



Rocky Mountain Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

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Growing Green Since 1936

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President's Message

by Jeff Wichman, Superintendent, Patty Jewett Golf Course



This June our Business Administrator Assistant for the golf division at Patty Jewett and Valley Hi Golf Course's retired after 30 plus years.

Pat Gentile, Golf Manager, took on the task of painting and re-organizing the entire office he will share with our new person.

Needless to say, after 30 years of clutter, it was quite a task. He came across stacks of Golf Course Management Magazines.

I started thumbing through the February 1991 edition, because that is the year I graduated from high school. Let's review and see what the hot topics were, 32 years ago, in our industry.

The February issue of GCM focused intensely on environmental matters. The front cover is a picture of the 15th hole at the Caledonian Golf Club, in Japan. Gerald L. Faubel CGCS was President and Dennis D. Lyon CGCS was the Immediate Past President. Mr. Faubel remarked in his President message that the GCSAA membership soared beyond the 10,000 mark for the first time in history. Education continues to be one of the association's major attractions and our programs that are more difficult to evaluate are government relations and public relations.

Water conservations practices for the golf course was a hot topic and the Golf Summit 90 was held in Palm Springs, CA. John M. Schilling GCSAA's executive director mentioned, "The Summit showed that the industry is really beginning to wake up and realize that environmental issues will play a big role in our game's future."

Other key words in this issue are "Weather extremes". Freezing temperatures in late December in California caused problems for area superintendents. Carmel Valley GC closed the golf course for three days, the superintendent says, "This deep freeze is a whole new experience for us. We've had frost before – but nothing like this."

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President's Message

continued

by Jeff Wichman, Superintendent, Patty Jewett Golf Course

The equipment ads are great, Daihatsu sells the jumbo cab that is 11 inches longer and 3 inches higher. Toro had the new 3000-D Greensmaster 17hp, liquid-cooled diesel engine for increased power. Carryall, by Club Car, was working smarter instead of harder. Ransomes and Cushman's are "Built to last". John Deere had 2243 Professional Greens Mower, the first triplex ever to offer a head-on solution to compaction. The new Jacobsen Tri-King 1684D made heavy cumbersome 84" mowers, a thing of the past. The National Mower Company said, "It's a sure bet the world's top courses aren't cutting with a National Mower because it's pretty."

The New Orleans Convention Center would be the focal point of activity during the 63rd GCSAA International Conference and Show on February, 10-17, 1992. The going price for a hotel room was around \$98 to \$120 a night. One ad said, "There are so many things to do and see in New Orleans that visitors can be overwhelmed by the choices."

Lastly, the classified ads were located at the back of the magazine. Oak Hills Golf and Country Club, Ada, Oklahoma was looking for a golf course superintendent, an agronomy degree, preferred, but not required. Benefits included health insurance, professional organizations, vacation pay and vehicle. The salary was \$30,000- negotiable.

It is so hard to tell what the golf course industry will be like in another 30 years, more than sure water and the environment will still be key factors. Hope to see you all at the next golf outing.

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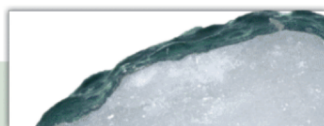
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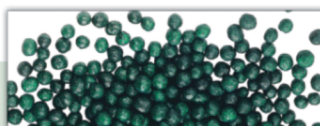
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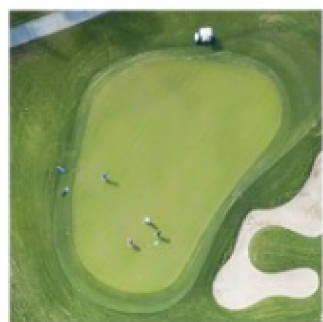
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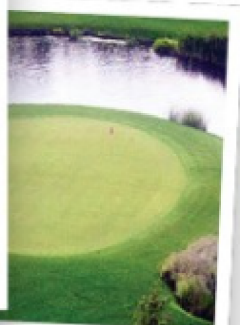
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Superintendent Spotlight

by John Magnuson, Meadow Hills Golf Course



Describe Your Facility — Meadow Hills GC opened in 1957 as a country club. The course was designed by local architect Henry Hughes. The City of Aurora has owned and operated the course since 1980. The course is challenging but fun to play with a variety of short and long holes, tree lined fairways, and six lakes. The course will play well over 50,000 rounds yearly and host a wide variety of tournaments and qualifiers.

What's the biggest challenge you face at your facility? Avoiding ice damage on the shaded greens is a real challenge when we have a long cold winter. Sixteen of the greens are original push up greens with poa grass that hates the ice layering.

How many years have you worked in golf and how did you get started in the industry? I have worked in the golf industry since 1977. I started as a high school kid working for the restaurant and pro shop at Aurora Hills GC. My senior year of high school I was hired to night water at Aurora Hills. I always stayed working with the City of Aurora's Golf Division and with that came lots of opportunity to move around as the Division kept adding courses. I look forward to retiring at the end of 2024 when I will have over 41 years of full time service with the Aurora Golf courses.

What's the most rewarding part of being a superintendent for you? To me it's the relationships you build in this business. I really enjoy the friendships I have built over the years with the variety of people in this business. Growing grass really isn't my thing, it's boring like watching paint dry. It's the strong relationships I made with everyone that keeps me going. These bonds are so rewarding and have provided so many great times and memories throughout my career.

Mentor or how did you get into the business? I stayed in the business because I enjoyed the work and the course environment. I grew up around some fun people that you could say were my mentors. Walter Schulz, Barry Dunbar, and Dennis Lyon, all gave me lots of opportunity and helped me become the person that I am today.

What's the last book you read? Two Years in St Andrews by George Pepper. Probably the only book I've read in the last 15 years. Couldn't put it down once I started.

What do you do when you're not at work? I enjoy riding and wrenching on older Harley Davidson motorcycles. I love playing small golf games with the other Aurora Supers, a great bunch of guys.

Favorite restaurant? Piper Inn, has great wings and burgers and a lot of history.

Shorts or Pants? Definitely SHORTS is my style.

Tell us a little about your family? I've been married 32 years to my wife Aida. We met when I graduated college and took a second job auditing financials for a hotel ownership group where she worked. We never had children, but we've always had a house full of pets. We currently have four cats of various ages that we rescued from shelters. It's a great life!!!!

Affiliate Cup Recap

by Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock Golf Course, GC

One of the most anticipated events of the year, the Affiliate Cup took place at Keystone Ranch. Mountain golf getaway for many could not of been any better with Superintendent Ann Paulsich and staff hosting us all for a perfect day of fun and laughter... and some great golf! Thank you to Heritage Professional Products for sponsoring such a great event!

Winners of the day are listed, congrats to all!

Closest to the pins:

- #5 – Ethan Howard – Pole Creek Golf Club
- #7 – Matt Vance – Aurora Hills Golf Course
- #12 – Jeremiah Stumpff – Broken Tee Golf Course

1st Place - 54

- Lights Out – Colorado Golf & Turf
- Kyle Postlethwaite – Colorado Golf & Turf
- Jack Robbins – Pinehurst CC
- Cole Miller – Cherokee Ridge Golf Course
- Cordell Walker - Ballyneal

2nd Place – 55

- Team CPS
- Brian Temple – CPS
- Jeff Muller – The Club at Rolling Hills
- Ethan Howard – Pole Creek Golf Club
- Matt Bennett – Overland Park Golf Course

3rd Place – 56

- Simplot Team #2
- Ed Rockett – Lone Tree Golf Club
- Barry Kendall – Green Valley Ranch Golf Club
- Dan Hawkins – The Club at Flying Horse
- Jason Weizenegger – Pelican Lakes Golf Club



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RMGCSA Championship Recap



RainDance National was seen for the first time by many and I don't think it disappointed anyone. The weather was perfect and Jeff Orr and his staff (who made it to the cart staging area with seconds to spare to play) had the course in perfect conditions and set up perfectly. Class trophies were played for by the ones that have game in our association while the rest enjoyed a fun 2-man scramble.

And as with all of our events, this day could not be possible without CPS stepping up and sponsoring the day.

Closest to the Pin:

- #6 – Lance Juefls –
- #8 – Cooper Prada – Rolling Hills
- #14 – Cole Hadzeriga - Westwoods
- #17 – Daniel Robbins – Ptarmigan

Low Gross Champion – Joe Kunze – City of Arvada - 76

2nd Gross – Jake Jacobs – Flatirons – 82

Low Net Champion – Ed Rockett – Lone Tree – 78

2nd Net – Jeremiah Stmpff – Broken Tee - 81

Low Net Affiliate Champion – Tyler Gillette – Buffalo Brand Seed - 80

First Place Scramble

Collin Hansen,

Colorado Golf and Turf and Lance Juelfs – 64

Second place scramble

Kevin Klemenz – Harmony Club and Zach Fleischmann – Harmony Club – 65

2023 CHALLENGE FINAL:

1st Place – Kyle Postlethwaite, Colorado Golf and Turf

2nd Place – Cole Miller – Cherokee Ridge

3rd Place – Daniel Robbins – Ptarmigan

4th Place – Cole Hadriziga – Westwoods

5th Place – Cooper Prada – Rolling Hills

6th Place – Kris Jagers – Flatirons

7th Place – Jeremiah Stumpff – Broken Tee

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West Slope Best Slope Recap

by Kass Severson, Redlands Mesa Golf Club

Rocky Mountain High, Colorado; Rocky Mountain High, Colorado.

These lyrics are what best describe the High we were all feeling after playing this year's West Slope Best Slope Shamble at The Club at Crested Butte. Kevin Abila and his maintenance team had the course playing fast and firm and as if the 87 bunkers on the course didn't present enough of a challenge, they even dialed up the wind and light rain to give us even more of a challenge. Despite the chill in the air and the storm rolling in, the day was still pretty fantastic.

A big thanks goes out to Nutrien Ag Solutions for putting the Sunday Social the night before at Bridies Golf Bar, which was well attended. Another big thanks goes out to Fer Tech Industries, Helena and Mile High Turfgrass for being Sponsors of the tournament. Thanks to everyone that traveled the long way to Crested Butte, we had 36 members show up, which turned out to be the perfect amount.

Closest to pin:

- #5- Brown "Dog"
- #7- Brandon Bollerud
- #11- Brown "Dog"
- #15- Will Herz

Gross 1st, 2nd and 3rd:

- 1st place** - Brown "Dog" and Joe Disterfano- 67
- 2nd place* - Drew Hunter and Will Herz- 69
- 3rd place* - Andrew Gillette and Tyler Tenholder- 74

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Best Tournament Ever Recap

by Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock, GC

There are tournaments and then there is “The Best Tournament Ever” that took place on a perfect October day at Flying Horse’s newest course, North. Along with the perfect weather was the even better conditioned course provided by Dan Hawkins and his entire crew saw fun costumes ranging from PGA players, construction workers, movie stars from The Big Lebowski to an unruly and very loud biker gang.

And it cannot go without saying a huge THANK YOU to Potestio Brothers for sponsoring the day!

Congrats to the winners! And note, points were won or deducted for costumes and overall excitement of the day.

Closest to the Pin:

- #3 – Defino Romero
- #6 – Dave Linngren
- #11 – Steve Hackenberg – Hole In One!
- #15 – Phillip Ragsdale

1st Place – Team Helena - 50

- Griff Rainford
- Phil Ragsdale
- John Rom
- Mark

2nd place – White Russian – 49

- Matt Vance
- Daymon Johnson
- Dillon Kent
- RichE Moore

3rd Place – JMI Turf – 48

- Jeff Mayberry
- John Staiano
- Bradd Kothe
- Steve Hackenberg

4th Place – Brettman & Robbins – 47

- Scott Robbins
- Daniel Robbins
- Jack Robbins
- Brett Nelson



Last Place – Wonder Soil – 26

- BJ Kerzrtski
- Jody Farber
- John Pollok
- Dave Linngren

Best Tournament Ever Recap

captured moments



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Director's Corner

by Aaron Fankhauser, The Club at Rolling Hills



As another growing season winds to an end, Supers and their teams will start the long battle against Mother Nature in the fall, winter, and spring ahead.

I have been fortunate to be at Rolling Hills for almost 19 years now and I still can't decide which is harder; managing turf in the summer heat or managing moisture control/desiccation over the winters.

Let's all hope that the wonderful moisture (even that has brought complications) continues throughout the fall and winter. I hope that you all can take a few deep breaths from another grinding season!

Exciting events and opportunities coming up!

We have a great lineup for the fall with the RMGCSA Championship's behind us and the Best Tournament ever coming up at Flying Horse North have the virtual pesticide workshop coming on October 25 has sold out!

We also have our Annual Conference November 12-14 at the Denver West Marriot. Hotel blocks will fill quickly so get yourself a room and stick around for the fun social events.

As a board, one of our goals is to create involvement within the membership by offering outstanding golf events, educational opportunities, affiliate opportunities, and a dynamic conference. We work to grow our membership in size, but it is our number one priority to provide exceptional value to our current membership. Our board is very active within the government and legislative process advocating for our Association at the capital with law makers. Members of the Association may not see this in person, but we send emails out reporting on the laws and regulations that we deal with on behalf of our membership. A huge thank you to Joe Kunze, Mitch Savage, and the Gov/Leg committee for all your efforts!

I have loved being involved with the RMGCSA Board over the past several years and I am looking forward to the next few years as well. It has been such a great conduit to meet our membership at golf events, educational events, and the conference. It has helped my career and my network immensely. We are always looking for great ideas from our membership so feel free to contact me if you have some thoughts that will help the Association grow and improve. Get involved, you won't regret it!

Have a great fall golf season and I hope to see you at our Annual Conference in November!



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Government & Legislative Update

by Jennifer Cassel, Colorado Golf Coalition

A panel of legislators on Tuesday spent nearly three hours discussing local versus state control of pesticides, an issue that arose during this year's session but failed to gain traction.

Gov. Jared Polis supports allowing local governments to regulate pesticides. So does the state Department of Agriculture, which is in charge of applicators who use restricted pesticides.

At the core of the issue is who gets to regulate pesticides. Currently, that regulation falls under the state's purview. Environmentalists have been pushing lawmakers to allow local governments to handle pesticide regulations, while the agriculture industry is seeking to maintain the status quo.

Last spring, the Colorado General Assembly passed a reauthorization of the state pesticide applicators act but that legislation didn't tackle the issue of lifting state regulation of pesticides.

The argument for local control arise out of concerns around public health, the environment, and even cultural issues. Advocates for local control cite the declining population of bees, with pesticides as one of the culprits, along with pests and disease.

On the other hand, those who wish to maintain the status quo argue that handing over pesticide regulation to local governments would create a piecemeal system that would be too cumbersome and costly to navigate.

Late in the 2023 session, Sen. Lisa Cutter, D-Littleton, tried to sneak amendments enacting local control on pesticides into a bill on banning gas stoves at the same time that the pesticide applicators act was being discussed by the House Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee.

After an uproar from rural lawmakers and agricultural interests, the Senate Appropriations Committee removed the amendments, effectively killing the proposal.

On Tuesday, the concept was back in front of the Water Resources and Agricultural Review Committee.

The panel heard from a trio of supporters of local control, including Peter Wadden, a watershed specialist for Vail who raised worries about the health and diversity of the aquatic insect populations at Gore Creek, which he said is an "impaired waterway" under state review.

He showed the committee a photo of a milky-white substance that he said was runoff from pesticides going into the creek, although others who later testified during the hearing said the photo showed what they believe is a violation of pesticide application laws and regulations that prohibit use of pesticides to saturation — meaning that problem is law-breaking, not regulating.

JJ Trout, mayor pro tem of Golden, said people in her community would like to control how pesticides are used. She noted that she and her father have both faced health issues from pesticides.

Longmont Mayor Joan Peck, meanwhile, told the committee that her community uses 125 goats for weed control, which, she said, has worked very well.

While the Department of Agriculture supported local control earlier this year, the agency declined to send anyone to talk to the committee on Tuesday, according to chair Sen. Dylan Roberts, D-Eagle.

The arguments in favor of keeping the status quo came from Dan Lisco, who owns farmland in Washington, Routt, Boulder and Moffat counties.

Allowing local control would be a nightmare for agricultural producers, creating a piecemeal system, he said. A farmer might have 120 acres, half in Weld and the other half in Boulder, and each would have its own regulations about what could be used on crops, he said.

Government & Legislative Update

continued

by Jennifer Cassel, Colorado Golf Coalition

An applicator would have to split the field in half. It would create a "nightmare," he added.

Allowing local control will also increase costs, said Ryan Riley, chair of the Colorado Pest Control Association Policy Committee.

With the agriculture department in charge of regulations, he spends about \$3,500 per year for training for employees for two of his company's divisions, which work in communities from Longmont to LaJunta. If he had to spend on training for 17 counties, the costs will increase to more than \$54,000 per year, something that will get passed along to consumers, he said.

Glenda Mostek, executive director of the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association, pointed out another problem with local control: an applicator could spray a tree for Japanese beetles on one side of the street but could not use that same product for beetles on a tree on the other side of the street that is in another jurisdiction. That could lead to beetles re-infecting the first tree, she explained.

Sen. Kevin Priola, D-Henderson, who is not a member of the committee but favors local control, asked members of the status quo panel if they would be okay with regulations that allowed for local control but exempted agriculture. Two said it would depend on how it was written, but the other three were firm "no's."

Colorado Counties, Inc. also weighed in through Commissioner Terry Hofmeister of Phillips County, who chairs the organization's agriculture, wildlife and rural affairs steering committee.

The group historically supports local control, but not for this, Hofmeister said.

Local governments are not the experts; the experts are the EPA and the agriculture department, he said, adding, "They do the science, we don't...you don't want to go to a farmer's market and end up with corn that has more bugs than corn."

Finally, the committee heard from Lisa Blecker, a pesticide safety instructor in the Department of Agricultural Biology at Colorado State University. She said regulations that change from one place to the other will make it difficult for applicators to remember what can be done and exactly where. "It's really difficult to expect people to remember all these regulations when they're jumping from one municipality to another," she said.

Addressing the concerns around piecemeal regulation, Blecker said she would not assume a local ordinance in Longmont or Vail would be written or implemented in the same way.

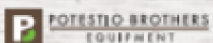
She also warned that local users who buy pesticides at their hardware stores won't necessarily read the labels and apply the pesticides in accordance with local or federal regulations.

While the committee is expected to begin the process of drafting legislation for the 2024 session, at least six of the 10 committee members, including Roberts, are opposed to eliminating state control during the 2023 session. That does not, however, preclude other members of the legislature, such as Priola, from sponsoring a bill to enact local control on pesticides.

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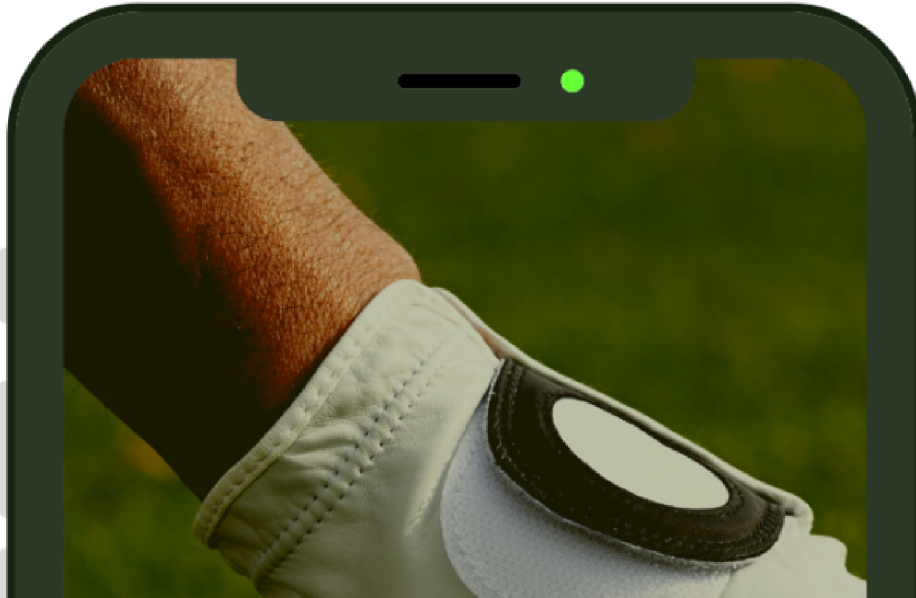
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