



The Reporter

Volume 56, No. 3. May/June 2021



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President's Message

by Kyle Merritt, Superintendent, Eaton Golf Club



The much anticipated Economic and Environmental Impact Report was released on April 14th. The report was funded and developed by the Colorado Golf Coalition in collaboration with the National Golf Foundation and Radius Sports Group. This was the highlight of our annual celebration of golf at State Golf Day at the Capitol. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to attend our traditional State Golf Day. The report was released to State Legislators with readings of the report on the House floor by Majority Leader Daneya Esgar from Pueblo County. State Golf Day is one of my favorite events the RMGCSA takes part in. I look forward to next year where we can discuss the importance of golf with Colorado Legislators face to face and have hard facts to back it up!

The report compiled information from golf courses across Colorado using data from 2019. With the increased popularity in golf we are seeing, the information provided in this report regarding the economic impacts of golf are even more important. As the state continues to grow, we will have to fight to show how important golf and golf courses are to our state. As the battle for water and land intensifies in Colorado, we as an association, will have this valuable resource to advocate how much golf courses contribute to our state. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the legislative process, which can be both complex and impersonal. Most people do not know who their elected representatives are and have not engaged in direct advocacy of any kind before. The goal of advocacy is to become a trusted resource for policymakers. Here are a few basic tips to being a good advocate:

- **Be confident.**
- **Frame your message and answer the “So what?” of the topic you are advocating for.**
- **Plan and practice your message.**
- **Present clear and compelling messages and remember less is more.**
- **Offer yourself as an expert resource. Make sure you include both data and examples from your community and work. Although data is important, storytelling can be a valuable component to make the message stronger.**

In order to get you started, here are a few facts from the report that every Superintendent should know to be a strong advocate for the golf industry:

- **Golf generated \$2 billion to the state's economy in 2019**
- **Golf courses use less than 1% of the state's annual water consumption**
- **Approximately 97% of Colorado golf courses are employing three or more water conservation measures**
- **Golf generates more than 19,400 jobs in the state**
- **Golf's greenspace includes turfgrass and 11,855 acres of water, wetlands, and native rough; supporting wildlife and pollinator habitats, cooling the urban heat island, filtering surface water runoff, and contributing to health and well-being.**

I would like to thank all the golf courses that participated in the impact report. I hope everyone will take some time to review the report so you can be a good advocate for this great industry.

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Director's Corner

Kevin Kallas
Ramble ON!
Saddle Rock Golf Course



As I sit here looking out my office window I can see a tinge of green grass on my 9th hole. If I look 3 feet either way from the amazing beauty of that spring green beginning to show its self, all I see is a 3-foot drift of snow from our blizzard a week ago. The moisture was so well timed, the cart traffic came to a halt and I was able to finish my fert and golf supply orders for the coming season. I am now officially done with winter though; the snow has got to stop! But till it melts, my mind is full of weird thoughts I am going to jot down.

Here is a question. How, when a golfer shuts the trunk of their car there is a switch that seems to be activated that says, "rules don't apply to me and I can drive and do whatever I want for the next 4.5 hours." Then, when their clubs go back into the trunk, that switch flips off and rules apply to them again. Does anyone else agree? The trunk slammer syndrome is what I like to call it and I can't figure out why it happens.

I had a fun opportunity (should have taken place in Vegas) to partake in a Zoom call with my fellow Twitter #turfheadtastingteam group that was started up and has grown quite large over the last few years. We all poured our favorites, told stories and had a great time. Guys from all over the country joined for what was a fun few hours. NW-GCSAA David Phipps put the evening together and scored a speaker from a tap house to give her take on the state of the beer industry and where it might be heading. Well, she tried to anyways... half way into her talk a story was shared by one of us that opened a Pandora's box of stories and left her sitting back wondering if she ever would get to finish. I felt bad, but I think she enjoyed our turf talk and laughter as much as I did.

Last golf season, 4 of us City of Aurora Supers agreed we needed a break from the rules the virus had put on all of us and decided we needed to play golf one afternoon together. That decision turned into a near weekly tradition all summer and fall long. It was great to get away early from the grind and play our courses and around the metro area. Sure, we would talk about work, but we also got to know a little more about each other, our families and so on. We then got fortunate enough to stumble upon a Trackman simulator for the winter that enabled us to continue our weekly get togethers playing courses all over the world while laughing it up and enjoying a few beverages and pizzas as well. First birdie buys for next week is the moto.

And finally, because this is in the Reporter and as a board member I need to say something of some sense in this article I have this. I decided it would be in my budget this year to sign up my entire full-time staff to both the GCSAA and RMGCSA memberships. Why? Why not! The ability to network at golf events, use both to get online training, attend GIS virtual this year and maybe someday live in the future and so on and so on. I have been a member of both for 15 years, my assistant for 5 and the cost is minimal for my E.M. and I.T. to join both. This now gives them more avenues to better themselves moving forward. Small price to pay for rewards later on I think.

Well, that's all I have on my mind at the moment. And guessing that when this is published, and you are done reading my rambling, we should all be well into our daily routines. Each rolling our eyes with calls from our golf shops asking when the frost delay will be over or looking at our weather apps for the next predicted rain event. We all agree golf will be busy again this year and with it our daily headaches will return but remember, we can and need get away for a bit. Either with our families or friends for a round or a drive to the hills or a lake. Meet over a Zoom call or meet in person for a drink, whatever! Getting away keeps us healthy, creates a healthy mind, and allows us to recharge or mental state. If anything, sit in the parking lot and try to figure out the cure for Trunk Slammer Syndrome.

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Assistant Spotlight



Hunter Dorsey
Black Bear Golf Club. Parker, CO

Describe your Facility

Black Bear Golf Club is a private 18-hole facility owned by Club Corp. It offers our fast undulating Greens, big sloping Fairways, thick Rough, and is surrounded by penalizing native areas and natural hazards. Black Bear provides a fun and challenging round of golf, while also providing great views of the front range.

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

The biggest challenge that we face at our property is the outdated irrigation system, which just happens to be older than I am. We repair on average 2-3 leaks or breaks in the pipe alone per week. Another big factor of Black Bear's irrigation system is that to make those repairs the whole hole must be isolated using the mainline valves. Unfortunately, it is a very inefficient way of making the repairs, but it is what we must work with. We have been in the process of getting quotes and designs for a new system and hopefully can start that project within the next few seasons. We genuinely believe that it would be a game changer for our Club.

What do you like about your team at your facility?

I really like the fact that our team is very modern thinking and have common goals. We all love coming to work, creating game plans on how the golf course can be better that day than it was the day before.

What is the most unexpected thing you found yourself doing because you are an Assistant?

We built stairs in our shop last winter. We are always trying to come up with different ways to make the space more efficient, and one of the ideas was to remove the stairs that ran right through the mechanics space. After busting those down and cutting a new door, we were able to build a new flight of stairs that began through an old cleaning closet to the upstairs storage area. Never thought that I would be able to say that I learned how to build a flight of stairs.

Mentor or how you got in the business?

I got into the business because of my oldest brother, Forrest. I was off at CSU studying Environmental Engineering, and I needed a summer job. My brother talked to his Super at the time and got me a seasonal job here at Black Bear Golf Club about 7 years ago. I instantly fell in love with the work and made it my chosen career path. I soon after changed my major and eventually ended up transferring to Penn State's online Turf Maintenance program where I finished my degree. After that I worked my way through the various positions at several clubs in the Denver metro area, and I ended up making my way back to Black Bear to take the Assistant Position I had dreamed about all those years ago.

What is your favorite hole on the course and why?

My favorite hole on the course is #15. This hole in my opinion has the best views on the course as you can see many miles of the Front Range as well as looking down onto downtown Denver. It's a short but high-risk, high-reward par 5 that embodies what Black Bear is all about.

Favorite movie?

Favorite movie is hard to narrow down, so I will go with the Lord of the Rings Trilogy.

Favorite Restaurant?

Favorite Restaurant is Tonti's in Parker, CO. Best pizza I have ever had.

Favorite sports team?

Favorite sports team is the Green Bay Packers. GO PACK GO!



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Superintendent Spotlight



Tyler Cole
Golf Course Superintendent
Omni Interlocken Golf Club

Describe Your Facility

Omni Interlocken Golf Club is a 27-hole semi-private club. The course is divided into three 9-hole courses named Eldorado, Sunshine, and Vista.

What makes your facility unique?

Our location on the side of a hill makes our facility unique. There isn't really a single "flat" hole on the property. The highest point of our golf course is actually the highest point between Denver and Boulder at 5,780 feet in elevation. The lowest point is almost 450 feet lower in elevation.

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

Seasonal staffing, just like everyone else.

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

Find a person or mentor that you want to work for. Learn from them and listen. Don't let anyone convince you that you need to work 80 hours per week to produce a good product. Wear sunscreen.

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

I have been working in golf for 15 years. I started as a summer seasonal just looking to play free golf and make a little money for college.

Mentor or how did you get into the business?

Josh Hester is somebody I still speak to quite frequently to bounce ideas off of. The best advice he ever gave was, "The forest is full of trees. Take one down at a time."

Without incriminating yourself, what's the stupidest thing you've done on the job?

Fly fished for grass carp. Sorry, Heater. Would've been less stupid if I actually caught something.

What's the last book you read?

Green Eggs and Ham

Shorts or Pants?

I go with the pants. Less sunscreen needed.

Tell us a little about your family?

My wife, Morgan, and I have been married for 5 years and have a 3 ½ year old son, Hayes. Morgan and I have known each other since we were both about 5 years old having grown up in the same small town. Moose and Woody are our two dogs that round out the family. We all enjoy getting to the mountains any chance we get!

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Affiliate Angle



Tim Klein, Syngenta Professional Solutions

I started my career in the Golf business when I was a Junior in High school. My Dad owned an appliance repair business, a local laundromat, and Tastee Treats ice cream shop in Fox River Grove, Illinois. Since working for family was only \$2.25 an hour, I thought I could apply the skills I already had with all those businesses and finally earn minimum wage by working at Cary Country Club. With mowing, night watering (quick couplers & roller bases), and fixing equipment I learned quickly that this was my dream job! Of course, the overtime ballooned my income too. After 2 summers I graduated High school and entered the U.S. Air Force. I worked on aircraft equipment and developed my mechanical engineering skills from the four years I served.

After the service, I went into to college to pursue a turf degree. I earned my Associate's degree in Turf-grass Management from McHenry County College and my Bachelor's degree from National Louis University in Evanston, Illinois. I held an Internship at Turnberry Country Club where I worked for two years as a Second Assistant. From there I took a position with Chemlawn Services, working five years in the lawncare industry achieving numerous positions from lawn specialist, "rookie of the year," Branch Safety Coordinator & Winter teardown manager.

Still wanting to work closer to a field of business and the golf industry, I took a position as a Manufacturer Rep for NAIAD, selling wetting agents. I worked as a rep with NAIAD for five years in a 15-state territory. As I developed and increased relationships with customers, I was offered a position with Ciba-Giegy / Novartis / Syngenta which is where I am today. I manage a four-state territory CO, NM, OK & TX. I have been with Syngenta for the last 25 years. My wife of 39 years has moved with me and my career five times. Relocating with her and my three sons Alex, Stephen, & Joseph has been an extraordinary journey. If you could meet our children, you would be impressed at how flexible and in-tune with travel they became due to the change and diversities in our home settings. They've attended and received degrees from the best of Colorado Universities—UNC, DU & CSU.

After 13 years in Castle Rock, CO, we decided to move back to Texas. We love the idea of having the best of both states with two of our sons still in the Denver-Metro area. Winter in Texas and Summer visits in Colorado! Who could ask for anything more? I have thoroughly enjoyed working in this industry, meeting so many superintendents and customers alike. Bringing recommendations and advice along the way, with the opportunity to cook a barbecue every now and then, has made this choice of career the best I could ever have envisioned. See you out in the field and hoping I bring a smile to your face when we see each other. Thank you, RMGCSA, for giving me this opportunity to tell my story and add to the Affiliate Angle. Hope to see you at our next meeting!!





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Legislative Update

Legislative Update by Jennifer M. Cassell

Lobbyist at Bowditch & Cassell Public Affairs, LLC

By Judy Malone/Photographs courtesy CGA/ Article from Colorado Avid Golfer



The legislature is back in full swing after taking a month-long break in mid-January due to health concerns with the pandemic. They are planning on adjourning prior to the Memorial Day holiday, but could continue until June 13 per the time guidelines in the state constitution. As of mid-April, over 500 bills have been introduced, and we expect another 200 more will come.

The 2021 legislative session is the most diverse in history, and legislative priorities are reflective of that diversity. We have seen an increased emphasis on equity and inclusion. The pandemic has also been front and center – Governor Polis and legislative leadership announced a stimulus package in mid-March per an influx of federal dollars. Those efforts are focused on strengthening small businesses, revitalizing infrastructure, supporting families, investing in rural areas, and developing our workforce.

This year we expected a focus on many progressive initiatives included a new transportation financing mechanism, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and restoring the budget cuts from last fiscal year. And more and more each year we see a focus on environmental issues. After seeing two initiatives that would have dramatically changed pesticide policy during the 2020 session – remove state pre-emption of pesticide regulation and ban the use of neonicotinoids – many were expecting similar bills to come back in 2021. Perhaps because of strong opposition and a fiscal impact to the state for both of these measures, the proponents decided to not pursue these bills this year. Instead, proponents moved in a different direction and decided to run a bill that creates a pollinator health specialty license plate. The bill is working its way through the legislation process.

Another highlight from this session, is the release of the Colorado Golf Economic and Environmental 2021 Impact Study. We celebrated this occasion on Wednesday, April 14 with the legislature paying tribute on both the House and Senate floor. We are hopeful we can host an in-person Golf Day at the Capitol in 2022.

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Time on RMGCSA Boards

1988 RMGCSA Board (Larry Mills, President)
1990-1993 Colorado Turfgrass Association

Retirement plans

Keep my family, friends and fairways forever on my bucket list. Once the roads are clear of the Covid, jump in an R.V. and travel as far as a senior can travel.

Volunteer work/Community Service

Whatever the TBHF(Troutman, Bozek, Hammerlund Foundation) Retirement board, family, children, grandchildren and friends request me to do.

Family Information

Blessed with 5 wonderful children, Ann, Mark, Heidi, Andy and Amy. 7 grandchildren; Emily, Massey, Stella, Wyatt, Patrick, Nora and Ellenor.

Good Memories

Relating to the 40 years of walking all those manicured fairways, I never considered what I did a job. I always felt the "GOATS" I met and the balls I hit right or left, I came out the winner. Also, very proud of offering the annual "Shoot Out" sponsored by The L.L. Johnson Distributing Company to the RMGCSA. Also, proud to have started "The YTCN" annual golf outing, thanks to all the dozens of Superintendents who hosted the outing and to those that played each year!! Annual golf outing at Air Force Academy in September each year with Tommy Anderson, Fred Dickman, Dan Hawkins.

Thanks to each of you, past and present, and here's wishing each of you the best!!

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Moving on to GREENER fairways

Tommy Anderson

Education

Graduated Colorado State University 1971

College of Forestry, B.A. Parks and

Recreation Administration

Employment History in Colorado

Summer/Fall 1971 Collindale Golf Course new construction \$1.30/hour

January 1972 The BROADMOOR \$1.90/hour (because he had a college degree!)

October 1972 Promoted to Assistant Superintendent \$7,000.00 annual salary

September 2015 Retired from the BROADMOOR 43 + years

Time on RMGCSA Boards

RMGCSA 1975 – 1981, President in 1981

RMRTA Vice President 1993

Turfgrass Professional of the Year 1995

Pikes Peak Turfgrass Association President; 1975

Retirement plans

Seeking warmer weather in the winter months, Colorado in summer months. Always joking around, making contact with older members of RMGCSA. Annual golf outing at Air Force Academy in September each year with Gary Hammerlund, Fred Dickman and Dan Hawkins.

Good Memories

Played golf at National Conference with Jerry Palmer (Arnold's brother) ½ dozen times.

Family Information

3 Children – Julie in Dallas, Troy in Fort Collins, Dane in Bow, New Hampshire.

6 grandchildren – Ryan, Oren, Danny, Lauren, Cassidy and Cody.

3 great grandchildren.

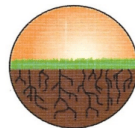
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MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

BEAR DANCE GOLF CLUB | JUNE 15, 2021

Register online: <https://rmgcsa.org/Events>

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Golf Behind the Scenes! Insights from the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association

By Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute Board of Trustees

This month the RMGCSA launched a communications campaign with the Colorado Golf Association to generate awareness of the RMGCSA and Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute (RMEGI). Our goal is to educate golfers on what superintendents and golf maintenance professionals do to provide quality golf course conditions within the state and to share information on our best management practices and environmental stewardship efforts.

The RMGCSA has 567 members committed to improving golf course management practices through education and sharing knowledge. The RMGCSA was founded in 1936 and is the tenth largest state chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), often leading the way in state initiatives.

Colorado golf spans four distinct ecosystems across the sand hills of the eastern plains, the metropolitan corridor of the Front Range, the expansive Rocky Mountains, and vineyards of the western slope. Regardless of location, our members are dedicated to ensuring that golf courses are ready for play, healthy and sustainable, and that they provide golfers with incomparable moments spent outdoors in nature, experiencing pure Colorado golf. This commitment was emphasized through publishing our state BMP guide in 2019 and most recently through participating in the Colorado Golf Economic and Environmental Impact Report.

In addition to the RMGCSA, the RMEGI works in tandem for the sustainability of the Colorado golf industry by supporting education and research in turfgrass. RMEGI aims to unite people to support golf and enhance the environment where the game is played. Research includes important conservation initiatives such as measuring water use and effluent water studies, in addition to turfgrass studies. The RMEGI conducts fundraising to support research, scholarships for individuals pursuing or interested in turfgrass management or turfgrass science, plus support of other non-profit 501(c)3 or charitable organizations.



RMEGI Memorial at Bear Dance Golf Club

Join the RMEGI on June 15, 2021 at Bear Dance Golf Club, a public gem located in Larkspur, for our annual fundraising golf event in support of turfgrass scholarships and research.

The 18-hole, public golf course at Bear Dance Golf Club features 753 acres of mountainous terrain with mature Ponderosa Pines, oak-lined ridges, draws and native grass valleys. Bear Dance offers generous tree-lined fairways, striking water features, and intricate greens. It is consistently rated as Colorado's best and most challenging public golf course, with an average elevation of 6,800 feet. Enjoy stunning views of the Front Range and the surrounding landscape of The Rocky Mountains.

Details:

Two person teams, shamble format.

7:00 am Check In

8:00 am Shotgun Start

12:30 pm Lunch

Registration Deadline: June 8, 2021

Sign up at: <https://rmgcsa.org/meetinginfo.php?id=35&ts=1614375285>

For additional information or to support the RMEGI by making a donation, please visit www.rmegi.org OR rmgcsa.org



Photo Courtesy of: Bear Dance Golf Club

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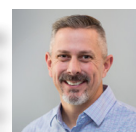
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New Member Roll Call 2021

- Graham McDaniel, Rollingstone Golf Club
- Andrew Wilhelm, Helena Agri-Enterprises
- Skyler Dixon, Eaton Country Club
- Jacob Griffith, City of Lakewood Fox Hollow
- Corby L Pedersen, Lakota Canyon Golf Course
- Joel Beach, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve
- Jeremiah Stumpff, N/A
- Mike Trujillo, Lakewood Country Club
- Paul J. Conway, City of Grandjunction Golf
- Steven R. Green, Flying Horse North Golf Club
- Scott Jeschke, Snowmass Club
- Darren Owens, The Club at Rolling Hills
- Christopher Heslin, Santa Ana/Twin Warriors Golf Club, Inc
- James E. Porter, Riverdale Golf Courses
- Ryan E Davis, Sonnenalp Club
- Carter Burks, Heather Ridge Golf Club
- Luke Brennan, Sanctuary Golf Course
- Bradford (AL) Buttner, Red Sky Golf Club
- Michael J Oveson, Grand Elk Golf Club
- Cade Jeffers, The Golf Courses at Hyland Hills
- Joe Putnam, Retired

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The Reporter



Official Publication of the Rocky Mountain
Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Calendar of Events:

Memorial Tournament Bear Dance Golf Club	June 15, 2021 8:00 AM
2021 Annual Tournament Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel	July 13, 2021 8:00 AM
Assistant's Outing The Country Club at Woodmoor	August 02, 2021 8:30 AM
Affiliate Cup Pole Creek Golf Club	August 17, 2021 8:00 AM
September Challenge The Club at Rolling Hills	September 27, 2021 9:00 AM
Best Tournament Ever Ptarmigan Country Club	October 11, 2021 10:00 AM

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