



-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-

The Utah GCSA is a community of golf course management professionals and a go-to information source to enhance and grow the profession.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ 1/25-1/30/2020: Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Fla.
- ✓ 01/29/2020: Hospitality Room @ Tin Roof Orlando
- ✓ 02/20/2020: Winter Education Conference @ Weber State Davis Campus
- ✓ 04/27/20: Spring Network Meeting @ Bountiful Ridge Golf Course



OFFICERS

- President: Alan Davis - Willow Creek Country Club
- Vice President: Nate James - Soldier Hollow Golf Course
- Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Roth, CGCS - Oquirrh Hills Golf Course

DIRECTORS

- Eric Jones - Talons Cove Golf Course
- Mike Valiant, CGCS - Glenwild Golf Club & Spa
- Josh Virostko - Lakeside Golf Course
- Wes York - Oakridge Country Club

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Brecken Varah - Willow Creek Country Club

AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES

- Phill Miller - Stotz Equipment
- Ross O'Fee, CGCS - Empire Turf, Inc.

PAST PRESIDENT

- Justin Woodland - The Barn Golf Club

NEWSLETTER EDITORS IN CHIEF

- Alan Davis & Kara Davis

UTAH GCSA OFFICE

- Natalie Barker, Chapter Executive
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 3: President's Message
 Pages 5: Chapter Executive's Corner
 Pages 8-12: Conference Recap
 Page 14: Conference Pictures
 Page 16: Northwest Chapters Event
 Pages 19-20: Utah BMP Guidelines
 Pages 22-25: Past Year's Awards
 Page 26: New Members
 Page 27: In Memory
 Pages 29-32: GIS Information
 Pages 33-35: Traffic Control
 Page 37: Conference Golf Awards
 Page 39: 2019 Utah GCSA Sponsors

SPONSOR ADS

Page 4: Simplot Partners
 Page 6: Green Source, LLC
 Page 7: Mountainland Supply
 Page 12: Target Specialty Products
 Page 13: Stotz Equipment
 Page 15: Turf Equipment & Irrigation
 Page 17: Winfield
 Page 18: RMT Equipment
 Page 21: Mile High Turfgrass
 Page 26: Staker Parson
 Page 28: Wilbur Ellis
 Page 33: SiteOne Landscape Supply
 Page 33: Wheeler Machinery
 Page 35: Steve Regan Company
 Page 35: Great Basin Turf Products
 Page 36: Sprinkler Supply Company
 Page 38: Empire Turf Inc
 Page 38: Hydro Engineering
 Page 38: Airgronomics

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An Association on the Rise



In all facets of life there is always room for improvement, identifying where and how to improve is another story all together. I would like to address further what I alluded to in my speech in St. George. One of the proudest moments of my life was being elected president of this association, specifically now. What I mean by that is there has been more change in the association over the years that I have been involved, than I ever thought possible. Now simply stated, change is not always for the best. **But if you keep trying new things, eventually you run across something that sticks.**

There have been tremendous strides made in communication, research support, education, events, networking, the list goes on. I attribute this to some stellar leadership and more importantly our members' openness to try new things. Our association has shown the willingness to venture into the unknown, because it's a cause we need to support, or research that will be beneficial to the industry, or just to shake things up. It has been incredible to watch, at first as a member, now on the board of directors. I am humbled to take on the task of continuing that momentum that has been built.

The first superintendent that I ever worked for told me **"If you're not moving forward, you're moving backward. Standing still is not an option."** I was 16 years old, and his work ethic and that quote stuck with me. Still to this day I try new things on the course every year. I have given myself the title of **"world's biggest self-auditor."** If something bothers me, or I think something can be better, I change it. Anyone that has worked with me has grown for the familiar with a certain quote. In the interest of professionalism, I will change a certain alcoholic beverage referenced in the quote to lemonade. **"Hold my lemonade, I'm 'bout to try something."** In a less redneck way, this is where I feel we have come as an association. We are an association on the rise, and I think it is something that we should all be very proud of.

Go Pack Go,

Alan B. Davis

**P.S. Be sure to check out our
EXCITING NEWS on slide 16!**



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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE'S CORNER



**Another year is ending and man it went FAST!
Time really does go faster as you get older.
Cheers to a new year full of possibilities,
opportunities and new habits.**

A couple of items of interest...

- 2020 Sponsor Recognition packets have been mailed out and are due back by Friday, January 10th. Anything after this deadline will still be accepted; however, you may miss out on printed material.
- **TAKE PICTURES!** I know everyone has a smartphone these days with a pretty dang good camera. I would love to share your course, crew in action, etc. on social media. Do you have a best management practice that you think others could benefit from? How about a really cool animal habitat? I want to share them with our golfing community – especially those here in Utah. The best way to educate the community about your job, your course and yourself is to share it!
- Are you interested in serving on a committee for our chapter? We are needing volunteers for the following committees:
 - ✓ **Education:** *The education committee will help determine scope of educational needs of the chapter and contact potential speakers to find out fees and availability.*
 - ✓ **Membership:** *The membership committee will help with recruitment, retention and renewal of members. Acknowledge and welcome new members at events and reach out to non-members.*
 - ✓ **Newsletter:** *The newsletter committee will encourage membership to submit articles, find pertinent content and take photos for the bi-annual Green's Examiner.*
 - ✓ **Scholarship/Awards:** *The scholarship/awards committee will help with setting guidelines and criteria for the yearly educational scholarship, Salesperson, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Distinguished Service awards. Committee members will encourage membership to participate.*
 - ✓ **Tournament:** *The tournament committee will help with securing location to set up golf and education outings, help with registration, scoring, placing signs, and clean up after event.*
 - ✓ **Communication:** *The communication committee will help with the overall communication within the chapter via social media, email, telephone, etc.*

Contact me if you're interested!

We've got a great lineup of events this year – hope to see you at them!

Natalie Barker, Chapter Executive

Merry Christmas From



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UGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

UTAH GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

After an 8 year absence, St. George welcomed the UGCSA annual banquet and trade show back to town! The return could not have gone better. The accommodations, trade show venue, and golf were all as spectacular as could be expected in our fantastic host city, St. George.

The St. George Hilton Garden Inn and Conference center played host. The event officially began Monday morning with the introduction of our many members from across the state. There were **125 UGCSA members in attendance**, an incredible turnout! After going over the financials for the year, it quickly transitioned to the year in review. This year saw many well attended events, and an association that continues to be supported by its members incredibly well. Some highlights from the year in review:

- ✓ Ronald McDonald House Service project – Well attended, a great event!
- ✓ UGCSA Educational Scholarships – **Bo Benson** - Assistant superintendent Bonneville Golf Course. Attending Penn State Online turf program. **Kate Murdock** – Daughter of member Jeff Murdock. Attending Utah State University to study American Sign Language.
- ✓ New event added – Big 3 charity golf tournament benefitting the UGCSA benevolent fund.
- ✓ Completed and published Utah Best Management Practices (BMP) – A huge thanks to all involved!



CONTINUED...

UGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP (cont'd)



The elections ballots were then handed out and members were asked to vote for the candidates for the 2020 UGCSA board of directors. After the tally, the UGCSA would like to congratulate / welcome the newly elected officers and members of the 2020 UGCSA board of directors. They are as follows:

- ✓ Past President: Justin Woodland, The Barn Golf Club
- ✓ President: Alan Davis, Willow Creek Country Club
- ✓ Vice President: Nate James, Soldier Hollow Golf Course
- ✓ Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course
- ✓ Director: Eric Jones, Talons Cove Golf Course
- ✓ Director: Mike Valiant, CGCS, Glenwild Golf & Spa
- ✓ Director: Josh Virostko, Lakeside Golf Course
- ✓ Director: Wes York, Oakridge Country Club
- ✓ Assistant Director: Brecken Varah, Willow Creek Country Club
- ✓ Affiliate Rep: Phill Miller, Stotz Equipment
- ✓ Affiliate Rep: Ross O'Fee, CGCS, Empire Turf

CONTINUED...

UGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP (cont'd)

The event transitioned to our invited speakers, led off by **Dave Phipps** GCSAA field representative for the Northwest region. His updates consisted of many initiatives that GCSAA has in place to assist its members. Some highlights include:

- ✓ Advocacy – GCSAA is representing its members through political lobbyists on issues that affect our industry on a national level. Our voice is being heard!
- ✓ Hiring – GCSAA is working to partner with other national associations to educate and advocate on careers in the golf industry.
- ✓ Additional membership categories – New offerings to help GCSAA reach more people. The “Friends” program was highlighted as well as the “Facility member” group program.
- ✓ BMP Update – Utah has been published! Now on to the facility adoption program.

The next speaker **Dr. Mike Richardson**, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas, covered a topic that is relatable nationwide. His talk answered the question “How much shade is too much shade?” Dr. Richardson covered many trials that he and his grad students oversaw to find out the factors that lead to turf decline when it comes to shade. Dr. Richardson presented data and conclusions that have been drawn from his many years of research.

Paige Boyle, the architect of the Utah BMP, unveiled the completed Utah document that has since been published nationally. Paige worked incredibly hard to get this completed and deserves many more thanks than she could ever receive.

Check out more about Utah BMPs on pages 19-20.

Brian Whitlark, USGA Agronomist West Region, spoke on the topic “Developing a water management plan and adopting water efficiency strategies at your golf course.” Mr. Whitlark’s presentation was full of helpful tips and pointers as it pertained to efficient irrigation, effective watering practices, and suggested different approaches to achieving quality playing surfaces.

Dr. Richardson returned one last time to close out the speakers for the day. He spoke this time on the topic “Gadgets and Gizmos – Using technology to monitor the turf environment.” This was a very helpful session geared towards using all of the latest and greatest technology available to assist your program.

Many thanks to all our speakers and presenters!

CONTINUED...

UGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP (cont'd)

Monday evening concluded with our Annual UGCSA Trade Show. Thank you for all of the vendors in attendance who made it a great evening. It really was a great way to showcase all of the products that our local vendors have to offer, and a fantastic way to put the faces to the names.

Tuesday began with the always popular golf event at Sunbrook Golf Course. Sunbrook was in incredible shape and was a stellar host site for the event. Many thanks to the golf course staff for hosting the event and the many vendors that showcased their products throughout the course. Always a great event, and this was no exception.



The conference concluded with the dinner and awards ceremony. UGCSA current president, Alan Davis, presented outgoing president, Justin Woodland, a plaque and brief thank you for all of his service. Justin served the board and the UGCSA members with an incredible passion! He was an incredible (and interesting) president and his many contributions will serve the association well in the future. The evening concluded with raffle, golf awards (*check out winners on page 37*), and the announcement of the winners of the past years' awards. What a deserving group they are:

- ✓ UGCSA Superintendent of the year (Private) – Wes York, Oakridge Country Club
- ✓ UGCSA Superintendent of the year (Public) – Josh Virostko, Lakeside Golf Course
- ✓ UGCSA Assistant of the year – Spencer Workman, Oakridge Country Club
- ✓ UGCSA Salesperson of the year – Eric Allred, Greensource LLC

Congratulations to all the winners of these prestigious past years' awards. *You can learn more about each of these winners on pages 22-25.*

CONTINUED...

UGCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP (cont'd)

Thank you to all that helped our return to St. George go so smoothly. From the planning, to the execution, a sincere thank you from the UGCSA and all its members. Thank you for making our association one of the best in the country.

*A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!*

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Check out more conference pictures on page 14.



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Equipment Manager classification passed with a unanimous vote and will now be part of the UGCSA classifications. More details to come!



Join us!

Chapters of the Northwest Hospitality Room

*Idaho GCSA, Inland Empire GCSA, Oregon GCSA,
Peaks & Prairies GCSA, Utah GCSA & Western Washington GCSA*

Date: Wednesday, January 29th

Location: Tin Roof Orlando

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Address: 8371 International Drive, Orlando, FL

Want to be a sponsor?

Vendors, we invite you to help sponsor this annual partnership event held in conjunction with the 2020 GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL.

The following levels of support are available and will be acknowledged accordingly:

Bronze Level: \$400 - \$599

Silver Level: \$600 - \$799

Gold: \$800 & over

Contact Natalie by January 6th if interested

As always, thank you for your support of our chapter!

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Utah latest state to publish BMP guidelines for golf courses

by Dec 10, 2019 | GCSAA

The Utah Golf Course Superintendents Association leads the development of statewide best management practices with grant from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



Lawrence, Kan. (Dec. 10, 2019) – The Utah Golf Course Superintendents Association, along with Utah State University, has resulted in the publication of “Utah Golf Course Industry Best Management Practices Guide”.

The Utah BMPs were developed in part by using the BMP Planning Guide and Template created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and funded and supported by the USGA.

The Utah GCSA received a \$10,000 BMP grant that GCSAA funded through the association’s Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) in part by PGA Tour. The BMP grant program provides funding through the EIFG to chapters for developing new guides, updating existing guides or for verification programs. GCSAA’s goal is to have all 50 states offer established BMPs by 2020.

Utah latest state to publish BMP guidelines for golf courses (cont'd)

The BMPs provide guidance in twelve key areas including archaeological awareness, wildlife protection, surface water management and water quality, nutrient use, integrated pest management, energy and others that speak to the state's 6 different climate zones and unique flora and fauna.

Eric Gifford, superintendent at Riverside Country Club in Provo, Utah, was chairman of the Utah BMP Steering Committee.

"This is a great resource that Utah superintendents can use to help them be even more environmentally conscious when it comes to making decisions at their facilities," Gifford said. "The BMPs presented will be a great foundation that the UGCSA can build upon for years to come. "

GCSAA members who served on the Utah BMPs steering committee included, Dave Carruth, superintendent at Murray Park Golf Club in Murray, Utah; Pat Christoffer, director of agronomy at Red Ledges Golf Club in Heber, Utah; Ross Laubscher, director of agronomy at Entrada at Snow Canyon Golf Club in St. George, Utah; Brian Roth, CGCS, superintendent at Oquirrh Hills Golf Course in Tooele, Utah; Paul Stokes, superintendent at Logan (Utah) Country Club.

Utah State's Paige Boyle was instrumental in assembling the document with additional support provided by Carl Adams, stormwater specialist, Utah Department of Environmental Quality; Diana Cox-Foster, research leader, USDA-ARS Pollinating Insect Biology, Management and Systematic Research Lab; Kelly Kopp, professor and Extension water conservation and turfgrass specialist, Utah State University; Henry Nahalewski, pesticide program manager, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food; and Larry Rupp, professor and Extension ornamental horticulture specialist, Utah State University.

With more than 75 courses in the state covering a wide variety of climates, the Utah BMPs offers guidelines for superintendents to manage their facilities in an efficient and environmentally sustainable manner in keeping with their regional needs and regulatory concerns. The BMPs cover 12 sections of topics ranging from more universal topics like water quality management and pollinator protection to irrigation and water conservation.

To read "Utah Golf Course Industry Best Management Practices Guide" and to learn more about GCSAA's BMP program, visit www.gcsaa.org/bmp.

Read more:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/news/2019/12/10/utah-latest-state-to-publish-bmp-guidelines-for-golf-courses#ixzz68JMuTuQm>



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PAST YEAR'S AWARDS

**Meet our
Superintendent of
the Year (Public) –
Josh Virostko from
Lakeside Golf Course**



Josh was born at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage Alaska where he grew up in a military family. His father, grandfather and many uncles and cousins all served in the Air force. He moved around quite a bit when he was younger. In 1989 his father was stationed at Patrick Air force Base in satellite beach Florida, which is where he retired from the military. Florida is where he considers home. He stayed in Florida for ten years until he was senior in high school. Josh grew up in a small house less than a mile from the ocean and when he was 12, learned to surf and still surfs every time he's near the ocean. He played high school football in the corner back position and wrestled at the 145 lb. weight class. His family moved to Aurora, Colorado, his senior year of high school. As soon as he graduated, he made the decision to move back to Florida on his own where he gained his first golf course job. At the age of 23, he served a full-time mission for the LDS church in the California San Fernando mission. When he was 26, he met his wife Chelsea and were married a year later. Since then, he has been waking up early every morning going to a golf course. Josh has been in the golf industry since 1998 and has worked at nine courses in four different states. He has a dog named Leroy who has been chasing geese off golf courses for seven years. In his spare time Josh and his wife like to travel and spend time with their families.

CONTINUED...

PAST YEAR'S AWARDS (cont'd)

Meet our Superintendent of the Year (Private) – Wes York from Oakridge Country Club



Wes was born in Utah and raised in the Layton area. He was introduced to the game of golf at the age of seven and it wasn't long before the enjoyment and frustration of the game grabbed ahold of him. With the support of his parents, Wes loved traveling around the state with his grandfather and cousin competing in jr. golf tournaments. On a rare occasion he played a great round, but unfortunately found himself congratulating other great players on their victories. After graduating from Layton High, Wes enlisted in the Marine Corps. It was here where he developed his work ethic, teamwork, and leadership skills. Upon returning home from his military service, he needed a job while deciding on his career path. A friend of his was working at a golf course and he thought "I like golf, that might be a fun job for the summer." So his friend made arrangements for him to become an employee of Oakridge Country Club. Almost 20 years later Wes is still on the job and still trying to figure out what he wants to do when he grows up. After deciding that he enjoyed working in golf course maintenance he began to pursue a career in turfgrass management. He learned both the science and the art of turfgrass management from his mentors Dale Nelson, Paul Chojnacky, Chris Hart and the infamous Jason Moon and continues to learn more each year about the care of the golf course. When not at Oakridge, Wes enjoys fly-fishing, hunting, coaching baseball, and most importantly spending time with his beautiful wife Christy and their mostly wonderful children, Paul and Hadley. Wes looks forward to progressing with his career in turfgrass management and continues his efforts to do his best in his personal and professional life.

CONTINUED...

PAST YEAR'S AWARDS (cont'd)**Meet our Salesperson
of the Year –
Eric Allred from
Green Source, LLC**

Eric Allred has worked for Green Source LLC since the Spring of 2010. In the last nine years it has been his pleasure to work with many of the Golf Course Superintendents and turf professionals throughout Utah. He enjoys the camaraderie and helpful attitude that is exemplified within the Utah GCSA and looks forward to working with and being a part of the Utah GCSA for many years to come. Eric is very appreciative of this honor and attributes his success to all the great members of our association. Eric would also like to thank his beautiful wife Andrea and their 3 young kids, Allie (9) Parker (7) Max (4).

When Eric is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and coaching his children's different sports teams. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys fishing, big game hunting, and anything outdoors.

CONTINUED...

PAST YEAR'S AWARDS (cont'd)

**Meet our Assistant
of the Year –
Spencer Workman from
Oakridge Country Club**



Spencer Workman is the Assistant Superintendent at Oakridge Country Club in Farmington. He was born and raised in Ogden, Utah, and is the youngest of six children. His love of golf didn't start until 2005 after he graduated high school. Many painful rounds were played at El Monte and Mt. Ogden but it sparked a passion for the game of golf and led to his decision to pursue it as a career. Spencer studied Golf Operations and Management at the San Diego Golf Academy in Arizona. After completing his Associates Degree in 2008, he started his career in Golf Operations as an Assistant Golf Professional at the Headwaters Club at Teton Springs in Victor, Idaho. He spent six wonderful years in the Teton Valley before he and his family decided to move to Orlando, Florida. Spencer was always interested in learning the maintenance side of the golf course and he felt like this was a good time to make the switch. He was hired on at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge as an Equipment Operator. Over the course of four and a half years at Bay Hill, his hard work and attention to detail enabled him to be promoted to various roles and ultimately to Assistant Superintendent. As much as he loved the year-round sunshine, an opening at Oakridge Country Club gave him and his family the opportunity to move back home to Utah. He is happy to be back in Ogden with his high school sweetheart and their 10-year-old daughter, Keilani. Having experience on both sides of a golf operation gives him an interesting perspective that serves as the driving force in his abilities to make golf courses the best experience for players. Spencer continues to bring his passion for the game of golf to Oakridge and make it the best course it can be.



our new members!

- Darrell Valburg, Assistant Superintendent, Forest Dale Golf Course
- Dalton Wintle, Assistant Superintendent, Overlake Golf Course
- Pat Sherer, Commercial Member, Simplot



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Solomon

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Erickson

Sept. 28, 1962 – Aug. 20, 2019

Randy
Jensen

Mar. 10, 1956 – Nov. 27, 2019





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- Network with other GIS attendees staying at your hotel.
- Book a room block for your group or chapter. Contact GCSAA for details.

Room block rates are valid for 3 days prior to and 3 days following GIS, making it the perfect opportunity to bring your family along for vacation!



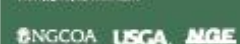
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2020 ORLANDO

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Days Inn		x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x					
DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld			x	x	x				x	x	x		x	x			x
Embassy Suites Hotel Orlando			x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Extended Stay America			x						x	x	x		x	x	x		
Fairfield Inn & Suites Orlando @ SeaWorld			x						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Hampton Inn Orlando			x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x			
Hilton Garden Inn Orlando			x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Hilton Grand Vacations @ SeaWorld	x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x
Hilton Orlando		x							x	x	x	x	x			x	x
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando			x		x				x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Homewood Suites by Hilton Orlando			x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Hyatt Place Orlando/Convention Center			x						x	x	x	x		x		x	
Midpointe Hotel by Rosen Hotels & Resorts		x			x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld			x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x			x	x
Residence Inn by Marriott			x						x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Residence Inn Orlando at SeaWorld			x						x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Rosen Centre Hotel		x			x	x			x	x	x		x			x	x
Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando			x		x	x			x	x	x	x			x	x	x
Rosen Plaza Hotel			x						x	x	x		x			x	x
SpringHill Suites by Marriott			x				x			x	x	x		x		x	
SpringHill Suites Orlando at SeaWorld			x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
TownePlace Suites Orlando at SeaWorld			x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Vista Cay Resort by Millenium	x		x						x	x	x	x			x	x	
Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive			x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x

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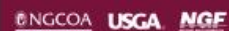
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Traffic Control – Defending the Turf (article from The Florida Green)

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

There are three major components to traffic control on a golf course, and two of them are beyond a superintendent's control so you're behind the eight-ball before you even get started. Those two factors are course design and the golfers themselves.

Greens and tees with narrow, confined entry and exit points concentrate foot traffic, creating "goat trails." They offer very little in the way of options for the superintendent to maintain healthy turf in those areas except continuous aerification and re-sodding. Golfers aren't thinking turf damage when they drive golf carts through obviously low, wet areas one after the other in sheep-like fashion, following the tracks in the dew ahead or they hang tires off the path on curves and at tee and green stops, creating chuck holes and bare spots.

I would be remiss if I didn't also chide maintenance personnel who often take the road most traveled as they move about their daily tasks.

I've seen my share of maintenance "roads" worn into the turf as routine short cuts are used day after day. A little variety in direction would do wonders to avoid creating these ugly potential weed gardens.

The third component is defense and that is about the only proactive action a superintendent can take and even that often depends solely on the cooperation of the golfers to make it successful. Many maintenance operations spend lots of time and labor on routing traffic and protecting high-wear areas from becoming dirt and/or weed patches.

The most diligent turf managers adopt an aggressive aerification program in these high-traffic areas and perhaps the most diligent program I have come across lately is the one Greg Kriesch has adopted at Heritage Palms down in Ft. Myers. Kriesch says he'd rather wear out aerifiers than his turf along cart paths. He rotates his aerifiers back and forth almost nonstop between his two 18-hole courses during the growing season to give those built-in, necessarily high-traffic areas the best

Meanwhile after hours and hours of moving ropes, signs and barriers, the curve-cutters have still worn out potholes and bare strips along cart paths. To correct these ankle-twisting hazards and unsightly dirt patches, superintendents often pour concrete to straighten out those lovely flowing curves so adored by architects and so blatantly ignored by golf-cart, beverage-cart and maintenance-vehicle drivers. When that doesn't stop the corner cutters; posts, boulders and cobblestones are implanted to deter the violators.

By the way, it doesn't matter if the cart path is 4-, 6- or 8-foot wide with flare-outs for passing traffic. There hasn't been a path designed yet that a driver won't hang a tire off of to drive on the grass (or dirt).

In responses to an e-mail questionnaire, superintendents Matt Taylor of the Royal Poinciana Club in Naples and Jim Walker at Greynolds Park Golf Club in Miami, Peter Powell at the Boca Greens Golf Club in Boca Raton and Joe Pantaleo at the Indian Creek Club in Miami offered some

Traffic Control – Defending the Turf (cont'd)



Wooden posts and barricades are also used to alter traffic patterns. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Without traffic control golfers tend to all follow the same path to the fairway causing severe wear damage. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Wear from foot traffic can also be a problem when access points to a green are limited. Photo by Joel Jackson.

comments on who, how and what they do for traffic control on their courses.

Traffic Control Questionnaire

1. Q: Who takes care of the primary traffic control on your course?

A. Taylor: The set-up person has the initial responsibility, but ultimately it falls onto the assistant superintendent to make sure it happens each day.

A. Walker: The assistant superintendent and superintendent take care of adjusting traffic-control measures during their daily rounds.

A. Powell: I will make the initial set-up and my two crew members that change the cups and tee markers will maintain and rotate our stakes and ropes.

A. Pantaleo: I take care of the traffic control during my daily inspection of the course.

A. Walker: It takes two people around two hours per week.

A. Powell: We will spend two manhours per day during the winter season. We have no need for traffic control in the summer.

A. Pantaleo: Maybe two hours total and that's generally once a week.

3. Q: What means of communications (pro shop, permanent course condition signage, special announcements or other tools) are used to aid traffic control?

A. Taylor: We post signs on the first and tenth tees that read: "Cart Path Only", "90 Degrees", "Summer Rules", etc. We also post any special rules in a clear plastic sleeve on the golf carts.

A. Walker: The pro shop staff advises the guests the

A. Pantaleo: We paint a white line to direct them away from the green slopes and refresh it once a week.

4. Q: What is your primary traffic-control device (barriers, posts, stake & rope, other)?

A. Taylor: We also use moveable control devices along cart paths. Primarily we use rope stakes, green recycled plastic (of course) stakes with green and white rope. We also use movable (4x4) wooden barricades painted green. The metal spikes that hold them in place often bend on the shallow limestone rock in the soil. In addition, when we place two white balls on the edge of the fairway cut, the members know that they are to return to the path when they see these markers.

A. Walker: We rely on the directional signs and our



Sweeping curves in a cart path are very aesthetic looking but drivers cut them short and create worn turf and potholes. Photo by Joel Jackson.



To avoid future potholes many courses add pavement to the curves. Photo by Joel Jackson.



A cobblestone treatment is used to encourage carts to stay on the path at Heritage Palms. Photo by Joel Jackson.

2. Q: How long does it take to take care of moving setting up traffic control measures per day?

A. Taylor: Besides being part of the set-up man's rotation, on a given day we may have three rough units and two fairway units mowing. Each guy may spend an extra half hour moving things around.

cart conditions at check-in and we use directional signs along the paths.

A. Powell: All of the above, but rope is the only really effective way to keep traffic where you want it. Golfers don't think about potential cart damage once they start playing.

course rangers to monitor the traffic flow.

A. Powell: Again all of the above. I have been using short 1-foot-tall stakes to guard cart path curves and turns.

A. Pantaleo: We use directional signs and white lines painted on the turf.

Traffic Control – Defending the Turf (cont'd)



Many courses use permanent signs at the 1st and 10th tees to alert golfers to daily traffic rules and conditions. Photo by Joel Jackson.

5. Q: Under what circumstances do you impose cart path only?

A: Depending on the time of year, if we get a rain shower during the primary play season (winter and spring) and it is close to a major tournament, this will trigger "Cart Path Only" for a day or a few hours. Usually during the summer months after a 2- to 3-inch rain, it is a no-brainer.

A. Walker: Only after a really heavy rain; it isn't that often.

A. Powell: During tournaments that can't be

rescheduled. If it's that wet, we will close the course.

A. Pantaleo: Only if we have standing water visible in the fairways.

6. Q: If you allow carts on turf but with limitations, do you ask them to stay in roughs or fairways? This is not a trick question.

A. Taylor: Neither. It is 90 degree or cart paths and they don't follow the 90-degree rule. One of my standing jokes at Green Committee meetings is asking what their perception of where the 90 degrees is... to the cart path or the green?

A. Walker: We ask them to keep the carts in the roughs.

A. Powell: "Rough Only"

A. Pantaleo: When it's really wet we ask them to stay in the roughs.

7. Q: Do you do extra aerification of high-traffic areas or are they on the same frequency as the rest of the turf (fairways, roughs, walk offs, etc)

A. Taylor: Yes, during the season we will open them up with 3/4-inch tines and fill with sand and 6-2-0, usually in January and then again in early March. We will also spike them and pitch fork them as needed.

A. Walker: Only during regular seasonal aerifications.

A. Powell: We aerate the cart path ends and drive-off areas once per month during the winter season.

A. Pantaleo: We do two extra aerifications per year in the high-traffic areas.

Bonus: Let us know any unique way you manage high traffic areas — crumb rubber, ceramics, extra top dressing, how much extra aerification, with what? Wetting agents, pre-emergents, anything else?

A. Taylor: Same as above we try to keep these areas loose and growing. We have one really large tournament in mid-March. Three weeks before it happens we go hog wild with rope stakes, traffic control etc. The days of the three-day event we take down all traffic control devices. After the event they go back out. I think it helps before and it certainly looks better during the event.

A. Walker: Sometimes in bad spots we'll dress it up with wood chips. The bottom line is we only have to do traffic control between Thanksgiving and Easter. The rest of the time the turf can keep up with the traffic stress.

A. Powell: No silver bullets. We just keep moving those ropes.

A. Pantaleo: We use solid tines to aerify the traffic areas to minimize any mess or clean up. **FLORIDA**
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