



*Fore Lakes Golf Course, Taylorsville, UT
Superintendent: TA Barker, CGCS*

-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

- ✓ January 15: 2021 sponsorships due
- ✓ January 29: GCSAA compensation & benefits survey due
- ✓ February 2-4: Golf Industry Show
- ✓ March 1: Class A and CGCS point deadline
- ✓ March 31: 2020 UGCSA memberships expire



OFFICERS

- President: Nate James, Soldier Hollow Golf Course
- Vice President: Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course
- Secretary/Treasurer: Wes York, Oakridge Country Club

DIRECTORS

- Jay Geise, Hobble Creek Golf Course
- Dallin Naulu, The Oaks at Spanish Fork
- Mike Valiant, CGCS, Glenwild Golf & Spa
- Josh Virostko, Lakeside Golf Course

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Brecken Varah - Willow Creek Country Club

AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES

- Eric Allred, Green Source, LLC
- Ross O'Fee, CGCS, Empire Turf, Inc.

PAST PRESIDENT

- Alan Davis - Willow Creek Country Club

NEWSLETTER EDITORS IN CHIEF

- Alan Davis & Kara Davis

UTAH GCSA OFFICE

- Natalie Barker, Chapter Executive
- P.O. Box 572583 Murray, Utah 84157
- Phone: (801) 282-5274
- Email: intermountaingcsa@gmail.com

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*The highest compliment you can pay our sponsors is by purchasing from them.
 They support our association so let's support them!*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nate James, Soldier Hollow Golf Course

I would first like to thank the Membership and the Board of Directors of the Utah Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (UGCSA) for selecting me as this year's president. I would further like to thank past presidents Justin Woodland and Alan Davis for their service to the association. Additionally, I would like to welcome Eric Allred, Jay Geise, and Dallin Naulu to the Board.

I sincerely hope this letter finds everyone healthy and safe. We're nearing the end of 2020 and I'm sure I'm not the only one ready to move on to 2021. A global pandemic, wildfires, smoke, re-opening phases, surges, pauses/freezes, remote learning, protests/riots, and an election all in the last 10 months. Despite all of the uncertainty we are all feeling, the goal and mission of the UGCSA remains the same: **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.**

A special note to our sponsors, thank you! Your continued support through this unprecedented time is so greatly appreciated. It's because of you, this association will continue to operate, and provide the needed support to our members.

I am deeply honored to have been chosen to serve as president of the Utah Golf Course Superintendents Association in 2021. It is a humbling, albeit somewhat intimidating, experience to follow in the footsteps of so many superb leaders. I most certainly never imagined that I would be provided such a tremendous opportunity and responsibility when I first came to the board 2 terms ago.

CONTINUED...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd)

I am not one to talk about myself so in preparation for writing this initial message, I thought long and hard about my experience in the association to date, and reflected on the challenges our association has addressed and overcome, as well as the actions and efforts of the many great leaders that came before me. As a source of vision and inspiration, I sought out my collection of newsletters and board related emails.

In my analysis and examination of these files, the ideals of leadership, diversity, and dedication rang through time and time again, as did the significance of our close relationship between superintendents in this great association. Well, as they say, the more things change, and they certainly have changed this year, the more they stay the same. Each and every one of those ideals and issues remains relevant today, as does our need to consistently reassess our commitment to the game of golf.

Periodically throughout the year, I intend to recognize and thank, and more importantly, encourage our membership to patronize our partners, vendors and sponsors who have supported our functions, events and initiatives throughout the years, and without whose assistance we would not be able to enjoy so many great times. We will recognize our dedicated and talented staff that works so hard on countless events for our members. Finally, we will celebrate and recognize those who have led us to this great point in our history, and those that have supported the association along the way.

In my humble opinion, there is no greater, nor important, time to be a part of our vibrant association. I am certain that you will find value, purpose and unparalleled opportunities for professional growth with greater involvement, and will surely have some fun and make ever-lasting friendships and professional relationships in the process. I sincerely look forward to seeing each and every one of our members at our many events throughout the year while we collectively strive to make this a meaningful, fun, and memorable year in the UGCSA.

With sincere appreciation,

Nathan James



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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE'S CORNER



Phew! What a year 2020 has been!

The pandemic has created a truly unprecedented situation which affects us all. My heart goes out to anyone who has been impacted by the virus – either directly or indirectly.

This industry has remained strong and has proven to be adaptable and resilient. I applaud all of you for being on the forefront during such a chaotic time and showing up for the golf world. A few items to note:



Vendors - 2021 sponsorship packets have been mailed out. These are due back by Friday, January 15th to ensure adequate time to order materials.



2020 memberships will expire on March 30th. Be on the lookout - applications to join or renew will be mailed out in January.



Let me know if there's an education topic you'd like to see on the lineup this year.



Interested in hosting an event? We're always looking for meeting locations!

Cheers to 2021! Stay healthy & safe!

Natalie Barker, Chapter Executive



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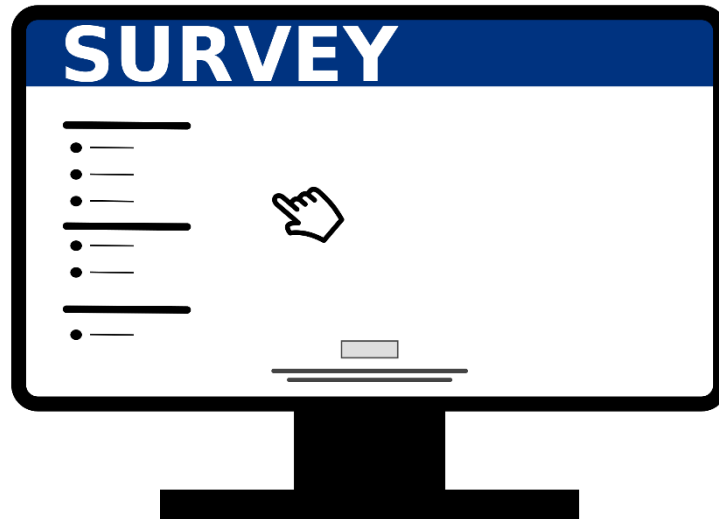
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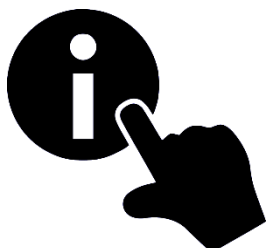
TAKE THE 2021 COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SURVEY



GCSAA superintendent members will receive an email on Dec. 15, 2020, to complete the 2021 Compensation and Benefits Report survey and assist in collecting vital data within the industry.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SURVEY BY JANUARY 29.

If you did not receive the survey email, contact Greg Stacey, senior manager, market research and data, at 800-472-7878, ext. 5152.



MORE INFO

<https://www.gcsaa.org/career/compensation-report>

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PAST YEAR'S AWARDS**Meet our Superintendent
of the Year (Private) –
Jake Ebner from
Alpine Country Club**

I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri and moved to Utah in April of 2000. My love of the game of golf lead me to my first job as a young teenager at Bogey Hills Country Club. Being just 15 when I started, my mom got up early every morning and drove me to work.

After graduating with my degree in Horticulture and getting married in 2000, we moved west to Utah and I began my job at Alpine Country Club as part of the maintenance crew. One year later, in 2001, I was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. In August of 2006, I was lucky enough to be given a chance to become the interim Superintendent. Later that year in November I was officially made the Superintendent at Alpine.

Twenty years, three kids, two homes and many ski days later, I'm so thankful to be here. Utah allows our family to do all the activities we love to do-golf, ski, boat, fish, camp, hike and it's all right here. I'll never tire of watching the sun come up over the Wasatch mountains.

CONTINUED...

PAST YEAR'S AWARDS (cont'd)**Meet our Superintendent
of the Year (Public) –
Jay Geise from Hobble
Creek Golf Course**

I grew up in rural northwest Ohio and ended up pursuing a bachelors in Turfgrass Science from Ohio State after working at several high end clubs in the area. While in school I worked at two Top 100 courses (Muirfield and Medinah) as well as another internship in the Seattle Area. I fell in love with the mountains and ended up moving back to Washington when I got my degree.

5 years and two Assistant positions later we moved to Utah for the Assistant Position at Riverside Country Club in Provo. Now I have just finished my third season at Hobble Creek as Superintendent. In my spare time, I like to mountain bike and ski with my wife, Hannah, and hike with our two dogs.

CONTINUED...



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PAST YEAR'S AWARDS (cont'd)**Meet our Assistant
of the Year –
Jack Hammer from
Glenwild Golf Club**

I currently work as the 1st assistant superintendent at Glenwild Golf Club in Park City. When I'm not on property working under the direction of Mike Valiant (CGCS) and alongside our maintenance team, I enjoy fly fishing, riding my gravel bike, and spending quality time with my dog, Spud, any way we know how. Additionally, I am currently in my last term at the University of Wyoming pursuing my Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership.

After earning my degree in Turfgrass Management from Catawba Valley in 2013, I entered the golf course maintenance industry excited to utilize my skills. Having work-based learning from internships and apprenticeships completed at both the Trump National Golf Club of Charlotte and Washington D.C., I earned a spot at Glenwild Golf Club in the spring of 2016. Taking the skills I have from my past and combining them with the rigors and challenges faced in the intermountain west have been an invaluable opportunity that I am dedicated to developing.

CONTINUED...

PAST YEAR'S AWARDS (cont'd)

Meet our Salesperson of the Year – Daryl Dinkel from Target Specialty Products



Sales Representative for Target Specialty Products
Business Lead for the Target Golf Team in the western US

I am a graduate from Colorado State University with a BS Majoring in Landscape Horticulture with an emphasis in Turf Grass Management. I have over 15 years experience as a Golf Course Superintendent and held the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent as designated by the GCSAA. In 1997 I was honored with the Western Region Environmental Stewardship Award from the GCSAA. Overall I have been working the turf industry for over 34 years starting with Perry Dye and Dye Designs. I currently cover Western Colorado and Central to Northern Utah. Our warehouse location is at the Freeport Center in Clearfield, UT. I have been married for 30 years and I have a son (25) and a daughter (23). During the summer my wife and I drag race in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of America Nostalgia West.

You can reach Daryl on Twitter @DarylDinkel
Email: Daryl.Dinkel@Target-Specialty.com
Phone: 970-214-7101



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IN MEMORY OF DELOY WILSON



"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone the light remains"

Deloy Wilson, age 89, died on January 23, 2020, at home in Salt Lake City from pancreatic cancer. He was born on August 7, 1930.

While in college he discovered and "got hooked on golf," a sport that played a major role throughout his life. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy.

Deloy served in the US Air Force as an aircraft controller and had a love for our great nation. After his military service he moved to Southern California for two years and worked nights at an aerospace company so he could play golf during the day.

He returned to Utah and began his career in the golf industry combining his degree in agronomy and his love for the sport. Deloy spent the early part of his golf career applying his expertise to construction of Willow Creek Country Club and Hill Field Golf Course. He was the Golf Course Superintendent at the Salt Lake Country Club from 1965 until he retired 30 years later.

A distinguished leader and pioneer in his field, he served twice as President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association (1966 & 1974), Utah Chapter, and received the Utah Distinguished Superintendents Award in 1996. He was also selected as the PGA, Utah Section Superintendent of the Year in 1994.

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THANKS TO ALL THE UGCSA SUPERINTENDENTS
THAT JOINED US FOR OUR TOURNAMENT!



Contact Josh Tanner, South Region Sales Representative for Mountainland Supply Golf & Turf at josh.tanner@mc.supply. For up north contact Parker White at parker.white@mc.supply

It was a COVID-crazy year. We appreciate those superintendents from all around the state that joined us for our tournament this year. With the UGCSA meetings canceled we wanted to do something special for you. We hope everyone had a great time. We'd like to make sure each of you know we have a northern and southern representative to support you. In the north we have Parker White and in the south we have Josh Tanner. If you need anything please contact them.

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Contact Jeff Stoddart, Sales Manager for Mountainland Supply Golf & Turf at jeff.stoddart@mc.supply



2020 CHAPTER DELEGATES RECAP

Article by Alan Davis, Superintendent @ Willow Creek Country Club in Sandy, UT

The Annual Chapter Delegates meeting was held virtually on October 20 & 21, 2020. This is a meeting where delegates from around the country, representing all regional associations, get updated on relevant information from our national association, GCSAA. Though the meeting was held in a virtual format this year, GCSAA did an incredible job hosting and the meeting was as informative as ever. Here is a recap from the meeting:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Our president John R. Fulling recognized the challenges in governing during a year like 2020 with the global pandemic ongoing. He highlighted GCSAA's success in the face of a multitude of challenges that presented themselves. This was due to the dedicated service of the GCSAA board, volunteer, and GCSAA member who worked tirelessly to ensure golf facilities stayed open.

ASSOCIATION REPORT – CEO J. Rhett Evans briefed the delegates on the state of GCSAA and the strength of the GCSAA membership. His highlights included:

- Disaster relief funding – Fires, hurricanes, flooding, and the COVID-19 challenges spurred GCSAA members to help each other by raising over 50,000 for Disaster Relief Funding.
- Rhett provided GCSAA / EIFG financial overview for the association. He indicated that GCSAA is currently in a strong financial position to continue to provide member programs and services with investment funds totaling 10.4 million for the EIFG and 8.2 million for GCSAA. Though revenues have been negatively impacted in 2020 due to the pandemic, GCSAA is projecting to surpass its bottom line 2020 goals through prudent reductions in expenditures.
- GCSAA membership numbers still on the rise! 2019 – 18,125 / 2020 – 18,602
- GCSAA collaboration with FFA and continued commitment to the First Green program will bring many more current students into the industry, a focus for years to come.

CONTINUED...

2020 CHAPTER DELEGATES RECAP (cont'd)

STATE BMP UPDATE – 40 states have BMPs in place and the 10 remaining are nearing completion. The goal of all 50 by 2020 year end is still in play and expected to be accomplished!

ROUNDS FOR RESEARCH – Strong chapter support for this year's auction! \$263,000 was raised. 2021 Auction dates are April 26th – May 2nd.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM – Jeff White, CGCS, Vice Chairman of the certification program briefed the delegates on efforts underway to modernize the program. The program will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021.

GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW UPDATE – Updates on the show including showcasing the networking capabilities, how the trade show “floor” will function. Please visit gcsaa.org for more information. It is sure to be a great event!





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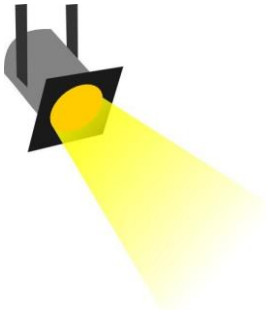
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – LANDON WHITE**10 Questions with
Landon White, Superintendent @
Copper Rock Golf Course in
Hurricane, UT****1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN UTAH?**

I was born and raised in Utah. I left for 2 years for an LDS Mission. Then chased the dream around for 2.5 years as assistant superintendents in Wyoming and Nevada. Other than that, I have been here in Utah.... So, 25 years.

2. WHY UTAH?

I love the challenge of all 4 seasons. Plus, it's close to family. Why Southern Utah???? It's far enough away from family! 😊

3. WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY / RELOCATED FROM RECENTLY?

Originally from Cache Valley (Wellsville). Moved around after graduating school. Gillette, Wyoming & Mesquite, Nevada.

4. WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR CURRENT FACILITY?

I was drawn here as an Assistant Superintendent because I wanted to learn from Riley Stottern as we grew in Copper Rock Golf Course. I wanted to be the muscle of the operation and let him be the brains. He was going to retire after opening the course and hand over the reins. I worked here for a month and Riley had a heart attack and passed away. I never wanted to grow in a course. All I had ever heard about grow in superintendents was that they always got ran off after they were done. I don't want that for me, but wanted to finally become a superintendent after being an assistant for 5+ years. So, when they offered the job, I took it and never looked back. I love the knowledge and experience I have gotten here and hope to be the superintendent here at Copper Rock as long as I can.

5. ENJOY CITY OR COUNTRY MORE?

Country for sure. I pretty much refuse to go to St. George now unless I have to.

CONTINUED...

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT– LANDON WHITE (cont'd)**6. HOBBIES / INTERESTS?**

There is no other hobby or interest that I have that is bigger than my job. I love what I do. I also love just hanging out and making memories with my family. I grew up playing baseball and rugby. Can't find any adult rugby teams around here so I stick to old man softball now days. I'm sure my wife appreciates that I don't play rugby now days. I love to hunt but haven't had much time since my mission. Hoping to get back into it and get my kids involved in it in the coming years. I love to hike and drag the family with me.

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

I love to golf, I'm not super good, but I manage to play as good as the people I play with. Handicap is around a 10. I try and play golf once a week, but I'm a fair weather golfer usually so I play 9 hole rounds probably 40-ish times a year.

8. FAVORITE PRO / COLLEGE TEAMS?

I like to watch the NFL. Don't really have a favorite team. I do however love me some Jazz Basketball. I watch almost every game. I inherited that from my grandma. I don't follow college sports.

9. WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING SITUATION (WORK OR PERSONAL) YOU HAVE EVER FOUND YOURSELF IN?

I tend to shy away from interesting situations, but off the top of my head I can think of 2. 1) On my LDS mission I found myself talking at a pulpit in a Seventh Day Adventist's church during their worship service. (Little awkward). 2) I was working in the Pro Shop one day for a minute and my dog was sitting in his usual spot by the front door. A guy walks out of the Pro Shop, pets my dog, and greets him by name..... I didn't recognize the golfer so I went out to talk to him. Even though my name is on the score card he didn't know who I was, but he knew my dog by name. Fact of the matter is, I am totally ok with Divot being the face of the maintenance crew, he's good at it.

10. ANYTHING ELSE YOU MAY FEEL RELEVANT?

Graduated from Rutgers at the top of my class with a 2-year certificate in 2015. Have a wife (Kirsti), 3 kids (Skye, Jaxon and Chip) and a dog (Divot).

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THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR OR WHY I GIVE STAFF A PASS (SOMETIMES)

Article by Brian Roth, CGCS, Oquirrh Hills Golf Course in Tooele, Utah

I started my career in golf course management in northern Utah at a nine-hole “mom and pop” course, Sherwood Hills, in Sardine Canyon between Logan and Brigham City. It was a very scenic setting, flanked by towering cliffs above and heavily forested with native Gamble Oak, Big Tooth Maple, and some aspen, interspersed with majestic towering Douglas Fir. The course was built by the owner/operator in the early 70’s, and was run by himself, his wife, and a daughter, with some summer/seasonal help. **The course was run very.... frugally, shall we say, as most courses of this nature are.** I remember that none of the flagsticks were the same height. When one would break, we would just drill out the old ferrule, and glue it back on the bottom of the stick. The flags were old and tattered, with different versions of the course logo, depending on the time of purchase. During my second year there, I was in charge of the seasonal staff, and oversaw pretty much all of the daily maintenance activities. Mowing, bunker raking, changing holes, irrigation repair, etc. I even did some mechanic / repair work, mostly on the old golf cart fleet that was way past its prime. The equipment was well used, Toro 300’s for greens and tees, and the standard 3-wheel Cushman Truck with the shift stick on the steering column. We used tractors, an old Ford and a solid Massey Ferguson, to pull gang mowers, a 7-gang for fairways and a 5-gang for roughs.

On this particular day I was mowing the roughs on the Massey, with its large wide turf tires, and the 5-gang. Mowing the rough usually took 4-5 hours, but I would try to finish it all before taking lunch. The course routing was an out-and-back layout, with the first hole heading south from the clubhouse, continuing mostly south through the fifth hole. Starting with the sixth hole, the course headed back north through the ninth hole, ending near the clubhouse. The first few starting holes and last couple of returning holes were constructed along a bench/side hill area, so the fairways tended to slope from right to left on the outbound, and left to right on the inbound. Hole one and hole eight were adjacent to each other, separated by about 200-250’ of sage brush and native grasses, and about a 30’ elevation between holes. We had a fairly flat spot on the right side of hole number one, up behind some trees, and out of the way, where we would park the gang mowers for the night.

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THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR (cont'd)

I finished mowing roughs, pulled the tractor and mower up on the hill to the “flat” area, and hopped off to pull the tow pin from the mower/tractor connection. After doing so, I decided to stretch my legs and take a short walk through the trees for a few minutes to look for wayward golf balls. **I took only 10-12 steps, and out of the corner of my eye saw something moving. I abruptly and with panic turned back to see the big tractor slowly creeping forward.** I had neglected to set the park brake before getting off! I stumbled through the trees back towards the tractor, and I had a short moment of relief, as I was gaining! I would be able to jump up into the seat and get control of the big yellow machine. I was getting close to the rear tire, and, with just a couple of more steps I could grab on..... when the tractor started picking up speed! The tractor had rolled through the flat spot, and crested the slope above the fairway. It rolled down the hill and then started across the fairway as I ran behind in panic, losing ground with every step. I ran as fast as I was able, but could see that I was steadily falling behind. **In my mind, everything seemed to be in slow motion.... but not in the real life episode I was experiencing.** As the Massey reached the far side of the fairway, it paused momentarily, before renewing its journey down the next slope. It bounced and bounded down the sage covered slope above the eighth green, gaining speed every second, as I stumbled, resolute in my hopeless pursuit. I glanced up past the bouncing tractor, and in alarm, saw a four-some putting on the eighth green, oblivious to the massive steel monster bearing down on them.

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THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR (cont'd)

“Get out of the way, Get out of the way!!!” I screamed, almost hysterically, waving my arms frantically in the air. “MOVE, MOVE!!!” Floundering and staggering through the brush, I finally succumbed to the native tangle of sage and grass, and sprawled to the ground. As I lay on the ground, gasping for air, I could see below me the golfers scattering like ants on a recently disturbed anthill. It appeared the players would make it, as they sprinted off of the front of the green. **The tractor continued, relentless, toward the back edge of the green.... targeted right at a lone, innocent golf bag.** I was envisioning a violent collision, with clubs, bag, and other golf gear exploding into the air. The barreling beast turned slightly, following the slope as it approached the bag. It blew by, barely tickling one of the bag stand legs. The bag wobbled, and fell slowly to the ground. Thump, everything unscathed and intact..... Except the runaway tractor continued to bounce and careen through the native mountain landscape. At that point, the last obstacle in sight was the 4-lane highway below, a mile and a half down the mountain. In despair I watched, helplessly, imagining a horrific end to the journey of the yellow beast. About half of the way down the mountainside to the highway, the tractor curiously appeared to pause. I cautiously look closer, “Is it slowing down? Is it still moving?” I asked myself warily. Maybe...maybe.... I stood gingerly, and slowly worked down the slope to where the machine was sitting. As I got closer I could see that the tractor was definitely immobile, caught up and high-centered on a huge pile of logs and tree stumps. Above my racing, pounding heart, was a soft, melodic sound. The low, gentle rumble of an idling motor.

To this day, I still get chills when I think about the Runaway Tractor, and the multiple, grim possibilities that were avoided that day. Avoided only by chance, or Divine intervention. **We all make mistakes and sometimes things just happen. Other than for safety related concerns or repeat offenders, I tend to give my staff the benefit of the doubt when slip-ups happen.** It’s not like they are going out and thinking “How can I really screw up today....” I recall an incident several years ago, fresh after an exasperated reminder during a morning staff meeting about making sure equipment is fueled up before going out on the golf course. A couple of days later, I raced out of the shop early one morning, chasing down several stuck sprinkler heads. My mechanic got a humble phone call about 30 minutes later. With a quiet, embarrassed whisper I asked, “Can you please bring me some gas?” I can still hear the laughter....

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