

SEA to SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2020



GREETINGS

FROM THE SEA

By Don Ebarb • GCSASC President

.....
I hope to see everybody at Pechanga Wednesday February 26th and 27th. This event will have great education opportunities and golf!!
.....



May 4, 2020
GCSASC Meeting and Golf
The Saticoy Club

June 22, 2020
GCSASC Scholarship & Research Tournament
El Caballero Country Club

August 12, 2020
SeaCliff Country Club

November 16, 2020
Marbella Country Club • Election Meeting

December 14, 2020
North Ranch Country Club • Duff Shaw Classic

As Ferris Bueller said “Life moves pretty fast, if you don’t stop and look around once in a while you could miss it.” I know we have all heard enough about the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant, but he was one of the few guys in my life for whom I would turn on the TV. I was fortunate to watch his entire career and it was quite the treat! Just like anything in life, what made Kobe special along with his God given talents was that he cared more than the next guy did.

There have been few who’ve transcended sports, and they are very easy to identify at an early age. Tiger Woods was one and Mike Trout is well on his way. Michael Jordan too.

From what we witnessed on Super Bowl Sunday, Pat Mahomes will be must see TV for the next 10-15 years if he can stay healthy. Guys don’t win Super Bowls this young. Mahome’s father was a Major League pitcher for over a decade. He has been in the spotlight as a young man, so the big stage does not intimidate him.

Although I don’t believe what Belichick and Brady have accomplished over the last two decades will ever be repeated, Mahomes, if good personnel are kept around him, could make a run at this mark. I am very happy to see Andy Reid finally get to the pinnacle of football. After all, his coaching tree is far more successful than Belichick’s for whatever reason.

Good news is that the NFL will be even more intriguing next season with all the quarterback moves and the Chiefs being the reigning champion for the first time in 50 years. What if Belichick calls the 49ers and trades Brady to get Jimmy G back? Can you imagine? If Brady had been the QB of the Niners they would have hoisted the Lombardi Trophy! •••

DID YOU KNOW?

The GCSAA has partnered with educational institutions that offer opportunities online and in a variety of formats. See page 5 for more information.

GREETINGS

FROM THE SAND

By GCSAA Staff via GCSAA.org

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

A guide for environmental sustainability

.....
In the golf world, best management practices (BMPs) for facilities promote golf course sustainability. Performance goals can help get you there.
.....

A cornerstone of sustainability in golf has been the examination of existing BMPs and development of these goals. Based on a high potential impact on operation of your facility and its bottom line, attention to performance goals in four distinct areas can provide a resource for self-evaluation and designing of a continuous improvement plan. These areas are:

- Water conservation
- Water quality protection
- Pollution prevention
- Energy conservation

Within these areas, performance goals are meant to be high-level performance or action-based statements, not technical instructions. Broad-based and encompassing the entire golf facility, the goals include management of turf grass, landscape, environmental resources, buildings, amenities and operations.

The performance goals are not all encompassing, so other issues like wildlife and habitat management, air quality, and noise, to name a few, should be integrated into any facility's overall environmental plan.

Performance goals focus on continuous improvement and rely on and a “plan, do, check and act” model. Common elements are: establishment of policy, adoption of objectives, written action plans, tracking or monitoring, and reporting practices.

BMP PLANNING GUIDE AND TEMPLATE

GCSAA's BMP Planning Guide and Template is an online resource that provides for the development of golf course best management practices (BMP) programs at the state level. Learn more by visiting GCSAA.org.



**March 26, 2020
Indian Wells Golf Resort
BMP Presentation**

**April 29, 2020
The Club at Coral Mountain**



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

Jeff Robitaille • Aliso Viejo Country Club

Contributed By Daniel M. Pollack

Assistant Superintendent • Wilshire Country Club

WHERE ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM?

I was born and raised in Covina, California. I lived in Covina for the first 30 years of my life, after which I made my first move to Downey, California.

WHAT ENCOURAGED YOU TO ENTER THE WORLD OF TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I had been interested in golf all of my life and retired about six years ago. I was getting bored and wanted to continue to learn, so I decided to pursue my passion for the game through turfgrass management. I applied for a part-time golf course maintenance position at East Lake Woodlands Country Club in Oldimar, Florida. That was just the beginning. I worked alongside Matt Eichmann, who was the Superintendent at the time. Matt propelled my desire to continue working in the turfgrass management industry.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE INDUSTRY?

In 2019, Superintendent Jarred O’Barr and I completed a three-year course project at Aliso Viejo Country Club. We converted all of the rough from Perennial Ryegrass to Tiffway II Bermuda. This turf renovation project is my greatest accomplishment in the industry thus far. Working alongside Jarred O’Barr to improve our course

conditions for our Members is something I am very proud of. My job, to me, is to make my course and team look the best it can. This work is never complete; there are always improvements to be made and areas in which to grow.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF GRASS TO MANAGE AND WHY?

In Florida, the two grasses I primarily worked with were Poa and Bermuda. With our recent Bermuda conversion at Aliso Viejo Country Club, these are still the two main grasses I manage daily. In Florida, Poa is considered a weed. It has been challenging and interesting to learn about Poa and how it is managed in California. However, my favorite grass to maintain is Bermuda.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE QUOTE OR SAYING THAT HAS INFLUENCED YOU?

I grew up with my father always telling me, “Son, if you’re going to do something, do it right.” This has influenced my professional and personal life significantly, always pushing me to do everything I do to the best of my ability.

Assistant Superintendent Profile

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, fishing, and golfing. Another passion of mine is riding motorcycles - there's something about being on a bike that makes everything okay.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS?

The LA Dodgers and New Orleans Saints.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU RETIRE SOMEDAY?

I would like to live close to the water in Florida or South Carolina and coach a little league team. Baseball was what I lived and breathed growing up, so going back to my roots would be very sentimental for me. I would also like to continue giving back, volunteering, and being involved in charity work.

WHOM WOULD YOU LOVE TO PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF WITH WHETHER ALIVE OR DECEASED?

There are a handful of people I would love to play a round of golf with, including Jack Nicklaus and Fred Couples. If I had to only choose one person, I would play a round of golf with the late Bobby Jones. I love his swing, demeanor, and his true love for the game of golf.

•••

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH AN ONLINE TURFGRASS DEGREE

Have turf maintenance experience? Penn State online Associate in Science in Turfgrass Science and Management can provide you with the ability to plan and implement projects, communicate effectively, conduct training programs, and manage finances.

Best of all, the program gives you the flexibility to earn your degree while you continue to work and build skills for a successful career in turfgrass management.

NATIONAL GOLF DAY

REGISTER BY MARCH 13, 2020

By USGA Government Affairs Team | Feb 10, 2020



Registration for 2020 National Golf Day is now open through March 13. Join GCSAA and other golf-affiliated associations working in partnership with WE ARE GOLF to advance, protect and advocate for the industry during the 13th annual National Golf Day.

On May 5-6, 2020, superintendents, course owners, golfers and fans will gather in Washington, D.C., to perform community service, meet with Members of Congress and celebrate the game.

National Golf Day provides an opportunity for members of the golf industry to meet with lawmakers in the nation's capital to discuss golf's impact on the economy, the environment and jobs. In addition to a \$84.1 billion economy, nearly \$4 billion annual charitable impact and more than 15,000 businesses, golf is responsible for many ecological and fitness benefits. •••

Why a Turf Degree Online at Penn State?

Legacy – Penn State became a leader in turfgrass education in 1929 when we launched one of the first turfgrass programs in the United States. As the first university to offer a two-year technical program specifically for golf course superintendents, and as the first to offer an undergraduate major in turfgrass science, we built a solid foundation for the turfgrass management courses that we offer today.

[continued on page 12]

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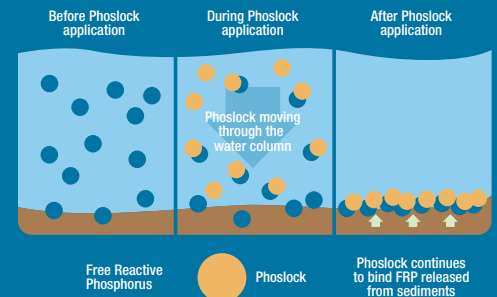
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FROM THE BUNKER

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

GOLF BALLS THAT GO TO DIE IN THE OCEAN

*What? Golf balls that go to die in the ocean?
Are there fumes in the “bunker” where this stuff is written?*

No; just the “stuff” that comes up when one’s job is to advocate for the golf industry. And this particular stuff came up on Christmas Eve no less when So Cal and Hi-Lo Executive Director Marc Connerly received an E-mail from State Senator Pat Bates’ Chief of Staff inquiring about what if anything the California golf industry might be doing of a proactive nature to deal with something their Office had received constituent complaints about - the damage caused by golf balls deteriorating in the Pacific Ocean and emitting Zinc compounds harmful to aquatic life. Senator Bates’ District encompasses much of the South Orange and North San Diego County coastlines. The good news is that Senator Bates is skeptical of regulation and friendly to golf.

She was looking for information to assuage nervous constituents in an area where groups hostile to the golf industry like Surfriders has a lot of members. She was also looking to warn the golf industry that while her Office has no interest in laws to regulate the composition of golf balls or mandate coastline search and destroy missions, many of her colleagues are not as libertarian in their attitudes about such matters. That was a diplomatic way of saying that there are many coastal legislators who would see nothing but political advantage in making the golf industry jump through hoops to solve a negligible problem.

How negligible? It’s hard to say at this early juncture. The industry is still gathering information and intelligence, and we are doing it in the way the California golf industry has become accustomed to doing these kinds of things - together in unison with all stakeholders and hands on deck. Here is what we know thus far.

The issue first popped up some years ago in Denmark of all places. But no one pays attention to the Danish Golf Federation, so it lay dormant until some ambitious students in Monterey did some spelunking off Carmel and Monterey Bays a few years ago and discovered a treasure trove of decaying golf balls. Apparently, when golf balls lay submerged under water for years on end the Zinc in some of the rubber compounds used in the manufacture of their core dissolves, and these compounds are not healthy for the flora and fauna that

thrive in the sea. Add to mix here one of the most beautiful intersections of land and water in the world, an intersection that has been accorded special ecological protection under Federal and State law, and we have the makings of a problem capable of reaching legislative/regulatory critical mass.

Well, you guessed it; a researcher from nearby Stanford University produced an academic paper that documented the harmful effects of the water-logged golf balls, the usual suspects got wind of it (e.g., Surfriders, Coast Keepers, NRDC, Sierra Club, CBD), and we were off to the races.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) posted a formal Rule last October proscribing the use of numerous compounds deemed harmful to sea life, among them the culprit used in the manufacture of many golf balls. From the Executive Summary of the Draft Proposed Rule:

- CTP, which is also called **PCTP**, is used to make rubber more pliable in industrial uses. **Identified Hazards** - PCTP is toxic to protozoa, fish, terrestrial plants, and birds. Data for analogous chemicals (pentachloronitrobenzene and hexachlorobenzene) indicate the potential for liver and reproductive effects. However, no animal or human hazard data has been identified.
- **The EPA is proposing to prohibit the manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution in commerce of PCTP, and products containing PCTP, for use in manufacturing in concentrations that exceed 1% by weight.**

From some of the “background” information in the EPA’s proposed Rule:

- As shown by a number of patents, zinc PCTP can be used as a peptizer in rubber manufacturing including as an ingredient in the rubber core of golf balls to enhance certain

KESSLER

performance characteristics of the ball such as spin, rebound, and distance.

Zinc PCTP does not appear to be manufactured domestically, but rather it is imported into the United States.

- PCTP is persistent, bio accumulative, and an aquatic toxicant.

The Pebble Beach Company has already implemented a program whereby the company hires divers to dredge the subject bays and remove golf balls along with some palliatives to clean up toxic residues. This is done on a regular and recurring basis. Fine for a resort property that fetches more than \$2,000.00 per foursome and even more for lodging, but what about less elite facilities? More importantly, to what extent is this a potential problem for golf courses not located close enough to the Pacific Ocean to capture errant golf shots but sufficiently close to the many streams, rivers, arroyos and

flood control channels that feed into the Pacific during rainstorms?

Add to those questions the million-dollar question: Just how “toxic” is the toxicity in the stock of golf balls rotting at the bottom of California’s bays and inlets? All are questions the industry is scrambling to answer in time to respond if this issue reaches critical mass in Sacramento.

Okay; those are the questions. More reporting when we get some answers. In the meantime consider the following overriding question: Does it not behoove the California golf industry to have a pot of money at its disposal to quickly and seamlessly solicit 3rd party technical/professional studies when we need answers like these - non-industry studies from disinterested institutions such as universities or unaffiliated consulting firms? •••



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Renowned Faculty – Dr. A.J. Turgeon, emeritus professor of turfgrass management, is the retired director of World Campus turfgrass programs. He has written more than 300 publications, including the popular textbook *Turfgrass Management*, now in its ninth edition.

Who Should Apply?

If you have an interest – or have been working – in the turf industry, whether at a golf course, sports facility, or other venue, the Associate in Science in Turfgrass Science and Management can give you the skills and advantage you need to move your career forward. •••

NOTE: Penn State is just one example of the online learning opportunities available to you. Please visit the GCSAA website for more information.





FROM THE FIELD

JEFF JENSEN

GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region

I would like to thank all of you who attended the Golf Industry Show in Orlando last month. We know it's a long trip to Florida and we appreciate your support in making the show a success. We have already started planning for 2021 and look forward to heading back to Las Vegas.

In addition to the regular show activities, Southern California had two individuals who received recognition for their outstanding contributions to the industry.

Dave Waymire, the regional vice president of agronomy for American Golf Corporation was selected as the winner of the 2019 Leo Feser Award presented by GCSAA. The award is presented annually to the author of the best superintendent-written article published in *Golf Course Management*, the association's flagship publication, during the previous year.

His article, "The 10 Commandments of Successful Superintendents," shared tips on how superintendents can rise to the top of their profession. The article was created by polling a variety of great superintendents and putting their ideas down on paper. The story can be read in full at <https://www.gcmonline.com/tags/successful-golf-course-superintendents>.

On the environmental front, Wayne Mills, Class A superintendent at La Cumbre Country Club in Santa Barbara, was awarded as First Runner Up in the Healthy Land Stewardship category of the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

A 35-year member of GCSAA, Mills has implemented numerous conservation measures throughout the facility including beehives, Western Bluebird boxes and the installation of new native areas.

Additionally, the course removed turf, reduced landscaping around the clubhouse and began a GIS Mapping project that will map trees, water-

ways and native areas with the information being saved into a GIS database. Congrats to Dave and Wayne on their awards and thank you for representing the golf maintenance industry in Southern California.

In closing, please remember to get out and support your local chapter at many of the events scheduled for this spring. Your respective board of directors and chapter executive Marc Connerly work hard to produce quality education, golf and networking activities. They need your support.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org or visit my regional website at <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/secure/southwest>. •••



PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Did you know that Wayne Mills has a street named for him? You can find it on Google by searching for "Wayne Mills Pl., Santa Clarita, CA". Wayne also has a very long history of being able to get along with his crew!



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Please take a moment to read the letter from Patti Park.
It is an excellent example of the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA making a difference!



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December 30, 2019

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Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your most recent gift to Angel View Outreach. Your donation of 14 gift cards, totaling \$440.00 received on 12/30/2019, is greatly appreciated! Our clients of Outreach, and their families, are grateful for your generosity.

Mrs. V is a single mother to a 15-year-old son, Josue, and is the legal guardian to her granddaughter, Roberta. Roberta is an 8-year-old girl who has a diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy. Mrs. V, Josue, and Roberta reside in Cathedral City and in need of family stabilization services. Being a single parent/guardian to a child with a disability can be challenging. Having to care for this child full-time, keep doctor appointments, etc. and also worry about the teen that refuses to attend school and exhibits defiant behavioral problems adds to that challenge. Through Angel View Outreach, we were able to enroll Roberta in the Mileage Reimbursement Program (TRIP) to cover her trips to and from doctor appointments. We also were able to match Josue with services for his behavioral problems (such as prevention and intervention programs like the Riverside County Youth Accountability Team Program (YAT) and adolescent behavioral therapy). Mrs. V was referred to multiple parent support groups in her area as well.

On behalf of our staff, board, volunteers, clients and residents, thank you for supporting Angel View!

Sincerely,

Patti Park
Executive Director

Happy New Year
Thank you all so
very much. Angel
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Patti

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

ATTENTION HI-LO DESERT GCSA AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Please take note of this valuable sponsorship opportunity!

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SPONSORS

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA, I am very pleased to introduce the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA Annual Sponsorship Program. Modeled after a similar program that has been successful for the GCSA of Northern California for many years, the Hi-Lo Desert Annual Sponsorship Program offers Affiliate members the opportunity to support the association year-round and receive year-round exposure to Hi-Lo members with one convenient purchase.

The program offers six different sponsorship levels (in addition to the current Affiliate level), providing flexibility and variety in benefits and price. Each level includes one or more Affiliate memberships, and sponsors have the choice of one or more “a la carte” items from a menu of benefits, including exposure on the Hi-Lo website, tabletop displays at events, email blasts promoting the sponsor, and more (number of a la carte items included varies based on sponsorship level).

2020 Affiliate invoices were emailed earlier this month, so if you have already paid your 2020 Affiliate dues and would like to upgrade to an annual sponsorship, please email Maria Wihren (maria@connerlyandassociates.com), and she will credit your account for the Affiliate dues, then email you an invoice for the additional sponsor dues. If you have not yet paid your Affiliate dues, and would like to join as an annual sponsor, simply email Maria and indicate your desired sponsorship level, then she will adjust your Affiliate dues invoice to reflect the annual sponsorship amount.

After reviewing the program, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me by email or cell phone (916-214-6495). I am happy to walk you through the program and help you find a level that matches your needs and budget.

We believe that this program provides increased value and convenience to our valued Affiliate members, and we hope you agree.

Warm regards,

Marc Connerly, Executive Director

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An advertisement for Toro Workman GTX golf carts. The background shows two red and black golf carts on a green golf course under a blue sky with trees. The Toro logo is in a red box on the left, and "Workman® GTX" is written in large white letters on the right. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for Turf Star Western (TSW) and contact information.

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THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

By John Nachreiner • GCSASC • Shady Canyon Golf Club

Over the past few months, I've spoken to people about the value of membership in our association. The short list is education, industry news, and networking. When you think networking, do you think camaraderie? I have heard people say the superintendent position can feel isolating at times; it's you against the weather, you against the General Manager, you against the membership. I would agree with all of that at times.

During those periods, it's nice to have the support of friends and colleagues that may have dealt with the same issues, or at least understand where you are coming from.

I grew up outside of Lansing, Michigan. Winters there were notoriously dreary. When you think of winter, you might picture a mountain scene of Colorado Rocky Mountain snow. Quite beautiful. We didn't exactly have it that way in Michigan. It would only take a few hours before a fluffy sheet of white snow blanketed across the city would turn into a mucky brown slush. Not exactly uplifting.

The salt used to melt the snow would splatter every car, turning them a hue of dirty white. Boots and shoes turned that same awful color. When our family has Midwest visitors here in Southern California during the winter, the two comments they all eventually make are "Wow, the roads are so nice - no pot-holes," and "Every car is so clean!"

Weeks would go by in Lansing without seeing the sun. This might have been the most difficult part. Yes, I'm trying to paint a dreadful picture of the Midwest winter, and believe me, I have NO intention of moving back!

Having any social encounter with a Midwesterner, especially in the winter, there will inevitably be the section where each goes into a diatribe about how awful the weather is followed by a brief slice of optimism that "spring is right around the corner" or "only a few more weeks to go" before everyone would catch a break. A little emotional unloading on each other followed by some hopefulness was the formula that worked.

I see our association meetings as an opportunity to do the same. I'm thankful for my industry friends and the colleagues I've met whom I can call on for advice or to just complain for a bit. I feel better and ultimately make better decisions when it's all over. I'd like you all to do the same...come, join in, make some friends and unload! •••



Photo: Matthew Dae Smith/Lansing State Journal



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Guest Contributor

Dan Hernandez • PGA

For most players, there are just too many things going on while playing a golf shot! You've all heard this before but what EXACTLY are you supposed to do to get all those thoughts out of your head?

Let's say Jim is an average 18 handicap player. He has hit many great shots in the past using his full swing. If Jim didn't have a "good enough" swing in the first place he wouldn't have EVER hit any great shots. Jim didn't get to be an 18 by not knowing anything. So what is Jim's trouble?

If Jim could understand that his swing can work pretty good not matter what he thinks is wrong with it, he would relax a bit more and let his instinct take over more often.

Jim needs to clear away as much stuff as he can possibly handle and keep things as simple as possible. If Jim could do this, he could hit better shots about 25% more often. Jim doesn't know that the golf course is no place to be messing around with his swing!!

If Jim wants to work out something with his swing, he should do so on the practice range, and even then - he should keep it as simple as possible!

Don't be fooled, almost everyone can trust what they already do more than they think and let things happen. Go ahead and give it a shot.



If this is you just stop it! When it comes to performing a physical action you can only process one or two things at once!

TIP #1 #2

Relax a bit more and trust your instinct.

Playing "how do I swing" on the golf course will ruin your game faster than anything else!

Google Dan Hernandez PGA to view his professional profile.

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PLAYING GOLF *Michael Magnani • Andalusia Country Club*

Try not to worry so much about who you're playing with. The main point is this: Enjoy the camaraderie and have a good time!



GOLF WITH YOUR FRIENDS

When we think of good golfers, who do we think of? I think of Tiger, of Jack, or Ben Hogan. Those are some of the greats to ever play the game.

How about good golfers we know personally? A few come to mind for me. People I golf with regularly. We are all usually around the same skill level, with the handicap system giving some a few extra strokes to even the odds.

I recently invited a friend to play golf in our group, but they declined, saying that they were not good enough to play in our group. This is a preposterous idea. There is no need to be embarrassed playing with friends or people in our industry.

I have been fortunate enough to play golf with people whose skills were far above mine. We all enjoy playing golf and sharing the day with good people. If your golfing skills are not what you wish they would be, allow me to offer some advice:

- Everyone likes a fast golfer. Do your best to save the practice swings and swing rehearsals for the driving range. Try to visualize and prepare while others are hitting. If you are out of the hole, or nearing “double-par” pick up and join your friends on the green.
- Cheer up. We all know golf is hard. It is even harder if you are having a bad day or haven't been able to practice or play. Don't let a less than desirable performance affect you or the group you are playing with.
- Be ready. Be prepared to hit when it's your turn. Maybe put your work phone, burner phone, and White Claw down and let's go.
- Practice putting. I know this sucks. Take a lesson, invest in a putting training aide (I'm a big fan of the Putting Arc; I wish I was sponsored). I am the guiltiest; nothing is better than crushing drives as far as we can on the driving range. But, yes, practice putting. It works wonders on your confidence, and everyone in the scramble group loves a good putter.
- Don't make excuses. No one cares.
- Golf is a daunting sport. It's even harder when the hustle and bustle of life eliminates practice and playing time. It's even harder to pick up later in life. And, it doesn't help when someone like me writes an article like this. But, people don't mind playing with new golfers or those that didn't learn at a young age. I hope these tips help ease any frustration and get you enjoying golf more. •••





Marc Connerly, President
Connerly & Associates, Inc.
2235 Park Towne Cir., 2nd Floor
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