

SEA to SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 1 | DECEMBER 2020/FEBRUARY 2021



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Ken Benoit Inspires Golf Courses to Adopt BMPs*
- *Importance of Stretching*
- *Thinking Outside the Cup*

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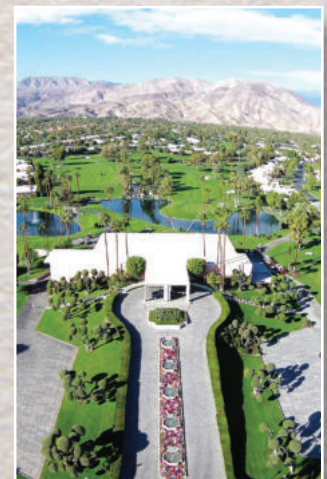


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Executive Director's Report

By Marc Connerly, Executive Director, GCSASC and Hi-Lo Desert GCSA



2020 was a chaotic year, no doubt. But, with the exception of online retail and food delivery services, golf may have fared better than virtually every industry, emerging from the chaos with a dramatic increase in play and a newfound optimism about the future. That uptick in play and optimism has continued in the early weeks of 2021.

While the atmosphere is currently sunny and bright, there are clouds on the horizon. It may be too early to determine if they are fair weather clouds that will harmlessly pass, or if they carry significant storms and upheaval, but they are there and warrant our attention.

One such cloud is a piece of legislation introduced by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia (D-Downey). The title of AB 672 is "Golf Courses: Open Space and Affordable Housing," which should pique the interest of anybody with ties to golf. Although the legislation is a "spot bill," meaning that the meat has not yet been added to the bones of the bill, it does specify that the intent of the bill is to enact "legislation that would enable the use of underutilized golf courses for open space and affordable housing."

The obvious reason for concern is the prospect of golf courses being bulldozed to create housing, but the more subtle cause for concern is the mindset underlying the proposal; a mindset that golf is dispensable, and that golf courses provided limited value or benefit to communities. This is a very serious issue that goes to the image of the game, and whether or not this bill passes, is a matter that we as an industry must address immediately.

Another cloud on the horizon, or more aptly "absence of a cloud," is water. While COVID-19, wildfires and political mayhem dominated the headlines in 2020, we have experienced another dry winter. There are 12 reservoirs in California, and as of this writing 10 of them are at less than their historical average quantities (expressed in acre-feet), and 8 of those 10 are at less than 75% of their historical average quantities.

Furthermore, the water content of California snow packs is just 60% of average for the same date in prior years, and only 54% of the April 1 average. Those number are better than the height of the drought in 2014-2015, but significantly down from 2018-2019 levels.

Finally, the big question virtually every golf course operator is asking is "Will the golfers stay after COVID restrictions are lifted?" Industry forecasters optimistically project that we will be manage to retain 20% to 30% of the current increase in rounds. If that is true, most will be very pleased, but it is likely going to come down to how good a job courses have done with capturing customer data, the overall experience that golfers have had while on the course, and how well crafted the outreach messaging is as we return to greater normalcy and competition from other recreational and entertainment activities.

My advice: pay attention to the clouds and hope they bring storms in a literal sense, and much less so figuratively.

From The Field

By Jeff Jensen • GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region



I hope you had a great holiday season and your 2021 is off to a running start! 2020 was not what we envisioned, but there is some light at the end of the tunnel moving into the new year. As you read this, vaccines are being distributed to

frontline workers and vulnerable populations and hopefully things will be back to some semblance of normal late this summer or early fall.

Please begin to think about your facility donating a foursome for the 2021 Rounds 4 Research auction. The dates haven't been officially set yet for the Spring auction, but we are already taking donations at <https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research>.

We realize that many facilities are seeing record breaking play and donating can be difficult, but this is a great opportunity to assist your local chapter in raising funds for research, education and advocacy purposes. 80 percent of all funds raised through the auction goes back to the participating facilities home chapter.

You have the ability to set blackout dates and times that work best for your course. Resort, private, daily fee and municipal courses are all welcome

to participate in the auction and it is a great way to market your facility due to the national nature of the auction.

Several Southwest chapters have experienced success over the past years including the Hawaii GCSAA who raised nearly \$6,000 during the 2020 auction.

In closing, I would like to thank those members who have signed up to be a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. We still have numerous openings available in Southern California and it is a great opportunity to work as a liaison between the golf industry and your member of Congress.

As we shift from the pandemic back to normal business, golf will once again be under the microscope for its water and pesticide use, taxes and beneficial use of open space. It is important that we get the message out about the games economic, environmental and social impacts. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the program.

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please email me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter at [GCSAA_SW](https://twitter.com/GCSAA_SW) for industry updates.

Jeff

“The Ambassador program has broadened my horizons allowing me to experience an entirely different side of the industry many GCSAA members need to be more aware of. The decisions made by Congress are very important to the daily operations of golf facilities and getting involved in the process has been both eye opening and rewarding. “

Brandon Williams
Director of Agronomy
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FROM THE BUNKER

By Craig Kessler • Director • Governmental Affairs
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

ELECTIONS MATTER

Elections matter. It is a hackneyed phrase to be sure, but one with which few would disagree. And here is how the California and national elections “mattered” for the golf industry in a couple of very specific instances; one involving the national election and one involving the state election. They are by no means the only two golf related matters affected by those elections; just two of sufficient impact to illustrate the role of elections in our business.

As for the national election, the Democrats have recaptured the White House and will retain control of the House of Representatives; that much is settled. But there were two Senatorial runoffs in Georgia on January 5th that determined that Democrats control the Senate by the slimmest of margins (more on that razor thin margin below), and for golf why that is relevant due to the following that is likely of particular interest to golf course superintendents.

Companion bills (S. 4406 – Udall [D-NM] and H.R. 7940 – Neguse [D-CO]) have been introduced in Congress that would drastically change the way golf courses are managed by banning, eliminating, or restricting many pesticide products superintendents rely on to maintain healthy turf grass, trees, and ornamental plants.

For decades the **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)** has provided for the federal regulation of pesticide labeling, distribution, sale, and use, creating one national standard upon which golf courses could rely in developing their long-range agronomic plans and practices. FIFRA has operated per the same administrative rules and scientific protocols under which all federal agencies such as EPA and FDA operate.

These bills would turn that upside down by mandating the following:

- Immediately ban several classes of pesticides including organophosphates and neonicotinoids.
- Ban any product currently banned or otherwise prohibited by Canada, the European Union, or any one country in the European Union.
- Eliminate pesticide preemption laws in every state by allowing local governments to restrict pesticide products, thereby creating a patchwork of differing regulations from town to town.

These bills were dead on arrival in the preceding Congress, but they are very much alive, albeit not as “lively” as their two sponsors might like, because the Senate is Democratic only by virtue of a 50-50 tie broken by Vice President

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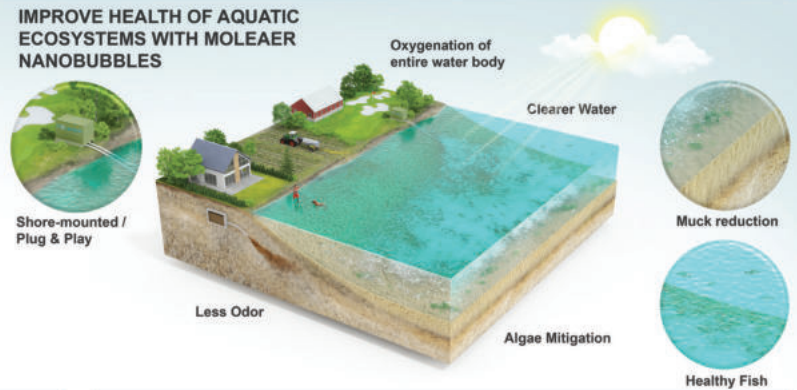
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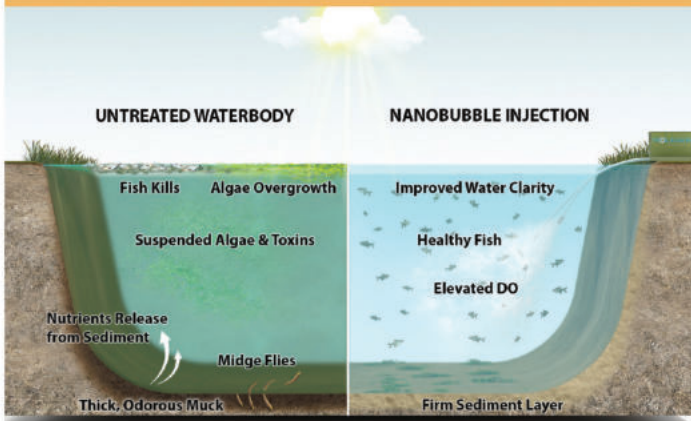
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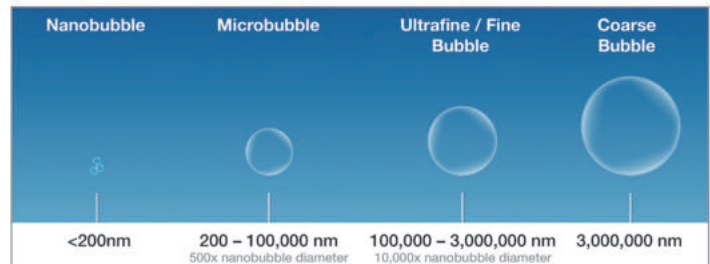
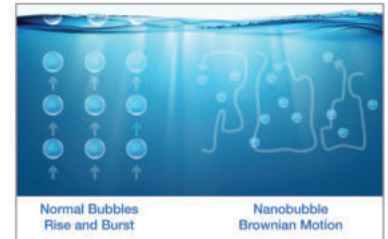
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Notes: EPA Establishment Number 94231-CA-1

Continued from Page 8 - From The Bunker

Kamala Harris (a Democrat). Senators from reddish purple states like Georgia and Montana, not to mention red states like West Virginia (Joe Manchin), are not going to be inclined to be the deciding votes for deep blue environmental legislation.

On to the state election, where the action for the golf community is always more compelling.

Proposition 15, an initiative that would have required that all non-residential property in the state be reassessed at least once every three years for property tax purposes, rightly captured the industry's attention this fall. For the golf industry, the issue was a complicated one, with differential impacts upon different types of golf properties – e.g., equity private club, daily fee/resort, and municipal. That's why both the SCGA and the California Alliance for Golf (CAG) put out a thick "white paper" on the subject early in the election cycle – that and so that the state's golf clubs and properties could get a firm grip on two (2) things as they made decisions about their best course: 1) The actual impact of successful passage on their club/property, and 2) the wisdom of putting their club and/or the golf community in the crosshairs of what promised and turned out to be a very robust political campaign.

Proposition 15 failed. Forty-eight percent (48%) of the California electorate voted yes. Fifty-two percent (52%) voted no. That means that the proponents won't be going away any time soon. If they're not back on the ballot with something in 2022, they'll be back in 2024. They're committed to this issue, and they made some mistakes in 2020 that are amenable to easy rectification

next time out. More specifically, they now know what a triple net lease is and how it affects a small business community that they thought they had insulated from severe impact through certain exemptions in Proposition 15 that proved illusory. As many predicted at the outset of the campaign, the small business angle, and what it would portend in terms of adding to the cost of living for ordinary non-commercial property owners proved to be the most effective anti-15 narrative.

The fact that the game for the most part did keep its property tax bills and specifics out of the campaign puts it in good position going forward. The state's private golf clubs are insulated from onerous impact by **ARTICLE XIII, Section 10** of the **California Constitution**, the state's daily fee courses are almost all zoned as open space, and the state's municipal golf courses are exempt save the small possessory interest taxes paid by holders of long-term management leases. Given the current fiscal and political climates, these are things best left on the periphery of public discussions about tax burdens and land use. On the "periphery" of the public discussion, but not the periphery of golf's concerns.

These are but two small examples of the election's direct impact upon the California golf industry. There are others. There are examples of indirect impact as well. Elections matter – all of them, local, state, and federal. And because they do, it behooves golf to get in the game.

Craig

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By Jeff Jensen • GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region

Benoit inspires golf facilities to adopt BMPs during his journey across America

Founder of Eco Turf Consulting pedals nearly 3,400 miles over 51 days



“I named my tour the ‘Connect To Protect Tour’ as a nod to connecting with superintendents in a way which would hopefully inform of the importance of BMPs and their relationship to protecting the environment, particularly as it relates to water conservation and quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat.”

Eco Turf Consulting Founder Ken Benoit, CGCS, recently completed a journey across America on bicycle to promote the development and adoption of BMPs.

A 26-year member of GCSAA, Benoit resides in Bedford, NY. and served over two decades as a golf course superintendent including a stint as President of the Metropolitan GCSA. His firm specializes in the implementation of BMPs, assisting golf facilities in developing a customized approach to course management, and maintenance.

Benoit began his journey on August 14th in Greenwich, Connecticut and peddled his way across America arriving at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Bandon, Oregon on October 3rd. The journey encompassed 51 days (36 days of actual riding) with Benoit riding 3,397 miles.

Benoit’s love of cycling, golf, and the environment, along with GCSAA’s goal of having BMPs in 50 states by the end of 2020, led him to using a bike trip as a platform to promote BMPs. Benoit has served as a consultant on BMPs for 14 individual states.

“I named my tour the ‘Connect To Protect Tour’ as a nod to connecting with superintendents in a way which would hopefully inform of the importance of BMPs and their relationship to protecting the environment, particularly as it relates to water conservation and quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat,” said Benoit.

Benoit took a northern route through 13 states, stopping along the way at 14 golf facilities to consult and assist with their BMPs:

- Fairview Country Club – Greenwich, CT.
- Bedford Golf & Tennis Club- Bedford, NY.
- Centre Hills Country Club – State College, PA.
- Muirfield Village Golf Club – Dublin, OH.
- Brickyard Crossing – Indianapolis, IN.
- Mt. Hawley Country Club – Peoria, IL.
- Finkbine Golf Club – Iowa City, IA.
- The Prairie Club – Valentine, NE.
- Fossil Island Golf Club – Kemmerer, WY.
- Hillcrest Country Club- Boise, ID.
- Silvies Valley Ranch- Seneca, OR.
- Sunset Bay Golf Club- Coos Bay, OR.
- Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Bandon, OR.

In addition to meeting with superintendents, some of Benoit’s favorite memories of the trip included crossing the Continental Divide, seeing the Tetons for the first time, spending a night in a teepee on the North Platte River, and having the chance to meet up with his sisters in Columbus, OH. and Coos Bay, OR.

Benoit’s journey was both mentally and physically demanding. “Each day of riding presents mental

Continued on page 18

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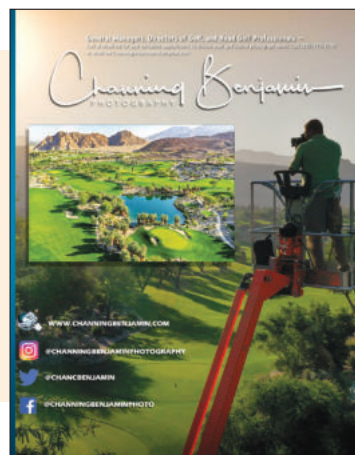
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“Where’s Zena?”

Terry La Curan of TLC Materials brings his loveable companion Zena along when he visits golf courses. Can you guess which course Zena is visiting in this photo?
(Below are 3 hints)

- Incorporated in 1903, making it one of the oldest country clubs in the West;
- The fifty founding members paid \$100 to \$1000 each, with plans to acquire eighty acres and build the ideal sporting and social club;
- The club’s first golf course was designed by founding member Fred Heath in October 1903.

(You will find the answer on page 34)



Bonus from the Field - Continued from page 14



challenges,” said Benoit. “Riding 100 miles per day was challenging mentally but also motivating in another sense. Before the start of my tour, I stated my intention to average 100 miles per day and was determined to keep to that goal. Throughout the ride I had moments when I wanted to stop short of 100 miles but it was personally important for me to stick to that goal, which served as a major source of motivation to keep pedaling on days when I had a strong desire to stop short.”

“I faced many small and not so small physical challenges along the way,” said Benoit. “Saddle sores, a head cold, nerve damage to my hands from the pressure point on the handlebars and most critically, an Achilles issue that I thought could end or at least delay my trip.”

“The most important lesson I learned was really a reminder of what we all know but often lose sight of... it’s important to put effort into the things which we feel are important,” stated Benoit. “I realized that, anything important in my life, requires a connection in order to protect it.”

As we approach the end of a very difficult year for most of us, Ken’s journey across the country served as an inspiration for me and many other GCSAA members during a very turbulent time.

“When I embarked on my tour I was feeling down about where we were at as a country. It seemed obvious

to me that we were deeply divided, and not in a way which allowed for acceptance of personal expression, but in a way that seemed closed minded and harmful,” said Benoit. “What I discovered while riding across the country and making myself open to having conversation with the people I ran into, is that the United States is a pure representation of its people. Meaning there is good and bad in all of us just like there is good and bad throughout the country. But, after spending a lot of time speaking with fellow Americans across the country I discovered, overwhelmingly, that the vast majority of Americans are good and caring people who want what’s best for the country.”

Thanks to Ken for sharing some insights on his amazing journey, and I hope it serves as some inspiration as we lead into what is sure to be a better and brighter 2021. Happy Holidays and best of luck in the New Year!

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Importance of Stretching

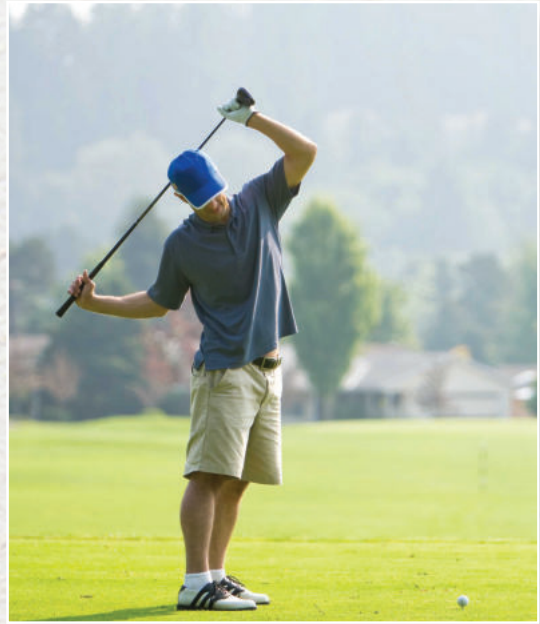
By Dan Pollack, Assistant superintendent, Wilshire Country Club

The life of a turfgrass manager or associated sales member can surely turn into an early morning and a full day of work. People fall into routines whether beneficial or harmful, and do not realize the physical effect on the human body and mind. A task that is commonly overlooked in our industry is the importance of stretching. Time is of the essence every day in order to stay ahead on morning play and complete daily tasks. Proper stretching takes genuine time set out of the day to complete accurately.

It is no secret that gymnasts and martial artists endure extensive stretching routines prior to physical activity. One might wonder how that mind set can translate into the turfgrass world. While the physical act of working on a golf course may not be similar to balancing on a beam or combat routines, the body is constantly being used in various ways that can be rigorous on the human body.

Stretching keeps muscles flexible, strong, and healthy, in order to keep a wide range of motion. Without stretching, muscles and joints will contract over time contributing to tight joints and a weaker body complex. Having a flexible frame allows us to move freely and give a wider range of motion, possibly creating ease in certain physical tasks. Flexibility is key to maintaining a healthy complex as the years go on with stress continually building.

‘Stretching keeps muscles flexible, strong, and healthy, in order to keep a wide range of motion. Without stretching, muscles and joints will contract over time contributing to tight joints and a weaker body complex.’



Posture is a key component in determining the proper stretching methods required for different individuals. Every individual has a different frame and therefore needs to be tended to differently. Stretching can strengthen key muscles, which encourages proper posture alignment and a balanced vertical frame.

One of the greatest benefits from consistent stretching is the increased blood flow, which can easily prevent injuries. Think of any time you have thrown a baseball in your life. You start throwing the ball ten or so feet from your partner and gradually increasing the distance once your shoulder gets warm. This warming sensation is actually your muscles softening and allowing blood to flow.

Research may very well be required in order to determine the proper stretching practices an individual will need. Stretching is something that is very commonly overlooked in our industry and should be addressed. With the long career of a turfgrass manager, any tricks that will prolong a career and create a healthier lifestyle should be welcomed.

Sources:

Harvard Health Letter. "The importance of stretching." Harvard Health Publishing, 25 September 2010, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/the-importance-of-stretching>.

Mayo Clinic Staff. "Stretching: Focus on Flexibility." 31 January 2020, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/stretching/art-20047931?>

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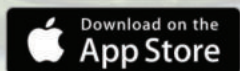
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Thank you card from
GCSASC scholarship recipient Luke Gabel
(Shady Canyon Golf Club)



Mr. Connerly,

It is a great honor to accept an award from the GCSASC. Having such support means a great deal to me.

I do not know what the future holds for me after my final year at university, but I can surely say I'd like to return to Southern California and join the GCSASC. Please extend my deepest gratitude to the board.

I wish you good luck and health,
Luke Gabel

Thank you letter from
**CTLF to GCSASC for \$25,000
research contribution.**



February 3, 2021

Southern California GCSA
2235 Park Towne Cr.
2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95825-0401

To the Board of Directors of Southern California GCSA –

On behalf of the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation, I want to thank you for your recent donation of \$25,000.00 (check #1006 dated 1/12/2021). This money will be transferred to the UC Riverside Turfgrass Research Program to support the ongoing research pertaining to California turfgrass issues.

Your donation to CTLF ensures that 100% of the money granted goes directly to support turfgrass research. As stated in our by-laws, universities cannot use CTLF grants to fund overhead or administrative costs.

A summary UCR research reports and activity can be found at: <https://turfgrass.ucr.edu>

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pat Gross".

Pat Gross
Executive Director, CTLF
809 Tiverton Ct.
San Dimas, CA 91773
714-321-6101

We asked members to provide photos of their course flowers.

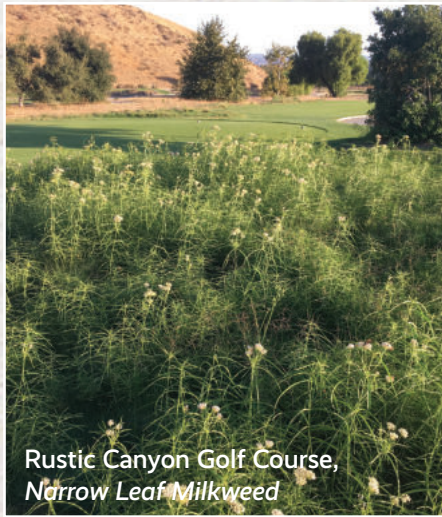
Thank you to **Jim Culley of Seed King Enterprises** for providing all of these images.



Bighorn Golf Club, *African Daisy*



Hideaway Golf Club, *1st Clive*



Rustic Canyon Golf Course, *Narrow Leaf Milkweed*



Toscana Country Club, *Toadflax*



La Cumbre Country Club, *Poppies and Scarlet Flax*



Annandale Country Club, *African Daisy*



Rancho LaQuinta Country Club, *Dimo*



Sunnylands, *Poppy*

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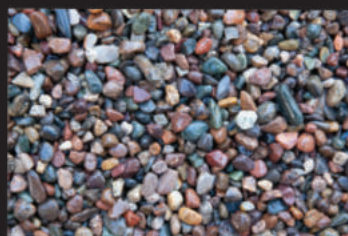


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Clubhouse Architecture

“Although the golf course is the heart and soul of the superintendent profession, and ultimately the primary draw for golfers, the clubhouse serves as a central gathering point, and very often serves as the image that represents the course in the eyes of the public. Southern California is home to some magnificent clubhouse architecture, and we are proud to display some of those buildings here.”

Newport Beach Country Club



Los Angeles Country Club



Escena Golf Club



Oasis Country Club



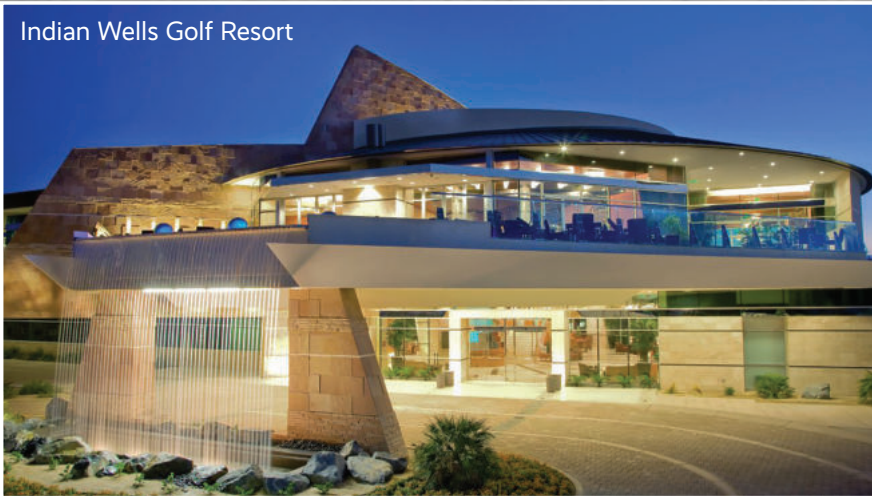
Sherwood Country Club



Aliso Viejo Country Club

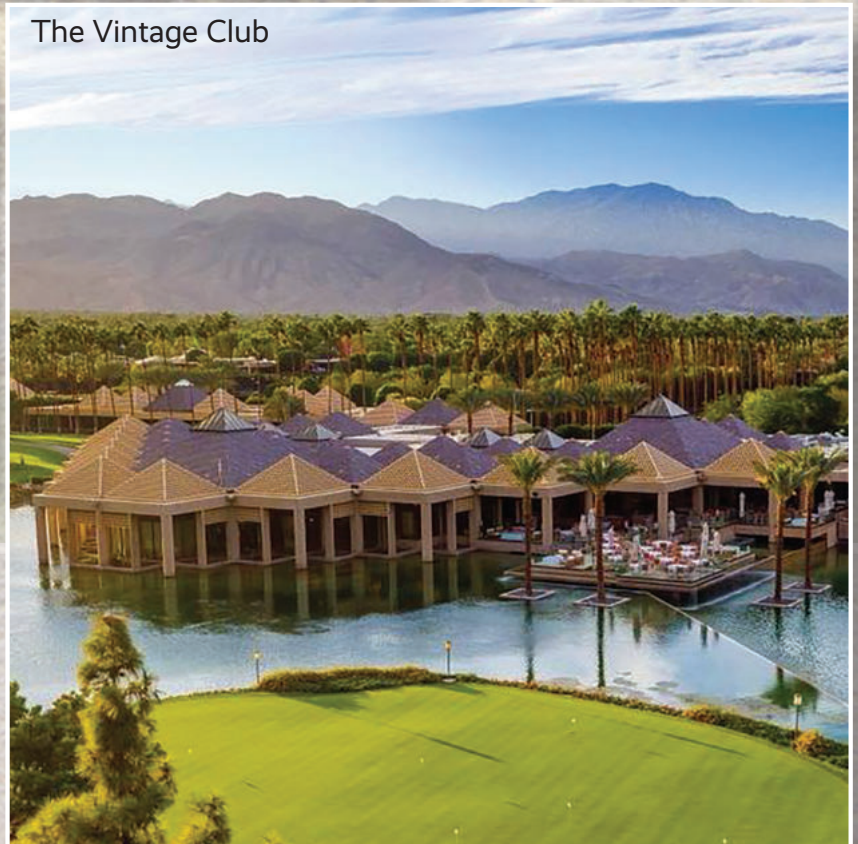


Indian Wells Golf Resort



Shady Canyon Golf Club

The Vintage Club



Thinking Outside the Cup

Thank you to Brian Boyer, Superintendent, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club (San Jose, CA) for submitting the following story

Bay Area superintendent Jay Neunsinger of Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek, CA has begun to think outside the cup. Having a conversation with his local Starbucks manager, Jay asked the question, “What are you doing with all of your coffee grounds?”

“What are you doing with all of your coffee grounds?”

Starbucks serves freshly-brewed coffee to millions of customers each day. But many may not know they can also pick up a free bag of used coffee grounds to enrich their gardens and compost.

Starbucks started its Grounds for Your Garden program in 1995, which is offered on a first-come, first-served basis in participating stores where local codes permit. Even the packaging has been reused – baristas scoop spent coffee grounds into the empty bags originally used to ship espresso beans to stores.

“Grounds for Your Garden is a win-win for both Starbucks and our customers,” said Jim Hanna, director on Starbucks Global Responsibility team. “We can keep valuable material out of landfills and put it to good use.”

In its 20 years, Grounds for Your Garden has evolved to become an important part of Starbucks effort to reduce the environmental impact of its stores. Although composting may not be commercially available in all municipalities, the program serves as another way to reuse coffee grounds.

Jay asked if they could work out an arrangement to allow Jay to receive all of the grounds. The owner of the local Starbucks franchise that he frequents owns multiple locations within the City of Walnut Creek, and they have arranged to have their grounds delivered to Boundary Oak on a weekly basis.

“Our vision is to recycle and reduce the waste in our stores as much as possible,” Hanna said. “This is one way we can accomplish this objective while providing something for our customers at the same time.”

Pre-packaged bags of Grounds for Your Garden may not be available in all stores. Check with your barista to see if used coffee grounds are available at your local Starbucks.



About Starbucks Global Responsibility

We have always believed Starbucks can – and should – have a positive impact on the communities we serve one person, one cup and one neighborhood at a time. As we have grown to more than 20,000 stores in 67 countries, so too has our commitment to use our scale for good. It is our vision that together we will elevate our partners, customers, suppliers and neighbors to create positive change. We are innovators, leaders and contributors to an inclusive society and a healthy environment so that everyone we touch can endure and thrive.

It’s no wonder Jay has received numerous GCSAA ELGA awards over the years, and we hope this tip might provide you with an idea for working with your local Starbucks.





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Compton Par 3 Report

GCSASC was asked by the Southern California PGA to assist with maintenance of the Compton Par 3 course in Compton, CA, an impoverished community. SCPGA is working with the Compton Union High School District to bring golf to the students, and they have more than 50 students in the program so far, with plans we will provide equipment to the students through their ClubsForeYouth Program. GCSASC agreed to assist with aerification and upkeep of the course, and Assistant Superintendents Dan Pollack and Ryan MacNair volunteered to lead the effort. Below is an overview of the project, which is currently on hold pending City approvals to proceed.

Introduction

Due to Covid-19, the property is closed to the public and currently maintained by two employees of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation. They work approximately 30 hours per week, with limited resources available to them. According to the maintenance team, they are mowing the greens, tees, fairways, and rough once a week. Their irrigation system is limited and lacks funding to maintain it properly. They also struggle with vandalism and theft to their irrigation controllers, making it virtually impossible to use them to their full potential.

Scope of Work

Travel to the Compton Par 3, meet with Eddie Rodarte of SCPGA, review the conditions of greens, tees, and fairways, and consider their level of performance, maintenance, and health. Discuss our opinions, recommendations, and resources available to complete an aerification to the course.



This photograph depicts some history of topdressing and aerification on greens, but a timelapse in any cultural practices for several years. Organic and thatch layers need to be diluted to increase performance, firmness, and overall conditions of the greens.

Observations - Long Term Assessment

Eddie told us his vision of the Compton Par 3 as a place where less-fortunate kids could escape to for a safe environment, learn and enjoy the game of golf and even work on homework after school. To accomplish this, a significant amount of time, effort, and money would assist in this vision. Please refer to the list of recommendations the course would benefit from pursuing:

1. Tree pruning and removal;
2. Grading, expanding, sodding teeing grounds;
3. Irrigation Renovation: converting to Toro or Rainbird IC system to eliminate satellite boxes on property, thus eliminating theft and vandalism to them as well;
4. Clubhouse, Pro Shop, and equipment storage construction and renovation;
5. Staff;
6. Security.

Observations - Short Term Assessment

While we understand that funding is a difficult obstacle, we are able to help accomplish a few interim goals to help prolong the health of the course. Please read below an in-depth agronomic report listing the recommendations from which the Par 3 course could benefit.

Greens

The greens on the course are a mix of kikuyugrass and bentgrass along with minor *Poa annua* contamination. It is evident that the greens were at some point seeded with bentgrass and over the years have been outcompeted by the surrounding kikuyugrass fairways and rough. The profile samples taken from the greens showed history of topdressing and aerification, but have not received anything for over 8 years according to the maintenance team. The greens have accumulated approximately 1.5-2.5 inches of thatch along with a significant organic layer. There are moisture inconsistencies on the greens due to lack of aerification, poor drainage, and sprinkler efficacy.

We recommend aerifying the greens with a ½"-⅝" hollow tine at a depth of 2-3 inches. Following the punch, the cores should be dragged around to remove any sand from the core. The greens can be topdressed heavily with a coarse sand material to fill in the aerated holes. This process will dilute thatch, organic matter, increase water infiltration,

and help increase firmness. Time dependent, it is possible that a double punch be performed to increase disruption to the thatch and organic matter.

Any plugs that are left after the aerification, should be used to fill thin spots in the fairway and rough areas. This will cut down on hauling/disposing any material off site and give thin areas a chance to recover without the purchase of new sod.

Tees

The teeing grounds throughout the course are small, shaded by trees, and do not have many teeing rotation options. This has left these areas thin, weak, and in most places very difficult to find a level space to tee your ball. These areas have become unplayable and need to be addressed.

With the amount of play and lack of options for tee placements, it is recommended to consider a few options. In our opinion, trees need to be thinned out or removed to allow sunlight to reach these high play areas and give the turf a chance to recover. Eddie mentioned that the city has hired an arborist to assess the trees around the course. We would be happy to assist and meet with the arborist at a later date to determine and discuss the functionality of the trees on property. Due to lack of sunlight and tee placements, turf decline in these areas is inevitable and will consistently be a struggle to maintain. We believe that for the longevity of these areas, hitting mats would be a viable option if available.



The teeing ground on Hole 2 is an example of how all the tees on the course look. The areas are very disturbed with high traffic, lack of sunlight due to trees, and limited space for tee placements.

Fairways

The fairways and rough on the course are kikuyugrass maintained at a height of 3 inches on fairways and longer in the rough. There is not a distinction where fairway contours meet rough and according to the maintenance team, there never has been. The crew has described equipment availability as difficult to obtain due to theft and vandalism. Since they have to transport equipment to the course daily, it may be fruitful to maintain the roughs and fairways at the same height of cut and eliminate the need to transport more than one piece of equipment to the course. This allows for increased mowing frequency and would alleviate the scalping and help lower heights.

Our recommendation is to core aerify all fairways and rough on property with a 5/8"-3/4" hollow tine. The cores should be dispersed with a metal drag mat to knock any sand back into the holes, similarly as recommended for the greens. Any plugs that remain should be harvested and used in thin areas around the course. The fairways can then be topdressed heavily to dilute thatch and organic matter in the top layer of the soil.

Recovery The course being closed to the public allows us to take an aggressive approach to the aerification process. Most areas should recover within 4-5 weeks and will be evaluated approximately two weeks after the process to ensure recovery is on pace.



The fairways struggle from scalping due to low frequency mowing schedules. It is recommended to increase mowing to 2-3 times a week to combat the scalp and help drop cutting heights lower. Lower heights of cut will also help increase turf density helping combat weeds in fairways.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please consult www.gcsasc.org or www.hilodesert.org for more details and to register

April 19
GCSASC Golf Outing
The Saticoy Club

April 20
Hi-Lo Desert GCSA Golf Outing
Desert Willow Golf Resort

June 28
GCSASC S & R Tournament
Newport Beach Country Club

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“Where is Zena?”

Answer: **Victoria Club, Riverside**



Victoria Club Clubhouse, Circa 1904



Victoria Club Clubhouse (Current)



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A background image of a lush green golf course with a yellow flag on a green in the foreground. The sky is blue with a large, stylized graphic of a water droplet falling and creating concentric ripples. The ripples are in shades of blue and purple, and they appear to be floating over the golf course.

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