

Utah Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



*Bountiful Ridge Golf Course, Bountiful, UT
Superintendent : Tom Rhoades*

Photo Credit: Bountiful Ridge Golf Course

-MISSION STATEMENT-

The Utah GCSA is dedicated to improving the superintendents' position in the golf industry through education, networking, advocacy and to grow the game of golf.

-VISION STATEMENT-

Provide exceptional programs and services utilized by all members of the association.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ March 31: 2021 memberships expire
- ✓ April 1: Utah GCSA Educational Scholarship opens
- ✓ April 25 - May 1: Rounds 4 Research Auction
- ✓ May 2: Spring Meeting @ Bountiful Ridge Golf Course
- ✓ May 11: First Green Field Trip @ Thanksgiving Point Golf Course ← **REVISED!**
- ✓ May 15: Deadline to submit educational scholarships
- ✓ August 29: 10th Annual Chapter Championship @ Willow Creek Country Club
- ✓ August 31: Deadline to submit photos for calendar contest
- ✓ November 9 (3-4:30): Service Opportunity @ Utah Food Bank



OFFICERS

- President: Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course
- Vice President: Josh Virostko, Lakeside Golf Course
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jay Geise, Hobbie Creek Golf Course

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- Nate James, Soldier Hollow Golf Course

NEWSLETTER EDITORS IN CHIEF

- Alan Davis & Kara Davis

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course

I hope that everyone has had a good “off-season,” been able to step back a little and recharge. Although I know there are many that have been open for most of the winter, hopefully you have been able to get some time away. We are preparing for a great UGCSA season, with events and activities. Our first meeting will be at Bountiful Ridge, on May 2nd, and I look forward to seeing everyone there. There will be opportunities for participation in First Green, and I encourage you to sign up. It is a great program, and was a great experience for those of us who had the opportunity last fall at Cedar Hills. We will have our Chapter Championship in August, and then our Fall Conference and Annual Meeting. Watch for notice of these and other events. Please make time to come out and associate and spend time with peers and friends.

On January 25th, the board met with representatives from GCSAA (Steve Randall and David Phipps) for a Strategic Planning session. It was a great opportunity to review goals and talk about the direction we would like to see for our chapter. Through this discussion, there are two points that I would encourage and support working toward.

- 1. First, strengthening our association through membership growth and activity.** We have a large pool of either non-members, or members that do not participate often. There is a great wealth of knowledge and experience out there that would be wonderful to be able to tap into. Everyone has something to offer, and we all can continue to learn and develop skills and abilities. If you are “neighbors” with, or friends of a superintendent/assistant that is not a member, encourage them to join. If they are members, but don’t come to events/meetings, reach out and encourage them to participate. Offer to come pick them up! We need everyone.
- 2. Second, the adoption and use of BMP’s can have a huge impact on our facilities individually, and on the perception of golf in our communities.** We have a chance to get ahead of issues that may not be affecting us now, but will most assuredly be an issue in the future. As a board we encourage everyone to look at the BMP tool, and adopt it for your facility. While it may appear a little overwhelming, it is really pretty simple. If you have any questions, please reach out to GCSAA, Dave Phipps, Natalie, or one of the board, we would all love to help.

Be sure to check out the Board Orientation & Strategic Planning Recap article in this newsletter. Looking forward to having a successful and productive season, both with our chapter activities and for each of you at your facilities. Have a great spring!

-Brian Roth



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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE'S CORNER



Hi Everyone! Cheers to spring and warmer weather – hopefully. As I write this (beginning of March) we've had unseasonably cold temperatures and about 10 inches of snow here in West Jordan! We desperately need the water so I can't complain too much.

Hoping you all get settled in as the 2022 season begins and the chaotic days ensue. Here are a few reminders and items of interest...

- ✓ Membership applications have been mailed out to address you have on file. (Year runs from April 1st—March 31st). Make it easier and join/renew online at www.utahgcsa.org. Please note that retired members ONLY need to fill out and submit the application portion.
- ✓ Not all job postings are emailed out so be sure to check the website often as there are always new vacancies posted.
- ✓ In addition to the Utah GCSA Educational Scholarship, GCSAA has a variety of scholarships opportunities available.
<https://www.gcsaa.org/education/scholarships>
- ✓ Need some Utah GCSA swag? We've got tee shirts, trucker hats, Columbia jackets, and RTIC travel mugs. 20% off automatically applied through April 30th!

Natalie Barker, Chapter Executive



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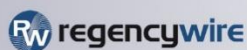
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BOARD ORIENTATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING RECAP

On January 25, 2022, the Utah GCSA Board of Directors met at Turf Equipment & Irrigation for a facilitated strategic planning and board orientation session with Dave Phipps, NW Field Staff Representative, and Steve Randall, Director of Chapter Outreach. The event began with an orientation focused on governance, financials, and affiliation responsibilities, and continued into the following areas.

VULNERABILITY EXERCISE

- Steve asked, where did you grow up, how many siblings each member has and when you were the most afraid. The highlight of the exercise was the sharing of the scariest moment...ranging from getting lost in the wilderness to losing a loved one in a pond with a green's mower.

SCOR ANALYSIS

- Next, the group executed a SCOR analysis, discussing the chapter's Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Risks.
- Some **strengths** that were brought up were consistent events, camaraderie among members, good financial position, and providing value to members, among others.
- Among **challenges** noted were keeping long-term members engaged, getting new people to participate/younger members involved, and geography.
- Several **opportunities** that were shared were First Green, using the new BMP tool to use at our facilities and also show/share the level of expertise in golf course maintenance, member outreach and the large pool of members/peers from which we can draw.
- **Risks** that we discussed were water, labor, and inflation/supply chain issues.

MISSION & VISSION STATEMENT

- It was agreed to retain the mission statement as stated. *"The Utah GCSA is dedicated to improving the superintendents' position in the golf industry through education, networking, advocacy and to grow the game of golf."*
- The vision was discussed at length, and Steve suggested the following which was agreed upon by the group.
- Prior Vision Statement *"The Utah GCSA is a community of golf course management professionals and a go-to information source to enhance and grow the profession"*
- New Vision Statement *"Providing exceptional programs and services utilized by all members of the association."*

PRIORITY/GOAL SETTING & ACTION ITEMS

- Goals were set surrounding member attendance, Rounds 4 Research, and First Green field trips while action items were directed towards non-members and growing a reserve fund account.

BOARD ORIENTATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING RECAP (CONT'D)

In conclusion, the session was well received and gave the board a better understanding of where we are heading. Those in attendance of the meeting include

- Nate James, Past President
- Brian Roth, CGCS President
- Josh Virostko, Vice President
- Jay Geise, Sec/Treasurer
- Jeff Murdock, Affiliate Representative
- T.A. Barker, GCSAA Director
- Paul Stokes, Director
- Mike Valiant, CGCS, Director
- Eric Allred, Affiliate Representative
- Mike Hawkins, Director
- Natalie Barker, Executive Director



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EQUIPMENT MANAGER TRAINING RECAP

On Wednesday, January 19, 2022, equipment managers met at Turf Equipment and Irrigation in Salt Lake for a hands-on service training session. Education was held in small groups around equipment and focused on hydraulic testing, reel setup, grinding, small engine testing and diagnostics.

Brack Crouch, Equipment Manager at Talisker Club at Tuhaye spoke to the group about the GCSAA Equipment Managers Certification (CTEM), the importance of networking and membership with the Utah GCSA. T.A. Barker, CGCS, also talked about membership with GCSAA and handed out free one-year memberships to those interested. Overall, it was a great day of networking and education!

Interested in CTEM? Find out more here:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/education/certifications-exams/equipment-management-certificate-program/certification-for-equipment-managers>



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SERVICE PROJECT RECAP



UTAH
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BANK

For over 117 years, the Utah Food Bank has stayed true to their objective of serving those in need throughout the state. They work tirelessly with community partners and volunteers to continue making an impact and fulfilling their mission of *Fighting Hunger Statewide*.

Last year, the Utah Food Bank distributed **58.5 million meals** via a statewide network of 216 partner agencies located in all 29 counties. In addition to being one of only a handful of food banks that distributes food free-of-charge to partner agencies, they also offer several direct service programs to help the most vulnerable populations in the state — children and seniors. They are now serving three times as many people as it did prior to the pandemic and one in seven children do not know where their next meal is coming from.

On Wednesday, March 9, Utah GCSA members and their families stepped up to volunteer for the afternoon. We were given a quick rundown of the facility, who they serve, and the shocking statistics surrounding food insecurities around the state. We were then told what our project would be for the day - the task at hand? Fill family-size bags of spaghetti. We all filed into the kitchen, washed up and put our hairnets on where a pallet of boxes was brought in. Spaghetti was then transferred into individual three-pound bags, weighed, heat sealed, and repackaged to be shipped around the state.

Volunteers are a vital part of their organization – they did the equivalent work of 68 full-time employees last year! Food banks rely on volunteers; it's how they keep costs low – so low that 96 cents of every dollar donated go directly to program support, meaning only four cents goes to administrative and overhead costs. Plus, research suggests that people who volunteer experience a boost in their mental health! A win-win for everyone!

MISSED THIS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY? SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT ONE ON NOVEMBER 9TH, 2022.





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WE NEED YOUR ROUNDS!

Since launching in 2012, Rounds 4 Research has raised **two million for turfgrass research, education, and advocacy programs**. Even during the pandemic, the 2020 auction raised over **\$263,000!**

The premise of the program is simple: Golf facilities support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two, four or “stay and play” packages and other items that will be auctioned online through a nationwide auction. This year, the auction will run from **April 25 – May 1, 2022**. The proceeds from the online auction are designated by the participating facilities to their local GCSA chapter (in this case, Utah!). **EIGHTY PERCENT of those funds raised are then donated back to the chapter** with the remaining 20 percent going to the GCSAA Foundation to assist with marketing, technical costs of running the auction, and to help support the national research program.

I am asking all of you to consider donating a twosome, foursome, or a “stay and play” package from your facility to the auction. In times of declining membership, participation, and sponsorship, these additional funds can be critical to our chapter to continue providing the member services you have become accustomed to.

Further, the first 20 courses to donate will receive a free charging journal from GCSAA!

Donate a round here:

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



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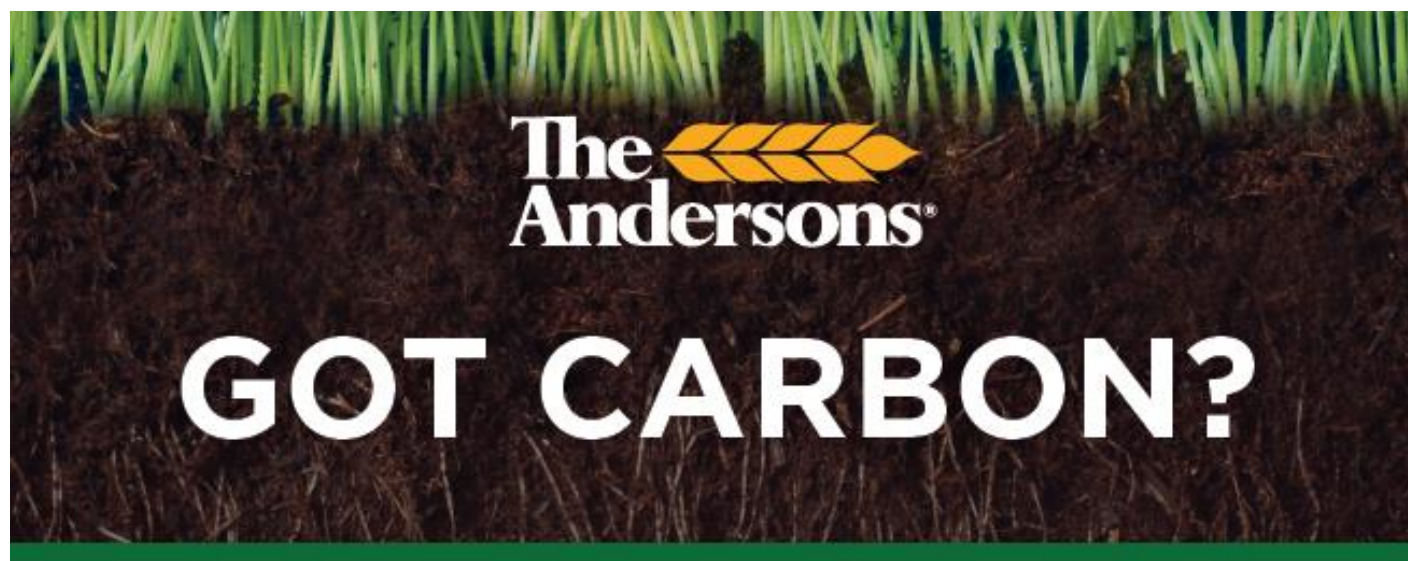
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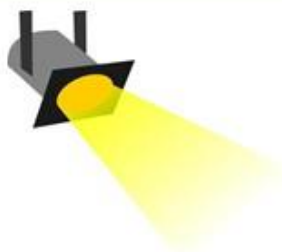
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JANUARY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**10 Questions with
TA Barker, CGCS, Superintendent @
Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, UT**

1. WHAT DREW YOU INTO THE TURF WORLD?

Being a third-generation superintendent, I was born and raised on the golf course. Since I was three, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. The science behind turf has always fascinated me and there has never been a plan B.

2. WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR CURRENT FACILITY?

Started working on the course when I was 14 and never left. Family-owned businesses are like that.

3. DESCRIBE YOUR FACILITY IN 10 WORDS OR LESS

15 par-3s, two par-4s and a par-5 of pure enjoyment!

4. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Drop the ego and create the masterpiece that everyone can enjoy. Cater to the majority – You know the average golfer and it's hard enough without us trying to make it harder. And for God sakes, wear sunblock!

5. WHAT'S ONE MOVIE YOU CAN WATCH OVER AND OVER?

Bio Dome – No matter how many times I've seen it, it still makes me laugh!

**6. FAVORITE HOBBIES / INTERESTS?**

Traveling and seeing the country. Serving on the GCSAA board has given me the opportunity over the last four years to get out and visit some cool places. Watching my boys grow up to be young men (even though I want to strangle them occasionally) is my greatest joy in life.

7. HOW IS YOUR GOLF GAME? HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU PLAY A YEAR?

For somebody that hates practicing, it's pretty good. I'm fortunate to play in the GCSAA Tournament each year and all the chapter events. Other than that, I get out and play my course occasionally. I got to play with Natalie last year in Ohio and we had a blast. Hopefully, she wants to play this year so we can get out more.

CONTINUED...

JANUARY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (cont'd)**8. FAVORITE PRO / COLLEGE TEAMS?**

Boston Red Sox, Denver Broncos, and Penn State Nittany Lions. I've got a brother that is nine years older than me, and I've always felt that he is the coolest. He loves the Broncos and Red Sox, so naturally I did too. After receiving my Advance Turf Science Certification from Penn State, the Nittany Lions became my team.

9. WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING SITUATION (WORK OR PERSONAL) YOU'VE BEEN IN?

There has been a lot, most should never be told in a professional forum like this. There are two that stand out. First, was 2012 when I spoke in the gold room at the capital in front of Governor Herbert about Utah Golf and our profession. The second is when I got to aerate some of the turf at the National Mall for National Golf Day in 2016. It was awesome driving the tractor punching some holes while the Washington Monument was right in front of me.

10. WHAT ARE THREE THINGS IN YOUR "TOOLKIT" YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

Sunglasses, sunblock, and a shovel.



FEBRUARY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**10 Questions with
Becca Fillerup, Assistant Superintendent @
Riverside Country Club in Provo, UT**

1. WHAT DREW YOU INTO THE TURF WORLD?

Working outside and cruising around in a golf cart.

2. WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR CURRENT FACILITY?

It seemed like a good opportunity to further pursue my career goals.

3. DESCRIBE YOUR FACILITY IN 10 WORDS OR LESS

Riverside has a fun atmosphere and is easy on the eyes.

4. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Don't be afraid to go for it.

5. WHAT'S ONE MOVIE YOU CAN WATCH OVER AND OVER?

The Goonies

**8. FAVORITE PRO / COLLEGE TEAMS?**

Jazz and the Mets

**9. WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING SITUATION
(WORK OR PERSONAL) YOU'VE BEEN IN?**

I was born on the hospital floor.

**10. WHAT ARE THREE THINGS IN YOUR "TOOLKIT"
YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?**

Ice pick, La Croix, snacks

**6. FAVORITE HOBBIES / INTERESTS?**

Skiing, fishing, paddleboarding & reading

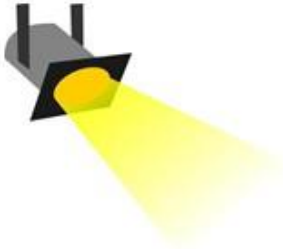
**7. HOW IS YOUR GOLF GAME? HOW MANY
TIMES DO YOU PLAY A YEAR?**

So, so bad but I'm working on it.



MARCH

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**10 Questions with
Adam Valdez, Equipment Manager @
Alpine Country Club in Highland, UT**

1. WHAT DREW YOU INTO THE TURF WORLD?

I love being outdoors.

2. WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR CURRENT FACILITY?

I had family members that worked at the club for years.

3. DESCRIBE YOUR FACILITY IN 10 WORDS OR LESS

Fast greens, a lot of attention to detail.

4. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Don't rush things.

5. WHAT'S ONE MOVIE YOU CAN WATCH OVER AND OVER?

Napoleon Dynamite

**6. FAVORITE HOBBIES / INTERESTS?**

Fishing, Hunting and Jeeps

7. HOW IS YOUR GOLF GAME? HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU PLAY A YEAR?

Embarrassing most the time. I maybe play 10 times a season.

8. FAVORITE PRO / COLLEGE TEAMS?

Seattle Seahawks

9. WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING SITUATION (WORK OR PERSONAL) YOU'VE BEEN IN?

Stuck on Utah Lake for 8 hours because of extreme weather while duck hunting.

10. WHAT ARE THREE THINGS IN YOUR "TOOLKIT" YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

My Jeep, fishing gear, & my dog Rosco



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January 13, 2022

Bowling Outing at Fat Cats

1ST PLACE TEAM 1407 score

- Bill Echternkamp, Forest Dale
- Bo Benson, Bonneville
- Steve Ahlander, Bonnvile
- Ed Murdock, Great Basin

2ND PLACE TEAM 1286 score

- Nate Lundberg, Meadow Brook
- Jason Lundberg, Murray Parkway
- Cooper Lundberg
- John Hansgen, Fox Hollow

3RD PLACE TEAM 1146 score

- TA Barker, CGCS, Fore Lakes
- Pat Christoffer, Red Ledges
- Eric Allred, Green Source
- Josh Virostko, Lakeside



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to sign-up for Utah Chapter
GCSA mobile alerts.



2022 UTAH GCSA CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST



Calling All (Amateur) Photographers!

The Utah GCSA wants you to share the beauty of your course with our photography contest! We are looking for images of your golf course, wildlife on the course, maintenance operations and/or construction. Images will be judged on composition, originality, technical excellence, and artistic merit. All photos should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that are digitally altered beyond standard optimization (e.g., removal of dust, cropping) will be disqualified. We will be accepting digital images January 1 through August 31, 2022. We invite all photographers from all levels of expertise to submit their best photos for a chance to win a cash prize and to be showcased in our 2022 calendar!

How to enter

Submit photographs and requested information to intermountaingcsa@gmail.com with the subject "Calendar Photo Contest". Photographs must be submitted in an image format (.jpeg, .jpg, .gif, .tiff, .png, .eps).

Prizes

- 1st place winner will be awarded \$200 cash prize and the calendar cover.
- \$50 cash prizes will be awarded to each individual selected for one of the monthly calendar spots.

Submission Guidelines & Photo Requirements

- Up to 3 photos may be submitted per photographer.
- Photos must be horizontal or "landscape;" vertical photos will not be considered.
- Max file size 20 MB per photo.
- Photographs must be submitted in an image format (.jpeg, .jpg or .gif, .tiff, .png, .eps).
- If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary releases from the individuals depicted.
- Use "highest" quality for best results.
- Do not add watermarks, dates, logos, names, etc. to photographs.

Include the following information with each image

- Name of photographer
- Date photo was taken (month/year)
- Location where photo was taken (please include course name and city)
- Name(s) of person(s) and/or animals in the photo
- Description of photo (e.g., describe what is happening in the photo)

Judging

Judging will be conducted by a panel selected by the Utah GCSA Board of Directors as its sole discretion.

Contest Rules

- This contest is open to amateur photographers at least 18 years of age who are in good standing as a member of the Utah GCSA.
- The 2022 Photo Contest will run from January 1, 2022, to August 31, 2022. Late entries will automatically be disqualified.
- Submitted photographs must be previously unpublished to be considered.
- All photos must be in color and relevant to either your golf course, wildlife on the course, maintenance operations and/or construction.
- All submissions must include the name of the photographer, date the photo was taken, location the photo was taken, name(s) of person(s) and/or animal(s) in the photo and a description of the photo. Only submission that include this information will be considered eligible.
- Photographers may enter up to three photographs so long as the information is included with each image.
- By submitting photography to this contest, you agree to allow your photograph(s) to appear in Utah GCSA's publications, including Greens Examiner and/or other promotional materials, as well as the Utah GCSA's website without paying compensation to the photographer or the subjects. All entries become exclusive property of the Utah GCSA.
- Utah GCSA assumes no responsibility for lost, late, misdirected, illegible entries or for any electronic or internet-related hardware or software failures or malfunctions that may occur.
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2022 MOST VALUABLE TECHNICIAN AWARD

Presented in partnership with Foley Company



Does your turf equipment technician deserve some much-needed recognition for the vital, behind-the-scenes role they play in the success of your golf facility? If so, he or she is eligible for *GCM*'s Most Valuable Technician (MVT) awards program, presented in partnership with Foley Company.

There are several benefits to you and your equipment technician if he or she wins:

- Both the nominating superintendent and the winning equipment manager will receive a complimentary trip to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show (full-pack registration, airfare, hotel and spending allowance).
- The winning equipment manager will receive \$2,500.
- The chapter of the nominating superintendent will receive \$1,000. Be sure to nominate your equipment manager to make a difference for your chapter as well!

The industry will vote for the MVT winner in June. Nominations will be narrowed to a field of three finalists by a team of industry judges. *GCM* readers will have the opportunity to review the qualifications of the finalists and vote online for their favorite. The winner of the MVT contest is then profiled in the magazine.

Nominations are open through **April 30, 2022**. [Submit a nomination.](#)

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The advertisement is set against a background image of a lush green golf course with a sand trap and a line of trees in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds. The Brandt logo is in the top right corner. A red banner with the text "High Performance Nutrition" is on the left. Below this, a white box contains descriptive text and logos for Brandt, Grigg, and Brandt iHammer. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and a call to action to scan it for more information, followed by the company name and website.



new members

- Ken Yates, Superintendent – Black Desert Resort
- Zachary Miller, Equipment Manager – Eagle Mountain Golf Course
- Tyler Jones, Assistant Superintendent – Copper Golf Club
- Brett Keeler, Equipment Manager – Oquirrh Hills Golf Course
- Brandon Wulfenstein, Equipment Manager – Timpanogos Golf Course

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GCSAA/*GOLF DIGEST* ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS IN GOLF AWARDS

Presented by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

The ELGAs are presented in partnership with



Last year, GCSAA moved the application period.

ELGA applications are open now through April 29, 2022.

In 2018, the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability. The ELGAs are based on the environmental best management practices that GCSAA recommends all courses utilize.

There are four ELGAs available:

- Natural Resource Conservation Award
- Healthy Land Stewardship Award
- Communications and Outreach Award
- Innovative Conservation Award

There will be one winner and two runners-up recognized for each award. GCSAA members may apply to one, two, three or all four awards in a single year. However, an individual can only win one award per year.

All applicants will be notified by December whether or not they have been selected as a winner. Winners will be recognized at the Golf Industry Show.

To apply: <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/awards/environmental-leaders-in-golf-awards>

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