



Photo Courtesy of: The Club At Rolling Hills

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President's Message

by Kyle Merritt Superintendent, Eaton Country Club Spa, Resort & Casino



You can feel the changes in the air every morning and it feels great! The other morning I almost had to put a beanie on, but I think we are still a few weeks away from full stocking cap and hoodie season. The grind of the summer is still stinging as the seasons seem to get a little longer each year, which is ok because fall golf is by far the best time to play. I think most Colorado Superintendents can't wait to get to this time of year and it is always a success when we all do. But it is important to look back and think about all the people that have helped you through the tough Colorado summer on a golf course. I definitely have to thank my patient wife, Melissa, as she puts up with my constant whining, sleepy

evenings, and the excessive 4 AM snooze buttons. I also have to thank my peer support group that has grown since serving on the board. It is amazing how helpful it is to have peers you can call to lend an ear or help give advice to one of the many problems on my golf course.

It's always important to remember we are not doing this alone and we can't do it alone. The Annual Affiliate Cup at Pole Creek in August reminded me of just that. It was amazing to watch everyone mingling beforehand and to feel the energy everyone had. It's a great time for us to celebrate our victories and to share our horror stories from this season. We do all of this with a smile on our face and laughing about it, maybe even laughing about our struggles for the first time. It's great therapy to talk with a peer that understands just how hard it is to get through. Personally, I returned to work with renewed energy and a new sense of purpose that will help me finish the season strong. The golf course maintenance family is truly a joy to watch and be part of!

We face a lot of peaks and valleys each season from the highs of spring, to the lows of the dog days of summer, back to the highs in fall as we know the season is coming to an end. This all speaks to the resiliency we have in this profession and the support we have all built around us to power through the season. Events such as the Affiliate Cup are not only an excuse to play golf on a beautiful course, but also a tool to help us heal and re-energize. We have a few more events still to come this season:

- The September Challenge on September 27th at The Club at Rolling Hills, is an individual stroke play event with a 2-man blind draw to determine the winners. Remember if you have qualified with a closest to the pin throughout the season you are qualified to compete in the Challenge after the event. This is also very entertaining to watch even if you did not qualify!
- The Best Tournament Ever on October 11th at Ptarmigan CC, is a three person scramble using the stableford scoring system. One RMGCSA Member is required as team captain with two guests. This is a great event to bring your staff members or other people involved with your course or business to, it is also family friendly. Costumes are highly encouraged, so get creative!
- The Annual Conference held on November 2nd-3rd. Make sure you register and plan for your hotel accommodations soon. There is a full agenda on the RMGCSA website, check it out and make your plans!

I look forward to seeing everyone at these events and as always please feel free to reach out to myself or any other board member if you have any questions or want help getting involved in the RMGCSA.

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Director's Corner

by Jeff Wichman, Superintendent, Patty Jewett Golf Course



A Cat Named "Walter"

I was watching the summer Olympics, last week, and saw one of the cleverest commercials from Chevrolet trucks. There was a cat named "Walter" that acted just like a dog. Walter hung out with his human friend- duck hunting, chasing cattle, and fetching sticks out of a lake. The human friend commented to an observer, "He is just a cat." The commercial made me smile because it reminded me of my family's newest addition, Guinness, a black Labrador.

During March of 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our family decided to add one more dog to our pack of two Yorkie-poos. My first thought was to head down to the local humane society and rescue a dog. Apparently, everybody in America had this great idea because there were no dogs available for adoption. I was completely shocked, standing outside the humane society office. I should have asked them if they had a cat named "Walter" available.

So, I then looked on Craigslist, and the first post I saw was for black lab puppies, \$500 each and located in Pueblo, CO. I called the number on the ad and headed, south, to Pueblo. We were one of the first to arrive and had our choice of 11 black lab puppies. The mom was a chocolate lab and the dad was a yellow lab. Both parents were on site, at the farm, which was a bonus. The owner had placed the females in one pen and the males in another pen. We wanted a female, so I picked up a couple puppies, and I choose, what I thought was the biggest. We paid, the gentlemen his money and hit the road.

I wanted to be fully committed to training her, so I bought the best hunting dog book on the market, Retriever Training by Tom Dokken. My grand plan was to train Guinness to chase geese, flush pheasants, and NOT chase deer. We live in Woodland Park, with no fenced in yards, and the deer population is out of control. The first six months of her life, the two of us were inseparable. We truly have an incredible bond between owner and animal. She has also made a big impact on my co-workers, the (now not grumpy) golfers, and of course, her family. One of my favorite things that we shared on the golf course, was me driving in the work truck watching her run in the snow.

In my opinion, if you are debating getting a dog for your home, or golf course, make sure you have time to dedicate to training so that the dog can be just like a cat named, Walter.

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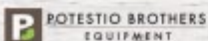
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Assistant Spotlight

by Jesse Mondragon, Assistant Superintendent, The Club at Rolling Hills



Describe Your Facility

The Club at Rolling Hills is a 165 acre, private 18 hole course located at the base of South Table Mesa in Golden, Colorado. Our agronomy team maintains 135 of those acres with 6 acres of greens/approaches, 4 acres of tees, 30 acres of fairway, and 95 acres of rough and lake area. We have 5 lakes on property and a large irrigation ditch that runs the throughout the course. The course started out with very little trees when it opened in the late 60's and now has over 2,000 spread throughout. Breathtaking views and scenery are abundant from every corner and we have many frequent wildlife visitors from elk, deer, coyotes, owls, hawks, and eagles.

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

The biggest challenge we face is controlling the massive number of elk that make their way through the course daily. Their immense weight and blunt hooves cause unsightly damage to the playing surfaces. We have taken mitigation steps to keep them from walking over the greens throughout winter. Early results are encouraging!

What are you getting right at your facility?

There is a lot we are getting right with our program. Most exciting for me, is our reconfigured aerification practices throughout the growing season. We have moved away from the traditional practices of "coring" while achieving optimal green speeds and health with minimal mowing stress.

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

2021 is my 11th year in golf. I started at a busy 36 hole municipal course in Lakewood, CO.

What do you like about your team?

We have an extremely well rounded group who is always there to pick each other up & motivate the team when needed. Everyone brings something unique and crucial to the table. We also have one of the best leaders and captains in the business.

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

#11 is my favorite. It has one of our signature features, a cascading waterfall behind the tee boxes. The second shot setup is picturesque below the mesa.

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

When I'm not at work, I am fully immersed in my family. I have 2 boys with my fiancé and they love to rough house and play sports. I am a bowler, so I try to squeeze in a night of league every week, in search of that perfect game (279 is my best game).

Pants or shorts?

Definitely a pants guy while at work, but love shorts in my free time!

Favorite sports team?

All Colorado teams

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Superintendent Spotlight

by Jack Robbins, Superintendent, Pinehurst Country Club



Describe Your Facility

Pinehurst Country Club is a member owned 27-hole facility in Denver, Colorado designed by Press Maxwell and opened in 1959. Our club has a large membership totaling 850 members with 450 of those full golfing members. As with most clubs in the area our membership is full and we are as busy as ever. On top of golf we continue to add projects and amenities to our facility with 16 tennis courts and 4 new pickleball courts incoming.

What do you like about your team at your facility?

I have an amazing senior team who have been on property for many years. I can't say how thankful I am to have the mechanic and irrigation tech that I do as a young Superintendent. Brian, our mechanic, has been here as over 25 years and John will be approaching year 20 here soon. The extensive knowledge they bring to our team helps us become more efficient when troubleshooting problems around the property. Steve Sarro has been very supportive as the Director of Grounds and

taught me a lot through my 7 years here. It has been great working alongside Steve and I am very appreciative of the amount of trust he has to in me to lead this team as a first time Superintendent.

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

I have worked in golf for 13 years since I was 16 years old when I started working for my father, Scott Robbins, at Ptarmigan Country Club. I wouldn't say I knew right away this is what I wanted to do but ever since I threw down my first lasers with a walk mower I had a lot of pride in what I did out there. I am thankful for everyone who was a part of Ptarmigan while I grew up. I learned a lot from my dad and everyone who has worked for him.

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

The best part of being a Superintendent is when I am able to go into a morning meeting and congratulate the staff on the outcome of an event. Both me and my staff know I can be hard on them and ask a lot from them at times but when the membership comes to me with nothing but praise after an event or even just a normal day of golf it is an amazing feeling to pass those thanks on to the staff. I know this property wouldn't be the way it is without everyone else on this team doing their part.

What is the biggest challenge you face at your facility?

Agronomic: Collar dams that have built up over 60 years of topdressing have been a mountain for our staff to handle and the only end in sight I see with this issue is a mini excavator.

General: Membership management prioritization of club projects and timelines without consulting staff. Being a member owned facility can make it difficult as a turf manager to fight through some of the decisions made when we see other projects and areas as true priorities.

What are you getting right at your facility?

Not a single ballwasher! We are approaching September and haven't heard one comment about ballwashers not being on the course. Why wash your ball at the tee when the last thing you did was putt? No one putts with a dirty ball. Next up...bunker rake removal?

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

Seeing live music specifically, STS9 & playing disc golf.

Continued to next page...

Superintendent Spotlight

Favorite Movie?

The Sandlot

Favorite Sports team?

Colorado Rockies. Tough, I know...

Tell us a little about your family

I am the youngest of 3 boys to the long time Superintendent, Scott Robbins. My beautiful mother Kathie has been amazing support for me throughout the years which says a lot since she had a house full of boys, especially knowing three of them are in the golf industry. My brother Daniel has also been in the industry since he was 16 and it is a really awesome feeling to connect and have conversations with him and my dad about our facilities. Bouncing ideas off each other has benefitted me greatly at the start of my career and I look forward to continuing that with my brother after my dad hangs it up (If he ever does...). My oldest brother Eric was wise enough to stay in the Gunnison valley after college to be a ski patrolman and fly-fishing guide. Some days I think he was the smartest of the rest of us but when it comes down to it, I sure do love what I do!



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Affiliate Angle

by Jared Hoyle, Turf Ornamental Territory Manger, Corteva



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

I work for Corteva Agriscience that became a standalone company from DowDuPont in 2019. My current position with Corteva is a Turf and Ornamental Territory Manager and I have been with the company since April of 2020.

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

I am based out of Manhattan, KS and cover North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, and eastern Wyoming.

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

Corteva Agriscience is an American manufacturing company developing products and solutions for seeds and traits, crop protection, software and digital services, seed treatments, forages, inoculants, vegetation management, pasture management, urban pest management, oil, and turf and ornamentals. Corteva is involved with RMGCSA through memberships, sponsorships, and support for superintendents, distributors and everyone else associated with the green industry to help them be successful by various activities.

What might we be surprised to know about your company?

Corteva is the only major agriscience company completely dedicated to agriculture.

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

Well, I spent a lot of time in college. I graduate from North Carolina State University with a Minor in Crop Science, Bachelor of Science in Horticulture Science, and a Master of Science in Turfgrass Weed Science. I also graduated from Auburn University with a PhD in Turfgrass Weed Science. From there I continued to be in the college world as I worked for University of Georgia as a Turfgrass Research Scientist for a year and just prior to joining Corteva I was an Associate Professor, Extension Turfgrass Specialist and the Director of the Turfgrass Research Facility for Kansas State University for 8 years.

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

I accidentally got into the turf or golf industry. Back around 2000, my brother volunteered me to mow a neighbor's lawn. I didn't want to do it at all. All I really wanted to do was run around being a teenager and play baseball. I finally agreed to do it, borrowed my Father's truck, trailer and mower and went and went to work. On the way back, I got to thinking... I just made roughly a dollar a minute. That was way more then I was making down at the Jiffy Lube... so then it went downhill from there. That was how Hoyle Group Grounds Maintenance started. I also worked on many different golf courses and studied turf and ornamentals throughout college.

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

I am married to my awesome and very patient wife (she must be to put up with me), Kaitlin and we have a 2-year-old girl named Cameron. My wife is a 7th grade middle school teacher and my daughter is a full-time ball of energy. When I am not working, I spend most of my time with my wife and daughter playing around the house and visiting with family and friends. I enjoy grilling, fishing, hunting and anything outside.

Continued to next page...

Affiliate Angle

What are the biggest changes you have seen in the profession since you began your career? Or, what are the most important changes that the company has seen the past 5-10 years?

One of the major challenges, as you all know, I have seen in the profession since I began my career is labor. This obviously hasn't been a new issue and one that isn't going away. But because of that I have also seen superintendents get creative with time management, operations, equipment, etc to help with labor shortages. The manufacturing side of this industry is listening to these struggles and are developing solutions for superintendents to help mitigate the labor issue and give time back to superintendents. And that time that is given back is not only to support operations but give some time back to their families as well.

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

I do my best to attend as many RMGCSA meetings as I am available to. With a large territory it is hard to get to every meeting but I believe that it is important to be there to listen how superintendents are doing, what the current struggles are and help provide solutions. In addition, due to my background and personality, when I am talking with superintendents, other vendors and anyone in the industry it inspires my creative side. Some of my friends call me a mad scientist as I will come up with some of the wildest ideas when it comes turfgrass management.

What would you like other people to know about RMGCSA?

Being a new member to the RMGCSA and the few events I was able to attend I would have to say other people should know that the RMGCSA is full of great superintendents, assistants, vendors and manufactures. I am looking forward to being more involved now that we are able to get out and be around one another again.

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

"Burn-out", is one of the biggest obstacles I have seen take many great turfgrass managers out of this industry. Being able to overcome or prevent that will help anyone in any position within this industry be successful. I have been a victim of burn-out in many situations and my only recommendation is to use that past situation and experience as a tool to prevent burn-out in the future. This maybe a horrible analogy but I will try it anyway. It is like buying tires. You can buy tires that only last 15,000 miles, they are cheap, so you do, but you try to push them to last 65,000 miles. It just doesn't work, and they burn out. The next time you decide to buy the 65,000 miles tires even though they are more expensive. But what you might not realize is that the price per mile of tire is less and you know you can make the distance with less stress of tired failure. I guess what I am trying to say is we are always trying to do more with less. At some point as an individual, we can't do more with less. It just physically isn't possible. Utilizing resources and support and planning for the long term is how we can make the distance. Like buying the 65,000-mile tires or know you only have 15,000 mile tires and don't push them too far and let them burn-out to end up being in a worse position then you started. (I know, horrible analogy but I had to try.)

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

Seeing many different facilities and properties I would say one of the most interesting new or innovative practice I have seen is not really new but getting more refined is time management and efficiency. Now more than ever the demand for a quality product with decreasing budgets and labor puts more pressure on superintendents. I am amazed every time I visit a course on how the industry is able to adapt with the changing environment. My hat is off to everyone that involved in golf courses management!



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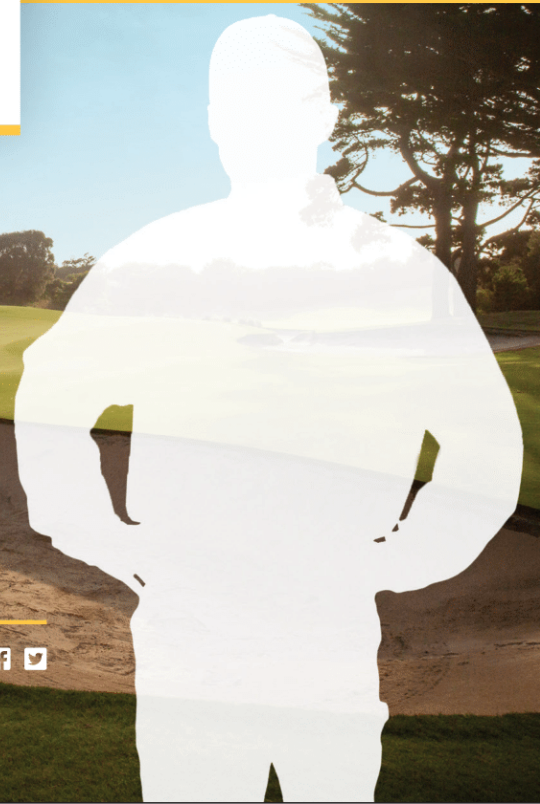
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Moving on to Greener Fairways

Dave Tooley

Education

Bachelor's degree Business, minors Biology and Economics UNC Greeley

Employment History in Colorado

Assistant Golf Professional Greeley Country Club, Golf Professional, Concessionaire Eaton Country Club, Golf Professional-Superintendent Eaton Country Club, Superintendent Greeley Country Club, Superintendent Lakewood Country Club, Owner Operator, Aeroturf, Bunker Builder with Stan Cichuniec, Seminars for Profile Products, Superintendent of Golf Courses South Suburban

Time on RMGCSA Boards

President 1967 after serving previously, Past President Advisor 2007 - 2008

Retirement plans

Retired from South Suburban in 2013 after being in some part of the golf business for 58 years. Bought a home on the west side of Phoenix, sold the home in Lone Tree and travel and play more golf in a month than I ever did in a year when in the golf business. My wife of 55 years and I do a great deal of travel, and hopefully can continue that after the Covid is controlled.

Good Memories

There is not enough space on this paper to list them all or even a small percent, but, the respect and confidence the many members gave me as a young man at Greeley and Eaton Country Clubs. The dedicated young people that so eagerly did the work for me at Lakewood, the four Superintendents at South Suburban that were willing to learn some new skills, and the fellow turf associates in all phases of our business that became friends and helped me through.

The Old Fall Outings, the extended trips to the National Conference including the Tournament, ventures to Ireland, Nascar Races, and hosting some to Arizona all stand out.

Family Information

My son and daughter both live in Denver and each have a son and daughter.

Two of my grandchildren have graduated from CU Boulder, another is a student at DU, and the youngest is in an apprentice program in commercial building.

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Moving on to Greener Fairways

Jim Wilkens; CGCS

Education

Bachelor of Science; Chemistry, University of Southern Colorado

Employment History in Colorado

1961 – 1965 Broadmoor Golf Club; Caddy
1966 – 1970 Braodmoor Golf Club; Seasonal Grounds crew
1972 – 1976 Broadmoor Golf Club; Chemical applicator
1977-1984 Superintendent; Englewood GC (Broken Tee)
1985 Construction/Grow-in Superintendent; Lone Tree Country Club
1986 Superintendent; Lake Arbor Golf Club
1994-2020 Manager of Golf Course Operations, Lake Arbor & West Woods Golf Courses

Time on RMGCSA Boards

1979 & 1986-87 Director
1996 – 2000 Board of Directors
2000 President RMGCSA

Retirement plans

Travel, golf, volunteering, family, and avoiding snow

Good Memories

Notable loops as a caddy; Forest Tucker, Eddie LeBaron, Bob Newhart, VP Spiro Agnew with 3 Governors and 15 secret service agents. Judy Bell was a frequent loop.

When I started at Englewood back in 1976, I drove by the site twice before realizing I was NOT lost! The course was constructed in 1976 and grown in that Fall, never mowed. When I arrived on May 22 weeds were as tall as the irrigation controllers and greens had to be hand weeded before their first mow with rotary mowers. We still managed to open on August 12, 1977.

Being on the course in the morning or late in the afternoon, or maybe midnight running pumps by hand. All the good people I met and worked with and for. All great memories of my time in golf. I am truly blessed to have had such a life and career. Enjoy YOUR time. You will miss it, you won't believe how much.

Family Information

Married to Catherine (51 years this August), son Tim.

Contact information

720-490-5220 | j-cwilgolf@comcast.net



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Annual Tournament Recap

Annual Tournament Recap

By Paul Sibley, Superintendent, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve

On July 13 the RMGCSA held its Annual Tournament at Lone Tree Golf Club and Hotel. We would like to send out a huge thanks to the title sponsor Potestio Brothers for sponsoring the event. Your support of the RMGCSA is key to our success. We would also like to thank Superintendent Ed Rockett and his team for providing excellent playing conditions for all 66 attendees to enjoy. The course was very challenging for all and the greens were rolling fast and true. GREAT JOB!

The results of the tournament were as follows...Congratulations to all the winners!

Closest to the Pins:

- #3 - Aaron Fankhauser - Rolling Hills CC
- #7 - Aaron Fankhauser - Rolling Hills CC
- #10 - Kris Jagger - Flatirons GC
- #13 - Jeremiah Stumpff

Annual Tournament Champions:

- Superintendent Gross Champion - Aaron Fankhauser - Rolling Hills CC - 67
- Superintendent Net Champion - Dave Brown - 69
- Affiliate Cup Net Champion - Robert Gonzales - Harrells - 73



Thanks again to Potestio Brothers and all of the attendees who took the time out of their busy schedules to come together at this event. We look forward to seeing you all at the following remaining events:

- September Challenge - September 27th at The Club at Rolling Hills
- Best Tournament Ever - October 11th at Ptarmigan Country Club



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Assistant Superintendents Outing Recap

Assistant Superintendents Outing

By Josh Matheny, Assistant Superintendent, Meridian Golf Club

On August 2nd the RMGCSA proudly hosted its annual Assistant Superintendents Outing at The Country Club at Woodmoor. Known as the “Augusta of the West” It certainly did not disappoint. A great J. Press Maxwell design with long narrow fairways and elevated greens surrounded by trouble, made for an exciting and challenging day. We had a great turnout of 57 players made up of mostly Assistant Superintendents. A big thank you to all of you Superintendents for allowing your Assistants to attend making it the best Assistant turnout ever. Golf was followed by an exceptional and informative speech given by Armen Suny, former Top 100 Golf Course Superintendent and current consultant for Kopplin Kuebler and Wallace. He spoke about the necessary steps and course of action needed to become a Superintendent along with a strategy to set yourself apart from the rest of your competition.

1st Gross – Greg Witanen – The Country Club at Woodmoor

2nd Gross – Sean Kennedy – Golf Club at Bear Dance

3rd Gross – Curtis Lawson – South Suburban Family Sports

1st Net and Class C Champion – Garrett Marsh – Todd Creek Golf Club

2nd Net – Eric Phillips – City of Westminster Golf

3rd Net – Nic Paxton – Heather Ridge Golf Club

Closest to the pin:

#4 – Richard Moore – Aurora Hills Golf Course

#11 – Eric Greene – Walnut Creek Golf Preserve



The entire RMGCSA would like to extend a Thank You for all of those that were involved with this event, from planning to preparing to a successful execution. We would also like to thank and congratulate the entire staff at The Country Club at Woodmoor, especially Superintendent Kollin Vandersluis and his Assistant Superintendent Greg Wiitanen and the entire maintenance staff. The course was in great condition making for a fun day of golf. We’d also like to thank Colorado Golf and Turf for sponsoring the event for another year and their continued support to the RMGCSA. A huge Thank you to Armen Suny for showing all of us Assistants that there is much more that we can do outside of our normal workload to set ourselves apart at our next interview to obtain that coveted Superintendent position. Finally, I would like to thank all of those in attendance. Our job can certainly be demanding so Thank You for taking time out of your busy schedules to have a day of fun and golf with our peers. I hope everyone had a great time. Looking forward to seeing all of you at next years event. Thank You.



Colorado Open Pro-Am Recap

Colorado Open Pro-Am Recap

By Paul Sibley, Superintendent, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve

The COBANK Colorado Open Pro-Am was held on July 28th at Green Valley Ranch GC and was attended by RMGCSA Board of Directors Kyle Merritt and Paul Sibley, Executive Director Gary Leeper, and RMGCSA Past President, Eric Gustafson. The group was paired with Professional Nick Cantlay of Los Alamitos, CA. The event is made up of two full shotguns with proceeds benefitting the First Tee program of Green Valley Ranch GC. First Tee participants were staged at two holes on the course to assist groups with top quality putting skills and second shots into the green and there were some pretty good up and coming juniors helping lower scores throughout the day. RMGCSA would like to send a huge shout out to GVR Superintendent Barry Kendall, Assistant Superintendent Gian Panicucci, and their entire team for providing top quality playing conditions. It was an honor to be able represent the RMGCSA membership in such an important event as this.



Photo Courtesy of: Walnut Creek Golf Preserve

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RMGCSA 2021 Annual Conference

The RMGCSA is proud and excited to host our annual conference once again on November 2nd & 3rd 2021. The Conference Committee presents an excellent line up for in-person learning, camaraderie and networking. We have exceptional speakers from across the United States, Canada and from the Rocky Mountain region. If you have attended in the past you know it is two days you cannot miss. If you have yet to attend, mark your calendars now and make this a priority.

We have moved this year's event to a Tuesday & Wednesday. This allows many of our members to be with their families on Halloween and travel on November 1st. Mondays are also a busy maintenance day on golf courses, so the shift in days may present a greater opportunity for most to attend.

Come visit all of your favorite vendors and meet new ones. The golf world has changed since the last time we met, see how some of our new and longtime affiliate supporters can help you better prepare your facility.

The Silent Auction supports the Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute (RMEGI) through generous donations to be auctioned on the evening of November 2nd. To donate items please contact Jeff Wichman at jwichman@springsgov.com, Jason Aerni (jason.aerni@simplot.com) or Jim Taylor (jltaylor@landolakes.com).

We are still in need of breakfast sponsors. Contact Gary Leeper at info@rmgcsa.org to coordinate a sponsorship.

The ever popular RMGCSA Cornhole World Championships will return on the evening of November 2nd. Take a few minutes to look over the schedule of events on the website. Plan your trip now to Golden, CO for November 2nd & 3rd.

This conference is brought to you with the contributions of Gary Leeper, his staff and the following RMGCSA Members: Scott Ellis, Tim Davis, Jeff Wichman, Sam Reznicek, Dave Wilber, Mitch Savage, Aaron Fankhauser, Jack Robbins, Travis Abitz, Kenny Troutman, Jason Aerni and Paul Sibley. We look forward to seeing you all in November.

Steve Sarro
RMGCSA Conference Chair
Director of Grounds
Pinehurst Country Club



USWO Colorado Gals Article

Colorado Women in Turf Represent at US Women's Open

Sun Roesslein, CSFM | Sports Stadium Manager at the NAAC

I've never worked on a golf course. I certainly replace my divots, fix my ball marks and rake my way out of the low side of the bunkers while playing, but I am a sports field manager. So when the opportunity came about through an industry friend to apply to be a part of the ground breaking Women's Turf Team at the US Women's Open, I was honestly initially a little nervous. As I thought about what it might mean to get to be a part of the first mostly female volunteer team, I knew I had to at least apply. The basic skills and tools transfer and I have used most of the same equipment at one time or another in my career. I figured at most I would be filling divots and raking bunkers, which I knew I could handle. What I wasn't prepared for was the way the entire crew of roughly 100 full time staff and volunteers, mostly strangers, came together to make the Women's Open championship such a great event.

Pam and I arrived late to the hotel. I, Ann Paulisich, am Superintendent at Keystone Ranch. The golf course was closed last summer for Covid reasons and we opened just a week before I was scheduled to head to Olympic Club. Tim Klein, from Syngenta, invited me to join this event in early February. I knew the timing would be difficult as my ENTIRE leadership staff was going to be new this spring with very limited golf knowledge. I spoke with Kimberley Gard also from Syngenta and her excitement was contagious. I knew I had to be a part of this. All spring I was on the fence if I could attend. I would call Kimberley with all the drama. The day before I left my condo unit had a fire and I called Kimberly and she said, "this is the third bad event, you will make it" and I did!!! Like Sun, I was in a setting very unfamiliar. At most golf course events, I am in the minority as a woman and it is easy. Here I saw 29 women who were very confident, energetic, outgoing and ready to conquer. I was way out of my element and had a difficult time adjusting.



Continued to next page...

USWO Colorado Gals Article

Eventually these women became my lifelong friends and bonds were formed that I have never experienced before in this industry. Every morning after the AM shift, Troy Flanagan, Director of Golf Maintenance at the Olympic Club, would come back after meeting with the USGA and tell us there were no call backs. He was thrilled and so were we. It was time for breakfast! A typical day looked like this- 3:45 am each day we would head to the course, grab some coffee and get our assignments. The 29 women volunteers were scattered around the course- mowing fairways or the step cut, blowing clippings, some were cutting cups, some were raking bunkers, moving turning boards for the greens mowers, there was an equipment manager who was out checking equipment with the staff mechanics and there was a lot of rough fluffing. The USGA didn't want to see any tire tracks in the rough on TV so that was the final morning task. As we finished one assignment, everyone grabbed a spring tine rake and started fluffing. Ann was mowing fairways, and I was on turning boards in the mornings so I got to see the USGA Agronomists doing their testing on the greens, which was interesting! In the sports field world, similar tools are used but for very different reasons. When testing soil moisture or surface impact hardness, the data are used for athlete safety. If the field is too hard, there is a higher likelihood for concussion, or too soft and the athlete can't get proper traction to make changes in direction. The NFL contracts out this type of safety testing regularly, which I believe will eventually filter down through college and finally to the high school and parks and rec levels.

After breakfast, we had some educational seminars followed by a little down time. Then back at the shop for an early dinner before the evening shift. There were a few of the same assignments- greens were cut again, bunkers cleaned and raked, but we also jumped in filling divots, hand watering fairways and greens, and the rough was mowed. Overall, the experience was incredible, and way more impactful for me than I could have imagined when I got that initial invite. The unique connection with all these people from all over the country, being a part of this historic group remains strong. Coloradans were well represented there volunteering. Ann Paulisich, Pam Brown, Chisti Clay, CSFM and I all got to experience that together!

The group photo is Left to Right- Sun Roesslein, CSFM, North Area Athletic Complex; Ann Paulisich, Superintendent at Keystone Ranch; Christi Clay, CSFM, North Area Athletic Complex; Pam Brown, former Superintendent at Keystone Ranch.



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THE CLUB AT ROLLING HILLS

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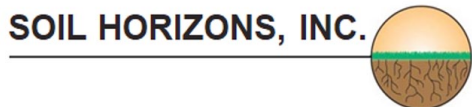
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Calendar of Events...

September 27, 2021 September Challenge
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October 11, 2021 Best Tournament Ever
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Golden, CO



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