



Photo Courtesy: Andrew Mattison, Glacier Club

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# President's Message

by Paul Sibley, Superintendent, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve



As I toured the golf course this morning I had a huge smile on my face seeing all of the white stuff covering the entire property. The timely snows in January and February have been a god send to all that battled through the warm temperatures of fall. I sure hope there is more in store for all of us.

This year has started out in a pretty “back to normal way” as myself and many Colorado Superintendents found the time to attend the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego. I was very impressed with the

Colorado contingency that made the trip. With all of the circumstances and minor hurdles that we had to go to attend I do send out a big kudos to the GCSAA for making it happen. The education tracks and trade show seemed to flow flawlessly. It was also great to see the turnout at the Whiskey Girl reception not only on the Superintendent side but also from our Affiliate partners. Thanks to all that participated...it was fun seeing everyone and personally speaking to many.

So far 2022 has been busy for the Board of Directors. The group has been in the process of planning out events for the year including golf outings, education seminars, meeting on government / legislative issues, membership recruitment, and working with the Annual Conference Committee on planning for the November Conference. Events that are scheduled or in the planning stages are as follows:

## Golf Outings:

- RMEGI Memorial Tournament – June 14th at Walnut Creek Golf Preserve
- Annual Tournament – July 19th at Black Bear
- Affiliate Cup – August 16th at Grandy Ranch
- Challenge Cup – Saddle Rock, Date TBD
- Best Tournament Ever – Colorado Springs CC, Date TBD

Thanks to Griff Rainford, Highland Meadows G.C., and his committee for setting these up. If you would like to host an event please reach out to Griff or any of the board members. We are always looking for new venues for the membership to experience.

## Education Seminars:

- Pesticide Classes – March 1st and October 20th both to be held virtually presenting Sandra McDonald of Mountain West Pest (Pesticide Education & Safety Training).

If you need any CEC's for renewing your QS or CO pesticide applicator licenses these are two great opportunities offered by the association. Thanks to Aaron Fankhauser, The Club at Rolling Hills, and his committee for the work they have done planning these.

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# President's Message Continued

## Government / Legislative Issues:

- Bowditch & Cassell have sent out Legislative updates on very important issues facing our industry many of which are being introduced in 2022. Quoted from their latest update sent out to the membership on February 14th: “The anti-pesticide bill (pro-pollinator bill) was introduced on Friday morning – **SB 22-131**. The proponents of the bill have held two stakeholder meetings to discuss the issues. The conversation has mostly been around process and technicalities, however, more conversations around science and facts need to happen especially in regards to restricting the use of neonicotinoids and removing state preemption.”

This bill has the potential to affect our industry in ways that could be detrimental to the way we manage our facilities and we need the entire membership to make themselves aware as well as speak out on behalf of the industry. Mitch Savage, Common Ground G.C., and his committee have been instrumental in representing our membership to make sure our voice is heard. Thanks to all who have participated in round table discussions and meetings regarding these important issues. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Mitch as he is well versed in what has been happening and where we are heading.

## Membership:

- Multiple emails have been sent out to the membership as reminders to re-new existing memberships or register key staff as new members. This is one of the most important aspects of the RMGCSA as it helps support all of the events and issues listed in this article (and many more) which in turn adds value to all registered members. The deadline for registering is March 1st and I truly hope we can get support from all classes of membership.

## RMGCSA Annual Conference:

- The Annual Conference Committee has been busy planning the next conference to be held on November 2nd and 3rd. The line up is coming together with a plethora of speakers focusing on various topics that are pertinent to our industry. Through many years of feed-back the committee has learned that Superintendents like hearing from fellow Superintendents. On February 8th an email was sent out to the membership regarding the 2022 Annual Conference “Turf Ted Talk” applications. “Turf Ted Talks” give Superintendents (or any member class) the opportunity to give a short presentation on new ideas or innovations that they have personally come up with or developed from an already known practice. If you are interested in presenting please fill out the application provided in the email. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2022. Thanks to Steve Sarro and the conference committee for the efforts in putting together a fantastic conference year after year.

As we move forward into 2022 I am excited to see all of the efforts from the Board of Directors come to fruition. As you can see by the list above the board has been very busy trying to add as much value to your memberships and this does not include much of the behind the scenes work. Please take advantage of as many event opportunities that you can and include and support all of your staff in participating. As always, if you have questions on anything please reach out to myself ([psibley@cityofwestminster.us](mailto:psibley@cityofwestminster.us)) or any of the board members and we will do our best to help you out. Best Regards and good luck this spring.



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# Director's Corner

by Cole Miller, Cherokee Ridge Golf Course



Hello, my fellow members,

I would like to introduce myself to all the amazing members of the RMGCSA. My name is Cole Miller and I am the Superintendent at Cherokee Ridge Golf Course in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are owned by Cherokee Metropolitan District and I am also the Superintendent of the Parks and Open Spaces within the district. I was born and raised here in Colorado Springs and have never left. In the previous two years, I have served as a committee member under the PR Chair helping utilize the Instagram account for the RMGCSA to try and reach more of our members. Since 2008, I have been working at Cherokee Ridge and I was honored, to say the least, when I was approached about joining the RMGCSA Board of Directors. Being that Cherokee Ridge is a smaller public golf course, I was excited to be apart of the association and hopefully lead by example that even the “little guys” can be of value.

There is a ton of value in the yearly RMGCSA Membership and the great networking opportunities that are created by the association. I know I have personally made plenty of phone calls over the past couple years to other members to bounce ideas off and sometimes just flat out vent about professional issues. Also, I encourage every Superintendent to get their entire full-time staff members signed up to join the RMGCSA.

I am lucky to be married to the love of my life Alyssa. We have known each other since the 7th grade where we attended middle school together in Colorado Springs where we even dated then for a whopping 2 weeks! About 10 years later, we reconnected, and we have been together for 8 ½ years. In 2014 she blessed me with the greatest gift I have ever received, my beautiful daughter Willow Monroe Miller. Willow is now 7 years old and is everything a father could ask for. We have three dogs and a sphynx cat, Guthrie our Golden Retriever, Leera our German Shepherd, Jane our long-haired German Shepherd and Olive our cat. When I can scrape out some free time away from work, we enjoy four-wheeling our Jeep, camping, fishing, golfing and our new recently found favorite hobby, riding our dirt bikes. My daughter started to show interest in learning how to ride dirt bikes and being that I had always wanted one at that age, we went out and picked her up a Honda CRF50. This bike was great for her to learn on, but quickly outgrew the performance of the bike and she is now riding a KTM SX 50 2-stroke, which she absolutely loves. All she wants to do is ride her dirt bike and she is currently competing in the Winter Combat series and will be racing the RMRA events this year.

Mom gets nervous from time to time when she is out with the bigger bikes on the track, but the perseverance and independency this sport teaches the kids, I believe is a lesson they can carry throughout their entire lives. Our two favorite places that we try and visit at least once a year for camping and four-wheeling is Moab, Utah and Ouray, Colorado. We were fortunate to make both locations in 2021 and it presents an opportunity to pull myself away from work to focus on building a special relationship with my daughter. Willow is very helpful when it comes to setting up camp and spotting the Jeep over some obstacles from her window, although I think making smores takes the cake for her favorite part of the trips. We were close to catching Willow's first fish this season, but the Spiderman pole wasn't cutting it. Now she has a real fishing pole with her own tackle box, and this is going to be the year for her first catch.

# Director's Corner Continued

As we move into the 2022 season here in Colorado there are plenty of things that raise some concern for me personally. The availability of products, pricing of those products and the stressors of maintaining a positive balance in our yearly budget reports. Although our annual rounds continue to set personal records for our facility, it's never easy to explain to upper management that we are operating in unprecedented times and more funding will be required to maintain the same level quality product we all work so hard to put out there for our patrons. Although things are bound to be more stressful this year, I will continue to make the commitment to not only myself, but my family as well, to maintain a healthy mental state. That consists of having definitive boundaries set between work and personal life. We all need a break from time to time, and I encourage every Superintendent to pay close attention to this balance and take time away when needed. I look forward to serving the RMGCSA this season and please remember, if you use Instagram, please share with the RMGCSA page to be featured. Also keep a look out for the turf professionals' spotlight that we will be featuring here soon! This is a great way outside of the E-Reader to get to know more of the wonderful members we have in our association. Best of luck to you all as we enter the 2022 season!

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# Assistant Spotlight

by Bradford "Allen" Buttner, Assistant Superintendent, Red Sky Ranch Golf Club



## **Describe your Facility**

Red Sky Ranch Golf Club is a 36 hole Private/Resort Course mountain community. We have two different courses, an 18 hole Norman Course, and an 18 hole Fazio Course where I work. Both courses have their own separate clubhouses and maintenance facilities. The private Members Only clubhouse is located on the Norman course, while the guest clubhouse is on the Fazio course.

## **What makes your facility unique?**

The Fazio course here at Red Sky has been voted the “#1 golf course you can play” by Golf Week, the last 2 years. The Fazio course is the perfect all in one Mtn Golf Course experience. It’s an 8 mile journey through the mountain side. We have our wide open mesa holes, forest holes, and tons of elevation gains and losses, endless breathtaking views, and tons of wildlife. It truly is a championship high altitude mountain golf course.

## **What do you like about your team at your facility?**

The team here at the Fazio course is great! We all have a great appreciation for where we live and work. We have such a great attitude and sense of camaraderie, and we all have pride in our course year after year. Most of us golf quite a bit too, and have a great understanding of what makes a top 100 course.

## **What would you tell someone that is interested in getting into golf course management?**

If you don’t have a passion for being out in the field getting your hands dirty, this isn’t the career for you. This isn’t a desk job life. A love for playing golf doesn’t hurt either!

## **How many years have you worked in golf and how did you get started in the industry?**

I have been in the golf industry since 1996. Being in the mountains, golf work was a great summer gig. After 12 years of working my way through the ranks, I made the decision to re-enter school and get my Turf grass Degree and turn my golf life into a career.

## **Without incriminating yourself, what’s the stupidest thing you’ve done on the job ?**

Early in my career while “creatively” topping off vegetation in an environmental sensitive area, I managed to bury a full size back-hoe (up to the cab) in the muck of the environmentally sensitive area. I had to do the walk of shame back to the shop expecting to hand in my uniform and find another job. Luckily the Sup was pretty understanding and let me continue to work.

## **What do you do when you’re not at work?**

In the summer, if I’m not at work I’m either mountain biking, golfing, or hiking with the family. In the winter months I’m either snowboarding or in the backcountry snowmobiling.

## **Favorite movie**

I’m a Star Wars fan, not the new ones. I’m an original guy!

## **What’s your favorite tool in your cart?**

My favorite tool in my cart is my trenching shovel. From my days of being an Irr. Tech, I’ve always believed there is nothing you can’t do on a golf course with a good trenching shovel.

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# Affiliate Angle

by Mike Powers, Sales/Agronomist, SiteOne Golf



**What is your current affiliate company and your position? How long have you been in this position?**

SiteOne Golf, Colorado Golf sales/Agronomist, 2 years (relocated from Austin in November 2021)

**Where are you based out of and what territory do you cover?**

Denver, Colorado

**What are the responsibilities of your company to our industry, and how is your company involved with RMGCSA?**

To be a partner to all members of the golf course maintenance community. Our mission is to serve the turf needs of golf courses better than anyone else.

**What might we be surprised to know about your company?**

SiteOne is the largest wholesale distributor of landscape supplies in North America. We are Lesco.

**Did you go to college? If so, where and what major did you graduate with?**

Michigan State University, Agronomy and Turfgrass Management. Also a 20 year CGCS .

**How and when did you begin working in the golf industry and what do you like most about it?**

Helped build Sycamore Hills Golf Club (Jack Nicklaus, Indiana, 1988). Past positions included, Congressional CC (DC), Highland Golf & CC (Indianapolis), TPC Twin Cities (MN), Edina CC (MN), The Club at Tres Marias (Morelia, MX), TDI Golf (senior project manager), various consulting jobs throughout the US.

**Tell us a little about your family, and what hobbies or activities do you participate in when you are not at work?**

Wife Jaci (married 28 years, CFO of Lawrence Construction, Littleton, CO), Nick (son, graduating this spring with master's in cyber security) moving to Colorado this spring. Taylor (daughter, Senior staff accountant, Belton, TX, married to Sgt. In Army stationed in Egypt, granddaughter Amelia). Mrs. P and I play a lot of golf, ride bikes, landscape, hanging around Amelia.

**What are the biggest changes you have seen in the profession since you began your career?**

I need to mention a number of innovations, Irrigation control (I started with quick couplers), Wide spin top dresser, aeration equipment (Toro 648), wetting agents, Bed knife width (HOC), light weight rollers (I tested (was operator)the first prototype at Congressional CC for Dr. Joe Duich), growth regulators, Imidacloprid for grub control (Midwest), Knowledge of Superintendents.

**Do you regularly attend RMGCSA meetings or events, if so why are they important?**

I will, networking and building relationships. Some of my best ideas and friends have come from local meetings.

**What would you like other people to know about RMGCSA?**

Golf Course Superintendents are environmental stewards of the state of Colorado.

**You get to see many facilities and properties. What is an interesting new or innovative practice you have seen?**

Topdressing with black (died) sand late fall for winter protection. Spring green-up is outstanding.

**You know a lot of people in our industry. What are they saying are the biggest obstacles to overcome for them to be successful?**

Labor pool, water.

# Rounds 4 Research

by Tim Davis, Superintendent, Legacy Ridge Golf Course and Kyle Merritt, Superintendent, Eaton Country Club



## 2022 auction coming April 25-May 1

It's that time of year again. Time for my favorite donation of the year. Welcome to Rounds 4 Research 2022. This innovative program is aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. The premise is simple: Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four or "stay and play" packages, or basically whatever parameters you want to set, that are then auctioned online.

Portions from the proceeds from the donations of Colorado golf facilities go directly to the Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute (RMEGI). If donating a round of golf isn't an option for your facility, cash donations are accepted as well. This money is then used to fund special projects and research that impact golf in the state of Colorado. The Environmental Impact Study, State BMP's, PGR research, wetting agent research, and Japanese Beetle research are just a few of the most recent projects to be sponsored through RMEGI.

Last year RMGCSA was able to raise \$9,466 through the auction. This incredible amount of money raised put us in 8th place of the top chapters nationally. This year it's our goal to be a top 5 association in funds raised. We believe this lofty goal is doable but we need your help. Please feel free to reach out to myself or Kyle Merritt if you have any questions, Tim Davis 303.803.2724 | Kyle Merritt 970.988.9409

## 2022 GHIN Renewal Now Available!

As a reminder, this GHIN is open to all RMGCSA member classifications.

In 2008, the CGA graciously extended complimentary handicaps to all active Class A and B RMGCSA members.

- The cost for the GHIN service to all active members is \$40.00. (NOT including Class A or B)
- Once we have received your information it will be forwarded to Daniel Robbins and he will provide you with a GHIN number.
- If your GHIN was bought elsewhere before, you will need to switch your GHIN number from your current handicap club to the RMGCSA Gold League by contacting Daniel Robbins at [drobbins@ptarmigancc.com](mailto:d Robbins@ptarmigancc.com)

\*Note: You will not be considered "Activated" in the system until you have paid. If you already have a GHIN number, please provide it to us so we may update your information in the RMGCSA database.

# Superintendent Spotlight

by Andrew Mattison, Superintendent, Glacier Club



## **Describe Your Facility**

Glacier Club is a 36-hole private mountain community located just north of Durango, Colorado. We have two 18-hole golf courses: The Valley course is an Arthur Hills design, built in 1976. The Mountain Course is a Todd Schoeder and Hale Irwin design. The first nine holes opened in 2004, and the final nine holes were completed in 2017. Both golf courses are certified with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf.

My first summer as superintendent was in 2018, when the 416 Fire burned right across Highway 550 from Glacier Club. The fire burned over 50,000 acres for 61 days. For the first 18 days, we were under mandatory evacuation orders and I was only able to access the property to restart the pump stations from power outages. The helicopters fighting the fire used our irrigation ponds to fill their water tanks, so we needed to make sure the ponds were full by keeping the pump stations up and running. That first year was certainly a trial by fire!

## **What makes your facility unique?**

The elevation changes at Glacier Club can be quite dramatic. There's a 300-foot difference from the lowest to highest point on the Valley course, and the

Mountain Course starts at an elevation of 7,400 feet and climbs to 7,950 feet by the time you reach the 11th hole. The age difference between the two courses is also significant. The Valley Course is nearly 50 years old, while the Mountain Course ranges from 5 to 18 years old depending on the hole.

## **What's the biggest challenge you face at your facility?**

Like most golf courses, seasonal staffing is always a big concern. Moving water can be quite the challenge, too. Because of the elevation changes, we require booster pumps to get water to certain areas of the golf courses. If a booster pump fails, three to four holes could be without water until the problem is fixed.

## **What do you like about your team at your facility?**

I have an amazing team at Glacier. We have seven full-time, year-round members on the team: three assistants, two mechanics, an irrigation tech, and me. Combined, we have over 55 years of experience working at Glacier. It's great to have a core group that knows the ins and outs of this place. Everyone is willing to step up and help in any way possible. Without them, my job would be very difficult.

## **How many years have you worked in golf and how did you get started in the industry?**

I have been in the industry for 12 years now. I grew up off the 8th hole at Columbine Country Club in Littleton, Colorado, so I have been around golf for most of my life. I didn't grow up thinking I would work in the golf industry, though. It took me working on a maintenance team to realize this job is quite fun.

The first course I worked at was Englewood Golf Course (now Broken Tee) for Wayne Niles. That experience inspired me to attend Colorado State University and work towards a bachelor's degree in turf management. In 2011, I did my internship at Glacier Club but moved to Bend, Oregon, after graduation to work at Pronghorn Resort. This was a big move for me. I was only guaranteed a seasonal internship role with a possibility of being hired as a second assistant. I worked my tail off that year to get the second assistant role, eventually becoming the assistant superintendent on the Nicklaus course.

During my time at Pronghorn, I honed my skills under David Freitag. He was instrumental in helping me become the superintendent I am today. In 2016, I came back to Glacier as the assistant superintendent, and I took over the superintendent role in November of 2017.

# Superintendent Spotlight Continued

## What's your favorite hole on your course and why?

On the Valley Course, #7. It's the hardest hole on the course. A downhill, dogleg left par 4 with water guarding the green on the left side. You must hit a perfect tee shot to even have a glimpse of the green for your approach shot. I shouldn't love the hole considering my miss with my irons is a pull, but I can't help but appreciate the challenge. You really need to hit two perfect shots to get this green in regulation.

On the Mountain Course, #14. This relatively short, uphill par 4 has a three-tiered green. It's my favorite green on property because you must land the ball on the right tier. Otherwise, you'll have to be very creative to get your first putt close.

## What do you do when you're not at work?

I love playing golf with my wife when we're not working. We have a R-Pod travel trailer, and we try to get out camping whenever we can.

## Favorite movie?

The Big Lebowski. It's infinitely quotable!

## Favorite restaurant?

I love to cook, and my wife was a professional chef, so we always say the best restaurant in Durango is our house. When going out to eat, you can't go wrong with Steamworks Brewing. The food is great, they have something for everyone, and the beer is solid of course!



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# RMGCSA Chapter Hospitality Event

by Jeff Wichman, Superintendent, Patty Jewett Golf Course



My third day in warm San Diego, I took a half mile walk from my hotel room, to Whiskey Girl.

I was looking forward to talking with folks in-person and not through a ZOOM call, where I hear, "I think your muted, Jeff..."

We had 130 members at this year's Chapter Hospitality event. The food was outstanding and the drinks were cold!

Thank you to all who attended and also a big thanks to all the affiliates that sponsored.



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# Moving on to Greener Fairways

by Taylor Gebhart, Assistant Superintendent, Colorado Springs Country Club



**Gene Michael Pascarelli**  
**June 7, 1953 – January 18, 2022**

“Geno” aka “The Bear” aka Gene Michael Pascarelli unexpectedly left this world at the age of 68 to go on to his next great adventure. Gene was born in Brooklyn, New York. He went to school in Phoenix, Arizona, and also resided in Elko, Nevada before moving to Colorado Springs in 1978. Gene was always gifted mechanically, specializing in golf course equipment and small engine repair. Gene’s career began in Nevada 46 years ago. When he moved to Colorado in 1978, he called The Broadmoor home as the Equipment Manager for 19 years before coming to Colorado Springs Country Club in 1997.

During his extensive tenure at our club, he was at the forefront of maintaining acceptable playing conditions, while contributing countless budget saving efforts to keep our aging fleet of carts and equipment running in absolutely the best shape they can. Gene spent significant hours after the crew had left adjusting greens mowers, checking fairway units and testing each one of these aspects before it is put back into the fleet for the next morning. Gene was truly a godsend to our golf course and we will desperately miss his expertise. In 2011, he was nominated for and won the GCSAA MVT Award. At that time, he was honored as an "unsung hero" by the GCSAA, Golf Course Management (GCM) and Foley United for this international accolade.

Gene was our MVT and the MVP of our Agronomy operation on a daily basis. Everyone who knew Gene will miss his dry wit and often gruff exterior, which was why we always affectionately called him “The Bear.” There is a celebration of Life set for March 16, 2022 at Colorado Springs Country Club from 11am-2pm for anyone who would like to attend. All are welcome! The address to the Club is: 3333 Templeton Gap Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80907. Rest In Peace; This one’s for Gene

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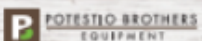
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# Helping A Fellow Member

Bob Stine, affectionately known by his last name, was recently diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Stine was a long-time golf course superintendent and agronomy consultant across Colorado and the Denver metro area. For the last six years, he has spent his time as a golf course maintenance employee at Broken Tee Golf Course in Englewood.

The Broken Tee grounds team, as well as others who know Bob well, are looking to raise money on his behalf to help ease the burden of medical bills incurred over the last couple of months and support Linda, Bob's significant other, during this difficult time and beyond. A GoFundMe page has been established where donations can be made to support Bob and his family during this difficult time.



Scan the QR code with your camera to visit the GoFundMe page for Bob.

Tony Hartsock  
720-635-8685

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## Calendar of Events...


April 13, 2022	Golf Day at the Capitol
May 2, 2022	Western Slope Outing - The Bridges
June 8, 2022	Assistants Meeting and Championship - Broadlands Golf Course
June 14, 2022	Memorial Tournament - Walnut Creek Golf Preserve
August 16, 2022	Affiliate Cup - Granby Ranch
October 20, 2022	RMGCSA Pesticide Training Class
November 2-3, 2022	RMGCSA Annual 2022 Conference - Denver Marriot West Golden, CO

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