



SEA TO SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2019

GREETINGS

FROM THE SEA *By Mike Williams • GCSASC President*

With the summer season past the halfway point, I hope everyone has had a successful season so far. It's been a mild summer up here in the Inland Empire, but we all know that can change suddenly, and it's always best to be prepared for anything and everything. Fingers crossed to our Superintendent members out there for the remainder of the summer season.

Aerification achieves three important objectives: it relieves soil compaction; it provides a method to improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots; and it reduces or prevents the accumulation of excess thatch. Like so many things, the quality of a good putting green is more than skin deep. In fact, the condition of a green has a lot to do with what goes on below the surface. In order for grass to grow at 3/16-inch, it must have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand oxygen. In good soil, they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles.

Over time, the traffic from golfers' feet (as well as mowing equipment) tends to compact the soil under the putting green - particularly when the soil contains a lot of clay. When soil becomes compacted, the air pockets on which the roots depend are crushed, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants become weaker and will eventually wither and die.

Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the plants stay healthy. In most cases, it's done by removing half-inch cores from the compacted soil, allowing for an infusion of air and water that brings a resurgence of growth. The spaces are then filled with sand "topdressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.

Older greens often are constructed of soils with significant amounts of silt, clay and fine organic particles that are prone to compaction. Filling aerification holes with sand improves drainage and resists compaction. The periodic introduction of sand to a green's top layer can, over time, avoid or postpone expensive rebuilding or renovation of greens.

Finally, growing of turf adds to a layer of organic matter on the surface. This layer, called thatch, is an accumulation of dead stems, leaves and roots. A

SO-CAL CHAPTER

upcoming events

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

*September Meeting
Victoria Club*

OCTOBER 30, 2019

*Joint CGCOA Annual Meeting
GCSASC Election Meeting
The Ranch at Laguna Beach*

DECEMBER 16, 2019

*Duff Shaw Classic
North Ranch Country Club*

little organic matter makes for a resilient green, but too much invites diseases and insects. Top-dressing with sand can prevent thatch buildup, and aerification is one of the best ways to reduce an existing layer and prevent an excess of thatch from becoming established.

Now, all of us know aerification like the back of our hands, but if you have something explaining the process in print in the pro shops, it might help our guests better understand this maintenance practice and how important it is to the overall health of the greens.

Currently, the board is in the early stages of planning a Tri-Chapter Conference sometime in late February with the Hi-Lo and San Diego chapters. Golf is a possibility, as this could be a two-day event in a centralized location.

We are also working on a late October meeting at The Ranch of Laguna Beach in conjunction with the CGCOA. Once confirmed, Marc will send out an email with registration details.

If you haven't noticed, the new chapter website is up and running. Please bookmark gcsasc.org and take a look around! You will be able to register for all events, pay dues, view job openings, and much more! •••

GREETINGS

FROM THE SAND

By Tyler Truman • Hi-Lo Desert GCSA President

Greetings! As I begin my term as your President, I would like to thank you for your support. We, the Hi-Lo Board, look forward to serving our members and growing the association. We plan to grow our association not just in numbers, but also in the financial support we can give to our college-bound children, and to members experiencing hardships. It would be amazing to increase our fund so that it is self-sustaining. I know this will take time, but I feel we are already making great progress towards that goal. Our scholarship and research tournament, which funds some of our charitable endeavors, is approaching, and we look forward to your support by participating in this important event and helping to grow our association.

On another note, recently I have been pondering life, the importance of families, and what my family means to me. I have different types of families in my life. First, I love deeply and care for my immediate family. I do everything with their best interests in mind.

Second, my extended family is just as important. Several years ago, I had a cousin die who was my age. I told my track coach at the time that I was going to her funeral and would not be at practice. His comments struck me as odd when he said, "It's just a cousin; how close could you be?" I told him that we were very close and had grown up in the same community.

The third family that I have is my golf family, including superintendents, vendors, and those who work with us in this great game. This past year, I have seen the outpouring of love and support for several different families in our association. There are two that I would like to mention.

For starters, many of you know of Scott Cloud and his passing several months ago. I was able to attend his services and see the support for his family from superintendents and vendors. It didn't matter if you were a competitor, we were there to support a family.

I also would like to mention John Dixon and his support to the association. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend his memorial service as I was out of

HI-LO DESERT GCSA

upcoming events

DECEMBER 7, 2019*Annual Holiday Party**The Riviera Palm Springs*

town visiting family, but he was an integral part of our Coachella Valley golf family, and the love and support of the golf community was felt by his family.

I love my job and our golf family. We support each other, and it is very evident each year at this time as we get ready for our overseeding or transition. Best Wishes! •••



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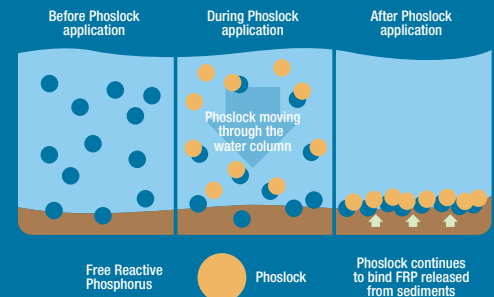
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From the Field

JEFF JENSEN

GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region



As I'm writing this column, the California golf industry is addressing numerous advocacy related issues facing many different sectors of the game.

Whether its carving out a narrow exemption for PGA teaching professionals to remain independent contractors in Assembly Bill 5, advocating in opposition of AB 916, which would prohibit a city, county, charter city, city and county, or a special district from using any pesticide that contains the active ingredient glyphosate, or working to keep the doors open at municipal facilities through the Park Preservation Act, our industry is working diligently to counter efforts that will put a strain on our industry both short-term and years down the road.

The California Alliance for Golf (CAG) Legislative Committee meets every Friday during the legislative session to discuss bills that have potential to harm or in some cases benefit our industry. Headed by Southern California Director of Government Relations Craig Kessler and our state lobbyist Tony Rice, the committee has a strong presence from the maintenance industry, consisting of Hi-Lo and Southern California Executive Director Marc Connerly, California GCSA President Jim Ferrin and myself.

While the maintenance industry is well represented, we are always looking for additional help on the advocacy front.

If working to protect your industry is something you're keen on, consider becoming a Grassroots Ambassador with GCSAA or with the soon to launch ambassa-

dor program through the California Golf Course Owners Association. Or better yet, do both.

The GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Program pairs up a Class A, B or C member with their respective member of the United States Congress to serve as a liaison between the golf industry and Congress member/staff. It's a minimal time commitment (2 hours monthly), training is provided and it's a great chance to see what goes on behind the scenes of GCSAA's government relations efforts.

Marc is working on a similar program that will pair golf industry professionals (Superintendents, PGA Professionals, Club Managers, etc.) with their respective members of the California state legislature. The program will focus on state level initiatives as opposed to federal. It's going to be a terrific program that will have synergy with GCSAA's.

I urge you to explore both programs and make a difference for the industry, both on the federal and state level. For more information on the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador program, visit the website at <https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/ambassadors>.

Thank you again for your support of GCSAA, and if you have any questions please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org, and please visit my regional webpage at <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/southwest>. •••

2019 GCSASC Scholarship & Research Tournament
A Very Memorable One



Full coverage of the event begins on page nine. Additional images are included in this issue so be sure to take a look.



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2019 GCSASC Scholarship & Research Tournament

Close to 130 GCSASC members and industry friends gathered at Santa Ana Country Club in late June to enjoy a day of golf, while supporting turf research and scholarships for worthy college students. While the event was a significant financial success, raising approximately \$30,000, the indelible memory for

most in attendance will be what took place following the day on the links, when the association announced that it has renamed the Distinguished Service Award to the “Jim ‘Speedy’ Lipari Distinguished Service Award,” and presented Mr. Lipari with the award (the second time he has been so honored).

The most memorable and moving moments of the day’s festivities, the presentation of the renamed Distinguished Service Award to “Speedy” came as a surprise to the majority of people in the room, and most notably it was a complete surprise to the recipient. The magnitude of fondness, admiration and respect that those in attendance had for Mr. Lipari was acknowledged by not one, but two very rousing standing ovations, prior to and immediately following his very touching and heartfelt expression of gratitude. Prior to the presentation to “Speedy,” Craig Kessler, SCGA’s Director of Governmental Affairs, was presented with the GCSASC Distinguished Service Award for 2018 (the presentation was originally planned

[continued on page 16]

**“Speedy” Lipari
and daughter
Mary Harmon**



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FROM THE BUNKER

BY CRAIG KESSLER • Director • Governmental Affairs • SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

GLYPHOSATE – THERE’S MORE, MUCH MORE

Last month’s look at the Glyphosate issue was more philosophical than substantive – much more about why local jurisdictions are looking at discontinuing the use of Glyphosate based products than the facts of the matter. Why? Because the facts of the matter have nothing to do with what the real matter is! And that’s something the golf industry needs to understand if it is to have any chance whatsoever to preserve the ability to use even the slightest measure of Glyphosate to control invasive species in those jurisdictions where environmental concerns trump all else – including the “facts of the matter.”

Between July’s philosophical dive into the issue and now, a California Assemblyman (Al Muratsuchi; D-Torrance) decided to grandstand the issue for his environmentally sensitive District by gutting and amending a bill (AB 916) dealing with suicide prevention to become a bill to require that ALL of California’s public agencies discontinue use of Glyphosate based products. “Gut and amend” is the nickname for the process legislators use to strip all content out of a bill that has passed its House of origin and replace it with content on an utterly unrelated subject. Muratsuchi’s effort foundered; indeed, it never made it to the first of the policy committees to which it was referred. However, it survives as a 2-year bill to be taken up between January and June of 2020.

First, a review of last month’s “why” discussion and then additional lessons from this “gut and amend” exercise that the industry also needs to understand if it hopes to defeat AB 916 in 2020 and in the process increase its chances to preserve some small measure of Glyphosate use.

Every peer reviewed scientific study and every regulatory agency that has studied Glyphosate, including the IARC study that Glyphosate’s detractors point to as evidence of a carcinogenic link, has concluded there is no causal link between Glyphosate and cancer. California’s Environmental Protection Agency (**CAL EPA**) reissued that conclusion just last year. Nonetheless, two juries have awarded substantial damages, including punitive damages, to persons who used Roundup and later developed Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Hundreds of similar lawsuits are on the dockets of courts throughout the land. The GMO component of the environmental movement has gone on the warpath. People are frightened about what they hear and read. And when people are frightened by the prospect of their

children being exposed to something dangerous at the local park, they make clear to their elected leaders that science be damned; they want to err on the side of extreme caution.

And that’s why cities and counties have been entertaining various forms of moratoria and bans on the use of Glyphosate by their governmental departments!

These bans and exploratory moratoria are not to be confused with laws or ordinances. Local jurisdictions are preempted by the state and federal governments with respect to the permitting of the active ingredients in herbicides/pesticides. However, as property owners they are free to use or refrain from using substances that are otherwise legally permitted, as has been the case with Glyphosate for the last 45 years. In that respect they are no different than private landowners. It’s just that governments make such decisions by policy, not discretionary whim, and policy is generally made through transparent processes open to public view, which is why some have confused what these local jurisdictions have been exploring with what Assemblyman Muratsuchi’s “gut and amend” exercise proposed to do, which was to eliminate all hint of local control, local experiment, local discretion, and local flexibility in favor of an outright proscription that created two separate classes of property in the process – one that can use Glyphosate based products (private property) and one that cannot (public property).

Law versus policy. Public versus private. Mandate versus flexibility. Absence of findings (the only one on California’s record comes to the opposite conclusion). Lack of hearings. Add to these clear public policy flaws the fact that the state’s enormous agricultural sector found AB 916 to be a stalking horse for extension of the ban to ALL landowners, and it was no surprise that AB 916 couldn’t even make it to the first committee to which it was referred.

So long as the Glyphosate issue remains a policy preference of local jurisdictions and not the legal mandates of those jurisdictions, golf is free to work cooperatively with local jurisdictions

KESSLER

on a case by case basis to find the sweet spot between assuaging the fears of constituents and maintaining healthy golf enterprises. Local jurisdictions not pressed by constituents (there are many) or in political environments that are more persuaded by evidence than hysteria are free to continue using Glyphosate on their parks, medians, open spaces and municipally owned golf courses until such time as there is credible evidence that indicates otherwise.

Golf and myriad other sectors have six (6) months to develop an effective strategy to keep this a policy matter as opposed to a legal matter - a matter amenable to nuance and flexibility as opposed to game over. There are a lot of reasons to be optimistic on that count. Of course, if juries keep awarding whopping damages based more on the behavior of the Monsanto Corporation than the behavior of Glyphosate, all the solid science in the world may not matter.

On the other hand, if juries in places other than California's Bay Area start finding otherwise in some of these cases, Assemblyman Muratsuchi may have done Glyphosate a great favor. Local governments may be

free as a matter of policy to use or not use a product, but the State of California has to meet a higher standard than that if it wants to pass a law that elevates a specific policy about a specific product to the level of an outright mandate. And the state has to concoct a very creative theory to find that a specific product deemed too dangerous for public landowners to use is just fine for use by private landowners, of which there are many more in California.

Given just how strong all of the peer reviewed evidence favors the safety of Glyphosate when used as prescribed, it may well be in Glyphosate's interest to have its day in a court required to issue judgments on the bases of fact and evidence as opposed to ideology and hysteria. Such "judgments" wouldn't control the policy decisions of local jurisdictions, but they sure would provide powerful ammunition in the debates about those judgments. •••



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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

By Marc Connerly • GCSASC/Hi-Lo Executive Director

RAUL VEGA

Desert Willow Golf Resort



It's always great to showcase some of the up and coming talent in our industry. Coachella Valley & The Desert HI Lo have a very rich history in golf, with great courses and hardworking crews that keep them in exceptional condition. For this issue, we interviewed Raul Vega from Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GET INTO GOLF MAINTENANCE?

One day, coming from L.A. to the desert, I just knew I have to live here.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE INDUSTRY?

It's always a challenge; it takes time, even years, to develop excellent crew members, and it's a big accomplishment to have the best crew ever and see how proud they are. So, a big THANKS to ALL at Desert Willow.

WHO WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MOST INFLUENTIAL MENTOR IN THE INDUSTRY?

In the beginning, it had to be Mrs. Shannon Cook. Nowadays, Mr. Jared Stanek, who's sharing his knowledge with us.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

Guadalajara, México; East LA; and last 30 plus years Indio, CA.

YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW AS OF LATE?

Mythbusters.

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE ATHLETE GROWING UP?

Diego Armando Maradona

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

None

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST THING YOU HAVE EVER SEEN ON THE GOLF COURSE?

Too many, but the one funniest, I just can't share it.

WHAT IS ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?


Good sense of humor, just can't show it. (lol)

WHAT WAS YOUR LOWEST SCORE PLAYING GOLF, AND WHERE?

Very bad, with Brother at Indian Ridge CC.


WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MANUAL LABOR JOB ON THE GOLF COURSE AND WHY?

Heavy equipment, love to jump right in. continued on page 15



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IF YOU HAD YOUR CHOICE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN RETIREMENT?

Planning to stay in the industry for as long I can.

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS?

Cowboys!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF GRASS TO MANAGE AS A PUTTING SURFACE AND WHY?

Bermuda and Poa , very good heat tolerance, transition and lowest height of cut.

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANYONE, PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My dad, who passed 16 years ago. He would be very proud!

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Family – Raul, Jr. and Michele

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2019 GCSASC Scholarship & Research Tournament *continued from p. 9*

for earlier this year, but a schedule conflict got in the way). As it turns out, Craig received the last ever Distinguished Service Award not named for “Speedy,” and Mr. Kessler was both surprised and rendered speechless by the honor.

THIS YEAR’S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WERE FRANCISCO BRAMBILA (\$2,000 TURF), PHUC NGUYEN (\$2,000 TURF), AND SAVANNAH STAMBAUGH (\$1,500 LEGACY).

The 2019 S&R will be a tough one to top, but we look forward to equaling it in 2020. Watch for details on that event in the coming weeks.

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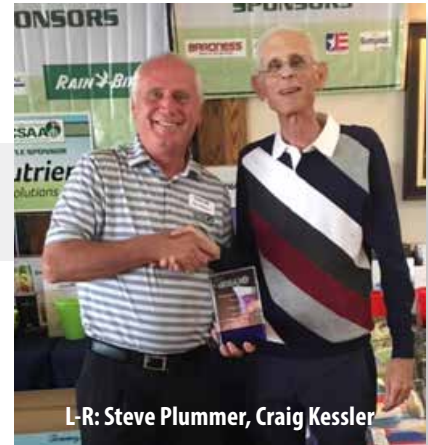
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L-R: Steve Plummer, Craig Kessler



Team Golf Results

1st Place Caroline Hollosy • Kevin Kienast • Juan Maldonado • Jeff Dumont

2nd Place Terry La Curan • Jorge Morales • Junior Valdivia • Javier Alvarado

3rd Place Francisco Arrevalo • Brian Wolfand • Jason Decker • Ryan MacNair

Won by two team foursomes:

Sean Dugan • Payson West • Peter Dalkas • Jordan Guillen

Michael Wolpoff, Geoff Cram • Ryan Olson • Chris Brown

Skins

Hole-In-One As reported in the last issue of Sea to Sand, Sean Dugan recorded a hole in one on #9.

Closest to the Pin Winners Jason Fuertes (#4), Sean Dugan (#9), Steve Eberhard (#12), and Chris Brown, (#17)

Longest Drive Ryan MacNair (#10)

Marshmallow Drive Jordan Schrader • Chris Brown • Chris Jennings • Justin Depippo

(The Marshmallow drive was a really fun event offered by Your Way Tree Service)

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ADVERTISER INDEX

Aqua Technex	05
AG Sod Farms	12
Agri Turf	07
Barkshire Laser Leveling	17
Bio Clear Water Solutions	22
Cal West Environmental	23
Diversified Waterscapes Inc.	15
DryJect Southwest	24
Eagle Pump Services	20
Formost Construction	17
Golf Irrigation Consultants	21
Grasspoint USA	17
Harrell's	04
Harsco	12
High Tech Irrigation	23
JR's West Coast Golf Cars	06
Mainstream Aquatics	24
Nutrien	18
Precision Labs	26
Redox Turf	21
Simplot Partners	14
Southwest Growers	17
Stotz/John Deere	23
Stover Seed	24
Superior Tree Care	20
Syngenta	20
TLC Materials	09
Turf Equipment Display	03
Turf Time West	14
Turf Star	18
Turf Star	22
Variable Speed Solutions	27
West Coast Sand & Gravel	08
West Coast Turf	22
Wilbur Ellis	11

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