

Bio Box

Name: Phil Lagao

Age: 40

Birthplace: Pendleton, Oregon

Family: Wife, Heidi; daughters Codie, Cymbrie and Kylie

Education: Oregon State University (turf and landscape management)

Special interests: hunting, fishing, snowboarding

Best round: 88

Phil Lagao has been the head golf course superintendent at Black Butte Ranch since 2007, and since has established himself as one of the very best in his profession.

A Pendleton, Oregon native, Phil spent his high school years as a top-notch wrestler. But he always found time to dabble in golf. Attracted by the idea of working outdoors and with his growing love the game, Phil enrolled in Oregon State University's turf and landscape management program. There he learned the cutting-edge science of turf management and would often spend his free time playing the game at OSU's Trysting Tree Golf Club.

Since, he has spent his adult life perfecting the art of managing turf. Phil's first job was as an assistant superintendent at his home Pendleton Country Club. He then moved to Langdon Farms in Aurora, Oregon, where he would eventually become the head superintendent. Drawn by the opportunity to manage the turf of two championship golf courses, Central Oregon's snowboarding opportunities and a drier climate, Phil joined Black Butte Ranch. Since, Big Meadow and Glaze Meadow have gained a reputation for being among the best-conditioned courses in the region. In addition, he has shown a commitment to being a good steward of the environment, finding ways to efficiently use water and turf chemicals.

Along the way Phil has become a leader in his field. He is a former president of the Oregon Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). And in 2012, he was named the Oregon Chapter's superintendent of the year.