belt, it was time to bring some education to Alaska. In 2016 Rob Golembiewski, Ph.D., was my first Ph.D. to visit Alaska. Rob and I had developed a close relationship while he was at Oregon State and I was able to convince him to come up on Bayer's dime and be the sole source of education for our first mini-conference. Rob's topics included selecting the proper nitrogen source, the benefits of greens rolling, and re-establishing greens through interseeding.

In September 2018, we held our second mini-conference. This one was sponsored by Alaska Mill & Feed, a local distributor. I was able to convince some local distributors from the Lower 48 to come up and give a talk. Jason Otto and Jeff Schwab from Wilbur Ellis came up and made a presentation on biostimulants, and Ed Price with the Andersons came up to talk on carbon usage. Scott Hollister from GCM traveled with me this time and he gave a great perspective on building community and how to take advantage of the GCSAA membership.

I returned in September 2019 to finalize the Alaska State

BMP with a few of the superintendents, which led to the publication of their document, contributing to the GCSAA goal of 50 States/50 BMPs by 2020.

COVID had finally wrapped up and we were able to resume our Alaskan mini-conference. Bruce Clark, Ph.D. from Rutgers told me that he needed Alaska to complete his 50-state speaking engagement goal. So, I just had to make that happen. We held the conference in November where I found the weather quite different than the usual July when I had traveled before. The temps hovered around -10⁰ F. Regardless, the weather was clear and Dr. Clark provided two great presentations. Lew Sharpe from Tee2Green filled in the rest of the education on interseeding which the group found extremely useful.

The following year I returned to Alaska to volunteer for the USGA Championship where I saw the result of the last winter's education put to use. Mike Stern at Anchorage Golf Course took the information that was presented on interseeding and variety selection and provided championship putting surfaces for the event!

This leads me to 2023. This year Mike Richardson, Ph.D., and Fred Yelverton, Ph.D., volunteered to come up and speak. Alaska is a unique growing environment. Typically, a cool-season turfgrass growth curve shows two peaks, with a valley in the heat of the summer. A warm-season growth curve has a single peak in the middle of the summer. In Alaska, the growth curve mimics

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Great Alaskan Turfgrass Conference

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that of a warm-season turfgrass with a single peak in the middle of the season. That means the turfgrass is actively growing throughout the season and the proper use of growth regulators can be useful.

When I asked Dr. Richardson and Yelverton to present, they both had to step back and wrap their heads around it. With 22 hours of daylight at the peak of the season, you would think that the GDDs would be off the chart. Surprisingly, it was quite the opposite. Even in the peak of the season, the sun's path is still quite low so the amount of direct radiation is reduced. Here, shade becomes a problem if not managed. Yelverton and Richardson's presentations complimented each other's content and tied the two subjects of growth regulation and *Poa* control perfectly.

The entire visit became quite informative for everyone. Both Richardson and Yelverton told me they learned so much out of what they were asked to teach, and in doing so, they brought so much great information to the Alaskan members, which they will be able to put to use. Turfgrass quality continues to increase in Alaska and I couldn't be prouder of the efforts and the willingness of the superintendents to learn from the education GCSAA has been able to bring to them over the years.

This is an excerpt and the full version will be available through GCSAA's publications.

Wash. First Green 2023



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