

SEA to SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 6 | JULY 2020

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

WEBINAR CHATS • P. 8-9

MEMBER SURVEY: MUST PLAY COURSES • P. 16-17

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COVER PHOTO CREDIT

Danielle Scardino, West Coast Turf

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GCSASC President's Message

By John Nachreiner • Superintendent • Shady Canyon Golf Club



We are in the midst of the “dog days of summer,” which for superintendents, as we know, means long days and ongoing battles with the heat and its impacts on our turf.

Being a golf superintendent is truly the epitome of “a labor of love,” as virtually every one of us endures the long and stressful hours because we love the game of golf and we find great pride in creating a beautiful playing surface for our golf customers to enjoy.

As I was checking my Twitter feed recently, it occurred to me that there is another great motivating factor to creating an exceptional golf course, and that is appreciation.

It was the day after the Rocket Mortgage Classic finished at Detroit Golf Club. I saw a tweet from Detroit Golf Club that read, “Shout out to [@DGCJake](#) (Superintendent Jake Mendoza) for keeping our greens in pristine shape 24/7/365. What you see on TV is literally a 24/7/365 job. He is awesome.”

“What a great gesture on the part of the club to recognize the hard work of their superintendent,” I thought to myself. The job of a superintendent can sometimes be compared to that of an offensive lineman – our name only gets called when “a flag is thrown” (aka, there is a problem on the course). But, Jake’s club took a moment to call his name for doing a great job and working hard around the clock, which is a great accolade for Jake and even a nice bit of PR for the superintendent profession as a whole.

To take it one step further, it reminds me of the importance of recognizing and acknowledging our crew members who are doing a great job. Remember, they arrive at the same pre-dawn hours that we do, and they are critical to the results that we are committed to achieving, so a sincere pat on the back, unexpected perk, or small token of recognition can be a great motivator and help build loyalty.

Also, when a golfer or fellow employee acknowledges the great conditions at your course, take a moment to soak it in and appreciate the acknowledgment. They probably speak for many others who forget to take that moment to acknowledge the hard work that goes into keeping a course in tip-top shape.

Until next time, here’s to all of you for the great job you do!

John

HI-LO DESERT GCSA Message

By Jim Schmid • Superintendent • The Lakes Country Club



Keeping the association moving forward during the COVID-19 era has certainly been challenging. Planning any type of in-person meeting has proven near impossible as conditions seem to change on a near daily basis.

Like many other organizations, the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA has begun to explore ways to deliver value to members through more online and virtual experiences. For the first time since Rick Sall and others began the overseed roundtable meeting, the conversation was conducted online. Great ideas were shared, as always.

If you weren't able to catch it live, it is available on the website at <https://hilodesert.org/>. Thank you to the superintendents who participated in the panel discussion, Board members who worked hard to put the meeting together, and to our Executive Director Marc Connerly.

As the date to renew your QAL or QAC draws nearer, and in person opportunities to earn continuing education hours dwindle, the association is working hard to find opportunities for members to earn hours through virtual meetings. Several opportunities have already been sent out by email and social media. If you haven't gotten the emails, please make sure we have your current email address on file. Make sure you are following the association on social media to keep up with new ideas as they arise (twitter: @HiLoDesertGCSA, facebook: @HiLoDesert).

We also are working to maintain a collection of resources related to COVID-19 to assist golf courses in navigating the ever-changing set of rules and regulations. Check it out on the website at <https://hilodesert.org/covid-19-resources/>.

Your Board is hopeful that we will still be able to host our annual Scholarship and Research Tournament this year, if conditions permit. A number of options are being considered, and the tournament may look different this year than it has in the past. Conditions will dictate what changes will be needed as we get closer to September.

We are also hopeful that we will be able to host our Annual Holiday party.

We hope to see y'all soon...stay tuned.

Jim



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Marc Connerly • Executive Director • GCSASC / Hi-Lo Desert GCSA



Sea to Sand is very happy to announce our collaboration with acclaimed golf course photographer Channing Benjamin. Moving forward, this and future issues of Sea to Sand will include samples of Mr. Benjamin's stunning golf course photography, and in return he will receive exposure to the membership of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California, the Hi-Lo Desert Golf Course Superintendents Association, and others who may view Sea to Sand on the association websites.

An accomplished international concert video director for a myriad of the world's top music artists, Channing uses his skills in creative marketing and art direction to give all of his golf course clients the ultimate in asset imagery for their properties.

Channing is one of only a handful of officially licensed photographers for the Pebble Beach Company, and his work for Pebble Beach can be viewed and purchased via various outlets worldwide. His portfolio can be found at <https://channingbenjamin.photoshelter.com/>, and includes such courses as Ballyneal Golf Club in Colorado, Victoria National Golf Club in Indiana, as well as Bighorn Golf Club, Tradition Golf Club, TPC Danzante in Loreta, Mexico and numerous other courses in the Coachella Valley.

Channing's golf photography has been internationally published by Golf Digest ("How to Take Great Golf Photos"), Golf magazine ("2019 US Open Preview"), Australia's Caddie magazine, G&E magazine ("Picture Perfect"), NGF Quarterly, The Golfers Journal, Catalogue 18 to name just a few.



Photo courtesy of Channing Benjamin
<https://channingbenjamin.photoshelter.com/index>
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More recently, Golfwrx.com, Golf Gods of Australia, Wilfore's Golf Social Media Guide, and Waypoint have all independently voted Channing Benjamin as the number one social media "must follow" for golf photography.

Channing is an FAA-Part 107 certified drone pilot, and his imagery through his flying abilities have taken his photography to "another level!"

Additionally, Channing is the Founder and CEO of The Golfography Experience, the emerging golf photography workshop that fuses the game, the lifestyle and the visual art during a unique and immersive awe-inspiring weekend. Mentored by world-renowned golf photographers and hosted by prominent golf courses looking for new photography content as well as social (and traditional) media

exposure, all in the name of inclusivity and the growth of the game. Past events include Rams Hill Golf Club (California) and Victoria National Golf Club (Indiana), with many more to come this fall and throughout 2021 in various partnerships with The Dormie Network, TaylorMade Golf and other legendary golf industry entities.

We are excited to feature the photography of Channing Benjamin in upcoming issues of Sea to Sand, including a spectacular sunset image shown on page 11 of this edition.

Enjoy!

Marc

HI-LO DESERT GCSA HOSTS OVERSEED WEBINAR CHATS

By Marc Connerly • Executive Director • Hi-Lo Desert GCSA

The Hi-Lo Desert GCSA has traditionally held a very popular and informative panel style “overseed chat” each June for the last several years. With the pandemic impeding the ability to host that type of live event this year, the association pivoted to an online format, and broke the discussion into two one-hour webinars a couple of weeks apart.

The first panel, on June 24, focused on summer prep and overseed prep. I had the privilege of moderating the panel, which featured Tim Putnam (La Quinta Country Club), Jonas Conlan (Desert Princess Country Club), Alfredo Alcocer (Indian Springs Golf Club), and Tyler Tang (The Club at Morningside).

The panel answered questions covering Poa control, aerification, mowing heights, COVID-19 impacts, and more.



Hi-Lo Webinar #1 Panel (Tim Putnam, Jonas Conlan, Alfredo Alcocer, Tyler Tang)

The second panel was presented on July 15, and covered overseed and post-overseed. The panel was moderated by Rick Sall of Plantation Golf Club, and featured Kevin Templin (Coral Mountain Golf Club), Miguel Lopez (Marrakesh Country Club), and Mike Magnani (Andalucia Country Club).

The second webinar included responses pertaining to seed rate, first cut, fertilizer, fungicide, sweetening, growth regulators, and additional topics.



Hi-Lo Webinar #2 Panel (Kevin Templin, Miguel Lopez, Rick Sall, Mike Magnani)



A big thank you to Megan Zeiger of Wilbur-Ellis for preparing the Powerpoint presentation for both webinars, and Mike Magnani for serving as host for both panels.

Both webinars were sponsored by Turf Star Western, with the summer prep section sponsored by Brandt, the overseed prep section sponsored by Syngenta, the overseed section sponsored by RAS Pure Seed, and the post-overseed section sponsored by Bayer.

Each webinar was recorded, and a free link to the webinars may be found on the Hi-Lo website at www.hilodesert.org.

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FROM THE BUNKER

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

BAYER SETTLES ROUNDUP LAWSUITS – MAYBE

When Bayer announced that it had settled all outstanding lawsuits re Glyphosate (Roundup) and agreed to a mechanism for handling future suits by setting aside a \$10.9 billion fund to cover both, my thought was that the “future” part of it sounded a bit too good to be true. I didn’t say anything at the time for fear of putting a damper on the industry’s and Bayer’s triumphant reporting on the issue.

The “future” part of the settlement involved the creation of a panel of court appointed/ approved scientists to study the carcinogenicity of Glyphosate for four years and decide and/or settle future claims based on those findings. Given the evolving nature of scientific inquiry and the law’s preference for courts of law over courts of experts, I was skeptical that a presiding federal judge would sanction this proposal.

Sadly, my skepticism proved prescient. I was hoping to be wrong, as the arrangement would have settled the matter for good and allowed Bayer to continue marketing the world’s most cost-effective invasive species controller without fear of unlimited economic exposure.

The matter is back in federal court July 24, and the judge has already suggested that Bayer come armed with a “plan B” re future litigation.

Yes; every federal and state agency charged with overseeing the safety of pesticides has confirmed Glyphosate’s 100% safety with respect to carcinogenicity, CAL OSHA most recently and resoundingly in 2018. The problem is that juries are not courts of scientists or experts, and three juries have awarded massive verdicts to plaintiffs claiming that their cancer was caused by Roundup. Unless Bayer can come up with a mechanism for resolving future claims, it won’t matter how many juries of scientists and experts find in their favor; the sale of glyphosate-based products will continue to pose a substantial financial risk to the company.

Bayer has vowed to continue selling Roundup to commercial and residential users without any changes in the product’s labeling. But how long

Bayer can continue to do this without subjecting itself to more billions in adverse jury verdicts will likely be entirely dependent upon the mechanism a federal judge ultimately sanctions for the resolution of future suits. This of course assumes that this federal judge will sanction such a mechanism. It’s likely but not guaranteed.

The drama resumes July 24 and will no doubt play out over many weeks if not months. It’s a drama that holds the fate of Glyphosate-based products in its hands. Bayer may have won in every court of expert opinion, but it has fared badly in every court of law. And if the company cannot find a way to reverse that fortune, whether by reversing a trial jury verdict on appeal or achieving a settlement offering a digestible mechanism for resolving future litigation, the golf industry is going to have to begin figuring out how to control invasive species through other means. The product won’t disappear because any government agency will prohibit it – that would require actual findings of fact – it will disappear because litigation will chase it out of the market.

Let’s hope that fact wins out and the parties come to an agreement that allows for this most universally used pesticide/herbicide to continue providing its ample benefits to farms, parks, medians, and golf courses across the nation. The cynics among you will scoff. The optimists among you will bet on a fair settlement. The realists among you will call it a 50-50 proposition.

The fellow in the “bunker” won’t commit. That’s why he’s in there.

Craig

SEA TO SAND IMAGES

The three images to the right were submitted by members of your associations. Thank you for taking the time to send them to us for publication!



*Pelican Hill Golf Club
By Steve Thomas, Superintendent*



*Annandale Country Club
By Former Superintendent, Mike Williams*



*Zena, Pit Bull (and partner!)
of Terry La Curan, TLC Materials, at Hillcrest CC*

Stone Eagle Golf Club • Palm Desert • Courtesy of Channing Benjamin Photography
<https://channingbenjamin.photoshelter.com/index>, channingbenjaminphoto@gmail.com



FROM THE FIELD

By Jeff Jensen • GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region



As we move into the summer and fall months, GCSAA realizes that our members and their associated golf facilities and businesses are going to be facing difficult economic choices due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

During these difficult times, GCSAA has been supplying members with education and tools to assist with the “new normal” that our industry and society will be facing. Your membership has never been more important.

If you are facing the difficult decision of whether to renew your membership, please do not hesitate to call me or a member of GCSAA’s Member Services Staff. In addition to extending your membership grace period from 90 to 120 days, GCSAA offers payment plans for all levels of membership. Plans can be done bi-annually, quarterly, or monthly with no finance charges.

We are here to serve you and we realize this is going to be a difficult time, so do not hesitate to call us with your needs.

On a much brighter note, the annual LebanonTurf Dog Days of Golf Calendar is accepting submissions through August 3rd. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected for the calendar which will be distributed by GCM with its November issue.

The Dog of the Year will be voted on in January at the Golf Industry Show with the winning owner receiving \$500, as well as a \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA affiliated chapter. A \$2,000

charitable donation will also be made to K9’s for Warriors by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner.

The submission form and photo requirements are available at <https://www.gcsaa.org/dog-calendar/submit-dog-calendar-photo>. The Dog Days of Golf Calendar is one of our members favorite events, so get those photos of your best friend submitted by August 3rd.

Lastly, I have received numerous questions on education points to meet Class A or Certification requirements. As our chapters are struggling to host events due to the pandemic and social distancing requirements, please do not forget about our online offerings at [gcsaa.org](https://www.gcsaa.org).

We have live webinars monthly and have over 150 titles available On Demand. Webinars are free to members and are a great way to pick up points. Brought to you by Syngenta, you can access the webinars through the learning hub at <https://www.gcsaa.org/education/my-learning-hub>.

Thank you again for your support of GCSAA; I look forward to getting back on the road to visit with some of you later this summer. If you have any concerns or needs, please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW for daily industry updates.

Jeff

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MEMBER SURVEY

Our member survey this month asked, "What is your 'must play' golf course?" Here are the replies from members of Hi-Lo Desert GCSA and GCSASC.

“Augusta National, for a lot of the obvious reasons, but specifically because of the familiarity from watching it on TV for so long. Knowing that the approach on 10 can’t be short; trying to pick the right stick to hit 12 green; attempting to bend one around the corner on 13 and 15; and hitting it thru that tiny shoot on 18 tee!”

~ Chris Bien, Desert Willow Golf Club



Photo from Danielle Scardino

“Must play course: Bighorn Golf Club! No one ever passes up a chance to experience this piece of paradise. I have had the honor of hosting and playing with my buddies Michael Bolton, and former MLB pitchers David Wells and Scott Erickson. David Wells was chomping at the bit to play. He said for years he has driven over the hill from San Diego to Palm Desert, always wishing he would be invited. This place is spectacular.”

~ Danielle Scardino, West Coast Turf

“Monterey Peninsula Country Club - Shore Course for sure. You can’t beat the overall golf vibe in Monterey as well. Clear Creek Tahoe is a close second!”

~ John Nachreiner, Shady Canyon Golf Club



David Wells, Scott Erickson at Bighorn Golf Club



David Wells, Danielle Scardino, Scott Erickson



*Lynn Beasley, Michael Bolton,
Danielle Scardino, John Scardino*

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ENVIRONMENTAL OXIDATIVE STRESS



THE CHALLENGE

Turfgrass is continuously subject to Environmental Oxidative Stress, or the accumulation of Oxidative Compounds. Excess accumulation of Oxidative Compounds lead to reduced turf quality, root growth, and overall turf performance.

THE SOLUTION

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PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY

The diagram illustrates the Phoslock application process in three stages:

- Before Phoslock application:** Shows a water column with blue dots representing free reactive phosphorus.
- During Phoslock application:** Shows Phoslock (represented by orange circles) being applied to the water column, with text indicating it is "locking through the water column".
- After Phoslock application:** Shows the phosphorus locked to the bottom sediment, with text stating "Phoslock continues to bind FRP released from sediments".

Legend: Blue dot = Free Reactive Phosphorus; Orange circle = Phoslock.

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC
| VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 6 | JULY 2020