

The Reporter

From the Rocky Mountain Chapter of GCSAA
Growing Green Since 1936



TPC Colorado

www.rmgcsa.org | 303-255-9611 | info@rmgcsa.org
360 Oak Ave Suite 140, Eaton, CO 80615

Table of Contents

3	President's Message
6	Superintendent Spotlight
9	In Memory of Derrick Dreyer, GCS Frost Creek
12	Director's Corner
14	Affiliate Cup 2025 Recap
19	Annual Conference is Upon Us!
20	2025 Annual Conference Attendee Prospectus
21	Affiliate Angle 2025
23	Equipment Manager Spotlight
25	Where I've Been; What I've Seen
27	RMGCSA Championship and Challenge
28	Assistant Spotlight



Gypsum Creek Golf Course

President's Message

Holy smokes!

Where did the season go? It seems like every year, the season moves more quickly. Obviously, time moves at a constant pace, but when you break down all the events from coming out of winter, firing up systems, regrowing grass, tournaments, staffing, training, re-training, re-training, etc., it moves by very fast.

Ferris Bueller said it well, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." Soon enough, or possibly already, we will turn our focus to aeration and fall/winter prep work. Several courses have projects coming up this fall that will no doubt occupy their time.

Hopefully, you have all taken some time to enjoy the summer season!

Like the summer golf season, this year as President of the RMGCSA seems to be flying by. I want to take just a moment to thank Gary Leeper for all of his help throughout the year.

From board meetings to golf outings, education events, and much more, Gary is there to help guide the board and give a perspective of over 20 years of involvement in our association. Many Presidents before me have enjoyed his guidance as I have, but it is his care for our RMGCSA Board, RMEGI Board, and most importantly, our membership that I admire and am thankful of Gary for.

Gary, thank you for the countless phone calls, emails, and conversations over the last year. Maybe by the time I finish my term, I will figure some things out!

Plenty more to come! If you had a chance to participate in the Affiliate Cup, you were spoiled by Ben Montoya and his team. Gypsum Creek was in excellent condition, and the event was outstanding. If you had signed up for the Championships and Challenge Finals, it was recently moved from September 2 to October 14. Our next outing will be the Best Tournament Ever at The Sanctuary, which has sold out for the second straight year!

President's Message

Dave and his team will have the course and especially the views dialed in for that event. A fall pesticide training opportunity is available on October 23rd, and then we will be having our Annual Conference, November 16-18, at the Marriott Denver West.

Thank you to all our RMGCSA members who have joined us this year at the Golf outings. It is always a great time to reconnect or start new relationships with our fellow members.

Have a wonderful finish to the summer and enjoy the upcoming fall golf (my personal favorite)!

All the best,
Aaron Fankhauser, CGCS.



Aaron Fankhauser

President, The Club at Rolling Hills

Potestio Brothers Equipment John Deere Golf and Sports Turf Sales Team



Hello, we would like to introduce everyone to our new PBE
John Deere Golf and Sports Turf Team Member!

Front Range Golf & Sports Turf Sales Representative Jason Weizenegger
Cell: 720-653-2151 Email: jasonw@pbequip.com

Western Slope Golf & Sports Turf Sales Representative Vaughn Knight
Cell: 303-482-5389 email: vaughnk@pbequip.com

Golf Parts Sales: Shane Goss Cell: 303-519-1489 email: shaneg@pbequip.com

Please feel free to contact anyone of the above representatives for your area.
We look forward to working with you!



JOHN DEERE



**POTESTIO BROTHERS
EQUIPMENT**

COLORADO SPRINGS
719-550-0680

GLENWOOD SPRINGS
970-456-3633

KIOWA
720-644-4709

PARKER
303-841-2299

Superintendent Spotlight

Overview: An interview with Hunter Dorsey from Blackstone Country Club



Describe Your Facility?

The championship golf course at Blackstone Country Club was the creative vision and design of Jay Morrish and boasts 7,246 yards of breathtaking play with the distinguished Rocky Mountains framing to the West. Sculpted from the prairie landscape and meticulously crafted to maintain the integrity of the region, this 18-hole, par 72 lushly manicured course offers a selection of five tee boxes to promote playability for all skill levels. Through the incorporation of natural streams, lakes, and waterfalls, strategic bunker placement, and meandering fairways, Blackstone entices golfers' senses and passion for a unique and challenging experience with every round. Notably, Blackstone is renowned for its captivating stretch of four holes on the Back 9, aptly named "The Gauntlet." These holes will undoubtedly put your golfing skills to the test! Surrounded by stunning vistas and abundant wildlife, the course promises a beautiful experience, no matter the time of year.

Holes: 18 | Par: 72 | Rating: 74.6 | Slope: 145 | Yardage: 7,246

Superintendent Spotlight

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

We have really poorly-draining soils at our course. The fairways are very high in clay content, which makes our normal watering practices tough when you are trying to keep them healthy, especially with mounding that leads to lots of dry tops and wet low areas. We have to do a lot of hand watering in the summer heat to keep the fairways as consistently as possible.

What do you like about your team at your facility?

I really appreciate the fact that my whole team is bought in to what we are trying to accomplish and work towards each day. I've been very lucky to be able to build and mold my team over several seasons, and it has really paid off. Everyone is willing to do the work it takes to keep the course in great shape and keep a great attitude along the way.

Tell us a little about your family

I am happily married for five years and we have a 3 year old boy, Brooks and are excited to cap off the family with a little girl, Charlie, who is expected this October! We also have two dogs and two cats, as well as three fish tanks at home. Our family refers to our house as the jungle for obvious reasons.

The advertisement features a scenic view of a golf course with a clubhouse in the background. At the top left is the **HERITAGE** logo with 'PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS GROUP' underneath. To its right is the **CPS Distributors** logo with 'AGRONOMICS DIVISION' below it. On the right side is a green shield-shaped logo with 'COMPLETE Golf SOLUTIONS' written inside. The main text in the center reads 'Heritage THAT DEFINES EVERY OUTDOOR SPACE'. Below this, it states 'HLSG is the 2025 agronomic sponsor of the US Open at Oakmont Country Club • heritagelsg.com'. At the bottom, there are three columns of contact information: **JIM TAYLOR** (303) 408-8090, James.Taylor@heritageppg.com; **JOHN KING** (505) 228-3763, John.King@heritageppg.com; and **CUSTOMER SERVICE** (970) 535-4413.

Superintendent Spotlight

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

I got my first seasonal job in the summer of 2013 when my brother was working at the course, and I needed a summer gig while home from college. I fell in love with the job and quickly changed my major, and the rest is history. So going on 13 years, with the last five as a Superintendent.

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

I would have to say the most rewarding thing about being a superintendent is being able to see that the things we do actually make a big difference each day, whether it's as simple as having super straight lines on fairways, crisp bunker edges, or a gypsum flush. It's really rewarding to be able to see the benefits and positives from each task that we do day to day.

Mentor or how did you get into the business?

I've been really lucky to get to work with some great superintendents along the way on my journey to become one myself. The gentlemen that have had the biggest impact on me and how I like to do things include: Jeff Knutzen, John Waddle, Lance Laurer and Ian Gant. Each of them has helped me to expand how I look at things and help me to improve my skills and wealth of knowledge so that I may also pass down the information to the next one in line.

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

The worst thing I have done without a doubt was one time while verti-cutting I tried to get every inch of that collar and of course rolled the triplex into the creek next to the hole. Luckily, I wasn't hurt nor was the machine and I was able to push it back upright and drive it out and just keep trucking along. At the time I was in super panic mode of course, but looking back it's a nice reminder that not everything will always go to plan and that sometimes you just have to know when it's 'Good Enough'

Favorite sports team?

Green Bay Packers GO PACK GO.

Favorite restaurant?

I'm a sucker for good pizza. My all-time favorite is Tonti's in Parker CO.

In Memory of Derrick Dreyer, GCS Frost Creek

April 11, 1986- July 20, 2025



To the members of the RMGCSA,

I wanted to take a moment to remember one of our own—Derrick Dreyer—whose sudden passing has left a deep ache in the hearts of many across the golf and mountain communities.

When I first moved to Colorado and transitioned from life on the course to the sales side of the industry, I quickly discovered just how lonely the road could feel. But over time, relationships started to form, and genuine friendships made the miles, the hotel rooms, and the long drives easier. One of those friendships was with Derrick.

I met Derrick in his early years as an assistant and had the privilege of watching him grow into the superintendent role at Frost Creek. From the start, it was clear that Derrick wasn't just talented; he was deeply dedicated. His pride in the course, his leadership with his team, and the care he put into everything he did made an impression on everyone who knew him. Derrick brought passion, humor, and energy to every area of his life. If you had the pleasure of knowing him beyond the course, you know that Derrick didn't just live—he lived full throttle. Snowmobiling, dirt biking, kayaking, surfing—you name it. The man had no off switch, and he didn't need one. He chased adventure with focus and intensity. I used to joke that if he hadn't found a home in the golf industry, he'd have been sponsored by Red Bull—because this guy truly had Wings! Look up his videos if you want to see for yourself.

In Memory of Derrick Dreyer, GCS Frost Creek

Some of my favorite memories aren't from turf talk or touring the course with Derrick, they're from golfing, mountain biking, sharing a drink and a story over dinner, or even the occasional bout of karaoke. He'd round me up to go shed hunting in the hills above the course or hop in the truck to explore dirt roads just for the fun of it. When we hung out, it was rarely about work—it was about life, family, and what adventure came next.

Derrick was that rare kind of person who made everyone around him feel a little more alive. His loss is heartbreaking, but his spirit and drive to live big, to connect deeply, and to never take a single day for granted will continue to inspire us all.

To those who had the privilege of working with him, laughing with him, riding with him, or just knowing him—he will be missed more than words can say.

Rest in peace, Derrick. We'll see you again down the trail.

Brian McBride, MHT



Colorado's
PRE-OWNED & REFURBISHED TURF EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

11757 S. WADSWORTH BLVD
LITTLETON, CO 80125
303-761-3332

835 21 1/2 RD
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81505
970-433-7009

VISIT OUR FULL INVENTORY AT: WWW.COLOGOLFANDTURF.COM

Club Car | Cub Cadet | Salsco, INC. LEADER BY DESIGN | FOLEY COMPANY | DEWALT | LASTEC ARTICULATORS

OVER 90% OF TRIMAX MOWERS NOW MADE IN THE **USA**

BOOK A DEMO!

TRIMAX SNAKE//S3

THE TURF SPECIALIST'S SECRET WEAPON.

INDUSTRY LEADING WARRANTY

3 YEAR INCLUDES SPINDLES & GEARBOXES
EXPERIENCED SERVICE & SUPPORT NETWORK

A NEW ERA FOR GOLF AND SPORTS TURF, THE **SNAKE S3** DOESN'T JUST CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF THE SNAKE SERIES, IT PERFECTS IT!

KEY FEATURES:

- **Zero Daily Maintenance:** Titan roller bearing system and maintenance-free wheel hubs eliminate daily greasing.
- **Enhanced Usability:** New height adjustment collars, stand-on covers, and removable blade beams for improved operation and easier servicing.
- **Proven Cutting System:** Tested by the Sports Turf Institute of New Zealand, delivering a finish comparable to reel mowers.
- **Industry-Leading Warranty:** Backed by Trimax's comprehensive 3-year warranty including the **Titan bearing system**.

WHEN DOWNTIME IS NOT AN OPTION, SAVE MONEY ON EQUIPMENT THAT LASTS. SCAN HERE FIND OUT MORE!



f X IG Y in V // TRIMAXMOWERS.COM

FOR A FREE DEMO CALL
HECTOR GUERRA / 404-859-1492



Directors Corner

Ben Getman - Golf Course Superintendent Denver Country Club

I have been extremely fortunate to work for an organization that has long standing ties with the community and is deeply rooting in the history of American golf. Formally incorporated in 1887 as the Overland Park Club, the Denver Country Club was the first club west of the Mississippi to be admitted to the USGA(1896) and was one of the founding members of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association in 1901.

In 1905, the club moved to its current location along Cherry Creek with the goal of promoting golf and tennis, as well as fostering a sense of community among members. This included not only the 120-acre club property, but also the establishment of the clubhouse and country club neighborhood to the north, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The original golf course designed by James Foulis, followed a classic Scottish approach, with many bunkers, water ditches, and intimidating greens. The 9th hole showcases the only surviving green from the original design, as the course has been modified and updated over the years by a handful of notable golf course architects including Donald Ross, William Flynn, Bill Coore, and most recently, Gil Hanse. The original clubhouse has been expanded seven times in its 120-year history, and the property hosts many unique amenities including grass and clay surface tennis courts, a multi-dimensional Olympic size pool, and an open-air ice rink

Certification News

Congratulations to new and renewing CGCSs!

Be the first to congratulate fellow members in your chapter.

Newly Certified Members

Carey A. Hofner, CGCS
Tim Davis, CGCS

Recertified Members

Allen R. Brown, CGCS
Brett Klahr, CGCS

August 2025 CGCS Members

Directors Corner

The club has been a significant force both socially and athletically in Denver, hosting various city, state, and national competitions in golf, tennis, and swimming. In its early years DCC was known for hosting large balls and extravagant events and even introduced popular dances like the turkey trot, despite being banned in some cities. Our Fourth of July fireworks display started in 1910 and continues to be a favorite tradition amongst the membership and surrounding community.

During my twenty-one years of service with the Denver Country Club I have been involved in several renovations throughout the property, including the 2007 clubhouse expansion, several parking lot changes, the 2018 restoration of Cherry Creek, and the implementation of the Hanse Golf Course Master Plan. Currently we are planning a full-course irrigation renovation that includes 4 new bridges and all the latest bells and whistles. It has been an honor to be part of this outstanding organization for over two decades, something I do not take lightly. I always keep in mind the people who came before me and how their influence has impacted the club over the past century plus. My objective is to leave it better than I found it and help my team understand the relevance of such a wonderful piece of Denver history.

MAX

YOUR RESULTS WITH

Harrell's MAX[®]

LIQUID FOLIAR NUTRITIONALS

Specifically formulated to provide you with a complete and highly effective fertilizer portfolio using the finest foliar grade sources, allowing for maximum uptake and exceptional product quality.

Are you ready to MAX your results?

Call your Harrell's rep or visit harrells.com today.

JACOB BRAVO
jbravo@harrells.com
(719) 491-0591

DARIN MILLER
dmiller@harrells.com
(983) 777-3930

JOSH KOSS
jkoss@harrells.com
(858) 775-6902



Affiliate Cup 2025 Recap

Tyler Gillette (Buffalo Brand Seed, AF Representative)

We had a solid turnout of 103 golfers for this year's Affiliate Cup at Gypsum Creek Golf Course on Monday, August 11th. I headed over to Eagle on Sunday, the day before for our RMGCSA board meeting. Rolling into Eagle that afternoon we were greeted with heavy smoke from the Meeker fire. It was pretty intense and burning on the eyes. I was a bit concerned about what golf was going to be like the following morning.

However, the wind shifted in the night, and the smoke cleared for a beautiful summer day and another fantastic Affiliate Cup. The day started with some announcements and a nice moment of silence for Derrick Dreyer, former Frost Creek Superintendent, who recently passed. With clear skies, calm winds, and a high of about 80 degrees, we couldn't have asked for a better day for the event.

Superintendent Ben Montoya and his crew had the course in fantastic condition! Especially given the hot, dry summer we have experienced in most of the state. A huge thanks to Ben and all the Gypsum Creek staff for their hospitality. Also big thanks to all the sponsors/vendors, in particular Heritage.

The only thing better than the weather/conditions was the scoring. Simplot team #3 featuring Garrett Marsh (City Park GC), Colin Murphy (City Park GC), Matt Bennett (Overland GC), and Rob Fitzgerald (Bella Rosa GC) dusted the field with an impressive 56 net 49 to take home the Affiliate Cup. Below are the closest to the pin winners and top finishers from the event.



Affiliate Cup 2025 Recap



Short of Staff?
WE CAN HELP
Call for a quote
303.909.7446
DryJect®

Playability Matters!

A 3D diagram showing a cross-section of soil layers. The top layer is green grass, followed by a layer of brown soil with small holes, and a bottom layer of darker brown soil. A green arrow points from the text "Playability Matters!" to the top layer.

In The Field!

A photograph showing several people on a golf course using a large green and red machine, likely for soil treatment or maintenance. A green arrow points from the text "In The Field!" to the machine.

DryJect Colorado, Inc.
MARK SHOEMAKER
2367 S. Holman Cir., Lakewood, CO 80228
mshoemaker@DryJectColorado.com

Affiliate Cup 2025 Recap

Closest to the pin:

- #3 – Jeremiah Stumpff – Broken Tee GC
- #8 – Todd Orton – Scottsbluff CC
- #12 – Alex Kosel – Breckenridge Golf Club
- #17 – Garrett Marsh – City Park GC

1st place and Affiliate Champions –

- Team Simplot #3 – 56 gross – 49 net:**
- Collin Murphy – City Park Golf Course
- Garrett Marsh – City Park Golf Course
- Matt Bennett – Overland Park Golf Course
- Robert Fitzgerald – Bella Rosa GC

2nd Place – JMI Turf/Products Solutions –

- _63 gross – 54 net**
- Jeff Mayberry – JMI Turf/Products Solutions
- Jake Jacobs – Flatirons Golf Course
- Tom Gates – Lake Arbor Golf Club
- BJ Kerzetski – Wondersoil

3rd Place – Target Specialty Products –

- 61 gross – 55 net**
- Daryl Dinkel – Target Specialty Products
- Doug Choate – Battlement Mesa
- Jake Falke – Aspen Glen Club
- Chris Carter – Bridges Golf Club



Buffalo
BRAND SEED
GREELEY, COLORADO

**Turf and Native Grasses, Bentgrass
Wildflowers and Custom Mixes**

Tyler Gillette
970-518-8792
tgillette@buffalobrandseed.com

Michael Hays
970-356-4710
mhays@buffalobrandseed.com

BuffaloBrandSeed.com



irrigation technologies

Brian Keighin, Principal
Phone: 720-240-6208
Brian@IrrigationTechnologies.biz

Certified Irrigation Designer
Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor
EPA WaterSense Partner
Department of Energy
PSAT Specialist Qualification
www.IrrigationTechnologies.biz

design • consult • map • assess

Affiliate Cup 2025 Recap



Affiliate Cup 2025 Recap



Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.
"We Sell More Than a Bag of Seed."

Not Your Common Turfgrass

Disease Resistant, Drought Tolerant, & Sod Quality Seed Guaranteed.

Perfect Turf for Every Tee!

Don Hajar • Andrew Dickinson • Ben Blumhardt • David Stiley
Call Pawnee Buttes Seed for a Quote Today! PawneeButtesSeed.com • (970) 356-7002

50 Years of Experience!

Annual Conference is Upon Us!

Registration is now open for the 2025 Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendent Association Annual Conference. The dates for the Annual Conference are November 17 and November 18, 2025 and will be held at the Denver West Marriott Hotel and Convention Center.

The RMGCSA Conference Committee does a phenomenal job of getting speakers to commit, growing the attendance, and the overall organization of a very successful event. Over just the past few years, we have had great speakers with a range of topics such as Dr. Koch teaching fundamentals of Snow Mold to the Cunninghams giving an impressive presentation regarding employee retention. The level of education that is received is comparable to the national conference. Dr. Koch last year also acknowledged the amount of participation and attendance for our association.

The Annual Conference is also a chance for the attendees to meet with many of the Affiliate Members of the association. They have tables set up both inside and outside the conference room to meet with vendors and talk about products they offer. It's a great opportunity for vendors to have 250+ members in one setting that they can meet with.

Maybe the best reason to attend the conference is the networking and camaraderie between everyone in the industry. It's a great local event to get caught up with our peers who maintain properties local to us and we can share experiences from the last season with each other. Everyone is able to discuss and share with each other what challenges they had, what successes they had, and other stories from the season.

Of course, there is the Corn Hole tournament that is held every year on the evening of the first day of the conference. Please, we need to get some attendees to this conference to dethrone the perennial champs. So start practicing now!

Make sure you get on the RMGCSA Website or check for an email to sign up right away before it is sold out.



Redstone Golf Services

Course Renovation - Construction Management

With decades of experience in golf course services both nationally and internationally, Jay's legacy lives on through Redstone. Our company builds upon his expertise with a robust network of partnerships, design professionals, water conditioning specialists, and system consultants, ensuring top-tier service and innovation in the golf industry.



*In honor of
Our Founder*
JAY BENSON
OCTOBER 27, 1956
NOVEMBER 2, 2024

Contact Redstone for all your Golf Service Needs
info@redstoneinc.co



Rocky Mountain Chapter
GCSAA

2025

**Annual
Conference**

Attendee
Prospectus

SPONSORED BY: **LL JOHNSON** EST. 1976
DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

DENVER MARRIOTT WEST
1717 Denver West Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401

NOVEMBER 16-18 2025

[EVENT LINK >>](#)

Background photo of The Club at Rolling Hills

Affiliate Angle

Overview: An interview with Steve Fausset from Golf Sales Manager, CPS Distributors



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

CPS Distributors has a long-standing presence in the irrigation and landscape industry, dating back to 1890. We've proudly partnered with the RMGCSA since acquiring the Rain Bird Golf product line, and our shared mission is simple: to support superintendents and turf professionals with top-tier service, expertise, and solutions. With over 20 locations throughout the Front Range – and two new branches focused on hardscapes, aggregates, and landscape materials – we're committed to being a resource year-round. We also offer robust winter training programs and maintain a strong presence at major trade shows. Supporting the RMGCSA is an extension of our dedication to the industry and the professionals who keep it thriving.

Affiliate Angle

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

I'm proud to serve as the Golf Sales Manager at CPS Distributors. I stepped into this role in March, following over seven years with the company-five of which I spent as Branch Manager for the golf division. My career in turf and irrigation began long before CPS, though, during a ten-year tenure as an irrigation technician at Hyland Hills Golf Course, where I worked for both the parks department and the course itself.

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

On a personal note, my wife Sarah and I recently celebrated our 10th anniversary. We're both Colorado natives and proud parents of two wonderful daughters, ages 6 and 9. When I'm not working or with my family, you can often find me on the golf course—I've been an active member of my men's club for over 16 years.

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

Originally from Colorado, I attended Hastings College in Nebraska on a soccer scholarship. During my college summers, I worked seasonally for the parks department, which sparked a lifelong connection to the green industry. After graduating, I accepted a full-time role at the golf course. I quickly grew to love the comradery of the crew, the hands-on work, and the growing intricacies of golf course maintenance. That experience deepened my appreciation for the game of golf and the environments it's played in.



Nutrien

Nutrien Solutions is redefining what is possible for Turf Managers by investing more than ever in our ability to deliver real solutions for tomorrow ahead of the challenges faced today.

Loveland PRODUCTS

Signature brand fertilizer

Robert Gonzales
970-301-0832
Robert.Gonzales@Nutrien.com



ENHANCE YOUR SPRAY GAME.

Frost Inc.

Kubota RTV-X1130+ Ninja GPS

www.FrostServ.com

Equipment Manager Spotlight

Overview: An interview with Scott Bullock from Lake Arbor Golf Course



Describe Myself:

My name is Scott Bullock. I received my AAS from Western Texas College in 1994 I moved to Colorado in 2000 from Texas. I have been in just about every role in this industry from intern to Superintendent.

How many years have you been turning wrenches and what was the first piece of equipment you ever worked on?

The first piece of equipment I worked on was a Jacobsen GK4 (nothing like changing a steering cable on that jewel).

How many years have you been in the golf industry?

This is my 31st year in the turf industry.

What's one piece of equipment that has been what you would call a monumental innovation to golf course maintenance?

The advancement of computers in everything from the mowers to irrigation systems.

Equipment Manager Spotlight

If you could give one piece of advice to someone interested in a career in this aspect of the golf maintenance industry, what would it be?

Never stop learning! New technologies seem to come out almost every day. Always smile while working no matter what the problem is.

Energy drink or coffee?

Coffee and Diet Coke!!!!

What tool is absolutely essential for every golf course mechanic?

Knowledge and patience are invaluable tools. Being willing to learn. If you can't figure it out do not be afraid to ask and learn. With that being said I can't seem to live without my 5/8" ratchet wrench.

Do you spin or relief grind, or backlap? Spin grind

Lease or own? We own our equipment.

What is your favorite turf equipment piece of all time? I'd have to say say the Jacobsen GK5.

performancepack
Way beyond fertilizer.

Proven **Performance. Elite Results.**
Painstakingly formulated to deliver impactful, eye-popping results, PerformancePack® specialty turf and horticulture products are simply in a class by themselves.

Your experienced PerformancePack® advisors

Jason Aerni
(970) 231-5632
jason.aerni@simplot.com

Mike Melka
(720) 708-7857
mike.melka@simplot.com

Visit TH.simplot.com and follow us @[SimplotTurf](https://twitter.com/SimplotTurf) on X.

Simplot.
TURF & HORTICULTURE

©2015 Simplot AB Retail, Inc. All rights reserved. The foregoing marks are owned by the I.R. Simplot Company. Always read and follow label directions. Confirm registration prior to sale or use.

Where I've Been; What I've Seen

Submitted by Joe Kunze RMGCSA Vice President – provided by Jim Wilkins CGCS, RMGCSA President 2000 – from Ted Rupel, RMGCSA President 1957

Last fall in 1997, before the big October snowstorm, my wife and I were playing a very pleasant game of golf on the beautifully maintained Valley Country Club with John Hoofnagle and Bill Barr. In our swapping of stories during this round, John asked me, “Why not write up some of these stories so other Golf Course Superintendents can read them in our publication, The Reporter?”

Where I've Been

Ever since I stopped being directly responsible for golf course maintenance 30 years ago, I have traveled extensively observing and playing golf courses. Courses observed but not played were in Europe, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii, plus many in the USA and a few in Mexico. Courses I have played were many in the USA and a few in Ireland, The Carribean, Canada, Mexico and Hawaii. These experiences have shown me courses of world class to courses a little better than a cow pasture. The quality of the course as it has always been, a matter of what the owners wanted to put into a Golf Course Superintendent and support.

What I've Seen

My experiences have shown me the major effort on the great golf courses goes into the greens. More money per square foot is put into greens in machinery, tools, fertilizer, chemicals, water and man hours than any other area on the golf course for maintenance. That's why a course with great greens will cover for mistakes made on other parts of the course. Great greens are expensive, but the golfer will forgive the cost if they are maintained well.

Once the winter is over and spring is upon us, the Golf Course Superintendent will make decisions that may affect the course for the entire golf season. After the frost had gone out of the greens, but before the start of new growth, one of the first things many superintendents and I did was to put a steel brush on a greens mower and mow the greens as close as possible in four different directions.

Where I've Been; What I've Seen

This removed most of the dead grass blades and sets the new growth up to grow upright, thus avoiding lateral growing and controlling grain, thatch and mat.

I don't see this done anymore and superintendents tell me they control grain, thatch and mat by using the dethatcher attachments on greens mowers throughout the growing season. I still think this is a good maintenance practice because I putt a lot of grainy and thatchy greens.

The next observations I make is that in early April, the superintendents are anxious to get to green aerifying. To me, early April aerifying of greens negates the purpose of aerifying. Why? When greens freeze and then thaw, there is a natural aerification. The soil pores are opened by this natural act which accommodates infiltration of air and water. This natural aerification lasts four to six weeks and if possible should be utilized by the superintendent to an advantage. If possible, wait until the grass is growing good to aerify, the holes will heal faster and the golfer is much happier.

One of the deficiencies I see after aerification is the failure to fill the holes with top dressing. Some holes are still not grown shut after one month. The golfers I play with after ask me why the holes are not filled, especially after they miss a putt. Over 30 years ago, I took care of hole filling by using a Gravely tractor with a 45 degree rotary brush of nylon and power swept the holes full. This ended the golfer complaints. The greens were as smooth as a pool table. The golfers never dreaded the spring and fall aerifying after the adaptation of power brushing greens to fill the holes full of topdressing.

	<i>Over 39 Years of Service</i> Golf Irrigation Products 303-320-1270 800-793-1270		
	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		 Count on it!	



THAD LAYTON DESIGN

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT, ASGCA
 THAD@THADLAYTONDESIGN.COM
 (720) 460- 6182

NEW DESIGN + REMODEL+ RESTORATION

Brian McBride
mhtgrass@gmail.com
720.988.0969



Sam Pendleton
samppmt@gmail.com
720.879.4765

MHT
MILE HIGH TURFGRASS

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR AGRONOMIC CHALLENGES

DISTRIBUTORS OF



Rooted in Science United Turf Alliance

www.MileHighTurfGrass.com

Tim Klein
Territory Manager
Professional Solutions




Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC Mobile 720-480-8484
1191 Carl Drive Customer Service
Tioga 866-796-4368
TX 76271


tim.klein@syngenta.com
www.syngenta.com



RMGCSA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CHALLENGE FINALS

[Register Now](#) 


Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel



Rocky Mountain Chapter
GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Location: Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel

(1) Individual Stroke Play for Class Trophies Class A/B Gross and Net, Class C Net, Class AF Net OR (2) 2 player scramble this year. You can bring your own partner, or we can pair you at the event (pairing of singles for Scramble is not guaranteed). Registration Deadline: October 7th, 2025.

Sponsored by


October 14th, 2025 | 08:30AM Shotgun Start

Assistant Spotlight

Overview: An Interview with Jake Bernau at TPC Colorado

Describe your Facility?

In describing our facility, we are a Scottish links style course that has T-1 bent grass greens and V-8 bent grass approaches. Our fairways, tees, and rough are a combination of Kentucky bluegrass and rye grass. Our Native is a blend of fine fescue, brome grass and other native prairie grasses. This provides a true tournament experience. Our goal is to deliver the best golf course conditions possible for the everyday player and professional.

What Makes Your Facility Unique?

Personally, I think what makes TPC Colorado unique is our dedication to the course conditions and our location. We have been fortunate to be proud recipients of several awards and recognitions. These include Tournament of the Year in 2021, as well as in 2023, along with Operation of the Year in 2023. We are also members of the Audubon International, with an extensive list of wildlife on property. Sitting at the base of the Rocky Mountains has its perks. We are blessed with first-class views of the mountains and everyday sunsets which allow for an exceptional social experience for any patron that comes through our door.

What is the biggest challenge at your facility?

Every great place comes with great challenges. Since our layout is so exposed, I feel our biggest challenge is our high winds and intense sun exposure resulting in altering moisture levels in our turf due to intense sunlight, and unwanted sand removal from our bunkers due to high winds.

What do you like about your team at your facility?

Not only in our obvious daily operational challenges, but with all the challenges that our course presents to us, our staff executes consistent hard work which leads to success day after day. That is one thing I value most about our team here at TPC Colorado.

What are you getting right at your facility?

Our irrigation system was a challenge to dial in but after diving down the rabbit hole and accomplishing multiple extensive irrigation audits, we have succeeded in the reclamation of 10-15% of our water. Executing consistent hard work leads to success!

Assistant Spotlight

What's your favorite hole on your course to play?

One of my favorite holes to play on our facility would have to be our signature hole, Number 16. It attracts my attention with its elevation change and a spectacular view of the mountains.

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

When I'm not working, I'm usually spending my free time enjoying the outdoors, going hunting, and fishing. Being a Colorado native I also enjoy attending football and baseball games of the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Rockies.

What's your favorite tool in your cart?

When I'm working, my favorite tool to have in my cart would have to be our Director of Pest Management (DPM) (Bode). He is a 3-year-old chocolate lab. One of the best multi tools to have!

Favorite sports team?

Being a Colorado native I must stay true to my roots. Go Broncos!



Huge Thanks to Our Amazing 2025 Sponsors

TITANIUM PARTNERS (\$5,000+)



GOLD PARTNERS (\$3,000 - \$3,999)



SILVER PARTNERS (\$2,000 - \$2,999)



BRONZE PARTNERS (\$1,000 - \$1,999)



Supporting the organization and those businesses that support us.

Please consider our sponsors when making purchasing decisions. These industry partners are dedicated to helping you run successful operations and be profitable businesses.

Upcoming Events



CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CHALLENGE FINALS

October 14, 2025
Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel

BEST TOURNAMENT EVER - SOLD OUT

September 30, 2025
Sanctuary Golf Course

FALL PESTICIDE WORKSHOP

October 23, 2025
Online

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 17-18, 2025
Denver Marriott West

HOSPITALITY 2026

February 4, 2026
Orlando, FL

Stay Connected!



[Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association](#)



[rockymountaingcsa](#)



303-255-9611



info@rmgcsa.org



[RMGCSA \(X / Twitter\)](#)

Become a 2025
RMGCSA Industry
Partner! See our Industry
Partnership
Opportunities.