

Turf's Up in the Inland Empire

Spring 2025

Summer Outing, June 18, Horn Rapids Golf Course, Richland, WA.

Austin Attends Chapter Leadership Symposium

The Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium held each March at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., offers an opportunity to network with other association leaders from around the country and share ideas as the annual event provides leadership training, development, and support to chapters.

Inland Empire GCSA Vice President, Brent Austin, LeGrande Country Club (above), represented our chapter and shared his experience, "The



symposium was an eye opener to the many programs and the effort GCSAA puts into them so that we can be successful as superintendents. Also, this training helped me to see where my strengths and weaknesses lie and



how to turn weaknesses into strengths. I hope to implement these strategies a bit at a time making me a better leader in my organization. I also want to thank our Inland Empire chapter for sending me to the symposium."

Crew Challenge Save the date! **August 13**

Jeff Blanc, CGCS Honored with Distinguished Service

Jeff Blanc, CGCS, was honored with the prestigious William Griffith Distinguished Service Award at the 2025 "Nearly" Spring Meeting. Coincidentally, the event was held at Walla Walla Country Club, the very place where Blanc serves as the superintendent. On behalf of the association, the award was presented by Mitch Larson, a former employee of Blanc and superintendent of Yakima Country Club.

Blanc has influenced so many students and turf professionals over the years, coming through his door as both a superintendent and a general manager, as well as instructing at Walla Walla Community College. Blanc holds a B.S. in agronomy from Washington State University, and since 1996 has been with Walla Walla Country Club.

Blanc worked for decades along with the award namesake, Bill Griffith, who recently passed away. It was our honor to have his wife, Pat Griffith, join the group for the presentation.

Larson shared with the group that when he graduated from Walla Walla Community College and was at a crossroads, several peers recommended he pursue education further. Both Blanc and Griffith encouraged Larson to go experience life and that school could come later. Larson heeded their advice to experience life!

Blanc appreciatively accepted the award with his wife, Lori, in attendance.



(Larson, Griffith and Jeff and Lori Blanc)

