

The Reporter

From the Rocky Mountain Chapter of GCSAA
Growing Green Since 1936



Aspen Glen Club

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NOTE: We would like to thank [Soil Horizons](#) for being a sponsor for our Chapter Hospitality Event at the Pedal Haus Brewery on January 31st, 2024.



Legacy Ridge Golf Course

President's Message

Since my last article, the amount of snow that has fallen here at Saddle Rock has been more than impressive and very much welcomed to say the least. But like most of you I am sure, I am over it and ready to get to the grind of spring aerification and see the summer staff return to begin another great season here. I am also very ready to be out of the simulator and onto the course playing real golf, let us hope all this practice and number crunching pays off this season!

I will start with what has kept members of the board and especially the Government and Legislative Committee the most active so far this early in the year. A new bill was introduced, **HB24-1178**, that would allow local control for city and counties to regulate pesticide use over federal or state laws. With the help and guidance of our Lobbyist and the support of the Colorado Golf Coalition, we have been present at the State Capital giving in person testimony as well as in representatives inboxes fighting to keep regulation in the hands of the state. For those that have taken a few minutes to send an email to your representative to vote no, thank you! Who knows where this battle will end up in the end but know that the Gov/Leg committee along with Mitch Savage and our Lobbyist, are fighting hard to keep regulation out of so many different hands.

We held our first education offering outside of the conference to give members yet another opportunity to learn and earn those GCSAA credits needed. Huge thanks to **JRM Industries** and **Helena** for sponsoring and allowing the event to be of no cost to membership. The education was on Aurora's water supply and how they manage its use to make sure there is water for all their users, both for drinking and maintaining the places where we play, no matter what the activity. Our second opportunity will be in July when we head to TPC Colorado to learn what it takes to set up a PGA Tour event as they are ready to host another Korn Ferry stop later that week. Speakers will talk about everything from operation needs, agronomy, rules and all the support it takes to run a Tour event. This one will fill up fast and space is limited so do not wait too long to sign up! And be on the lookout in the fall, we are working on a third offering, details to come!

Golf is nearly set with one event left to iron out, but man, we get to enjoy some good golf this season:

West Slope Event: Aspen Glen Club, May 7, 2024

Memorial Tournament: Legacy Ridge GC. June 24, 2024

Affiliate Cup: Breckenridge Golf Club, August 15, 2024

Best Tournament Ever: Sanctuary Golf Course September 24, 2024

Annual Tournament: TBD

West Slope Fall: TBD and if weather allows.

Lastly, thank you to all that completed the surveys that were sent out. This information will go a long way in how the board plans moving forward. Adapting to what the new norm is and what members say they want or need from their membership is the priority of the board and for the continued strength and success of the RMGCSA.

Have a great start to the 2024 golf season and Let's Go!



President, Saddle Rock Golf Course



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Director's Corner

Overview: *Recovery and re-opening of the Flatirons Golf Course following Colorado flooding*

THE NATURAL DISASTER: From September 11 to 15, 2013, the City of Boulder and communities across the Front Range experienced significant rainfall that led to flooding, loss of life, and widespread damage. It was caused by a slow-moving cold front that stalled over Colorado, clashing with warm humid monsoonal air from the south. Boulder set a calendar day record rainfall of 9.08 inches during the height of the storm. This weather event displaced 18,000 people and destroyed more than 1,800 homes and two hundred businesses, making it Colorado's costliest natural disaster. Statewide, nearly \$4 billion in damages was documented across twenty-four counties.

Flatirons Golf Course also experienced major damage. The Wellman Canal borders the course, and water levels quickly rose eight feet causing a blanket of water to travel across the entire course leaving behind rocks, sediment, tree branches, trash, and even a telephone poll. After the rain stopped, four feet of standing water remained in the Northeast corner of the property. The restaurant and event complex known as *A Spice of Life* was flooded and later condemned. The only part of the facility that remained was a snack shack...something better suited for one of our swimming pools!

THE JOURNEY TO RECOVERY: The next step was planning the resurrection of a new restaurant proposed to serve the community and the Golf Course. Getting this project underway has been an extremely exciting time for our staff and especially our golf clientele. Director of Golf Tom Buzbee appointed me as the liaison for the project. I have sat in over 56 OAC meetings and worked closely with the construction superintendent. This has been a tremendous experience; however, the project has brought with it several challenges.

Great care was taken in the disassembly of the old structures to ensure every part of the buildings was recycled. Construction of the new building was initially met with complications concerning the high groundwater table. Record rainfalls in early 2023 made this situation even more challenging. An elaborate dewatering system was implemented over the course of 4 months to manage the levels of groundwater while they excavated and poured the foundation. This system was delivered on two 18-wheeler trucks. The cost came in at about \$80k per month and continued for almost 4 months. When the groundwater was finally brought under control, a re-designed foundation system was able to be installed. My analogy to all of this would be like double bogeying the first hole of a rather important tournament! Nothing we could do about it. Just "Go to the next hole and put the ball on the tee," as Tiger would say.

The project quickly got back on track, although there have been a variety of things along the way that keep everyone on their toes. You know the old saying "It's always something"? Well, even with a great design team and the best-made plans, that's what it's like building a \$10 million food and beverage facility in the middle of your golf course in the middle of a busy golf season! Unavoidable damage to the turf, irrigation system, and drainage network was suffered in the areas directly adjacent to the construction site. Let's just say there were several firsts, including a porta potty pump truck driving across my practice pitching green. (Yes, I had OK'd this because this green was being eliminated to make room for the new structure.) Believe it or not, these are the things that happen in order to keep the project moving forward and the golfers taken care of.

Right away, the schedule required the demolition of the west half of the parking lot. Keep in mind that this is smack dab in the middle of our peak season play. We had to dramatically reduce the number of people who were able to park and play the course each day. Parking was so limited that Pro Shop staff had to park at the maintenance building and travel back to the golf shop in carts. It took a lot of work and time for staff to organize the tee sheet to balance the amount of play. Once the west half of the parking lot was finished, construction moved to the east half. We lost even more parking spaces and needed to figure out how to route our players back and forth to the pro shop and practice facilities. At this point, there were only 68 parking spots available for a facility that would typically host almost 300 players on the course and 200 hundred practicing on the range each day!

Director's Corner

Customer service was tested like never before. After brainstorming, maintenance and the pro shop decided to switch to the traditional routing of the golf course. The nines were basically reversed. This was done because the typical #9 green finishes at the west side of the parking lot, right next to the newly created entrance and exit point. As #18 green, players could quickly go to their cars and leave without traversing around the construction site. This still didn't solve the problem of getting people to the golf shop so they could check in and access our busy practice facilities. A temporary cart and pedestrian paths were routed and built. Lots of signage was involved as this path was just about a quarter of a mile long circling the entire construction site. Our golfers have nicknamed it the "Indiana Jones Trail". When the project is complete, this entire travel route will have to be completely renovated.

I'm able to smile about most of this now that the biggest impacts of the project are behind us (we have our full parking lot back in service and no longer need the *Indiana Jones Trail*). My maintenance staff has been on guard every day, always watching for site work that may create new surprises. There has been lots of dirt work, drainage troubleshooting, utility identification (we learned not to fully trust the utility locator services), irrigation relocation, traffic control, and general support allowing golf play to continue smoothly. Even though all our domestic and raw water lines and associated wires were located and marked for the construction team, there was still damage. Thirteen irrigation wires have been damaged and multiple irrigation heads were destroyed even though senior members of my crew talked and walked with the construction managers daily. A lesson in communication for us all.

There are several other "tie-ins" that will require field design and modification to our current landscape. This means blending the new with the old along the entire perimeter of the project site where it interfaces with the golf course. To put this in perspective, it's a little more than a half mile of frontage that I am looking at fine-tuning. Some of it with the help of the construction team and some we will do in-house on our own. The tie-ins are all shapes and sizes. Turf to turf, turf to hardscape and some involve helping to blend the ornamental landscape planting program for the new facility with the existing golf course theme.

REACHING A JOURNEY'S END: The maintenance staff, golf operations staff, and general contractor have stuck together as a team. Yes, things got testy from time to time and we are still not finished yet. The landscape planting is coming up this spring during the final phase and that will be interesting too! We will continue to combine efforts to see the project to completion. It has been an eye-opening experience to be a part of such a massive undertaking. Unforeseen challenges made for difficult times. Teamwork and collaboration got us this far and we are looking forward to indulging in the fruit of our labor. It always seems that people are all smiles and giggles at a grand opening, and I am looking forward to that! The completion of this facility means the ability to host tournaments and other events, giving us greater visibility within the industry.

All of us at the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department and Flatirons Golf Course sincerely hope our community is rewarded with this stellar place where everyone is welcome to gather, celebrate, and connect beyond just golf.

I hope to see all of you at our exciting lineup of Golf Outings we have planned for this year!



Jake Jacobs

Director, Flatirons Golf Course



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Enhancing Turf Management Excellence

Overview: GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series and Equipment Manager Certificate Program



David Phipps

GCSAA NW Region Representative

In the world of golf course management, staying on top of the latest industry practices and honing one's skills is essential for success. The *Golf Course Superintendents Association of America* recognizes the need for specialized education and professional development within the golf turf management sector. Two significant programs aimed at Assistant Superintendents and Equipment Managers, respectively, stand out: the **GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series** and the **Equipment Manager Certificate Program**.

GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series (ASCS):

- **Overview:** GCSAA's ASCS is a comprehensive educational program designed specifically for Assistant Superintendents aspiring to advance their careers in golf course management. The series delves into crucial aspects of turf management, leadership, and practical skills necessary for success in this demanding field.
- **Curriculum:** The program covers a diverse range of topics, including turfgrass science, irrigation management, pest control, and personnel management. Participants gain valuable insights into the intricacies of golf course maintenance and acquire the knowledge needed to excel in their roles. The curriculum is developed by industry experts, ensuring its relevance and practical applicability.
- **Benefits:** Completing the ASCS offers numerous benefits. Participants gain a competitive edge in the job market, enhance their problem-solving abilities, and build a solid foundation for career growth. Additionally, the program fosters networking opportunities, connecting Assistant Superintendents with industry professionals and peers.
- **Flexibility:** Recognizing the diverse schedules of working professionals, the ASCS is designed to be flexible. The program accommodates the demanding nature of the golf course industry, allowing participants to balance work commitments with their educational pursuits.

Equipment Manager Certificate Program (EMCP):

- **Purpose:** The role of an Equipment Manager in golf course maintenance is pivotal. The GCSAA's EMCP addresses the unique challenges faced by those responsible for managing and maintaining turf equipment. From reel and bed knife grinding to equipment diagnostics, the program equips participants with the skills needed for optimal equipment performance.
- **Curriculum:** The EMCP covers a wide array of topics, including equipment safety, preventive maintenance, and technological advancements in turf equipment. The curriculum is designed to enhance participants' understanding of equipment management while emphasizing the importance of safety and efficiency.
- **Industry Recognition:** Completion of the EMCP is a mark of distinction within the golf course management profession. It signifies a commitment to excellence and a deep understanding of the intricacies involved in maintaining and managing turf equipment. This recognition can lead to increased career opportunities and professional growth.
- **Practical Application:** The program goes beyond theoretical knowledge, emphasizing hands-on experience. Participants gain practical insights into equipment diagnostics, troubleshooting, and repair – essential skills for ensuring the seamless operation of turf maintenance machinery. The completion of the EMCP level 1 and 2 is also the first step in becoming a Certified Turf Equipment Manager.

Enhancing Turf Management Excellence



David Phipps, 2015 U.S. Open

The GCSAA's ASCS and the EMCP exemplify the commitment of the golf course management industry to continuous improvement and professional development. These programs provide Assistant Superintendents and Equipment Managers with the tools they need to excel in their roles, contributing to the overall success and sustainability of golf courses. As the industry evolves, these educational initiatives ensure that professionals stay at the forefront of best practices, technology, and innovation, ultimately elevating the standards of turf management across the golfing world.


The ASCS would not be possible without the generous support that GCSAA receives from John Deere Golf. John Deere also provides a \$50 gift certificate to those who complete the program.


Please feel free to reach out for any further questions. You can contact Diana Kern, Sr. Manager of CTEM, Certification and Certificate Programs, at dkern@gcsaa.org.

David Phipps

GCSAA NW Region Representative


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2023 RMEGI Japanese Beetle Control

Overview: Control of Japanese Beetle Larvae in Turfgrass with Preventive and Curative Insecticide Applications
By: Adam Van Dyke, M.S., Professional Turfgrass Solutions LLC

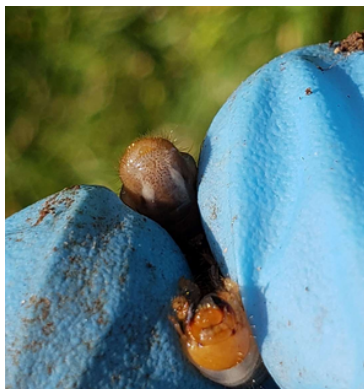


Figure 1. Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is an established insect pest in the greater-Denver area whose larvae (also grubs, pictured) cause damage to turfgrasses.



Figure 2. Turf was destructively sampled for the turf-damaging larvae by cutting strips down the center of each plot with a sod-cutter, and peeling back sod in the center of each plot to count larvae.



Figure 3. Sod strips were pealed back in the center of each plot and larvae counted in one square foot for standardization. Larval activity was greater in the curative trial averaging nearly 10/sq.ft.

OBJECTIVE: Compare select insecticides applied preventively or curatively for controlling Japanese beetle larvae.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: This RMEGI-supported research was conducted in 2023 at Meadow Hills Golf Course in Aurora, CO where Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is an established pest (Figure 1) and insecticides are rarely used for control. Turf was a cool-season mix of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) maintained as golf rough and grown on native soil. Mowing was performed at 2 inches twice each week, and 1 pound of nitrogen/1000ft squared was applied between June and October. Irrigation replaced 80% of evapotranspiration (ET) each night, as needed to prevent wilt and no cultivation was performed during the study.

Plots were 5-feet by 5-feet arranged in a randomized complete block design with five replications, and laid out in an area of the course that historically has high adult activity and heavy pressure from larvae (also called white grubs). Treatments were applied at two separate timings for targeting the turf-damaging larvae, either preventively on June 25 (when adult beetles were ovipositing [laying eggs]), or curatively on September 6 (to first- and second-instar larvae). Insecticide treatments included Acelepryn 1.67 SC (a.i. chlorantraniliprole, Syngenta) applied at 8 fl. oz./ac; Arena 50 WDG (a.i. clothianidin, NuFarm) applied at 12.8 wt. oz./ac; and Suprado Insecticide (a.i. novaluron, Quali-Pro) applied at 3 fl. oz./1000ft squared. A non-treated check (hereafter, untreated) was also included for comparison. Treatments were applied in water using a CO₂-pressurized backpack sprayer at 40 psi fitted with TeeJet AI11002VS air-induction nozzles calibrated to deliver 2 gal. per 1000ft squared (87 GPA), and watered-in with 0.2 inches of post-application irrigation. Other pesticides were excluded from the experimental area during the year.

Despite being guided by the superintendent's past experience and historical insect activity, grub pressure was low in the experimental area after sampling through several cup-cutter plugs for larvae before making the curative applications on Sept 6. It was decided to not apply the curative treatments in the original area, and instead lay out a separate curative experiment in a nearby area where larvae were more abundant. This new design and plot size were the same as mentioned previously, except there were six replications used in the curative experiment. White grub control was determined by counting larvae on October 9. Turf was destructively sampled by cutting strips down the center of each replicate with a sod cutter (Figure 2). Turf was pealed back in the center of each plot and the number of larvae found in the central one square foot were counted for standardization (Figure 3). The percent reduction of larvae was determined with the Abbott calculation; $X = (1 - T/NT) \times 100$, where X is the corrected control(%), T is the number of insects in a treated plot and NT is the number of insects in an untreated plot. If the calculated control was negative, zero was used for analysis. Larval data from each experiment were analyzed separately for differences using ARM 2023 (GDM Solutions, Inc., Brookings, SD) with means compared using Fishers' protected least significant difference (LSD) at a 95% confidence interval. In the preventive trial, no larvae were found in the untreated plot in Rep 4, so plots in this replication was excluded from the analyses and the means reported are from four replicates.

2023 RMEGI Japanese Beetle Control

RESULTS: White grub pressure was low in the preventive trial and moderate in the curative trial, with untreated turf averaging ~ 3 and 8 larvae/ft squared, respectively (**Table 1**). Suprado did not reduce larvae compared to the untreated in either study, indicating it had poor efficacy as both a preventive and curative treatment under these conditions. Acelepryn did not reduce larvae applied as a curative treatment but provided complete control (100% control) of larvae as a preventive treatment. This highlights the importance of knowing the water solubility of an active ingredient, as higher water-soluble molecules are required as a curative strategy because they must be moved through verdure and thatch to reach the larvae where they feed in the soil. The water solubility of chlorantraniliprole (the active ingredient in Acelepryn) is low, and one reason it is such an effective preventive treatment on white grub pests. However, this data suggests it may not be the best curative chemical option for Japanese beetle. Arena had excellent efficacy on larvae when applied at both timings, providing complete preventive control (100% control) and 97% curative control of larvae. Clothianidin (the active ingredient in Arena) is more water-soluble than the active ingredients in Acelepryn or Suprado (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) and likely contributed to it performing better as a curative treatment.

More research should be done in the region to validate these results across different years and under heavier pest pressure. Phytotoxicity was not observed with any treatment indicating they offer excellent turf safety (data not shown).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thank you RMEGI Board of Trustees for funding this project. Special thanks to John Magnuson for running the sod cutter – and for hosting the research, providing me with the tools needed to complete the work, and for the help. Thanks to Steve Sarro and Jack Robbins for their continued support, and Kyle Kramer for the technical assistance, also to Matt Giese, Jason Fausey and Justin Ruiz for providing the insecticides.

Table 1: Effect of treatments applied at preventative or curative timings for controlling Japanese beetle larvae in cool-season rough at Meadow Hills Golf Course in Aurora, CO 2023.

Treatment ^z and rate	Application Date	Larvae ^y	Control ^x
		Oct. 9 (#)	(%)
Preventive trial			
Untreated	---	2.8 a ^w	0 c
Acelepryn 8 fl oz/ac	June 25	0.0 a	100 a
Arena 12.8 oz/ac	June 25	0.0 a	100 a
Suprado 3 fl oz/1000ft ²	June 25	1.8 a	60 b
Curative trial			
Untreated	---	8.3 a	0 c
Acelepryn 8 fl oz/ac	Sept. 6	8.7 a	40 b
Arena 12.8 oz/ac	Sept. 6	0.3 b	97 a
Suprado 3 fl oz/1000ft ²	Sept. 6	7.7 a	29 b

^zActive ingredients are chlorantraniliprole in Acelepryn 1.67SC (Syngenta), clothianidin in Arena 50WDG (NuFarm), and novaluron in Suprado Insecticide (Quali-Pro).

^yAverage number of larvae found in plots standardized to a #/ft² (see text).

^xCorrected control of larvae using Abbott's calculation (see text).

^wTreatment means in a column within each trial with a different letter are significantly different ($P=0.05$; LSD).



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The Tussock Moth

Overview: *Insects and diseases that have risen, fallen, and returned to the forefront*
By: *Tony Hahn, ISA Certified Arborist, Denver Commercial Property Services*



Pupa Cases



Damaged Blue Spruce



Damaged Blue Spruce

INTRODUCTION: Following my graduation from Michigan State University in March of 1982, my wife and I loaded up the 1969 Ford LTD affectionately known as the “Yellow Bomb” and headed west to Denver from East Lansing, Michigan. The “Yellow Bomb” was the best \$250 investment I have ever made. Yes, I paid \$250 for my first car! We arrived at our \$375 a month apartment in Lakewood, Colorado and I went to work at Country Fair Garden Center on the corner of Belleview and Kipling. Southwest Plaza Mall was not yet built. The Raccoon Creek Golf Course was under construction. It was initially promoted as a private club. Steve Deberg was the quarterback for the Denver Broncos. John Elway was starting his junior year at Stanford. Alex English and Dan Issel were playing for the Nuggets and The Colorado Rockies NHL Hockey Team were playing at McNichols Arena. And of course, I quickly realized I knew next to nothing about caring for turf grass, trees, and shrubs in The Mile High City. I did my best to help all the new homeowners who were trying to landscape the brand-new homes in Ken Caryl Ranch and Governor’s Ranch. I spent 3 years in the retail garden center business and then moved on for a 6 year stint at Chemlawn Services Corporation. There, I learned a GREAT DEAL about turf grass and woody ornamentals. Residential lawn and tree care is where I cut my teeth. After the family-owned Chemlawn Services was sold to a large corporation that knew nothing about the lawn care business, I moved on to Swingle Lawn, Tree, and Landscape Care for the next 30 years of my career. Swingle Tree Company was a family owned and operated business and WE WERE like a family. In 2020, I was invited to start the Tree and Plant Health Care division at Denver Commercial Property Services, another fabulous, family owned locally owned business. One of the lessons I have learned in the past 42 years is that insects and diseases in trees, turf, and woody ornamentals are cyclical. Populations rise and fall with the variations in weather and pest predators. This brief missive will discuss some insects and diseases that have risen, fallen, and returned to the forefront to entertain us. The Douglas-fir Tussock Moth and Dutch Elm Disease are once again on the move here along the front range.

RESURGENCE: In early 2021, I had heard reports of a resurgence of Douglas-fir Tussock Moths in Douglas County. Well, in July of 2021, I was caring for a large, multi-family apartment complex on Lincoln Avenue just east of I-25. A beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce on this property was being devoured by hundreds and hundreds of little, fuzzy caterpillars.

The Tussock Moth

In 2022, I noticed a couple of Spruce trees behind the Outback Steakhouse on Havana Street and Arapahoe Road being stripped clean of needles by these fuzzy little caterpillars. In 2023, I saw a nice spruce near Yosemite Street and Dry Creek Road being eaten by Tussock Moth. I told the owner of the tree about the insect killing his Spruce. He replied that he didn't care if the tree died. He'll get his wish this year or in 2025 for sure. I also noticed in 2023, a collection of beautiful Colorado Spruces near the intersection of Yale Avenue and Chambers Road in Aurora quickly losing foliage to Tussock Moth larvae. The insect seems to be moving north and west. Emerald Ash Borers were detected near Littleton High School in 2023. That insect has made it all the way south to Littleton from its origins in Boulder. Spruce Ips Beetles have been detected across the Denver Metro area now but seems to be the most severe in central and northern Aurora. Are we having fun, yet? The interesting thing about the Tussock Moth is that a single egg sack contains several dozen eggs waiting to hatch and devour. That is just from a single female Tussock Moth adult. The City of Denver Forestry Department notified us that in late summer 2023, an American Elm had been confirmed to have Dutch Elm Disease. This is the first confirmed case in 12 years. Dutch Elm Disease is, of course, a fungus. It is spread from tree to tree by tiny Elm Bark Beetles that carry spores on their bodies as they feed.

IDENTIFICATION AND COUNTERMEASURES: How do we know if our Spruce (or Fir) trees have a Tussock Moth infestation? Usually, but not always, the feeding begins at the tops of the trees. It progresses down from the top and works its way down. After two or three years of unabated feeding, the trees will be completely stripped of needles, and they will die. Like most insects, control is most effective when the insects are young and feeding voraciously. The insect completes a life cycle in a single season. Female Tussock moths are WINGLESS. Pupa cases and egg sacks can be found on the trunk of the tree, the protected undersides of branches, and even on the sides of buildings or structures near trees that are infested. Hatch of the larval stage is weather-dependent but usually occurs in mid-May. Control is easy if the detection is made early on with Permethrin applied heavily to soak as much of the trees as possible. A single application per season is sufficient. I recommend applying a single application in late May or early June for TWO consecutive years and then monitor the trees.

Every year brings new challenges. This year promises to be no different. The Tussock Moth will advance across town. The Emerald Ash Borer will move into the southern Metro area, and Dutch Elm Disease will again be present in the Park Hill neighborhood and north Denver. As we always do and have done, we keep our eyes open.



Egg Masses



Eggs

Assistant Spotlight

An Interview with Jeff Muller, The Club at Rolling Hills



Jeff and Richel Muller

Describe Your Facility

The Club at Rolling Hills is a Press Maxwell course located at the foot of South Table Mountain. Rolling Hills originally opened in 1955 at what is now Applewood Golf Course and moved to its present location in 1968. We are a private club with all the amenities, tennis, pool, fine dining and our 18-hole championship golf course. We have 130 acres of maintained turf mixed in with our 970 trees plus or minus (mostly minus) a few! Although our course is amazing from tee to green, our greens get the most attention (like most) whether famous or infamous! The greens are severe at Rolling Hills and if you don't stay below the hole, you may find yourself hitting a chip shot after your first putt! Much respect is required on downhill putts and aggressiveness with

uphill putts. As I tell first time players here, "when they are downhill, they are DOWNHILL and when they are uphill, they are UPHILL, and you need to hit it! Be careful not to leave yourself that 3-to-4-foot downhill for your second putt!"

The Club at Rolling Hills is the home to 425 full members and 225 social members. We host many member tournaments and a few Monday outside events. The membership enjoys many events from our Private 4th of July fireworks display to the fall harvest festival and bonfire. We take pride in providing the best possible experience for our members and being consistent in how we present the course daily as well as for their tournaments whether it being the two member/guest events we have or the CGA Senior State Stroke play we hosted this past fall.

What Do You Like About Your Team at Your Facility?

Our staff is mostly young, green, and hungry! There are a few "old timers", myself included! What I like is most of our young guys are career minded and want this to be what they do so they are hungry to learn. Being able to work with young and old alike is fun and watching the young guys grow, learn, and see them start to see the course and understand what we are asking of them is rewarding. Giving them more responsibility and decision making to help them grow in their career is something that we encourage. We have had several seasonal staff members change their major in the last two summers to pursue a career as a golf course superintendent, that is exciting and says something about the culture we have developed with our agronomy team!

What Would You Tell Someone that is Interested in Getting into Golf Course Management?

You must like the early mornings, you must like the grind, you must be able to adjust on the fly, it helps to be a people person, and you have to understand we are not only in the turf business, but we are also in the people business with our staff and the product we present, daily presentation of the course is always for the people and their feedback is necessary (on some occasions) to get better. Learn everything you can and follow the progression, put in your time and be a leader/worker not a watcher and you will get noticed for all the right reasons.

Assistant Spotlight

How Many Years Have You Worked in Golf and How Did You Get Started in the Industry?

Going way back to when I was 12 years old, my sister Robbin and I would pick the range at our local 9-hole course, Ridgeview Country Club, for a Dr. Pepper and a candy bar! LOL! I did work on the 3-man maintenance crew at our 9-hole course for a couple of summers in my teens. My time here in Colorado has been since March of 1992 when I started my first go round here at Rolling Hills. I was an aspiring want to be pro and I knew one of the pros at RHCC when they hired me. I worked outside service and the pro shop for two seasons before transitioning to the maintenance team winter of 1994 when Bob Kinder offered be a full time position. In Colorado, and as a career I've been in the golf industry for 32 years. Like many, it was to be outside and play golf. Then like many, we fall in love with the job, being outside, learning, being around the people in the business, and golf is a nice perk.

What's the Most Rewarding Part of Being an Assistant for You?

Working with the young, hungry guys on our staff and helping them grow their careers. Working with the first job kids is rewarding but can also be frustrating, we've all been there, more than once! Being an old timer and being in the business for so long it is very rewarding to see the young, up and coming guys kicking tail and passionate about our industry! I believe the future of our industry is in good hands with the number of passionate 30 and 40 somethings leading our industry! time here in Colorado has been since March of 1992 when I started my first go round here at Rolling Hills. I was an aspiring want to be pro and I knew one of the pros at RHCC when they hired me. I worked outside service and the pro shop for two seasons before transitioning to the maintenance team winter of 1994 when Bob Kinder offered be a full time position. In Colorado, and as a career I've been in the golf industry for 32 years. Like many, it was to be outside and play golf. Then like many, we fall in love with the job, being outside, learning, being around the people in the business, and golf is a nice perk.

Without Incriminating Yourself, What's the Stupidest Thing You've Done on the Job?

I may or may not have put a Yanmar tractor into 9/18 lake all the way over the seat! We had vandalism on a Sunday night, the night before our Pro Am. They broke into the golf cart barn and dumped 7 carts into various lakes around the course. We pulled all the "in play" carts out first and left the one in 9/18 lake to get out after the shotgun went off. As I was creeping down the steep bank at an idle (big mistake) the tires broke loose in the dew and away I went! I did not have the RPMS up high enough to drop the bucket or the box blade fast enough to stop me and in I went. If you'd like more details, talk to Craig Horst, equipment manager at Fossil Trace! OOPS!

What's the Last Book You Read?

Currently reading Core 52. This is an easy 52 week read, maybe 15 minutes a day and it takes you through the bible. Plus side is the font is big and it is very applicable to life!

What Do You Do When You're Not at Work?

We enjoy golfing, hiking, snow shoeing, fishing, camping...the theme here is anything outdoors. Richel and I are empty nesters that enjoy seeing and spending time with our boys whenever possible. We have a Golden Retriever that keeps us entertained and will be adding a black lab pup in early March!

Shorts or Pants?

Shorts as late in the year as I can go and as early in the season as I can start!

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Rounds 4 Research Auction

Overview: Upcoming R4R Auction April 22-28, 2024 and Donations

Have you submitted your donation for Rounds 4 Research yet? If you are one of the several facilities that have donated so far, thank you so much. If you haven't submitted your donation yet, don't worry, there's still time. It's simple really, just fill out the form online and email it to one of us. Or call us and we'll fill it out for you and get it submitted.

If you are unfamiliar, *Rounds 4 Research* is an innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf, with whatever parameters you want to set, that are then auctioned online.

Proceeds from the donations of Colorado golf facilities go directly to the Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute (RMEGI). If donating a round of golf isn't an option for your facility, cash donations are accepted as well. This money is then used to fund special projects and research that impact golf in the state of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region.



Last year RMGCSA was able to raise **\$9,674.40** through the auction. This incredible amount of money raised put us in 8th place of the top chapters nationally. Our goal the past couple years has been to be a top 5 association in funds raised. We just can't seem to get past 8th place. We believe that top 5 is doable, but we need your help.

Please feel free to reach out to one of us on the *Rounds 4 Research* Committee.

Rounds 4 Research Auction

The Committee and their Contacts

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CHAD GILKISON

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cgilkison@theclubatpradera.com
(913) 484-4940

Relevant Websites to Visit

ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH AUCTION INFORMATION

<https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research>

ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH DONATION FORM

<https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research/r4r-online-donation-form>

RMEGI HOME PAGE

<https://www.rmegi.org/>

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Affiliate Angle

An Interview with Kyle Postlethwaite, Turf Sales Representative at Colorado Golf & Turf



Kyle Postlethwaite and Family

What is your current affiliate company and your position?

How long have you been in this position?

Colorado Golf & Turf – I’m a Turf Sales Representative, and I’ve been working here for almost 5 years...time flies!

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

We are based out of Littleton, CO and as a company, we cover Colorado, Wyoming, and western Nebraska.

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

We are the exclusive Club Car dealer for golf car fleets & maintenance vehicles. We also provide many new allied lines of equipment plus a variety of used equipment. We are involved with every event within the RMGCSA and sponsor several events throughout the year to ensure everyone knows who we are and how we can provide our products and services to go along with a lasting relationship.

What might we be surprised to know about your company?

We have been in business for 40 years and have grown by almost double since I started working here! Also, we have a new store in Grand Junction, CO to help our Club Car & rental customers.

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

I started my college adventures in my hometown of Lawrence, KS at the University of Kansas and did not finish pursuing Meteorology...Ended up going to the Golf Academy of America in Chandler, AZ to complete my Associate’s with an Applied Business Degree in Golf Complex Operations & Management.

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

I first started working in the industry in 2011 in Scottsdale, AZ at the Club at DC Ranch where I held many hats for about 5 years...scrubbing clubs in the staging area, bag room, driving range setup/breakdown, parking member’s fancy cars in valet, full-service anything! Helped with golf shop duties as well as some tournament scoring and junior golf instruction.

Affiliate Angle

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

My family now consists of 3 of us! My wife Hilary and I welcomed our first kiddo, Ruby Adele Postlethwaite, into the world last October. We are blessed every day that she is healthy and growing quickly! My hobbies/activities when not at work consist of golf, poker & any sport outside or on TV. I'm also a very avid Costco shopper 😊

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 in the past 5-10 years?

I think the biggest changes I've seen in the industry & since I started working with CGT are mostly technology & lithium transitions. Especially at City courses who are incentivized to go electric! Also, we (CGT) have grown on the commercial side of the business in the last 5 years catering to municipalities and school districts, etc. as well as providing more roadside technicians for service work.

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

Absolutely. I try to be at every event possible to get face time with customers and to stay up with other changes/transitions within RMGCSA.

What would you like other people to know about RMGCSA?

People should know that the RMGCSA is like a big networking family. We're all here for each other to share ideas about work & see how other people succeed in their roles & how each person can benefit from having the support of other people within the association. The education and golf events are a lot of fun as well!

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

I'd say the biggest obstacle in our industry would be cost. Cost of materials, cost of labor, cost of water, etc.

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

Equipment with automation is still growing!

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Upcoming Events



GOLF DAY AT CAPITOL

April 16, 2024
Colorado State Capitol

R4R Auction

April 22-28, 2024
Online

WESTERN SLOPE OUTING

May 7, 2024
Aspen Glen Club

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

June 13, 2024
Legacy Ridge Golf Course

HOSTING A PGA EVENT

July 8, 2024
TPC Colorado Maintenance Facility

AFFILIATE CUP

August 15, 2024
Breckenridge Golf Course

BEST TOURNAMENT EVER

September 24, 2024
Sanctuary Golf Course

PESTICIDE WORKSHOP

October 24, 2024
Webinar

RMGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 17-19, 2024
Denver Marriot West

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