



Summer 2026

Investing in the Future of Our Profession

Zach Bauer, CDA National Reserve
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Volunteering is one of the main backbones of the Inland Empire GCSAA, and it is worth remembering that resources our profession relies on - education, advocacy, research, and networking - exist because superintendents



chose to give their time. Chapter boards, national committees, mentorship, and local turf events don't run themselves. They run because people who already have full plates at their own courses decide the profession is worth investing in beyond the fence line. That kind of commitment is what turns an association into a community.

There is also a selfish case for volunteering! Serving on a committee or chapter board puts you in rooms with superintendents facing the same water restrictions, labor shortages, and member pressures you are - except they might've already solved the problem you're stuck on. The relationships built through volunteer work tend to outlast any single project, and they become the network you call when you need a referral or even a second opinion on an agronomic issue.

2027 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show Registration Opens This Fall

Registration opens this fall for the 2027 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show, taking place January 15-21 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This premier industry event will also feature the grand finale of the association's Centennial celebration.

Leadership experience gained through volunteering - running meetings, managing budgets, and member communication often translates directly into being a better superintendent and potentially a stronger set of skills for bigger jobs down the road.

Finally, volunteerism is how the profession renews itself. Every mentorship relationship, every scholarship committee, even assistants given a shot at a leadership role because a volunteer took the time to notice their potential - that is a succession plan in real time. The Inland Empire GCSAA and even the GCSAA are only as strong as the superintendents that are willing to step up. If you've ever been on the fence about getting involved (and trust me, it's not as much time as you think!) there is no better time than the present to say yes. If you're interested in serving with the Inland Empire or even the GCSAA please reach out to the Board of Directors and we can answer any questions or concerns, you may have.

Don't Wait to Book Your Room for IE Fall Meeting & Tradeshow

It's not too early to start planning! Book your hotel at the Centennial for the IEGCSA Fall Meeting & Tradeshow, happening November 18th-19th.

Deadline to book is October 18th!



2026 Summer Outing

Circling Raven Golf Club



*Thank you golf course
superintendent
Kal Zaranec and Circling
Raven for a great day!*

Congrats to our winners!

Tied 1st Place

Dillon Jahns and Rob Anderson

Tied 1st Place

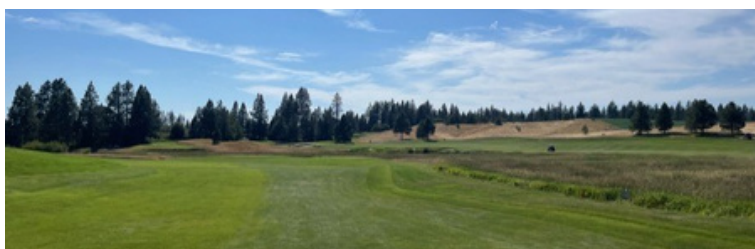
Trey Whitaker and Geoff Haynes

3rd Place

Jared Whitaker and Gabe Porter

4th Place

Mike Newman and Nolan Newman



Thank you to our 2026 Summer Outing Sponsors



Inland Empire GCSA
Board of Directors

Brent Austin, President
LaGrande Country Club

Brandon Bubar, Vice President
Avondale Golf Club

Dan Frederiksen
Secretary/Treasurer
The Golf Club at Black Rock

Zach Bauer, CGCS
Coeur d'Alene National
Reserve

Kevin Hicks
EarthWorks

Mitchell Larson
Yakima Country Club

Tom Walker
Coeur d'Alene Resort

Edward Wetherell
Circling Raven Golf Course

Kalman Zaranec
Circling Raven Golf Course
Past President

Ivan Gibbs
Leavenworth Golf Club

Joe VanHoomissen
Kalispel Golf & Country Club
Assistant Liason

Inland Empire GCSA
Cassidey Plum, Executive Dir.
55 SW 5th Ave. Ste. 100
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 888-0988
cassidey@amgidaho.com
iegcsa.org



Greg Baer
Principal Landscape Architect
Irrigation Consultant

10027 N. Palisades Wy.
Boise, ID 83714
Ph. 208.859.1980
greg@baerdg.com

www.baerdg.com

Finding My Way Through the Golf Industry

Alex Day, Assistant Superintendent
The Golf Club at Black Rock

My journey through the golf industry began as a caddie, a role I held for ten years. During that time, I gained a deep appreciation for the game, the people involved, and the work required to create a great golf experience. Caddying taught me responsibility, patience, communication, and the value of hard work.

As I continued exploring the industry, I worked in the pro shop and in outside services. Each position gave me a different perspective on golf operations and helped me better understand where I belonged.

Although I valued those experiences, I eventually discovered that my true interest was in golf course maintenance.

Working in maintenance allowed me to be outdoors, solve problems, and see the direct results of my effort. It gave me a sense of purpose and satisfaction that I had been searching for. To strengthen my knowledge and build a lasting career, I completed the Oregon State Turf Management Program.

My path through the golf industry was not always direct, but every role helped lead me to where I am today. Golf course maintenance has given me happiness in my work and the motivation to keep improving. By continuing to learn and develop my skills, I am building a better career and a stronger future for myself.



INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

SAVE THE DATE

November 18–19, 2026

Fall Meeting & Trade Show

Centennial Hotel

CONFERENCE

TRADE SHOW

PESTICIDE & GCSAA POINTS



REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Desert Green Turf
PREMIUM SAND BASED SPORTS TURF

Jessica Lenihan VP of Golf Operations 208-661-5490 jessica@desertgreenturf.com	Nathan Cox Owner 509-750-1614 nathan@desertgreenturf.com	Jazmin Orozco Sales + Trucking Coordinator 509-350-0707 jazmin@desertgreenturf.com
--	--	--



We Build Healthy Soil.



Cole Groshens: (509) 904-5369 | cole@barr-tech.net | www.barr-tech.net



4651 Ann Court
Bellingham, WA 98229

☎ : 3603057619
✉ : stretch@floratinenw.com
www.floratinenw.com

Richard Strautman
President



People...Products...Knowledge...

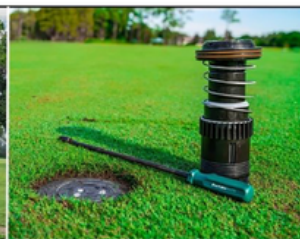
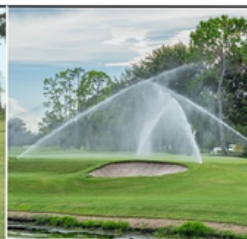


Chris Concienne 509-795-9175
concienne@helenachemical.com



PACIFIC
GOLF & TURF

YOUR TRUSTED GOLF SUPPLIER
FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



WE PROUDLY CARRY:

 JOHN DEERE	 RAIN BIRD
 EZGO	 CUSHMAN

VIEW OUR
FULL
EQUIPMENT
LINEUP:



FOLLOW US:

📷 @PGT.GOLF
f PACIFIC GOLF & TURF
x PACIFICGOLFTURF



1-800-368-9158

A Greenside Chat with DJ Wattam

DJ Wattam - Superintendent, Stoneridge Golf Club



1) Tell us about Stoneridge Golf Club.

Stoneridge Golf Club is a 19 hole public golf course. We originally were designed in

1968 by Jim Krause but underwent a redesign in 2002 by Frank Burandt. During this time is when we got our 19th hole known as “Gamblers Hole”.

2) If you were to poll your staff, which job on the course would they say is their least favorite?

My staff 1000% would say weedwacking around trees and fence lines is their least favorite.

3) How many years have you been in the industry, and what was your first job?

I've been in the industry for 6 years. My first job was raking bunkers and tee divots.

4) What's your favorite part about your job/profession?

My favorite part about my job is how no two days are ever the same and being outside everyday.

5) Would you like to give a shout-out to anyone who influenced you as you were coming up in the industry?

Dan Frederiksen, Jim and Mitch Mcphillomy, and Tom Finlay. Each one of them helped show me different tricks and philosophies that I use everyday.

6) What's the best story you have about someone calling off work?

I had a kid say his dog put his phone in the dogs water bowl so he didn't wake up to his alarms.

7) If you weren't working on the golf course, what line of work would you have pursued?

I would have been a teacher trying to be a football coach. Both of my parents are college professors so I just planned on following what they did.

8) What app or website do you use the most?

USGA DEACON or Instagram is definitely my most used app.

9) If a genie granted you one wish for your golf course, what would it be?

A 5 million dollar budget and 20 more employees. I have a lot of projects that I would love to accomplish both those would make it A LOT easier to complete those projects.

10) What are the three items in your cart that you never leave the shop without?

1. Soil Probe 2. Sprinkler Key 3. Notebook and pen.

11) If you could drop everything and jet off somewhere for vacation tomorrow, where would you go?

Palm Beach, Florida without any hesitation. Would never get bored but would go broke very quick.

12) What's your favorite sports team and why?

My favorite sports team is University of Montana football. I grew up going to the games and have continued liking them to this day!



13) What's your favorite place to grab a bite to eat?

Taco Bell. Always the best reward after a great day on the golf course.

14) Who are the four golfers on your Mount Rushmore of golf?

Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler, Jake Knapp, and Smylie Kaufman.

Brought to you by
Albatross Golf Supply



15) What would your dream foursome be?

Myself, Michael Jordan, Nick Saban, Justin Thomas

16) Aside from Stoneridge Golf Club, what's your favorite course you've ever played?

Blackrock or The Boulders in Carefree, Arizona.

17) If you were selected to go on The Amazing Race with another IEGCSA member, who would you want as your teammate and why?

Dane Bednar. We've navigated two major cities already. Add in a scavenger hunt and it's game over.



18) What's your go-to work shoe for out on the golf course?

It depends all on what's going on but I love my Xtra Tuffs and a good pair of tennis shoes those are my two on a daily rotation!

**maintenance
made
simple**

WE PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY COURSE MAINTENANCE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT TO SUPERINTENDENTS NATIONALLY. WE SET THE STANDARD FOR FAST SHIPPING, EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND QUALITY PRODUCTS. WE MAKE MAINTENANCE SIMPLE.



CERTIFIED SUPPLIER
ROBOTIC MOWERS

Kress



Call Us



Visit Our Website
ALBATROSSGOLFSUPPLY.COM



ALBATROSS GOLF SUPPLY
P.O. BOX 124
COEUR D'ALENE, ID
83835

2026 Crew Challenge

Palouse Ridge Golf Club



Thank you to Superintendent Mike Bednar and the rest of the Palouse Ridge crew for hosting!



Open Division

1st Place - Moscow Elks GC

2nd Place- Horizon Distributors, Inc

— Thank you to our 2026 Crew Challenge Sponsors —



1st Place - The Club at Black Rock

Dan Frederiksen

Dane Bednar

Alex Day

Brian Tescher



2nd Place - Avondale Golf Club

Brandon Bubar

Chuck Shriner

Gary Robinson

Aaron Walker

**One Source
For Your Entire Course.**

New ideas, real working solutions, and time management that puts YOU back in the driver's seat. At Horizon, we make your job a little easier.

Contact your local Golf Representative to learn how we can help you today.
Nick Newman..... 208-929-2522

Your Local Horizon Stores:
Hayden, ID Spokane, WA
208-762-3399 509-467-6601

Horizon
800-PVC-TURF
HorizonOnline.com



Jim Connolly- Distribution & International Sales
509-951-0270
Jim@planeturfusa.com

Jared Whitaker- Alaska, Central Washington, Wyoming
509-977-1354
Jared@planeturfusa.com

Jordan Anderson- Inland North West
816-217-7363
Jordan@planeturfusa.com

Aaron Stamper- Western Washington & Oregon
509-301-4589
Aaron@planeturfusa.com

Shane Hughes- Southeastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho
509-954-5773
Shane@planeturfusa.com



<https://planeturfusa.com>

Follow us!

Stay in the loop between newsletters - event updates, reminders, photos, and more.

 @IEGCSA
X (formerly Twitter)

 /Inland Empire GCSA
Facebook



From the Executive Director

A quick introduction from Cassidey Plum.

Hi everyone,

Hope you're all having a great summer! I wanted to introduce myself as the new Executive Director for the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association.

First, a sincere thank you to Lori for her many years of service to the association. She's been a huge help through this transition, and I appreciate all the time she's put into making the handoff smooth.

A little about me: I've worked in association management for more than three years, currently managing several agricultural associations across Idaho. Beyond the association work itself, our team also represents many of those groups in government affairs and legislative advocacy at the state level. I'm a University of Idaho grad with a degree in Agricultural Economics and Agri-Business, and I live in Meridian.

The golf course industry is new to me, but serving associations and their members isn't. I'm looking forward to learning the industry, getting to know all of you, and supporting the work IEGCSA does.

One more thing: I've got a great team behind me in the office, including administrative staff and a full-time bookkeeper, so if you get an email from someone other than me, that's just us. Don't be alarmed!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, suggestions, or just to say hi. Looking forward to working with all of you.

Cassidey Plum
Executive Director
Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association





TORO®

**TURF STAR
WESTERN**



TSW
EST. 1922

Looking for turf equipment or irrigation solutions? Let us help to determine what best suits your needs. See our website to view all of our product lines.

We've got what you need to get the job done right. Contact us:

800-585-8001

sales@turfstar.com

www.turfstar.com

TORO®



HARPER®
TURF EQUIPMENT