



Photo Courtesy: Allen Kennedy, Keystone Ranch

In This Issue ...

President's Message, Pages 2-3

Big Win at the State Capital, Pages 4-5

Upcoming Events, Page 6

Directors Corner, Page 7

Assistant Spotlight, Page 9

Affiliate Angle, Page 11

Superintendent Spotlight, Page 13

Golf Day at the Capital, Page 15

Industry Partners, Pages 18-19

President's Message

by Paul Sibley, Superintendent, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve



With summer right around the corner, June 21st to be exact, I sit here recollecting on how slow the spring warm up has been going. Stressing about when the turf will actually start to “pop” with tournaments right around the corner and hoping the seed that was put in the ground will germinate and survive the onslaught of cart traffic and heat that is imminently on the way. Looking into the future I am confident that it will all turn out as it always does... just fine. I know when I dive into this issue in a few weeks I will look back and be proud of how we

persevered through this crazy winter/spring and it all is accredited to each of our individual staff's hard work and dedication. I can say that the agronomy staff at Walnut Creek Golf Preserve has been killing it (kudos to you all and thanks for all the hard work) and I am confident you are in the same boat as I.

National Golf Day will be held May 10th – 11th virtually. This day recognizes golf's \$84 billion impact on the national economy as well as the environmental and fitness benefits. The “Colorado Golf Day at the Capital” was held on April 12th and attended by representatives from the RMGCSA, CGA, and PGA Section of Colorado. It was inspiring to see our state leaders stop by and visit to learn about what each organization does to make this industry great. It's truly a team effort by all. I want to thank those who attended to represent the RMGCSA: IMI Group, Mitch Savage (Common Ground), Aaron Fankhauser (The Club at Rolling Hills), Jennifer Cassell (Bowditch & Cassell), Dave Phipps (GCSAA) and Michael Lee (GCSAA). All attendees were invited into the Senate chambers to be officially recognized for the economic impact our industry has in Colorado.

As we finalized Golf Day at the Capital, discussions were being had on the topic of Facility BMP's. State BMP plans have been a large topic over the past few years and after all 50 states have submitted plans the focus has been turned to each facility creating a site-specific BMP plan. Originally this seemed like a daunting task to me but as I found out it was incredibly easy to get started. Dave Phipps (GCSAA) spent some quality time with myself, Tim Davis (Legacy Ridge Golf Course), and Mitch Savage (Common Ground Golf Course) to run through the process of getting our individual plan completed. As Dave worked us through the process it became clear that the GCSAA has made this SUPER easy to get a working document for you to create for your facility. The bulk of the work has been done for us all through the adoption of the state plan to which you can adjust verbiage to fit your individual facilities management strategies. Keep in mind that this is a WORKING document that will evolve over the course of your tenure and beyond to solidify what we as

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President's Message Continued

Superintendents have a passion for. I urge all of you to start and or complete your facility BMP plans as it only takes about 1.5 to 2 hours of time. I would also encourage you to reach out to Dave Phipps (dphipps@gcsaa.org) with questions and or help with getting your plans completed. You can also reach out to Marty, Tim or myself to help you along in the process. Again, I cannot stress how simple the process was and our goal as Board of Directors is to assist you all in getting plans completed at your facility.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has donated to Rounds4Research weather through rounds of golf or monetary donations. This is one of the most important, if not the most, fundraisers of the year. Monies collected go directly to the RMEGI foundation to help fund research and education in the advancement of our industry. For those of you who were unable to donate this year, I urge you to find a way in the future to help support what we all have a passion for by contributing to the sustainability of our industry.

Best Regards and I wish you all good luck in the upcoming season.

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Big Win at State Capitol

by Mitch Savage, Superintendent, CommonGround Golf Course

On March 3rd, representatives from RMGCSA attended a Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee meeting at the Colorado State Capitol to testify in opposition of a bill that had been introduced and had the potential to negatively impact golf course management and other professions that rely on safe pesticide use in the state of Colorado. Golf course superintendents Paul Sibley (Walnut Creek Golf Preserve), Jeff Wichman (Patty Jewett Golf Course), Kevin Kallas (Saddle Rock Golf Course), Steve Sarro (Pinehurst Country Club), and Mitch Savage (CommonGround Golf Course) joined forces with members of the CRPA (Coloradans for Responsible Pesticide Application), the Colorado Golf Coalition, and many other concerned citizens from agriculture, home lawn care, aerial application, and structural pest management to provide testimony against Senate Bill 22-131.

The bill had five major components. First, a pollinator health study in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources. Second, a ban on pesticide uses on school grounds. Third, a voluntary incentive grant program for the use of non-coated seeds. In agriculture, some farmers and ranchers use neonicotinoid coated seeds during planting. This component of the bill would have incentivized these individuals to use non-coated seeds. The fourth component of the bill was to make all neonicotinoids Restricted Use Pesticides. Golf was exempt from the neonic section. Even if golf wouldn't have had the exemption, superintendents who are licensed pesticide applicators would still have been able to purchase and use these pesticides. The fifth component, which was the most contentious portion of the bill, was the removal of state preemption laws that place the authority associated with pesticide regulation in the hands of the State of Colorado and the Department of Agriculture. The rollback of preemption laws would allow individual municipalities to enact their own pesticide ordinances. Those who oppose the removal of these preemption laws argue that the system that is currently in place, in which the Department of Agriculture regulates pesticides, creates the most consistency and least amount of confusion regarding compliance for licensed professionals making pesticide applications. Despite attempts by stakeholders to negotiate the removal of the preemption component, the bill sponsors chose to keep it in the bill. Like its coalition partners, RMGCSA was forced to oppose the bill due to the preemption component.

The testimony provided on behalf of RMGCSA and the CO Golf Coalition focused on environmental stewardship efforts, pollinator protection, integrated pest management (IPM), best management practice (BMP) development and implementation, economic and environmental impact of golf in Colorado, and our industry's need for state preemption. After approximately seven hours of testimony from more than seventy individuals, the seven-person committee killed the bill by a 6-1 vote. RMGCSA would like to extend a special thank you to all superintendents and individuals who contacted the legislators on the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee to express their concerns regarding the bill and helping to educate our policymakers. Every email and phone call made a difference in defeating this bill.

In her closing remarks, Senator Rhonda Fields made the following comments: "My understanding, having talked to the ag community and those who run golf courses, that the preemption piece would be out (of the bill), and that would move them to a neutral position. And when they came to testify – and I felt like their testimony was very compelling, and it was very strong – they were not in a neutral position. They still oppose the bill. And so, I must respect the voices of people who are in the



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Big Win at State Capitol Continued

trenches doing this work. It's not easy work that has to be done. It's hard work. It's complicated work. And there is not a lot of clarity as we try to be haste. I feel like we are rushing. I just think it's very muddy. I don't think this is the right way to do complicated bills. I don't think we have the ag community. Am I just supposed to disregard them? I guess I'm saying I'm a no. I hate to be a no, but at this point I cannot support this piece of legislation due to some strong testimony I've heard today from a variety of different people. I'm very sorry (to the bill sponsor). I really wanted to be a yes, but I'm compelled to be on the (side of the) voices I heard today, strong voices, as it related to the impact on the work that they do. The approach we are taking tonight is the wrong approach. I'm a no."

Members of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee include:

- Chair: Sen. Kerry Donovan (D) – District 5
- Vice Chair: Sen. Sonya Jaquez Lewis (D) – District 17
- Sen. Don Coram (R) – District 6
- Sen. Rhonda Fields (D) – District 29
- Sen. Nick Hinrichsen (D) – District 3
- Sen. Cleave Simpson (R) – District 35
- Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg (R) – District 1



Upcoming Events

The ASSISTANT'S OUTING

JUNE 8, 2022
at the



Memorial Tournament 2022

Walnut Creek Golf Preserve
June 14, 2022



Western Slope Outing 2022

The Bridges Golf & Country Club
May 2, 2022

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Director's Corner

by Griff Rainford, Superintendent, Highland Meadows Golf Course

The golf industry is experiencing a boom and courses are busier than ever. With all this interest comes competition for tee times, increased wear and tear, and on top of that prices for inputs and wages are climbing, making life as a golf course employee more strenuous. Meanwhile the Rocky Mountain Chapter of GCSAA is experiencing a decline in membership numbers from almost all categories, class A, C, D, EM, and AF. I may be delivering this message to the wrong group of people, because the Reporter is provided to members of the association, and individuals that have chosen to either not renew or not join the Rocky Mountain chapter will not see this. I hope that all association members that network and interact with peers in the industry, who are not members, will help deliver the message of how important this association is and that we grow stronger and can provide more value with more members.

A primary example of strength and value, not only for all our members but all of golf is the testimony that was provided on March 3rd by RMGCSA Executive Committee members, Paul Sibley, Kevin Kallas, and Jeff Wichman as well as your Government and Legislation Committee Chair, Mitch Savage. These gentlemen appeared before the Senate Ag Committee and advocated for your industry to prevent bad legislation from impacting your profession and the entire golf business. Going forward the Government and Legislation Committee will continue to be a critical part of association business, strength, and value for its members.

Another example of strength and value is the RMGCSA Annual Conference that has grown over the last few years to be an event not to miss. With more members and more attendance comes more resources and opportunity to provide presentations and speakers from a larger pool. Steve Sarro has taken the lead on the conference and our board and association members owe him a very big thank you for developing this event and delivering a strong and valuable opportunity for RMGCSA members to learn and grow in the industry.

The association also continues to improve educational and networking opportunities for its members as well. While all of us are busier than ever trying to keep up with the demands from our facilities and customers it is important to offer outings that can provide not only education but networking and enjoyment away from work. Aaron Fankhauser, the Education Chairman, and his committee continue to innovate new opportunities for education. Developing online content like the pesticide workshops, that are available for members, as well as education and networking events that are not tied to the golf outings are a great value and will strengthen the association.

As the current Golf Committee chair, I have been working with my committee, Superintendents, and their facilities to offer golf outings for RMGCSA members to enjoy a day away from their courses. These efforts have been a challenge due to the previously mentioned boom and increased demand for tee times. Facilities are looking to charge more for events and when prices start to climb attendance from members typically declines. RMGCSA is working to build stronger relationships with the allied associations in golf to facilitate more valuable opportunities for members to enjoy affordable golf outings throughout the state.

In closing I would like to challenge all members of RMGCSA to advocate to your peers, that are not members of RMGCSA, of the importance of membership in the RMGCSA and the strength and value that comes along with growing our association. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of GCSAA continues to be one of the strongest chapters in the country and we need to grow our membership to increase our strength and value.

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Assistant Spotlight

by Cory Kachel, Assistant Superintendent, RainDance National Golf Course



RainDance National Golf Course located in Windsor, CO will open in July 2022. RainDance is a high plains links style golf course designed by PGA Tour Champion, Fred Funk, with views of an open valley to the northeast, and Colorado peaks to the west.

What makes your facility unique?

At 8,466 yards from the longest tees, RainDance is going to be the longest golf course in North America.

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

Wind

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

I got started 7 years ago working at Ptarmigan Country Club.

What's the most rewarding part of being an assistant for you?

The most rewarding part of being an assistant for me, is getting to train new employees. Not only on how to do a job, but why that job is important. Then at the end of the day, getting to see all of the hard work from the crew pay off to create a beautiful golf course.

What's your favorite tool in your cart?

Leatherman

Shorts or Pants?

Shorts

Favorite sports team?

Avalanche

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

When I'm not at work, I like to go fishing and hunting.

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Affiliate Angle

by Jeff Franch, Area Manager Specialties, Van Diest Supply Company



What is your current affiliate Company and your position?

Van Diest Supply Company/ Area Manager Specialties. Started January 1 2022

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

Live in Broomfield and cover all of Colorado and Northern New Mexico.

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

We take pride in providing quality service and products to everyone in the turf, agriculture, aquatics and vegetation management industries.

What might we be surprised to know about your company?

Van Diest is a family owned and operated company since 1956 out of Webster City Iowa. There are currently 3 generations actively involved in the day-to-day operations. Van Diest has 4 strategically located warehouses that service all of Colorado.

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

Fort Hays State University/ Physical education/recreation.

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

Started seasonal work in college at a GC in Kansas. Worked my way up from seasonal to superintendent at various courses until 2017. Spent 2 years working in golf construction including spending time at Augusta National. The peacefulness of early mornings (before golfers) and the satisfaction gained from a beautiful finished product.

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

Tara Franch (married 5 years, golf irrigation inside sales and estimator LL Johnson). Two daughters Jillian and Jeina. Jillian is married has her master's degree and works in Lawrence Kansas. Jeina is engaged also has her master's degree and works in Kansas City Kansas. One step son Jake just completed his environmental engineering degree at Montana State. Works as a graduate engineer at Ulteig Engineers Inc. We enjoy camping, fishing, bowling and golf. Also enjoy attending Broncos games (when they win) and just hanging out with family and friends

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

My first job on a golf course was aerification. I shoveled the sand onto the green then put the metal drag around my waist and walked around the green to drag in the sand. As you can imagine I have seen a lot of changes. The biggest changes are probably bunker liners and irrigation technology.

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

Yes, I attend RMGCSA meetings and events and plan on attending more this year. The knowledge and networking are invaluable.

What would you like other people to know about RMGCSA? How much professionalism superintendents and their staff have.

You know a lot of people in our industry. What are they saying are the biggest obstacles to overcome for them to be successful? Labor and budget restrictions

You get to see many facilities and properties. What is the most interesting new or innovative practice you have seen?

The many different ways golf courses get water on the course when the system is blown out.



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- If your GHIN was bought elsewhere before, you will need to switch your GHIN number from your current handicap club to the RMGCSA Gold League by contacting Daniel Robbins at [drobbins@ptarmigancc.com](mailto:d Robbins@ptarmigancc.com)

*Note: You will not be considered "Activated" in the system until you have paid. If you already have a GHIN number, please provide it to us so we may update your information in the RMGCSA database.



Superintendent Spotlight

by Anne Paulisich, Superintendent, Keystone Ranch Golf Course



Keystone Ranch Golf Course, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. is a historic mountain valley course that winds through lodepole pines, around sage meadows and across a nine-acre lake. The course sits on historic ranching land that housed multiple homesteads in the 1900s. Many of the outbuildings remain on the golf course today. The golf course has four sets of tees which range from 5,582 to 7090 yards.

The Ranch Golf Course holds a very special place in my heart. I have been working here since 2005. I have been in the industry since 1990 when I started working at the local golf course right across the street from my home. It was my first job in high school and summers were amazing hanging out with the crew. When I thought to myself what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, the answer was easy. I want to mow greens! My mentor at the time was a Penn State Turf School grad and he helped me get set up for a career as a superintendent. I went to business school for a B.S. in Business Management and then off to Penn State for my Turf Certificate.

The team aspect of this industry has always been the most rewarding aspect of this job. I am very fortunate to have found a family and home with my team at Keystone Ranch. We have a very tight knit group that works year round at the golf course. My Director of Golf,

Phil Tobias, is my mentor. I am very lucky to have someone by my side who supports me as much as he does. We laugh at our mistakes and relish the successes as we grow golf in Summit County. Last year was the most successful team I have ever had the opportunity to work with. We do not have many people who return for more than one season so we rebuild every year. It was very rewarding to watch the staff come together last year and flow together to open the golf course within a couple of weeks of the season.

I have worked at several golf courses throughout my career including Oakmont GC, PA, TPC Summerlin, NV, and Resort at the Mountain, OR. The Ranch is a very unique facility to manage. The golf course can hold snow from October thru May. We often only have two or three weeks to get it cleaned up, aerified, staff trained, and irrigation fired up. It is nonstop for four months. Then we close and have a couple weeks to spray snow mold, finish up irrigation projects and close it down.

As far as getting into the business, I would encourage finding a golf course that will give you the opportunity to learn. It can be an intense work environment as our decisions impact a living little turf plant that can be very fragile. I have killed grass many times and it is hard to see it dead and say now I have to bring it back. But these failures help me grow more than my successes. Do not be afraid to speak up and try new things. Funny thing is it always grows back!

I have done many stupid things, but the one that really sticks with me involves Round Up. I asked an employee to spray the grass and weeds along the cart paths. I pictured this person spraying the grass in the asphalt cracks. It happened to be my Friday and while I was playing golf I noticed brown spots in tee and green surrounds. I saw the employee and asked how many tanks did you get out yesterday. He was proud and said boss I got ALL THE WEEDS five tanks! Well he did not know Round Up killed grass along with the weeds he sprayed and we had brown dead spots everywhere on the golf course!!! Some of the spots are still struggling to grow back three years later! I now write on the container, KILLS GRASS!

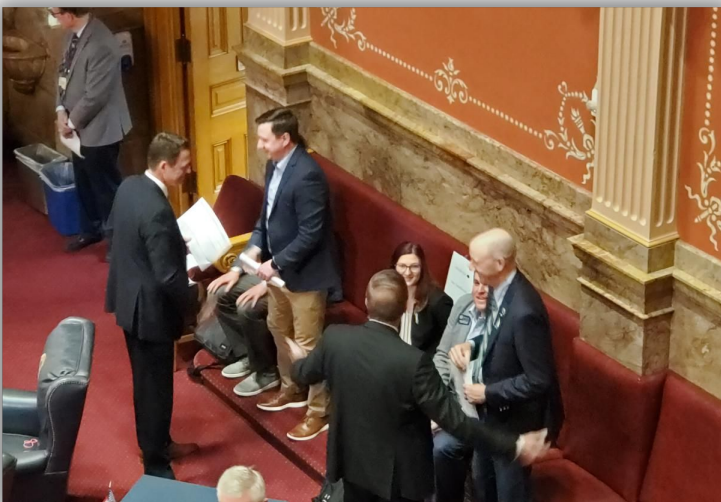
When I am not working I play and hang out with my dog Viper. We ski over 150 days a year, mountain bike, hike, wakeboard/wakesurf, dirt bike, and enjoy life in Summit County. My favorite tool in my cart is my linoleum knife to edge things. It cleans up sprinklers, opens fertilizer bags and details whatever else I need to do. Pants most days as I find myself in a hole almost once a day fixing something.

Golf Day At The Capital

by Aaron Fankhauser, Superintendent, The Club at Rolling Hills

Golf Day at The Capital was finally held again on April 12, 2022. The members of the Golf Coalition were on hand to meet with state representatives and senators to discuss latest trends and impacts of the golf industry in Colorado. These representatives were able to visit booths setup by the Colorado Golf Association, the PGA of Colorado, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association. Board members and representatives from these associations were on hand to meet with representatives and answer questions. All told, 13 State Representatives and 7 Senators stopped by the booths prior to taking the floor.

Four members of the Golf Coalition were invited to the floor and remaining attendees were invited to view from the gallery. The Coalition was recognized by the Senate and a reading took place that highlighted the many positive environmental and economic impacts that golf provides for the state of Colorado. There was an ovation from the Senators following the reading. Thank you to Michael Lee and David Phipps from the GCSAA for making the trip this year. Thank you to Jennifer Cassell for helping make this a success and thank you all that attended from the Golf Coalition and our Board of Directors to continue to advocate for Golf and Turf care across Colorado!



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Calendar of Events...

June 8, 2022	Assistants Meeting and Championship -Broadlands Golf Course
June 14, 2022	Memorial Tournament - Walnut Creek Golf Preserve
August 16, 2022	Affiliate Cup - Granby Ranch
October 10, 2022	Best Tournament Ever - Colorado Springs Country Club
October 20, 2022	RMGCSA Pesticide Training Class
November 2-3, 2022	RMGCSA Annual 2022 Conference - Denver Marriot West Golden, CO



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