

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire



Spring 2024

2024 Crew Tournament



Join us for our 4th Annual Crew Tournament! And it may be the crew tournament, but everyone can play with an additional flight. This popular event was started again in 2021 with the opportunity to participate in the Northwest Crew Championship along with the Oregon GCSA and WWGCSA. Mark your calendar for August 13, Palouse Ridge Golf Course, Pullman, Wash. More information will be available this summer. Hole sponsors are appreciated and help to fund the winning teams to travel to the Championship!

2024 Summer Outing

We are excited to visit Desert Aire Golf Course for the 2024 Inland Empire GCSA Summer Outing! Our hosts, James Curdy and Shawn Hocking, look forward to your visit to Desert Aire, Wash. It is a wonderful opportunity when our events are held at a location not all have had an opportunity to play. The team from Desert Aire is always so supportive of Inland Empire GCSA events, this is your chance to support this opportunity for all to play! Hole sponsors are appreciated.



What's Upcoming?

First Green, Circling Raven May 2
First Green, Hayden Lake CC May 21 & May 22
First Green, Kalispel Golf & CC Date TBA
Inland Empire GCSA Summer Outing Date TBA
Inland Empire GCSA NW Crew Challenge August 13, 2024
Pesticide Meeting Oct. 21, 2024
Northwest Crew Challenge Championship TBA
Fall Meeting & Trade Show Nov. 20 & 21, 2024

Gibbs Attends Leadership Symposium Ivan Gibbs, Leavenworth Golf Course

It was an honor to be able to attend the Leadership Symposium last March at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. I have been a GCSAA member for 23 years and have always wanted to visit headquarters. The seminar content was great, and the contacts I made will be lasting.

I came to realize that so many national chapters face similar challenges as our Inland Empire chapter. Of the 94 chapters of the GCSAA, only 25 are able to attend this event. To be selected as one of those 25 chapters speaks volumes for our executive director and her leadership. It was great to see the level of respect that Lori draws on the GCSAA national level — we are really lucky to have her experience. It was great to travel with representatives from Peaks & Prairies, and the Idaho chapters. Pat and Brandon were fantastic and Kansas City BBQ was a priority for all of us when we landed.

This experience was fantastic and one I will never forget. I urge anybody considering it, to run for the board. Get involved — it is enjoyable. Our chapter is solid, let's keep it that way.

Below: Brandon Crim, Centennial Golf Course, Nampa, ID; Lori Russell, Executive Director; Ivan Gibbs, Leavenworth Golf Course, Leavenworth, Wash., and Pat Nowlen, Polson Bay Golf Club, Polson, Mont.



Inland Empire Chapter



GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

A publication of the Inland Empire Golf Course
Superintendents Association

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The Story of Mr. Frederiksen

Dan Frederiksen,
Superintendent
The Golf Club at Black Rock,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

We all have stories of how we got where we are and I think they are mostly similar, but this is my story. For those of you who don't know my history, here you go. I was raised in Spokane Valley, attending University High School, where I grew up playing all the sports available to me — primarily soccer, football, basketball, track, and baseball. I am an Eagle Scout who grew up enjoying being outdoors away from people. Throughout high school as technology started to advance rapidly, I became deeply interested in computer science, trying to learn to code, repair computers, and set up networks in my free time. From that passion I went to the University of Idaho and began towards a degree in computer science. Unfortunately, I was unable to comprehend that level of math, and was more or less forced to choose a different avenue for myself. Sports never left me and will always be a large part of me. So, I shifted to a degree in sports science with a minor in coaching, thinking that I would be a baseball coach and do something I love and get paid to do it.

While I was completing my degree I got a job at The Links Golf Club with the then-young buck, Mike Grilley. At that time little did I know that place was the exact right place for both of us.

I completed my degree and dabbled with

coaching football, basketball, and baseball at the middle school and high school. I quickly saw the long road to



Dan and Cassie

getting into anything that would lead anywhere. Meanwhile, still working summers at The Links. I continued my pursuit of working in sports, by starting Primetime Sports Leagues in Spokane, where we ran an adult 3-on-3 basketball league, with the hope of branching out into all the sports. After a year and a half my business partner moved away and I had to make a choice of what to do with myself.

Golf was never a sport I found myself playing, until it was offered to play for free at The Links. Seeing Mike Grilley and "the guys" playing (*pictured below*) seemingly daily, got me playing. Going out with them and seeing the course from the player perspective and gaining that understanding of what we were doing and how it was affecting conditions got me hooked.

I distinctly remember, and don't think I will ever forget, the feeling I had when my career path became ever so clear and that it was right in front of me. I woke up and could picture that fresh, serene sunny morning feel. That's what I wanted

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Thank you!



We offer our sincere appreciation to all who donated rounds in support of the Inland Empire GCSA, who worked the booth and to Mike Kingsley, our committee chair, for his incredible efforts and time spent to make this event a success!



Mike Barber and Mike Grilley



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Mr. Frederiksen continued from page 2 and that is what I was going to make happen. Combining all my previous experiences of planning, organizing, communicating, coaching, technology, competing, failing, succeeding, love of science, and just love of the outdoors, it all came together and presented itself in this glorious hobby, that we get paid for.

After pushing myself into Mike's right, errr...left arm, and taking on everything I could get my hands on. I went back to school at Penn State online and completed my turf degree, as my wife, Cassie, and I had our first daughter. Kids, as most of you know, make you grow up fast. It signaled that it was time to move on and step out of Grilley's shadow. So, after eight years, I started interviewing for every assistant superintendent position that opened up. I took a position at Manito Country Club for a year, as my first taste in the private golf scene. Then I interviewed over a beer with Darcy Otto at Stoneridge, where I got my first chance to implement my ideas and really experiment, and deal with ice, disease, limited budgets, hiring, firing — everything.

Coming to Black Rock was bittersweet. Darcy and I had something really cool going, but we both knew it was an



opportunity I had to take. I drank from a fire hose for about three years as I grasped what I had gotten myself into. As I learned to swim in the environment of going from 10-15 employees to 40, speaking Spanish, and understanding high expectations, it got easier. So, when my current opportunity came available, I was ready.

To all the young people who happen to read this, just know that good things happen slowly. My path took 15 years to get the shot, and looking back I wouldn't have it any other way. Take your time enjoy the journey, put in the work, try everything you can, and if you prove yourself every

day, eventually you can't be denied.

Special shoutout to Mike Grilley, Tim Ansett, Darcy Otto, Tim Heiydt, and Lonnie Aller for support and experiences to become what I became.



Upcoming First Green Events:

May 2 - Circling Raven

May 21 and 22 -

Hayden Lake CC

TBA - Kalispel Golf & Country Club

Host superintendents welcome your assistance!

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“Thoughts From a Fairway Mower”

**Mike Bednar, Palouse Ridge
Pullman, Washington**



Mike and his son, Dane

Within the dynamics of managing a golf course, I sometimes joke with my staff, playfully suggesting that they should pay me for the privilege of operating a fairway mower. Mowing fairways prior to play stands out as one of the most peaceful and gratifying tasks we undertake on the golf course. It offers a unique opportunity to let one's mind roam freely and contemplate various solutions to challenges from the vantage point of a fairway mower. However, with the passage of time, my opportunities to spend time in the seat of a fairway mower have dwindled. Yet, during moments of adversity when I seek a little quiet time, I invariably find myself wanting to mow a couple of fairways.

In recent years, I have often thought about the surge in golfing activity since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and how it impacts our operation. Located in a college town, we once could find ample windows between 10 am and 2 pm during the summer to undertake maintenance projects. However, nowadays, such opportunities are few and far between, owing to the continuous influx of players throughout the day. While the Covid-induced surge has undoubtedly bolstered revenues for most courses, it has also brought about shifts in the demographics of the average golfer. Many newcomers to the sport appear to lack awareness of golfing etiquette or perhaps disregard it altogether. Consequently, we find ourselves devoting an excessive amount of time each morning repairing

ball marks—an issue that has become more pronounced since the onset of the pandemic.

Similar challenges have been experienced at Palouse Ridge, particularly concerning the upkeep of bunkers and repairing divots. Although our golf carts are equipped with divot mix bottles, their utilization remains sporadic, with only a handful of conscientious golfers making use of them. As for bunker raking, the absence of rakes during the initial stages of the pandemic may have inadvertently contributed to a decline in adherence to this practice upon their reintroduction. Nevertheless, I've long held the belief that many golfers exhibit subpar proficiency in bunker maintenance, with some inadvertently exacerbating the situation.

“It offers a unique opportunity to let one's mind roam freely and contemplate various solutions to challenges...”

Consequently, we have adopted a modified approach post-Covid, reducing the number of rakes in bunkers and implementing a combination of mechanical trap raking two times per week and spot raking on the other days to maintain their condition.

The surge in golfing activity in recent years has necessitated an increased focus on traffic control measures to mitigate wear from cart traffic. Additionally, I've learned

through experience that high-traffic areas demand heightened fertility management compared to the rest of the golf course. Lastly, due to the new influx of golfers and the evolving demographics, I've noticed a shift in the types of litter encountered on the golf course. While cigarette butts were once a prevalent nuisance, their occurrence has diminished, giving way to a new challenge: discarded masks during Covid, colloquially referred to as "chin diapers." Furthermore, nicotine pouches and cartridges from vape pens have become increasingly common sights across the golf course.

These observations, while perhaps not novel to those familiar with golf course management, underscore the ongoing challenges we face in maintaining playing conditions amidst evolving trends and demographics. Rather than lamenting these challenges, my intent is to acknowledge them and emphasize the importance of adapting our strategies to provide the best possible experience for golfers within the constraints of our resources.

Editor's note: Since Mike likes the escape of mowing, we hope to hear more of his thoughts from a fairway mower!

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Currier, Eron + Ricco, Matthew + Gabriel, Tyler + Hutchens, Wendell	-18	54
Radford, Brent + Dover, Dustin + Zaranec, Kalman + Hall, Nick	-17	55
Jones, Charlie + Conciene, Chris + Gardner, Steven + Walker, Tom	-17	55
Artist, Beau + Colson, Jamie + Jensen, Jim + Niewola, Ross	-15	57
Austin, Brent + Wetherell, Ed + Larson, Mitch + Evens, Scott	-15	57
Bubar, Brandon + Teaford, Jacob + Whitaker, Trey + Bauer, Zac	-14	58
Day, Alex + Kingsley, Mike + Hughes, Shane + McCants, Thomas	-13	59
Abercrombie, Aaron + Gibbs, Ivan + Anderson, Jordan + Radford, Trevor	-11	61

Total Purse Allocated: \$540.00



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Empowering the Future of Turfgrass Management in Idaho and Washington: The Role of FFA

David Phipps, GCSAA NW Region

In the ever-evolving landscape of turfgrass management, one solution to addressing labor shortages might just lie in an unexpected place: the Future Farmers of America (FFA). The recent strides made in collaboration between the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and FFA present a promising opportunity to reshape the turfgrass industry in Idaho and beyond.

Shelia Finney, representing the GCSAA, has been diligently fostering relationships at the National FFA Conference in Indianapolis for several years. Her efforts have yielded significant results, with the FFA announcing the introduction of a turfgrass management Career Development Event (CDE) at the national conference in 2026.

To understand the potential impact of this development, let's delve into what a CDE entails. Drawing parallels from an

existing CDE, the Environmental and Natural Resources event, we can envision the turfgrass management CDE as an immersive experience for students. Similar to professionals in the environmental and natural resource industry, participants will tackle real-world scenarios, interpret data, utilize field equipment, and hone their skills in areas such as GPS navigation, soil science, water management, and wildlife conservation.

Imagine high school students demonstrating proficiency in turfgrass management through these challenges. Whether they choose to enter the workforce directly or pursue higher education, they'll possess a solid foundation, positioning them as valuable assets in the industry.

The Inland Empire GCSA will have a booth at the upcoming Washington FFA State Conference in Pullman, Wash. on May 9 -10. If you would like to help in the

booth, please reach out to me.

The Idaho GCSA has already taken proactive steps to integrate with this initiative. Recently, during the Idaho State FFA conference in Twin Lakes, Simplot Partners representative, Travis Rose and Chas Schmid, Ph.D. from Oregon State, and I engaged with students about careers in turfgrass management. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many students expressing newfound interest in the field. Equally enthusiastic were the teachers, who welcomed the idea of the 2026 CDE as a gateway to introduce turfgrass management to their students.

Just as initiatives like First Green have shown, building relationships with local schools is paramount. By connecting with agricultural and elementary school teachers, we can raise awareness about the turfgrass industry and inspire the next generation of superintendents.

As we look ahead, let's continue nurturing these partnerships and investing in educational outreach efforts. Together, we can cultivate a skilled workforce that not only meets the needs of the turfgrass industry but also champions sustainability and innovation in Idaho and beyond.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or desire to get involved.



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