CAMAS, Wash. — Camas Meadows Golf Club, situated between the Cascade Mountains and the Columbia River, is a new daily-fee “hot spot” in the Pacific Northwest. With a forested wetlands layout near Lacamas Lake, superintendent Rod Nelson will put his 20 years of maintenance experience to good use.

“Probably the biggest challenge is that we’re surrounded by a lot of native wetlands, and just trying to incorporate the maintenance practices that enhance the wetlands requires a constant effort,” he said.

Having opened the course last May, Nelson spent the summer battling the turfgrass disease Pythium blight, which rarely strikes in Washington state. “It’s common in the Midwest and in warmer climates, but I’ve never encountered it before in this region,” said Nelson.

“One of the unique features we have is Penn A-4 on our greens. It’s completely different from anything I’ve been familiar with until now. As far as I know,” he said, “we’re the only course in the Pacific Northwest that has it. The greens have really grown in nicely and look great.”

Nelson logged 10 years as superintendent at Heron Lakes Golf Course in Portland, Ore. prior to taking the position of construction supervisor for two years during the building of Camas Meadows. As a year-round golf course, Nelson explains, “we may get some blizzards, but no snow that accumulates. Instead, we get a whole lot of rain. We had over 60 inches of it last year.”

At the 18-hole, 4,859- to 6,518-yard Camas Meadows layout, complimentary golf carts are offered with the new ParView global positioning system. “The Parview system is great — golfers have a lot of fun with it,” Nelson said. “When I go to play at other courses, I really miss it.”

Greens mowers: 6 John Deere 220A, 2 Jacobsen 522T
Tee mowers: 2 John Deere 2500
Fairway mowers: 2 John Deere 3215A, 1 John Deere 2653A, 1 John Deere F1145 w/flatdeck
Riding bunker rake: 1 John Deere 1200, 1 Toro 8HP
Turf utility vehicles: 8 John Deere
Rough mowers: 2 John Deere 2653A, 1 John Deere F1145 w/flatdeck
Verti-cut reels: 1 John Deere
Aerifiers: 1 John Deere 800
Topdressers: 1 Ty-Crop MH400, 1 Dakota 410

Reel grinder: Foley Accu-pro
Bedknife grinder: Foley 660
Irrigation pump station: Flowtronex 1480 GPM
Irrigation system: Rain Bird Cirrus
Motor car fleet: 80 Clubcar, electric, with ParView GPS
Flagsticks: Par Aide (cups and poles), Prestige (flags)
Computer & accessories: 1 Dell Irrigation with Cirrus
Primary herbicide: Round-up
Primary fungicide: Heritage
Primary slow release fertilizer: Wilbur Ellis Duration II
Can’t live without: My family
Oldest piece of equipment: 1970 Dodge 5-yd dump truck
Total square footage of maintenance buildings: 8,700
Annual rounds of golf: 45,000

MECHANICS RATE SERVICE LIFTS

A national survey of golf course mechanics who are using various brands of turf equipment lifts was recently completed. The survey results were used to rank the major brands. They also challenge some commonly held beliefs about turf equipment lifts. One lift, the Trion workstation, received top ranking in four categories.

Ease of Use
Frequency of Use
Best Value
Best Customer Service

Request your free copy of the survey results by calling 800-426-3634 today. You’ll also receive a video and informative booklet that outlines the issues important to quality lift selection.

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Piersol’s Perspectives

Getting creative with your hiring tactics

BY JOHN R. PIERSOL

The national shortage of part-time and full-time employees is forcing superintendents, like other employers, to get creative. Here’s an idea that some of them are exploiting.

There’s ample potential at the typical school. You can recruit part-time employees who might convert to full-timers. You can increase awareness of various golf course careers, including golf course mechanics. You can generate positive public relations for your club as a whole.

I met Jeff Gullikson, CSGC, at Spokane Country Club, in Spokane, Wash. Jeff has successfully built a strong relationship with a local high school, to the benefit of everyone concerned.

Take the example of Jeff Gullikson, CSGC, at Spokane Country Club, in Spokane, Wash. Jeff has successfully built a strong relationship with a local high school, to the benefit of everyone concerned.

I met Jeff recently at a convention in Louisville, Ky., where we both were on a program designed for high school agriculture teachers. The idea was to inform them about the various opportunities in the fields of golf and landscape. At Jeff’s local high school, one
Dursban
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"I think we were able, through the GCSAA and some local grass roots groups, to demonstrate the kind of qualifications we have, and how we have to stay licensed, and they saw value in that," Ihms said. "I went to a few sessions with regulators when they were taking input from the field. They understand that we're very careful with these products and well-trained in their use. They had been talking about pulling Dursban from the market for turf grasses, but they came back and allowed us to use it, albeit at a lower rate."

The industry needs to establish strong credibility with the EPA, Ihms added, because more scrutiny of chemicals is coming, under the 1996 Food Quality and Protection Act.

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A teacher was searching for a learning lab to teach students about soils, plants, fertilizers, insect and disease identification. Jeff contacted the instructor and invited him to use his golf course as a field laboratory, and the relationship began.

Today, the high school kids volunteer at Jeff's course, and he hires some of them part-time. As part of their high school class, students are assigned certain planting beds at Jeff's course, where they are free to design and plant various annuals throughout the year. The students learn horticulture, and Jeff adds color to his course.

I asked him about the situation of kids under age 18 operating power equipment. He said it was no problem, as long as they were under the supervision of their teacher as part of a class. Of course, state laws vary, so you probably ought to contact your club's attorney about the proper procedures.

Jeff also discovered that limited school budgets often prevented the students from doing much, and his club came to the rescue. Often, by buying a few hundred dollars of supplies or equipment, he could keep the high school program active and the students enthused. He and the agriculture teachers have developed a good rapport, which has been exciting, fun, and educational for everyone.

What Jeff Gullikson is doing is right on target. Such involvement creates excitement about golf courses and all the career opportunities that the industry has to offer. Not only can students learn the agronomy and horticulture involved in golf course work, but also, by showing students a neat, organized shop, you might be able to lead someone into a career as a turf equipment technician.

When you have high school students working on the course as part of a class, you—the superintendent—gets a chance to look over the "crop." From this part-time employee pool may emerge someone you would like to keep.

Lack of career awareness, especially with regard to turf equipment techs, is a major problem. Students can't ask about careers about which they know nothing.

Getting involved with a local high school, especially if it has agriculture and/or mechanics, can pay big dividends. I am convinced that increasing the number of turf equipment technicians hinges on such involvement.

Doing some high school recruiting will be good for the entire industry as well as for the individual superintendent involved.

If you'd like, call Jeff (509-467-6211) or me (904 752-1822 ext. 1220) to brainstorm about how to get started.

John R. Piersol, M.S., chairs the Division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry at Lake City Community College, in Lake City, Fla.

ADAM PIERCE WINS SCHOLARSHIP

ELWOOD, Ill. — Adam Pierce, a junior in the University of Illinois turfgrass management program, has been awarded the $7,500 Ben Warren Scholarship from Tyler Enterprises of Elwood. After graduation, he hopes to work as an assistant golf course superintendent. Pierce has already worked at country clubs in Michigan and Illinois and has a strong academic record. The late Ben Warren owned Warren's Turf Nursery, a turfgrass research company based in Palos Park, Ill.