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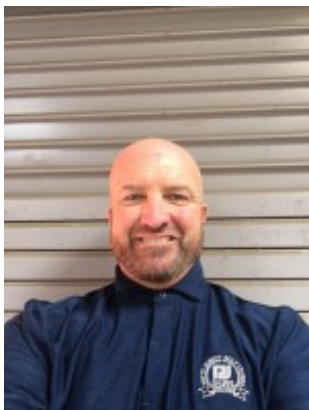
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President's Message

by Jeff Wichman, Superintendent, Patty Jewett Golf Course



Knowledge is power because it gives individuals the ability to make informed decisions, solve problems, and understand complex situations. With knowledge, people can improve their lives, pursue their goals, and contribute to their communities and golf courses. In today's rapidly changing world, continue learning is essential to keep up with new developments and succeed in various fields. Therefore, it is important to value and invest in education and lifelong learning to acquire knowledge and enhance one's power.

I have been a Grassroots Ambassador with the GCSAA for a couple of years and I just in the last year have enjoyed participating in the programs training and education classes that a Grassroots Ambassador has access to.

Grassroots Ambassadors are awarded GCSAA education points. 0.1 point per training webinar, 0.05 points for participating in the National Golf Day training webinar, and 0.35 points for attending Grassroots Ambassador Academy at the GCSAA Conference and Education. I highly recommend and encourage any looking at a chance to get involved to reach out to Michael Lee Sr. Manager, Government Affairs: GCSAA

Tim Davis (Legacy Ridge Golf Course) and I had the privilege of attending the Ambassador Academy at the GCSAA Conference and Education in Orlando FL, featuring Geoff Vetter, Sr. Vice President, and Anthony LaFauce, Managing Director, from The Clyde Group. With clients including the Tiger Woods Foundation, Hewlett-Packard, Nissan and the American Diabetes Association, The Clyde Group has quickly earned numerous awards since entering the advocacy space in 2017, including Best New Agency of the Year, PR Week's Champions of PR and Washington Business Journal's 40 under 40.

As in previous years, Ambassador Academy takes place over the course of two separate sessions. Both sessions will be relevant and informative for both experienced and beginner advocates and are sure to help your communication skills on the golf course and in the public sphere. As one Ambassador said of his experience at the 2022 Academy, it was "the best communications training," he'd ever received, which would benefit him, not just as an advocate working with policymakers but also in the workplace.

I would like to pass on the information that I received at this event that is extremely important to our industry:

WATER, WATER, and WATER: GCSAA position statement: Golf Course superintendents are responsible stewards of water resources. GCSAA supports collaboration with all levels of government to address water use and quality issues and for golf course superintendents to be involved in the construction of productive public policy related to water issues. GCSAA supports water conservation and water quality protection laws and regulations that are based on sound science and credible data and promote the values of turfgrass and professionally managed landscapes. GCSAA supports the development and use of science-based best management practices (BMPs) for water conservation and water quality through superintendent-regulator-university partnerships at the local and state levels of government. To support this, the GCSAA launched 2017 the 50 by 2020 BMP initiative.

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President's Message Continued

The goal of this landmark initiative was to have all 50 states with BMP programs in place by 2020 to ensure protection of human health and environment and demonstrate the industry's commitment to environmental stewardship. This goal was accomplished at the end of 2020. Public policy can help accelerate the adoption and implementation of water management on golf properties through incentives, including cost sharing, regulator relief, tax credits, rebate and technical assistance. GCSAA supports the development and promotion of environmentally responsible economic and regulatory incentives: installation of efficient irrigation products and systems; retro fits of existing irrigation systems with water-efficient technologies; and design and maintenance practices that foster and support efficient irrigation.

As I sit at my desk finishing up writing this article, I'm listening to the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee hearing that Mitch Savage (CommonGround Golf Course) is testifying on the RMGCSA behalf. Keeping up with government laws can help us be informed and engaged Golf Course Superintendents, you'll have a better understanding of the issues that affect your community and golf course.



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Superintendent Spotlight

by Austin Lang, Superintendent, Pine Creek Golf Club



Describe Your Facility

Opened in the spring of 1988, Pine Creek Golf Club is a premier public golf course in Colorado Springs, CO. Designed by noted golf course architect Richard Phelps, the course features natural grasslands and wandering creek beds that come into play on 15 of the 18 holes. On the front nine, you'll be challenged by the canyon-style course, while the back nine features an American-style links course. Adding to the challenge are a variety of trees, lakes, bunkers, and 376 feet of elevation change. Each hole offers breathtaking views of Pikes Peak, the Front Range, and the entire skyline of Colorado Springs.

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

The block-zone designed irrigation system at pine creek is still original from when the course opened up back in 1988. The biggest challenge we face is that we have old Thompson electric valves still in the ground that are now obsolete. We also have quite a bit of Class 200 pipe throughout the golf course that is showing its age. With the help of Eagle Golf Construction this past fall, we were able to replace 160 Thompson electric valves with new Toro P220 electric valves.

What do you like about your team at your facility?

Currently, we are in the process of bringing Pine Creek back to life again. We have a ton of renovation projects going on right now and at times it can feel overwhelming. Everyone at Pine Creek is willing to go the extra mile and is always there to help one another. We have a long road ahead but there is no way we are not going to succeed.

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

I guess I can say I have been working in golf course maintenance for 20 years now. When I was 16 years old I first began working in a seasonal position at Garden of the Gods Club and Kissing Camels Golf Course. I ended up working there for the next 8 summers during high school and college. I initially went to college at Colorado State University for Business but three years into that I realized my heart was still on the golf course. I ended up switching gears to pursue my career in maintenance while taking turf and horticulture classes online.

What's the most rewarding part of being a superintendent for you?

As a golf course superintendent, one of the most rewarding aspects of the job is the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with so many different people. Whether it's fellow staff members, golfers, members of the club, or other professionals in the industry, building relationships with them has been very fulfilling. For me, it's the people and relationships that mean the most.

Mentor or how did you get into the business?

I have been extremely lucky to have some great mentors in my career. Steve Blais (Kissing Camels) has been a mentor and a friend since I first began working at golf courses. He is one of the main reasons why I decided to pursue a career in golf course maintenance in the first place. Jeff Knutzen and John Waddle (Blackstone and Black Bear Country Club) gave me my first chance as an assistant and really helped develop my agronomical skills. David Jack (The Greg Mastriona Courses at Hyland Hills) was influential in preparing me for my first Superintendent role. Working under Tony Principato at Pine Creek has been a great learning experience already. There are so many others who have played a big role in my success so far.

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

Hole #8 is a downhill par 3 that overlooks Pikes Peak and the Front Range. The views when standing on the tee box are incredible.

Favorite restaurant?

When the weather is nice, we love walking down the street from our house to Red Leg Brewery. They have an awesome outside food court and they host all sorts of live music and events in the summer. The lobster rolls are my favorite, and the beer is pretty good as well. I highly recommend checking it out.

Favorite sports team?

Anything Colorado! Avalanche, Broncos, Nuggets, Rockies, CC Tigers Hockey, Air Force Hockey, and CSU Rams!

Tell us a little about your family.

My Wife Allison and I started dating back in High School. We both attended Colorado State University and we eventually got married in 2016. In June of 2021, we had our first daughter Quinn. It has become somewhat of a family affair as my younger brother Nick Lang is now the Assistant Superintendent at Kissing Camels.

Trends in Insect Activity on Front Range Trees

by Tony Hahn, Division Manager, Denver Commercial Property Services

Since arriving in Colorado in March of 1982, I have observed extremes in weather and the effects of this weather on trees native to and not native to the Front Range of Colorado. I have also witnessed errors in landscape design which has led to monocultures of certain tree species such as Ash, Colorado Spruce, and Austrian Pine. I have seen, personally, insect pest pressures rise, fall, and rise again in the 40 plus years I have cared for trees along the Front Range. (An example of this is the re-appearance of Tussock Moth in Colorado Spruce.) The following will be a brief review of what was observed in 2022 and a forecast of what to expect in 2023 relative to insect pests in trees. The focus will be on Pine and Spruce Ips Engraver Beetles, Tussock Moth, and Pine Wilt Nematode.

Unfortunately, monocultures of trees do exist on many of our home landscapes, commercial property landscapes, and golf courses. In the world of arboriculture, monoculture is typically defined as planting more than 20% of one kind of tree in a landscape. (You have 7 trees in your landscape and 3 of them are Austrian Pines would be an example of a monoculture of Austrian Pines.) Notable examples of



monocultures include American Elms planted in the early 1900's in cities and towns in the east and Midwest and Ash tree planting here in Colorado in the 1980's and 1990's.

Presently, Austrian pines have been over-planted along the Front Range. Herein, lies a significant problem we will now need to face. Colorado Spruce, the state tree of Colorado, has been widely planted as well. The effects of planting too many Colorado Spruce and Austrian Pine will now be examined.

The last half of 2021 turned out to be brutally warm and dry. The dry conditions persisted until January 2022. In fact, there have been a number of years in the past that have been warmer and drier than normal. These conditions have increased stress levels in evergreen trees in general. Ips Engraver Beetles can "sense" when a tree is stressed. These chemical signals generated by these trees, "signals" to the Ips Beetles: ATTACK! Another insect attracted to drought-stressed trees is the Pine Sawyer (*Monochamus* spp.)

The Pine Sawyer is the vector of the Pine Wilt Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*). Once the nematode is introduced into the pine trees' vascular system, the trees begin to show signs of wilting. There is no remedy once the tree is infected. In the 1980's and early 1990's, Douglasfir' Tussock Moth was an insect doing significant damage to Colorado Spruces. The pest was rarely seen after the mid 1990's. I started seeing the insect again in 2021. I am seeing it more and more and in a number of parts of town. The insect feeds on needles and defoliates the Spruce. If left unchecked, it can kill a Spruce in 34 years. So, we have engraver beetles killing Pines and Spruce by attacking and feeding on conductive tissue and Tussock Moths defoliating the trees! 2023 looks to be an exciting year for insect pests of conifers. One possible "Silver Lining" to this bleak outlook may have been the record low temperatures we experienced right before Christmas of 2022. The brutally cold temperatures may kill these overwintering insects. This remains to be seen.

Drought stress and tree health are intimately related. Planting trees that are not indigenous to the Front Range causes stress immediately, anyway. So, what do we do now? First, take an inventory of the trees on the golf course. You cannot

Trends in Insect Activity on Front Range Trees

manage what you don't measure. Second, identify "High-Value" trees worth protecting. Third, try to increase the vigor of trees through proper watering and root-zone therapy. (Healthy roots equals a healthy tree!) There are a number of ways to increase root growth such as vertical mulching and radial trenching. Also, be cognizant of the quality of the irrigation water and its effects on the trees on the golf course. Irrigation water is getting saltier and higher in sodium and bicarbonate. Some cities and water districts are moving to recycled or reuse irrigation water which is very difficult on some evergreen trees. In conclusion, many factors are leading to population explosions of lethal insect pests on Colorado Spruce and Austrian Pines. Drought, above-average temperatures, monocultures, and lower-quality irrigation water are some of the contributing factors. Ips Engraver Beetles of Pines and Spruces are being seen at levels not seen in at least 50 years. Austrian Pines are more prone now to Pine Wilt than ever before. Tussock Moth is making another appearance in the Denver Metro area. It has appeared in the southern metro area, but I am beginning to see it in Centennial and as far north as Yale avenue in east Aurora near 1-225. Be aware. Failing to plan is a plan for failure. Have a plan to protect high-value trees. Be prepared to see increased tree mortality due to these insects. There are proactive measures that can be taken. Trunk and branch sprays are somewhat effective. Trunk injections are providing better coverage and longer residuals against these pests. Have a plan.



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Tools of The Trade

by Casey Burrow, Assistant Superintendent, The Club at Ravenna



When people think of Tools of the Trade for golf course maintenance, maybe the first things that come to mind would be mowers, shovels, and rakes. But as we move further into the 21 century, technology is quickly integrating into our industry. While all the new technologies may not fit the wants and needs for every facility, there is a movement towards Precision Turfgrass Management to assist in better communication, improved efficiencies, safety, and most importantly turf quality and sustainability. In my 5-year tenure as Assistant Superintendent at The Club at Ravenna in Littleton, Colorado, we have embraced and implemented many of the new technologies that have become available to us. Some are slightly more complex than others, for example, GPS Sprayers take a fair amount of time for initial setup and mapping of a golf course. In the case of moisture meters, the tool is relatively ready to go out of the box to begin taking readings on your property. Both have become valuable tools in creating consistency and efficiency on our golf course.

Maybe the most effective tool we've put into practice is digital job board software. The most basic function of this program is to serve as a job board. On a daily or weekly basis, you can delegate duties along with detailed instructions. This can greatly improve communication in those first critical hours of the day without having formal meetings to give verbal instructions to your crew. As the software technology grows, you can now provide a list of necessary P.P.E. for each job function and equipment for the user's safety. This year we will implement an option for operators to check equipment in and out via Q.R. codes that are uniquely assigned to every machine. We will have an individual checklist made for each piece of equipment for the operators to follow. The operator can make notes and relay concerns or observations to the Equipment Manager or management staff in real-time. This program has helped make a clear path of communication for daily job assignments and equipment usage, upkeep, and safety.

From a technology perspective, utilizing a drone service to provide specialized images of our property, has had the greatest positive impact with tangible results experienced by the membership. While this tool will require a little training in the way of an F.A.A. Part 107 Remote Pilots License, the actionable data that you'll receive can be critical for the health and aesthetics of your golf course. It all starts with a pre-planned daily flight covering the entirety of your property. During this autonomous flight, the drone captures 3 types of images, Visual data including NDVI, IR heat map, and a high-resolution aerial map providing us with data to make irrigation adjustments with roughly 30 minutes of active time. Additionally, the information provided keeps us one step ahead as we often take screenshots and send these to our irrigation technicians to focus their efforts the next morning. While water savings is our primary goal, the resulting consistent playing conditions provide our membership with an improved golfing experience.

This has been a short description of the primary technologies we utilize and has become reliant upon. The availability of such products and technologies is becoming increasingly feasible and affordable for most golf courses. Improving efficiencies and environmental/economical sustainability is on the mind of every turf manager. Precision Turfgrass Management provides us with data to make decisions in every facet of the golf course, below is a list of technologies and services that have helped us achieve that goal:

- Central Irrigation Software Apps to be used in the field
- National Support for Irrigation Software
- Digital Job Board with Equipment Management
- Greenkeeper App for tracking GDD, Chemical Records, Soil Test
- EZ Locator Pin Placement Software
- TDR 350 Moisture Meter
- Greensight/ Drone Imagery
- (2) GPS Sprayers
- Sky View Weather Forecasting
- Google Translate to improve communication with staff

An advertisement for DryJect. It features three photos of golf courses with text overlays: "#5 Looking good for the outing", "#12 Guests just love this green", and "#1 Used to be trouble. Not any more!". The headline reads "Take good care of your course." and "Put DryJect to work for you." Below the photos are social media icons for Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, with handles for @DryJect and @DryJectTechnologies. The DryJect logo is prominently displayed, along with the tagline "Aerate and Amend in Just One Pass" and the website "DryJectColorado.com". Contact information for Mark Shoemaker is provided: 303-909-7446, mshoemaker@dryjectcolorado.com.

The combination of these tools has made for a more cohesive and efficient golf course maintenance team at our property. I feel the potential of these new tools will help foster a new age of golf course management and land stewardship well into the future. We as turf managers must be willing to look for unconventional solutions, and technology has been a primary tool for us at The Club at Ravenna with supportive ownership.



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Affiliate Angle

by Jessica Lenihan, Farm Manager, Green Valley Turf Co.



My name is Jessica Lenihan and I am currently Farm Manager at Green Valley Turf Company at our sod farm in Platteville, Colorado. What does that mean exactly? Not sales, I swear. I grow and maintain all the bentgrass that we produce at GVT. While it varies depending on the season, we typically have 10 acres of bentgrass on hand. This past season we did a custom grow for a course doing a remodel and had about 15 acres. The 2 varieties that we have on hand are Dominant Extreme 7 and T1, as these are most commonly asked for locally. Most of our bentgrass stays in the Front Range, although it occasionally makes its way to Kansas, Nebraska, or Missouri. I have been at GVT for about a year and a half, but have been working in the golf industry for 18 years.

I moved here from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in the fall of 2021 after spending the previous 10 years as Assistant Superintendent at Hayden Lake Country Club in Hayden Lake, Idaho. At Hayden, we were chipping away at a long-range master plan so each season I was able to get a lot of construction and remodel experience under my belt. It was nice because there was a project to look forward to every year even if it felt like it was never-ending. Before I was at Hayden I spent 7 years working at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course learning various aspects of golf course maintenance. I started there when I was 16 years old as a summer job and never managed to get out. While working full time, I figured I should probably get an education and decided to go to school online and get my bachelors degree through Penn State. I graduated in 2016 in Turfgrass Management, something I never thought I would end up doing as a career.

Over the years I have done my best to be as involved as possible in this industry on both a local and national level. While in Idaho I served in the IEGCSA board of directors. I have volunteered for numerous tournaments including men's and women's US Opens and Players Championships. I can't recommend volunteering enough, some of my favorite memories on the course and best connections made. One of my favorite parts of the industry is the unbeatable camaraderie. I have spoken at the national conference on various topics, as well as served on task groups for GCSAA. While I grow the bentgrass for GVT, we have a lot of other things going on at the farm as well. We are 900 total acres, mainly bluegrass and fescue but for the last few years we have had great success with Tahoma 31 Bermuda. No winter kill and significantly less water and inputs looks like it will be the future for our drought-ridden area. We do a lot of commercial business with landscape companies and homeowners, but we also specialize in bluegrass grown on plastic mainly for professional sports. Until I came here I had never heard of such a thing, its worth a stop by the farm to check it out!

The shift from the golf course to the sod farm has been quite the adjustment for me. I've realized how much I appreciated the daily routine of setting up the course for play but also the unpredictability of the golfers and the weather and the satisfaction that comes from raking your way out of a perfectly shaped bunker. It's crazy going from the mindset of maintaining a perfect surface everyday to starting from scratch, getting it perfect and then sending it out the door. That being said; we do a lot of really cool stuff at Green Valley, from sodding Empower Field to being at the forefront of Bermuda grass in Colorado, its been an awesome transition. This industry is something I can't ever see myself leaving and I'm thankful to be welcomed to and participate in the RMGCSA.

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Rounds 4 Research

by Kevin Malloy, Superintendent, TPC Colorado

With the weather beginning to signal some change, it is a busy time of year for all of us, but it is also time for our chapter to come together and give back. In this instance I am talking about Rounds for Research. The concept is remarkably simple and easy: donate a twosome, a foursome, a stay and play package, or simply some financial support if you are able. The money raised through the auction process will be put into various research projects in our industry.

The RMGCSA has been participating in this program for a decade and to date we have raised nearly \$57,000 while raising \$11,270 in the year 2022. This money was raised on generous donations of 49 packages from 38 facilities. This puts our chapter 11th nationally in money raised in 2022. This is up from \$9,4666 in 2021 which was 8th nationally, however, in true industry form we continue to push the envelope and our fellow chapters also answered the call to donate. This money raised has a direct impact on all our operations. A portion of the money raised goes to the RMEGI (Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute) to support local initiatives. In 2022 \$9,016 raised went directly to RMGEI initiatives.

Some of the initiatives supported by our donations are BMP (Best Management Practice) developments, wetting agent research, Japanese Beetle research, environmental impact studies, and many more. The importance of this work cannot be understated in our industry. In our world today it is important for us to continue to show our steadfast commitment to working with the environment around us to make the land better and shed the poor image golf has received (sometimes unfairly) in the past. All this work goes to also helping us to manage our resources more effectively. I personally know things such as wetting agent research have a profound impact on my operation. If we can identify things such as effective use on our lovely Colorado soil it could lead to less product being used, which leads to dollars being saved.

As we enter the new golf season, look around you at everything you do day in and day out and envision the amount of trial and error and research that has gone into you making those decisions. I have been around this industry my entire life (not an exaggeration I knobbed in a green at 6 years old) and have witnessed a seismic shift in how we view the environment and resources, all while striving to meet ever increasing expectations. We can do this through our ingenuity and help of other industry partners making the big “mistakes” on purpose for our knowledge. If you have questions about this program, contact me, Time Davis, or Kyle Merritt.

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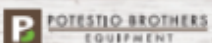
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Director's Corner

by Jeremiah Stumpff, Superintendent, Broken Tee Golf Course

Cheers!

To all my fellow RMGCSA members and anyone who is interested in the happenings of the RMGCSA. My name is Jeremiah Stumpff, I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Broken Tee Golf Course with the City of Englewood, Colorado. I have been a member of the RMGCSA since 2015 when I moved here from Minnesota to be the Golf Course Superintendent at Colorado National Golf Club. Being a member has been very rewarding for me; especially coming in as an outsider and learning how to grow grass and be a leader in California and Minnesota. Although there are some similarities, things are very different here. I wouldn't have been as successful without the connections that I have made through the golf events, education, and social events organized by the RMGCSA. I truly feel that the membership consists of professionals that are invested in not only their personal and professional success but that of their peers as well. I have formed many lasting relationships with Superintendents, Assistants, Equipment Managers, Industry Partners, and staff. The wide-ranging relationships are rewarding in so many ways,

whether I am organizing a golf event, looking for a hiking/fishing friend, needing help with a new product, something strange on the course, or I just want to call and vent about all our challenges. The association was an introduction into many of these relationships both personal and professional. If you aren't a member of the association or know someone that might be interested, I would strongly encourage you join along with your staff. The value is tremendous for all Superintendents, Assistants, Equipment Managers, Affiliates, and Staff.

The value of my membership over the last 8 years has pushed me to give back and get involved. In the past, I have wanted to help the association but needed to get myself into a position personally and professionally in which I could dedicate some real time. Finally, I have reached this point and was nominated by Jake Jacobs, Superintendent at Flatirons Golf Course, and strongly encouraged by Gary Leeper, Executive Director, to serve on the Board of Directors for the RMGCSA. I have been tasked with leading the Education Committee, and I want to thank Kyle Merritt, Cassidy Severson, Jason Hinkley, Brian Moore, Gary Leeper, Aaron Fankhauser, and everyone else that has helped and will help provide a great year of educational and networking opportunities for the RMGCSA membership.

As I sit in my office after being away on my honeymoon in Belize for 10 days, all I can do is look out my window and smile at all that white stuff that's falling here in the Denver Metro Area. I know that some have been less fortunate with the Pikes Peak "doughnut hole" in full effect in Colorado Springs and Pueblo, hopefully, you are getting this mid-February storm! The golf course is getting its much-deserved break from golfers, it was time for a little rest for ourselves and the golf course. In Belize, I had all the time in the world to check out from the hustle of work and home life but I continued to reflect on my career, especially as it relates to my balance of work and life.

At the beginning of my career, work was my number one priority above all other things. Most weeks I was working anywhere from fifty to 80 hours not worried about if I was going to get a day off. When I did get a day off it was spent catching up on sleep and recovering because I was exhausted from putting so much energy into work. This served me extremely well as an I was getting the experience that I needed to become a Superintendent. I began to ask myself if this was really sustainable for the rest of my life, work is a huge passion of mine, but so is family, travel, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, golf, and the list just goes on and on. How can I balance these out so that I'm not working to live? These are battles that we have all fought in the Golf Course Industry and there are so many variables for everyone and in each position, there is no one magic eight ball. I think that we all need to realize sometime that work will still be there tomorrow, but our family, friends, and activities might not be. I want to encourage everyone to make sure your family and mental health are a priority as the 2023 season kicks off and we all start running around like chickens. Hopefully, you have all spent some time over the winter proactively planning out the season, hiring and training the right people so you can get away in-season, a take a look into some of the technology that is out there, it has helped me tremendously. I have a brief shoutout to make; advanced scoreboards Task-Tracker has really helped streamline staff communications, chemical applications, record keeping, scheduling, GDD tracking, and so much more. If you have a few minutes take a look at their website and see if it may be something that would help you be more efficient and effective and have a better work-life balance. I challenge everyone to prioritize living to work in 2023 and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter article. I look forward to meeting new faces and helping you out in any way possible please reach out for anything.

Assistant Spotlight

by Jordan Sekich, Assistant Superintendent, Saddle Back Golf Club



Our facility

Saddleback golf club is a privately owned and operated facility located a few miles east of I25 in Firestone. Our course was founded on farmland and developed in the beginning of 1998 and finished in 2000. In 2016 we added a brand-new club house equipped with a restaurant. We have an absolute stunning backdrop of the mountains that you're able to see from anywhere on the golf course, with every sunset being picture worthy if you're the kind of person who's plays later in the day.

What makes our facility unique?

I feel like we're best known for our two island greens, Hole four (par three) and hole 16 (par four). But what doesn't get talked about enough is you wouldn't believe how much wildlife is out here at Saddleback until you see a deer run across the fairway, or a red-tailed slider tortoise making his way up the approach with you. Heck, I remember one year we had a badger out here! You just never know what'll you'll run into or see!

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

This will be my 6th year as assistant superintendent and 13th year at Saddleback. Time flies when you have fun! When I was 17 (2007) I met with the golf coach of UCCS (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) he informed me in order to be on the golf team I was required to work on a golf course for six months. Saddleback was the closest course to my house got a job a seasonal and fell in love immediately. School took a back seat while I wanted to learn more about how everyday golf course operations worked. After my seventh year I took some time off to help my dad on our family farm, three years later I got a call from Saddleback asking if I wanted to come back and become the assistant. It's nice when you leave a lasting impression they must have liked my personally cause I know it wasn't my work ethic why they called me back, haha! I can now safely say school has moved into the front seat where I'm in the process of getting my Horticulture degree at Front Range.

Most rewarding part of being an assistant?

By far would be seeing the personal growth and development I see in our employees every day. I'm always in touch with former employees and they always say this was the best job they've had. Particularly we have one individual who was more of a homebody who loved his video games. After working with him for a few months he would tell me he hates having days off, he would much rather be at golf course working outside because how much he loves it here. He'll be going into his second season with us. It's all about creating a fun, friendly and relaxed environment where it doesn't become work anymore and you truly just love what you do and the individuals, you're with. That's Saddleback and the environment we've created here.

Who is your mentor?

Without a doubt my mentor is my superintendent Rob Flemming who graduated from South Dakota State University in 2004. He came onto the golf course in 2009 a couple years after I was already started there. He showed me that this isn't just a job but something you can turn into a career. The guy is a walking encyclopedia of golf knowledge! I would probably still be on the farm or worse working a meaningless job somewhere if I didn't get that call from him to come be the assistant. He makes sure you understand what he's teaching you, and I credit all of my knowledge of golf course maintenance to him!

Favorite Hole and why?

Like most of everybody that plays here would have to be hole 16 our drivable par four that sits on an island surrounded by bunkers. It plays about 263 and you can choose to carry the water or play the fairway to the right of it. Believe it or not we actually had one former employee that has had four hole in ones on this hole, with four different clubs!

Stupidest thing you've done on the job?

Well, my record at saddleback is pretty impeccable but I do recall on the time I was driving through the field with our backhoe and found some soft mud that was like quicksand. The more I tried to get out the worse it got. After half an hour I had mud buried up to the grill and you couldn't see the front tires anymore. Thankfully our family farm is only 15 minutes away, one quick phone call to

Assistant Spotlight Continued


my dad, he was able to bring his brand new fancy loader over and pull me out within 30 seconds. He still gives me grief about it.

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

I enjoy playing golf big surprise I know, but also love taking my Doberman Zeus with me to go fishing. As well as being an avid Colorado sports fan and enjoy going to any game really.

Favorite tool in your cart?

Hands down would have to be my speaker! I have to have music with me at all times. Music moves the body and the soul. I keep it really low when I'm around golfers but 95% of the time they will tell me "Turn it up!" it's hilarious. Every day is a new theme for example ladies day get Marvin Gay, Stevie Wonder and another classics while I play country or classic rock on men's day.



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Calendar of Events...

- May 8, 2023** [West Slope Meeting - Ironbridge Golf Club](#)
- May 31, 2023** [Assistant's Championship and Education - Homestead Golf Course](#)
- June 13, 2023** [Memorial Tournament - Plum Creek Golf Course](#)
- August 15, 2023** [Affiliate Cup - Keystone Ranch](#)
- September 19, 2023** [The RMGCSA Championships - RainDance National Golf Course](#)
- October 17, 2023** [Best Tournament Ever - Flying Horse North Golf Club](#)
- October 25, 2023** [Pesticide Training- Virtual](#)
- November 13-14, 2023** [Annual Conference - Denver Marriott West Golden CO](#)

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