1st Quarter

Issue 1-2010



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Well another year is upon us. I spent much of February on an GolfGeekPalooza educational whirlwind tour. A week in San Diego at the GIS Super Show, hanging out with my khaki pant and wind shirt clad brethren. Oh and let us not forget the Superintendent shoe, I opted for loafers this year. What is it about us *golf-geeks*? Is there another group on earth where khakis/wind shirt can be used as Work Clothes, Golf Casual, Business Casual, Business and Formal? Think about it...on a good day you could work a few hours, play a few holes of golf, attend a board meeting or business luncheon, hit a funeral and squeeze in a wedding all without changing your clothes. But I digress, the GIS show was and is and always will be a week to get away from work and spend some much needed time with family or colleagues. Sure I am there to be educated but the show itself needs an overhaul. How many times can you reinvent the greens mower? You can't! You put a new sticker on it and raise the price 10%. I swear I had a point when I started.

By all reports I have seen the GIS attendance was down 7-10%. Which is not a big surprise in the state our economy is in at the moment? Our own association is in the same boat. Members whose companies are not willing to pay their dues are just not joining. Corporate memberships are down due to the nature of the economy. You know the rest of the story; we are all struggling to keep staff employed and equipment running because God knows we are not buying new.

As a Board in the last few years we have tried to benefit you by offering education at our monthly meetings. That didn't seem to ignite any interest what so ever. So this year with the exception of the May meeting there will be no education offered at the golf outings. It will just be GOLF and fellowship with one another. Just like in the old days.

At this point the fall conference is still on. The board is looking into the possibility of moving it to Mesquite or Wendover. We had long discussions at last years fall meeting and we all felt that we needed to still do the fall meeting in some shape or form.

I would like to encourage you all to make it to our March meeting. It will be March 29th at the Moab Gold Club. Our host will be Ned Kirk. There will be car-pooling at East Bay pro-shop at 5:30 am that morning. You must arrange your own pool. Much thanks to Ned for providing golf and Jerry for providing parking. Also our May meeting is scheduled for May 6 at Oquirrh Hills Golf Course, host is Brian Roth. This meeting will include education from the GCSAA staff.

In closing I would again like to thank our sponsors for the support they continue to provide to the Association especially in this economy. I encourage you to do the same by purchasing from our Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors. Have a great season and I will see you in Moab.

Oh one last thing! My last stop on the GolfGeekPalooza tour was the Idaho Conference and show. Good times...you know the free pour in Boise. Basically a rerun of our show in St. George. Apparently attendance was down. There were 50 guys there 5 of them from Utah. Same crapping continental breakfast and coffee. I gotta say that the Taco bar was phenomenal on day one. Same type of speakers, a little boring here kind of good there, day 2 was better speaker wise. Mr. Steven Bernhard spoke for a half a day. This guy could be talking about the effects of Tylenol on monkeys and it would be great just because of the accent. I think it would be great to get Steven and Phil Millet for our fall meeting! Anyhow my point is, it wasn't any different than ours other than the members were there because they love their Association. Sure they have their clicks but they truly love their association. They show to benefit themselves education wise and to fellowship and hang out with one another. Wouldn't that be cool?

Please feel free to contact me with suggestions or hate mail at golfisgay@gmail.com







Newsletter Title

Issue 1-2010

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THE 2009 ST. GEORGE

FALL CONFERNECE From left to right: 2/3's of the Barker Dynasty The Lundbergs The Carruths Staker/Parson Boys Mr. Roth & Mr. Murdock Winchesters & Kevin Atkinson

JD's Gavel





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MULTIQUIP

NATIONAL TURFGRASS VARIETY TRIAL RESEARCH

Utah State University (USU) and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) cooperate extensively on variety trial research for many turfgrass species used on golf courses. These trials evaluate turf species for their adaptability to local climatic conditions, and under specific management practices. The variety trials conducted by USU of most interest to Intermountain West golf course superintendents are the perennial ryegrass fairway trial and the creeping bentgrass trials – both putting green and fairway management regimes. The perennial ryegrass fairway trial was planted in 2004. 2009 was the final year of evaluations. The creeping bentgrass putting green and fairway trials were planted in the fall of 2008 making 2009 the first full year of evaluations, which will continue until 2013.

In five years of evaluations on the perennial ryegrass fairway trial, varieties 'Uno', 'Exacta II GLSR', 'Cutter II', 'Calypso 3', 'Caddieshack II', 'Palace', 'Amazing GS', 'Fiesta 4', 'Dasher 3' and 'SR 4600' have had high average quality rankings, while 'Linn', 'Premier', 'Pinnacle', 'Affinity' and 'Protégé GLR' have had low average quality rankings.

In the bentgrass putting green trial, a number of new and relatively new creeping varieties, along with some experimentals are being evaluated compared to industry standard check varieties. Two velvet bentgrass varieties are also in the trial, but this species is typically not used in the Intermountain West. In previous NTEP tests conducted by USU, the velvet bentgrass entries were quickly out-competed by creeping bentgrass varieties. A common variety used in Utah, 'Dominant Plus' was included in the trial but is not an official NTEP entry. During the establishment year (2009), varieties 'Penn A-1' and 'Alpha' had high quality rankings, while 'Dominant Plus' and the velvet types had low rankings.

In the bentgrass fairway trial, both creeping and colonial bentgrass types are being evaluated, and a perennial ryegrass was included in the trial for comparison to a typical grass species managed on fairways in Utah. During the establishment year (2009), varieties 'T-1', '007', and 'Crystal Bluelinks' had high quality rankings. The colonial types had low rankings because they did not establish well at this location. Typically, colonial bentgrass is not well adapted to the high pH soils found in the Intermountain West. Drought conditions will be imposed on this test for the remaining years of evaluation. Irrigation at 50-60% of reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) will evaluate tolerance and survival of the entries to drought conditions.

Other NTEP variety trials maintained under relatively low maintenance conditions include Kentucky bluegrass (planted in 2005), tall fescue (planted in 2006) and fineleaf fescue (planted in 2008). All NTEP trials evaluate entries for turf quality and color throughout the growing season. Additional information such as spring greenup, fall color, resistance to snow mold and billbug damage, as well as establishment rate is also evaluated. Commercial availability of the entries in each variety trial is also included in reports provided by USU and NTEP.

The newest NTEP trial planted in 2009 is evaluating a number of different cool-season species for drought tolerance. This trial will evaluate the chronic drought tolerance, persistence and recovery of selected Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and fineleaf fescue varieties compared to industry standard check varieties. Once established, the trial will be irrigated at 40-50% of reference evapotranspiration (ET_o).

Local summaries of all NTEP trials conducted by Utah State University can be obtained at <u>www.turf.usu.edu</u> and complete reports from all national locations at <u>www.ntep.org</u>. For additional information or questions please contact Dr. Paul G. Johnson, at Utah State University (435-797-7039 or <u>paul.johnson@usu.edu</u>).

Other turfgrass evaluations of interest to golf course superintendents, not affiliated with NTEP, include grasses used for out-of-play areas. These turfgrasses include wheatgrass species (crested, western and streambank), blue grama, needlegrass and native bluegrasses.



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Dear IGCSA members,

Education on Organic/Sustainable Golf Course Management introduced at the IGCSA meeting in November is on-line! If you haven't filled out the initial survey on management practices or viewed the education materials, go to:

http://ezplug.usu.edu/survey/?id=1393

Educational materials are available at:

http://utahpests.usu.edu/index.cfm?organic-gc-mgmt

The materials include several sections, each with slides and voice. After viewing the presentations, you will take a short quiz to receive education and certification credits. Tentatively, the GCSAA will give 3.2 education points and UDAF will give 6 credits, two in each category. Once a follow-up survey is conducted, we will draw for prizes as appreciation of your involvement in this program.

Please call or e-mail anytime with questions about the program.

Paul G. Johnson, Ph.D.







Contact Troy Johnson 801-560-6346 greensourcellc@msn.com







The May meeting will be at Oquirrh Hills Golf Course. Our host is Brian Roth. GCSAA staff will provide education. May 6th, plan on it!



FARMLINKS invited the BOARD to Alabama in December!! Stay tuned, the IGCSA will holding a raffle for 2 people to go to Farmlinks in 2010. A must if you have never been.

Thanks To Our 2010 Silver and Bronze Sponsors..so far





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