

# The Reporter

From the Rocky Mountain Chapter of GCSAA  
Growing Green Since 1936

## THEN & NOW

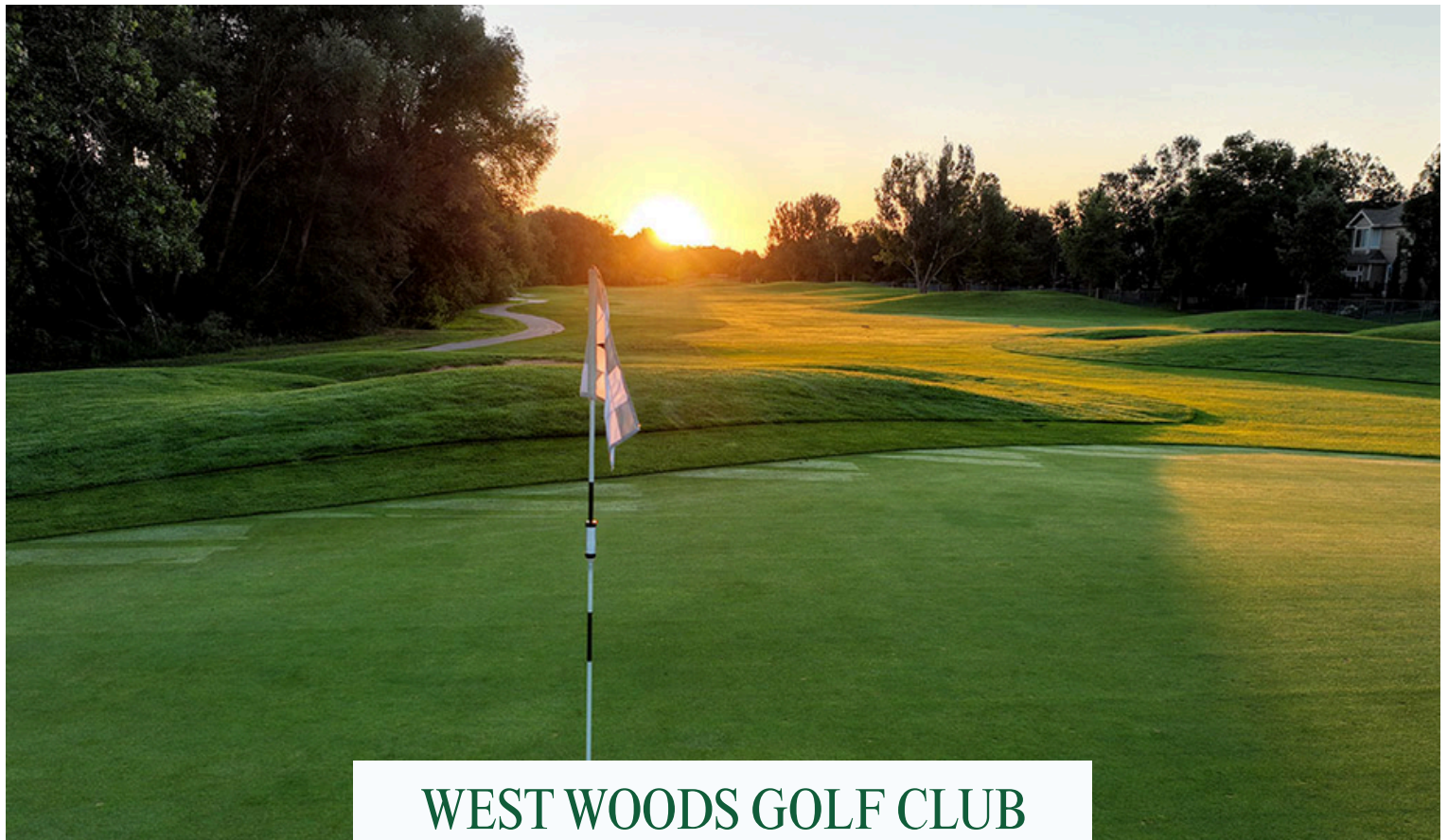


**POLE CREEK GOLF CLUB**

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**WEST WOODS GOLF CLUB**

# President's Message

*Joe Kunze, CGCS, City of Arvada, RMGCSA President*

As we welcome a new year, it's natural to reflect on change, how we can make 2026 better and what goals we want to set for ourselves. New Year's resolutions often focus on personal improvement, yet many of us know how difficult it can be to maintain those commitments.

Whether it's prioritizing health or making time for ourselves, personal resolutions can be challenging to sustain, follow-through and make as a new habit. Interestingly, when it comes to our golf courses, we rarely struggle with follow-through. When we commit to refining an agronomic program or completing a key project during the season, we plan carefully, stay accountable, and see it through.

We make thorough evaluations to determine if our expectations were met on the changes we directed. As superintendents, commitment and consistency are qualities we practice every day at work. So why do we find it easier to keep commitments to our facilities than to ourselves? Often, personal resolutions fall apart early because we underestimate the time, effort, or resources required. Competing priorities take over, excuses become easier to justify, and old habits return.

This isn't a lack of dedication, it's a reminder that meaningful change requires realistic planning and accountability, the same principles we apply so successfully in our planning and execution at our facilities.

Often, personal resolutions fall apart early because we underestimate the time, effort, or resources required. Competing priorities take over, excuses become easier to justify, and old habits return. This isn't a lack of dedication, it's a reminder that meaningful change requires realistic planning and accountability, the same principles we apply so successfully in our planning and execution at our facilities

Continued on page 4.

# President's Message

As we begin the year ahead, I encourage each of you to consider resolutions that support both personal and professional growth. We spend countless hours making decisions that benefit our courses, our teams, and our customers. That same level of intention should be applied to investing in ourselves, whether through education, leadership development, improved work-life balance, or involvement within the RMGCSA. Take time to learn at a conference, read a book on leadership, or contribute ideas to a RMGCSA committee.

Goals that align with our daily work while improving ourselves professionally are far more likely to last. I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year, and I hope the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association continues to be a meaningful part of your professional journey.

Our association is strongest when members are engaged, connected, and willing to give back. If you are interested in expanding your professional network, strengthening your resume, all while helping us remain one of the premier local chapters of the GCSAA, I invite you to get involved. Please reach out to me directly or visit the RMGCSA website to learn more about committee opportunities and ways to contribute. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to a successful 2026.

*Joe Kanxe, CGCS*

President, City of Arvada



# Golf Courses and Municipalities Continue to Support RMEGI

*RMEGI and the RMGCSA would like to thank the City of Westminster including Legacy Ridge and Walnut Creek Golf Preserve along with Glenn Samuelson of The Country Club of Colorado for their generous donations to RMEGI.*



## WESTMINSTER

Below, Glenn and Tim explain how others can make a similar donation.

### By Glenn Samuelson, Country Club of Colorado:

The Country Club of Colorado has been able to give \$1,000 or more in the last two years to RMEGI. This has been able to be accomplished each October because I host a Greenskeeper's Revenge Tournament at the Club and we have committed to donating \$10 per player to the Environmental Group. This tournament is a fun-filled and challenging event where we change formats every 6 holes and set the golf course up as difficult as possible. This is a team event, and each 2-person team must negotiate and survive the best ball, scramble, and alternate shot holes. We add some obstacles and some goofy golf at times. Breakfast, Bloody Mary Bar, Lunch, Drink Tickets, Golf and Prizes are included.

My members and guests love it and strongly support it each year. People have a good time! I get to give a little speech and let the players know that part of their entry is going to help the organization, sponsor turf grass research, and fund scholarships. It's a win-win and easy for us to do. We collect the funds and write the Association a check. This year some people came dressed in costumes and added to the crazy that goes on. This event is well supported and always fills up, so attaching our RMEGI contribution to it makes sense because we can basically guarantee a certain amount of money will be donated. The Tournament is built around fun and frustration, and players have been willing to pay for the painful pleasure without hesitation.

### By Tim Davis, CGCS, Legacy Ridge Golf Course:

The idea for the Environmental Sustainability Fee originated during an RMEGI Board of Trustees meeting several years ago. Lance Johnson and I then approached the Golf Westminster team about implementing the concept. Through thoughtful discussion and brainstorming, we expanded the idea to include not only RMEGI, but also PGA Reach and the Legacy Foundation, a City of Westminster focused community organization.

Including these partners, we aligned well with our mission to support both golfers and non-golfers in the community. The collaboration was well received, and the implementation proved straightforward and \$3 fee was added to fully paid rack rate tournaments and premium advance-rate reservations. This simple contribution has had a meaningful impact on giving back to golf and the broader community for the past two seasons.

# Superintendent Spotlight

John Feeney, Estes Park Golf course/Lake Estes Golf Course

## Describe Your Facility

The Estes Park Golf Courses sit in the Estes Valley, Gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. The 18-hole course is a park style course known for its breathtaking views and abundant wildlife. The Lake Estes 9-hole course is an executive course which sits on Lake Estes and straddles the Big Thompson River.

## What do you value most about your team?

I am fortunate to have a core staff of seasoned veterans who understand the importance of teamwork, communication and changes.

## How do you prefer to spend your time away from work?

My wife, Melissa, and I enjoy camping, fishing, taking in live music and traveling.

## Which sports team do you support?

Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Bears, Colorado Avalanche, Denver Broncos, and CSU Athletics.

## What is your favorite restaurant?

Portillo's, the Chicago based Italian beef chain.

## What makes your facility unique?

We have a few unique aspects to our Estes Park Golf Courses. The most obvious would be our ever-growing elk population. It can be quite frustrating repairing damage and cleaning up the mess left behind from a couple of hundred during course set up, just to see them stroll back in again that evening. Another unique aspect of maintaining the courses in Estes is the winters. Coming from the high plains desert in Canon City, I was used to killing grass in July and August.

Up here, I kill grass in the winter. At 7800' in elevation the winters are cold, dry and windy. Desiccation in the *Poa annua* fairways can be prevalent.

Fortunately, a recent irrigation system renovation coupled with topdressing, wetting agents, soil conditioners and water trucks, have helped us produce acceptable playing conditions in the spring.

Continued on page 7.



# Superintendent Spotlight

## In your view, what is your facility doing particularly well?

We are making the most of a crappy situation. A few years ago, we implemented a composting program using elk droppings, grass clippings, aerification cores and spent grains from the local breweries. Compost has proven to be a great asset to the properties, as topsoil is basically nonexistent in the Estes Valley.

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

I grew up caddying in the western suburbs of Chicago where I had some exposure to the game of golf but never gave much thought at to what was entailed into maintaining the playing surface. After graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in Speech Communication. I moved to Breckenridge. I worked at the Breckenridge Golf Club from 1994-1995. Jack Pendleton was the Super and Derf Soller assistant. This was my first exposure to golf course maintenance. I loved it and ended up going back to school at CSU for Landscape Horticulture. After graduating in 1998 I spent time up and down the front range at Walking Stick, Deer Creek, Shadow Hills and was fortunate enough to grow in Four Mile Ranch in Canon City, CO. In 2013 I accepted the position in Estes Park.

## Do you prefer to wear shorts or pants while working?

Shorts. I mean no one really “prefers” wearing pants on the course, do they?

## Which tool in your cart do you consider indispensable?

The Trouncer. It’s basically an oversized ball mark repair tool but works great on the hoof prints.



**JIM TAYLOR**  
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**ELIZABETH CRAFT**  
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# Rounds For Research

Tim Davis, CGCS Legacy Ridge Golf Course



## 2026 Auction Coming April 20-26

It's that time of year again! Have you submitted your donation for Rounds 4 Research yet? If you are one of the several facilities that have donated so far, thank you so much! If you haven't submitted your donation yet, what are you waiting for? It's simple really, just fill out the form online and email it to one of us.

Remember, proceeds from Rounds 4 Research go directly to the Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute (RMEGI). This money is then used to fund special projects and research that impact golf in the state of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region.

If donating a round of golf isn't an option for your facility, cash donations are accepted as well. Keep in mind that any perimeter can be set to your donation. Meaning, if you're a high end private facility you can designate that the winning bidder plays with a member or even be a member. If you're a public facility, you can stipulate that rounds are strictly for public play. You can black out times or dates. Whatever you want or works best for you and your facility.

Last year RMGCSA was able to raise \$10,952 from 43 donations. Believe it or not, this number is down from previous years. Our goal is to smash our previous record of money raised and rounds donated. Please help us reach this goal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to any of your RMGCSA board members, RMEGI trustees, or me.

Thanks,  
Tim Davis, CGCS  
RMEGI Vice President  
Legacy Ridge Golf Course  
[tdavis@westminsterco.gov](mailto:tdavis@westminsterco.gov)  
(303) 803-2724

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# Rounds Research 4



APRIL 20-26, 2026 | [ROUNDS4RESEARCH.COM](https://rounds4research.com)

## DONATE A ROUND

*to empower your GCSAA Chapter!*



***Donate a Round Today and Lead the Way:***

- **Fund Research & Education:** Contribute to vital turfgrass research and educational programs.
- **Enhance Course Quality:** Ensure courses have access to resources and knowledge to properly care for the golf course contributing to the golf industry's long term sustainability.
- **Strengthen Our Community and its Future:** Fund First Green STEAM education and other community focused programs.

BENEFITING THE GCSAA FOUNDATION

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 



Auction Dates: April 20 – April 26, 2026

<https://www.gcsaa.org/docs/default-source/what-we-do/foundation/r4r/2026-blank-r4r-donation-form-update.pdf>

**FACILITY INFORMATION**

Name of Facility:		Facility Address:	
City:	State/Province:	Zip Code: Web	Country:
Business Phone:	Fax:	Site:	

**SUPERINTENDENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name:	Title:
Phone:	Email:

**SECOND CONTACT PERSON FOR DONATION QUESTIONS**

Name:	Title:
Phone:	Email:

**BUILD YOUR DONATION PACKAGE**

# of holes per round:  9    18    27    36    Other \_\_\_\_\_

# of golfers per round:  Foursome (4 Golfers)\*    Foursome (3 Golfers & 1 Member)    Golf for 2    Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*If a foursome, will you allow to be split in two groups?    Yes    No

Please indicate additional items included in your package donation:  Golf Carts\*    Range Balls    Meals    Hotel/Stay & Play

\*If carts are not included, what is the cart fee? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide details for these additional items: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any restrictions that apply to your package donation. Refrain from using specific blackout dates and/or names.

Golf Appropriate Attire will be noted as required unless noted otherwise:    Not Required

Tee time reservations will be stated as "All tee times are subject to availability. Winning bidders need to call the clubhouse or pro shop to reserve a tee time and confirm blackout dates."

\*Please note any significant/major date restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle days available: Mon Tues   Wed   Thurs   Fri   Sat   Sun

List any specific tee time restrictions (e.g. 8:00am to 10:30am) here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other details/stipulations/guidelines for your donation: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the total RETAIL value of this donation package? \$: \_\_\_\_\_

How many of the above donation packages do you wish to donate?    2    3    4    Other \_\_\_\_\_

If your facility is associated with a management company, please provide their name: \_\_\_\_\_

Opening bid amounts are automatically set at 1/3 of the estimated retail value. Please indicate if you would like to set the opening bid at an alternate amount:    ¼ of retail value    ½ of retail value    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To continuedonatinginfutureauctions, please circle the year(s) you would like to participate:   **2027**   **2028**   **2029**

**REDEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

I would like GCSAA to provide the necessary gift certificate(s). Please provide expiration date. If no expiration date is provided, it will default to one year from purchase date.

I will provide the necessary gift certificate(s) and will mail to GCSAA headquarters with this donation form.

*If the certificate(s) is not received by April 22, 2026, GCSAA will produce an official Rounds 4 Research certificate for the winning bidder.*

Expiration date for certificate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**UNABLE TO DONATE A ROUND?**

Please consider a monetary donation to support our cause. Include a check with this donation form or donate online at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research/r4r-online-donation-form>

**DONATION PROCEEDS**

Proceeds from your donation will benefit: \_\_\_\_\_ or  GCSAA Foundation

Name of GCSAA Chapter or Turfgrass Foundation \_\_\_\_\_

GCSAA and the GCSAA Foundation do not assume any responsibility for this donation. By signing below, donor hereby expressly agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless GCSAA and the GCSAA Foundation, including their officers and directors, from any and all claims including, but not limited to, injury, death and loss of property, including said donation, that may be sustained.

**Authorized Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name and Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

GCSAA Foundation • 1421 Research Park Drive • Lawrence, KS 66049 | [Rounds4Research.com](https://www.gcsaa.org)  
Questions? Call us at 800-472-7878. • Fax this form to 785-832-4433 or email it to [rounds4research@gcsaa.org](mailto:rounds4research@gcsaa.org)

# GCSAA Par Aide Garske Grant

The goal of this program is to assist GCSAA members' children in funding their education at either an accredited college or trade school. It is available to the children of GCSAA members who have been active members for five or more consecutive years. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior and be accepted at an institution of higher learning for the upcoming year.

## General

The Par Aide Garske Grant competition offers educational aid to the children and step-children of GCSAA members. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and accepted at institutions of higher learning for the upcoming year. Funded by Par Aide in honor of Joseph S. Garske and administered by the GCSAA Foundation. \$14,000 in scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his or her educational institution.

Applications will be reviewed by three educators who are not GCSAA or superintendent members. All judging decisions will be final. Applicants will be notified by mail of their status by May 15 of the year submitted. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution.

## Eligibility

- One of the applicant's parents or stepparents must be a current Class A, B, or C member, employed as a golf course superintendent or assistant, or a retired A-Retired, B-Retired, or AA member of the GCSAA for at least five consecutive years.
- Although more than one student from the same family may apply, only one child/stepchild of any individual member can receive an award in the same year.
- Children of those employed by Par Aide, the GCSAA Foundation's Board of Trustees, the GCSAA Board of Directors and GCSAA staff are not eligible for this program.

## Criteria for selection

- The student must be a graduating high school senior and be accepted at an accredited institution of higher learning or trade school as a full-time student for the upcoming school year (verification required).
- The student must demonstrate a broad base of interests including involvement in volunteer activities and outside employment.
- Submit an original essay of up to, but not exceeding, 500 words evaluating a significant experience, achievement, or risk and its impact on the you. The essay must be original.
- Financial need is not a factor in the selection.

## How to Apply



Applications are open through March 15, 2026. This application is open to GCSAA members and non-members. However, you will have to log in to apply. The login will be the same login you use for [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org). If you don't have a login, [go here to get started](#).

# Assistant Spotlight

Jason Blose, Breckenridge Golf Club

## Describe your Facility?

Breckenridge Golf Course is a 27-hole facility built in 1987 designed by Jack Nicklaus and sits at 9,600 feet in elevation. There are 3 separate nine-hole courses which are dubbed the Beaver, the Bear, and the Elk. Each nine hole course is unique and challenging with different elevation changes, tight fairways and fast true greens. The golf course offers great views looking at the Ten Mile and Gore ranges.

## What do you enjoy most about your team?

Every day I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by the team that makes this course so special. Every year it is different and so is the team. Meeting new people and showing them the passion I have for this golf course and then seeing them put the same passion into their work.



## Favorite movie?

Caddyshack

## Favorite restaurant?

Culvers Burgers and Custard

## Favorite Sports Team?

Green Bay Packers Go Pack Go!

Continued on Page 13.

**Tim Klein**  
Territory Manager  
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design • consult • map • assess

# Assistant Spotlight

## What do you feel your facility is getting right?

Sustainability. In today's climate, sustainability should be and is a focal point of our facility. We have large areas around the property that are wetlands and large native areas. Which promote wildlife and keep the original landscapes intact and thriving. We have a large solar infrastructure which powers and charges our cart barn and electric utility vehicles and mowers which make up a large portion of our fleet.

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

I started my journey in the industry in 2017 as a green keeper here at the Breckenridge Golf Course; where I am still today. With hard work, dedication and going back to school for turf management, I have worked my way up to the Assistant Superintendent position.

## Who has been a mentor to you, or how did you get into the business?

My Superintendent Alex Kosel. When we first started working together in 2018, I saw how much passion and drive he had to make the course better every day. I would say that rubbed off on to me. I took a lot of interest in agronomy at this point and just started asking him any questions I may have had. I owe a lot to him as he has taught me everything and I know and pushes me to better every day. Thank you, Alex!

## Favorite Hole on the Course?

Bear #7 Par 3 150-170 yds depending on the tee box used. This hole is my favorite because the tees are slightly elevated above the green which is just about 6200 square feet and is guarded by a creek making it challenging but gives lots of great pin placements.

	<i>Over 39 Years of Service</i> <b>Golf Irrigation Products</b> <b>303-320-1270</b> <b>800-793-1270</b>	 <p><b>EXPERIENCE SPRAY TECHNOLOGY</b></p> <p><i>Accuracy. Reliability. Productivity.</i></p>	
Travis Abitz, CSE <i>Sales</i> 720-641-3904	Brian Murtaugh <i>Service</i> 720-641-3882		Tim Bone <i>Service</i> 720-641-3870
Tara Franch <i>Inside Golf Sales/Estimator</i> 720-641-3890			 <b>Count on it!</b>



**Auction Open! Let the Bidding Begin!**

The 2026 GCSAA Foundation Silent Auction is now open!

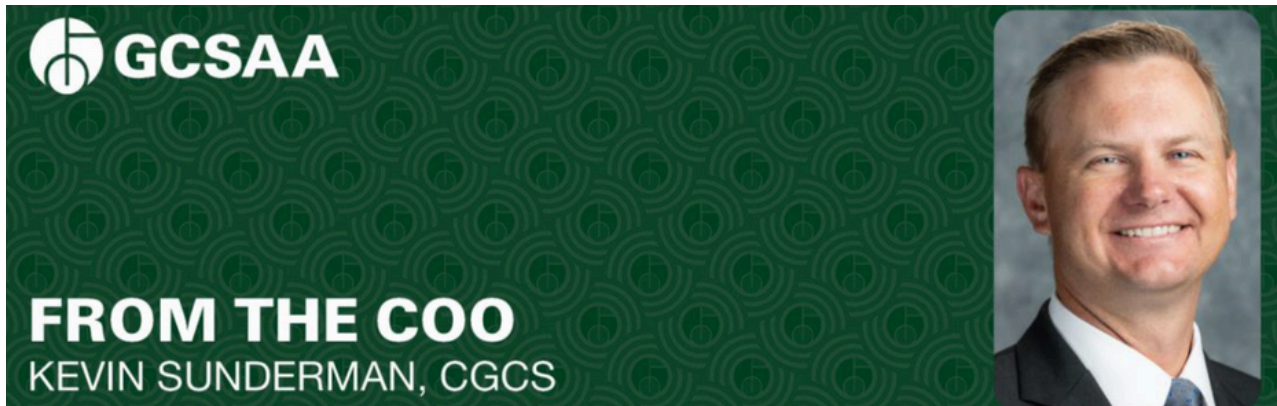
The auction will run from January 14, 2026 to February 18, 2026 at 1:00 pm EST.

Whether you're bidding from home or from the trade show floor, this online-only auction is your source for savings. Find valuable products and qualified options essential to maintaining your golf course...you call the price that fits your budget!

We would like to thank all the generous donors who make this auction possible this year.

**Note to Bidders**

At the conclusion of the auction, you will be contacted to determine how you would like to handle the payment for your item(s). Please note, your credit card will not be automatically charged. We will work with each winning bidder to make payment arrangements. If you prefer, we can prepare invoices of your winning items.



Dear Colorado Superintendents,

Congratulations to the Rocky Mountain GCSA, RMEGI, and the entire Colorado golf community! Surpassing a 70% facility BMP adoption rate through the “Path to 100” initiative and BMP Hero is a tremendous accomplishment. Your leadership and commitment to environmental stewardship continue to set an example for the entire industry.

As you know, GCSAA’s BMP program helps demonstrate to policymakers and regulators that golf is serious about operating responsibly and managing resources wisely. To keep that momentum going, we’re enhancing the national GCSAA BMP tool to make it simpler, faster, and more useful for facilities. The first round of updates will launch in November, with additional improvements rolling out in 2026.

Here’s what’s important to know:

- You can continue using BMP Hero to adopt facility BMPs. GCSAA fully supports BMP Hero in Colorado.
- No duplication or extra steps. GCSAA, RMGCSA and BMP Hero are committed to working together to ensure member facilities completing facility BMP manuals through BMP Hero will receive full recognition and GCSAA member service points.
- We’ll keep you informed. GCSAA will share updates with chapters and members nationwide as new enhancements roll out.

Continued on Page 16.

An advertisement for Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc. The background is a lush green golf course with a sand trap and trees. At the top center is the Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc. logo, which includes a stylized mountain range and a sun. Below the logo is the tagline "We Sell More Than a Bag of Seed." The main headline reads "Not Your Common Turfgrass" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "Disease Resistant, Drought Tolerant, &amp; Sod Quality Seed Guaranteed." in smaller white text. At the bottom left, there is an orange banner with the text "Perfect Turf for Every Tee!". At the bottom right, there is a circular badge that says "51 Years of Experience". At the very bottom, in white text on a dark background, it says "Call Don Hjar and the Sales Team today! PawneeButtesSeed.com • (970) 356-7002".

# From the COO Continued...

We're proud of what Colorado has achieved and excited about what's ahead for all 50 states as we continue building a unified, stronger BMP program for the future.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Josh Tapp, GCSAA Environmental Programs Director, at (785) 312-5161 or [jtapp@gcsaa.org](mailto:jtapp@gcsaa.org). Thank you for leading the way and for your continued commitment to environmental excellence.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Sunderman, CGCS  
Chief Operating Officer | GCSAA

**Certification News**  
**Congratulations to new and renewing CGCSs!**

Be the first to congratulate fellow members in your chapter.

Newly Certified Members  
Noy Sparks, CGCS

December 2025 CGCS Members

<p><b>Brian McBride</b> <a href="mailto:mhtgrass@gmail.com">mhtgrass@gmail.com</a> 720.988.0969</p>  <p><b>Sam Pendleton</b> <a href="mailto:sampmht@gmail.com">sampmht@gmail.com</a> 720.879.4765</p> <p><b>PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR AGRONOMIC CHALLENGES</b></p> <p>DISTRIBUTORS OF</p>    <p><a href="http://www.MileHighTurfGrass.com">www.MileHighTurfGrass.com</a></p>	 <p><i>Nutrien Solutions is here to assist Golf &amp; Turf Managers with products that will deliver solutions for tomorrow ahead of the challenges faced today.</i></p>  <p><b>Robert Gonzales</b> 970-301-0832 <a href="mailto:Robert.gonzales@nutrien.com">Robert.gonzales@nutrien.com</a> <a href="http://www.nutrien.com">www.nutrien.com</a></p> 
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# BMP HERO

## PATH TO 100

### Distinguished Recognition for Completed Facility BMPs

- |                                  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Antler Creek Golf Course         | Emerald Greens Golf Club                 | Pine Creek Golf Club                              |
| Applewood Golf Course            | Estes Park Golf Course                   | Pinehurst Country Club                            |
| Arrowhead Golf Club              | Evergreen Golf Course                    | Pinery Country Club, The                          |
| Aspen Golf Club                  | Flatirons Golf Course                    | Plum Creek Golf Club                              |
| Aurora Hills Golf Course         | Flying Horse Resort and Club             | Pole Creek Golf Club                              |
| Ballyneal Golf Club              | Foothills Golf Course                    | The Club at Pradera                               |
| Battlement Mesa Golf Club        | Fossil Trace Golf Club                   | Ptarmigan Country Club                            |
| Bear Dance Golf Club             | Fox Hollow Golf Course                   | Quail Dunes Golf Course                           |
| Beaver Creek Golf Club           | Glenmoor Country Club                    | RainDance National                                |
| Bella Ridge Golf Club            | Golf Granby Ranch                        | The Ranch Country Club                            |
| Bella Rosa Municipal Golf Course | Grand Lake Golf Course                   | Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course                        |
| Black Bear Golf Club             | Greeley Country Club                     | Red Rocks Country Club                            |
| Blackstone Course                | Green Valley Ranch Golf Club             | Red Sky Golf Club                                 |
| Bookcliff Country Club           | Gypsum Creek Golf Course                 | Redlands Mesa Golf Club                           |
| Boomerang Golf Links             | Harmony Club                             | The Ridge at Castle Pines North                   |
| Boulder Country Club             | Harvard Gulch Golf Course                | Rifle Creek Golf Course                           |
| Breckenridge Golf Club           | Haymaker Golf Course                     | Roaring Fork Club                                 |
| Broadlands Golf Course           | Heather Gardens Golf Course              | Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club                      |
| Broadmoor Golf Club              | Heather Ridge Golf Club                  | Saddle Rock Golf Course                           |
| Broken Tee Golf Course           | Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club            | Saddleback Golf Club                              |
| Buffalo Run Golf Course          | Highland Hills Golf Course               | Salida Golf Club                                  |
| Castle Pines Golf Club           | Highland Meadows Golf Course             | Sanctuary   |
| Catamount Ranch & Club           | Hiwan Golf Club                          | Sky Ranch Golf                                    |
| Cedar Ridges Golf Course         | Hollydot Golf Course                     | Snowmass Club                                     |
| Cherokee Ridge Golf Course       | Homestead Golf Course                    | Sonnenalp Golf Club                               |
| Cherry Hills Country Club        | The Courses at Hyland Hills              | South Suburban Golf Course                        |
| Chipeta Golf Course              | Indian Hills Golf Course                 | Southridge Golf Course                            |
| City Park Golf Course            | Indian Peaks Golf Course                 | Springhill Golf Course                            |
| City Park Nine Golf Course       | Indian Tree Golf Course                  | Sunset Golf Course                                |
| Coal Creek Golf Course           | Inverness Golf Club                      | Telluride Ski & Golf Club                         |
| Collegiate Peaks Golf Course     | Kennedy Golf Course                      | The Bridges                                       |
| Collindale Golf Course           | Keystone Ranch Golf Course               | The Club at Flying Horse North                    |
| Colorado Golf Club               | King's Deer Golf Club                    | The Club at Ravenna                               |
| Colorado National Golf Club      | Kissing Camels at The Garden of the Gods | The Club at Rolling Hills                         |
| Colorado Springs Country Club    | Lake Arbor Golf Club                     | Thorncreek Golf Club                              |
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# Equipment Manager Spotlight

*Tyler Miget, Harmony Club*

## Describe yourself!

I'm about as curious as they come. I always have been. I am a friend, a coach, a husband to one, and a father to two boys. I love anything I can put my hands to that requires challenge, technique, and creativity. I love to cook, build fun things, tell stories, and drink beer. My favorite questions are "Why" and "What If". I'm an adventurer and a challenger. On top of all that, I'm an Equipment Manager who believes the shop sets the tone for the entire operation. When the shop is calm, respected, and intentional, everything downstream feels better. When it's chaotic, that shows up everywhere else.

I care deeply about craft and precision, but just as much about people. Around our shop I talk a lot about DIRT, Dignity, Integrity, Respect, Trust. It's not a slogan or a poster; it's a way of moving through the work. When those are present, good things tend to follow.

At my core, I'm someone who enjoys making sense out of complexity. Machines, systems, teams, topics. I like bringing order, clarity, and calm to environments that demand a lot from people.

## How many years have you been turning wrenches?

I started helping my Papa (my mom's dad) out when I was old enough to read the numbers on the tools and not scratch the paint, so nearly 30 years. I started really wrenching in High School/just after though.

The longer I've done this, the more I've realized that turning wrenches is only part of the job. The deeper work is prioritization, judgment, and stewardship. Knowing what needs attention now, what can wait, and what needs to be addressed before it becomes a safety or quality issue.

Continued on Page 19.



# Equipment Manager Spotlight

## What was the first piece of equipment you ever worked on?

The first thing I ever took apart on my own was a Bop-It Extreme when I was four or five years old. I didn't do it because it was broken. I did it because I wanted to see how it worked.

Around the same time, I was sitting at DIA with my Papa, watching the escalators run. He asked me, "Do you ever look at something long enough to figure out how it works?" That question stuck. It's still how I approach machines, and honestly, how I approach basically everything else.

## How many years have you been in the golf industry?

About 4 years. Long enough to appreciate how much precision, pressure, and quiet responsibility lives behind a well-run golf operation.

## Do you hold any certifications?

Yes. I've attained the CTEM designation through the GCSAA, the Master Technician certification through EETC, multiple ASE certifications, and was selected for the Melrose Fellowship through the GCSAA. I was also selected as the only Equipment Manager in the 2025 Links to Success Bernhard Academy Delegation.

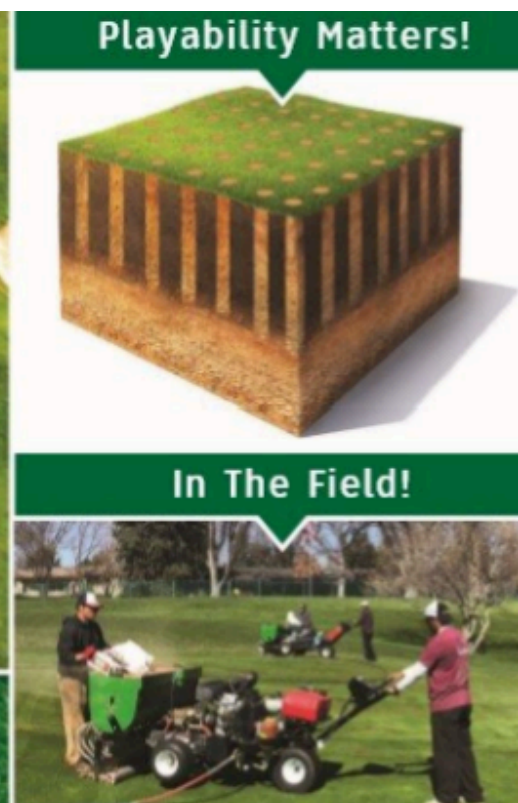
For me, certifications aren't about letters after a name. They're about committing to a standard of thinking and leadership that the role deserves.

Continued on Page 20.



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# Equipment Manager Spotlight

## What hobbies do you enjoy outside of work?

I'm a dad to two young boys, which is my favorite role and the one that keeps me most grounded.

Outside of that, I run Rock Coast Golf Co., a community-driven golf brand rooted in belonging, creativity, and connection. It's where my interest in culture, storytelling, and people comes to life. I also co-host The Greenkeepers Pod, (debuting this Summer hopefully) where we explore the human side of this profession and provide a peek behind the curtain for golfers and "lay people" who think potash means something completely different.

I'm part of an improv troupe as well, which, on top of being a blast, has turned out to be widely applicable, even for equipment management. Listening closely, adapting quickly, staying calm, and making sense of uncertainty in real time.

## What is your favorite piece of turf equipment of all time?

The expected answer is a brand or a model.

The honest answer is the machine the operator trusts that morning.

My favorite equipment is the kind that starts when it should, stays on cut, doesn't beat people up, and doesn't introduce unnecessary complexity into the day. When equipment earns trust, it lowers anxiety across the entire operation. That matters more than any spec sheet to me.

## When do you prefer spin grind, relief grind, or backlap?

I prefer intention.

Spin grinding, relief grinding, and backlapping all have their place when they're used thoughtfully and for the right reasons. The method matters less than understanding why you're choosing it and what the long-term impact will be.

Good equipment management isn't about shortcuts. It's about disciplined decisions made with tomorrow in mind.

## Do you lease or own equipment and what are the pros and cons of either?

We utilize a mix.

Leasing can bring predictability and access to newer technology. Owning can bring flexibility and deeper stewardship. Both can work very well, and both can create challenges without a clear plan.

The most important thing is alignment. Your equipment strategy should reflect your standards, culture, and long-term expectations.

Continued on Page 21.

# Equipment Manager Spotlight

## What is one piece of equipment you consider a monumental innovation to golf course maintenance?

Beyond individual machines, I'd say visibility.

Tools and systems that help us see usage, maintenance needs, and patterns before they become emergencies have fundamentally changed the work. When you can plan instead of reacting, the job becomes safer, calmer, and more sustainable.

Great machines matter. Systems that help us care for them matter just as much.

## If you could give one piece of advice to someone interested in this career, what would it be?

Stay curious.

Learn technical skills, absolutely, but don't stop there. Learn how to communicate, prioritize, and bring calm into stressful moments. The best Equipment Managers aren't just great mechanics; they're translators between chaos and clarity.

And treat people with dignity. The shop sets the tone more than most folks realize.

## Energy drink or coffee and how much a day?

Coffee. An Americano every morning. Maybe a few more cups, depending on the season.

But the truth is, the best shops don't run on caffeine. They run on trust, clear expectations, and people who feel supported. Coffee just makes the early mornings friendlier.

Continued on Page 22.



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# Equipment Manager Spotlight

## What tool is absolutely essential for every golf course mechanic?

A multimeter is hard to beat.

Right alongside it is curiosity and self-awareness, the ability to slow down, really look at what's happening, and ask better questions, including yourself. A lot of problems don't start with broken bits, they start with assumptions. That mindset has saved me more time and trouble than any tool in the box.

## A closing thought

The Equipment Manager role is about far more than machines. It's about stewardship, safety, culture, and care. We're the ones who quietly bring order to complexity so everyone else can do their best work.

When it's done well, it elevates the entire operation. That's the responsibility I'm proud to carry, and the reason I still find this work endlessly interesting.

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# Reflecting Beyond the Numbers

*By Kevin Malloy, CGCS, TPC Colorado*

As one year comes to a close and another begins, the cycle of a golf course superintendent continues. One season ends, and before you know it, the next is already approaching. The offseason gives us an opportunity to reflect—on weather patterns, agronomic challenges, and how we plan to approach the year ahead.

What often gets overlooked during this time, however, is challenging ourselves to grow in ways that are harder to measure.

In our profession, so much of what we do is quantifiable. Green speeds, moisture levels, firmness, water usage, budgets—the list goes on. But leadership, communication, and personal stress are not as easily measured

One question I have been asking myself lately is whether I am making too many daily decisions that my team could—and should—be making themselves. Empowering others is not something you can put a number on, but it plays a major role in long-term success.

I was recently fortunate enough to attend the Syngenta Business Institute, a program I would highly encourage anyone on the fence to consider. The information and networking alone made it worthwhile, but what truly stuck with me was the final question posed to the group: What are you going to do differently with the information you've gained?

At first, it seemed like a simple question. In reality, it forced some difficult self-reflection.

At first, it seemed like a simple question. In reality, it forced some difficult self-reflection.

As superintendents, our tendency is to repeat what has worked in previous years, making only minor adjustments along the way. When things are going well, it can be difficult to honestly assess where improvement is needed—especially in areas that are not easily measured. It's easy to say, "What I'm doing is working, so why change?"

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# Reflecting Beyond the Numbers

The answer I came away with is that while our methods may be working, that does not mean they cannot be improved. Can we do our jobs more efficiently? More effectively? And can we do so in a way that reduces stress and creates a better environment for the people around us?

If we are willing to accept that our practices are not always perfect and remain open to changing how we act and interact, it can lead to stronger teams, less stress, and ultimately a better product on the golf course.

As we head into the 2026 golf season, I encourage fellow superintendents to ask themselves a few key questions: Do I feel overly stressed at times? Is some of that stress self-imposed? Do I clearly understand the expectations of my stakeholders, or am I making assumptions?

That last question resonated with me the most. Owners, general managers, players, and members all have expectations for the product we deliver. But are we always clear on how they expect us to get there? Do they expect us to personally handle every aspect of planning, scheduling, execution, and follow-up, or simply to ensure the job is done to a high standard?

I know I am often guilty of putting too much on my own shoulders. In reality, the expectation is usually not that I complete every task myself, but that the task is completed properly. By stepping back and empowering our teams when appropriate, we may find that we achieve better results with less stress. Some of the most meaningful improvements we can make as superintendents may not show up on a spreadsheet. However, they can make a lasting difference in our teams, our operations, and ourselves.



# Affiliate Angle

*Shea Kendall, FireFly Automatrix, Inc.*

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

I am with Firefly Automatrix as a Territory Sales Rep. I have been with the company since 2017.

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

I am based out of SLC, Utah and cover the Rocky Mountain states.



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

FireFly provides premium-quality autonomous mowers for the golf industry. This spring, we sponsored RMGCSA's Robotic Mower Education event. Where we demonstrated our 100-inch reel fairway unit (the AMP-L100). We also enjoyed meeting more of the organization's members at the recent annual conference.

Continued page 26.

# Affiliate Angle

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

FireFly Automatix is new to the golf industry, but we're not a start-up. The company's founders have deep roots in sod farming, and we pioneered the use of electric servo technology in mobile outdoor equipment with our automated sod harvesters. These machines have been game-changers for turfgrass producers, and we quickly went from industry disruptors to the dominant manufacturer in the space. Our Autonomous Mowing Platform is built on the tech and principles we have been developing for 16 years for sod farmers, and is all designed and built in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

Yes, I attended Utah Valley University where I majored in Exercise Science

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

I started in the later than I'd have like to, I've only been in this side of the industry a couple years. I like that over the industry takes great pride in the work they do and the relationships they make.

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

I'm a girl dad of 2 under 6 so They keep my busy, I am an outdoor enthusiast, bird hunting, mtn biking, fishing, snowboarding, golf, etc. I try and get outside as much as I can.

Continued on Page 27.



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# Affiliate Angle

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

I'm a little biased but I think tech like robotics that can give time back to the courses to deal with and manage things that need their focus and attention more is bringing major improvements to the industry

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

I think getting together is always a benefit, sharing ideas and best practices lifts everyone.

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## NATIONAL GOLF DAY 2026

Registration open through April 17

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- Community Service Project training
- GCSAA delegation dinner
- GCSAAPAC reception

### Tuesday, May 5

- Community Service Project
- Keynote speaker
- Soapbox issues training
- Congressional reception on Capitol Hill

### Wednesday, May 6

- Lobby day on Capitol Hill

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# Driving Sustainability Forward: A New Way to Support the Game and the Environment

*Tim Davis, CGCS, Legacy Ridge*

The Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute (RMEGI) has launched the Environmental Sustainability Fee, a smart and simple initiative to fund environmentally responsible golf course management. Building on successful efforts like Rounds for Research and the Memorial Tournament, this program creates a sustainable, golfer-supported funding stream. It is designed to strengthen the future of the sport.

Golf courses can participate by adding a small fee; either during tournament sign-ups or daily round purchases with all proceeds donated at the end of the season. Often with potential tax benefit! Golf clubs across Colorado have already embraced this approach by including a \$1 to \$3 fee on group bookings and events, generating meaningful support for sustainability programs without disrupting operations.

The response from players has been overwhelmingly positive. Golfers are proud to contribute to environmental efforts while doing what they love. It's a low-effort, high-impact way to drive change at the local level. Funds raised go directly toward programs that matter: scholarships for students pursuing careers in golf and green industries, university research to improve turfgrass management, and advocacy efforts to promote smarter, more sustainable land use.

A key focus is on expanding the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce water use, limit chemical inputs, and ensure healthier playing conditions. RMEGI invites every course and golfer to take part. By making small contributions during everyday golf activities, players become part of a bigger movement protecting natural resources, improving course sustainability, and preserving the game for generations to come. Learn more at [www.rmegi.org](http://www.rmegi.org) or reach out at [info@rmegi.org](mailto:info@rmegi.org)



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## PESTICIDE WORKSHOPS SPRING & FALL

March 11, 2026 @ 8am

October 22, 2026 @ 8am

Webinars

## 2026 SHOP TOURS

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