

SEA to SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 6 | JUNE 2019



GREETINGS

FROM THE SEA

By Mike Williams • GCSASC President

For those of us who just dread the summer months ahead you're not alone. Anyone out there who just can't wait for those long afternoons hand watering, added disease pressures & of course dealing w/members/guests that want to know why there are brown spots visible? The days ahead will test our stress levels, patience & maybe lose some sleep during those stretches of warm/humid weather which is a normal for us but I try to look at the summer w/an optimistic view. We all know that Memorial Day is the unofficial kickoff to summer which we have already passed which is a good thing. The next date to look forward to is the start of summer, June 21st. Longest day of the year so every day after that the days start to get shorter even if it's a minute a day. String a few weeks in a row & there the day is shorter by a 15 minutes already. Now comes July 4th, not much to get excited about other than maybe a half day off & time w/the family & friends. Enjoy the day though for the next six weeks or so there's not much to look forward to other than the fore mentioned hand watering & keeping areas wet enough to survive but things do change in mid-August. Now the days are shorter w/cooler nights & w/I the next 30 days your about to jump to more hurdles in the summer marathon, Labor Day & the official start of fall on September 24th! From here it's all downhill that is if you're not counting aerification & overseeding which we just love to take part in after the hot summer months. Once those are out of the way it's just a sprint to the finish line & all of those long days are over! Let's hope everyone has a great summer season & no one has any issues out there!

Last month I attended National Golf Day in Washington DC where most of the golf industry's allied partners were in attendance representing the game of golf & the impact it has for our country. Over 250 volunteers (superintendents, community leaders, gc owners) were part of 17

SO-CAL CHAPTER

upcoming events

December 16, 2019

Duff Shaw Classic

North Ranch Country Club

different groups who performed community service projects to help improve the landscape around the National Mall & surrounding areas. The four hours that were worked on these projects saved over four months of work for local communities. The main reason for having National Golf Day was to meet w/ elected officials (Senators/ Representatives) & explain the golf industry's position on key issues that affect our everyday challenges such as water rights, labor issues & pesticide regulations. By having a clear channel of communication between our industry & the people on Capitol Hill it helps cement a relationship on each other's needs & expectations. •••

GREETINGS

FROM THE SAND

By Chris Hoyer • Hi-Lo Desert GCSA President

As I sit down to write my last article as president of an amazing chapter, I am both joyful and saddened. Joyful for the fact that this is really what it is - my last article! But, also saddened because I have been very proud to be in the role of president of such an outstanding chapter. The support that everyone has for one another in this chapter is truly amazing. We have continued to grow our membership and because of that, we have been able to have top notch speakers and presenters for all of our educational meetings.

The funds raised by our Scholarship and Research tournaments over the years has also grown and allowed us to aid many young adults with their endeavors in higher education. The funds from this tournament has also given us opportunities to perform new research which will help better many of our courses and improving efficiencies.

I will have many fond memories of all our meetings, all the great people that I've met and hopefully the lasting relationships with those people. I have found out what this association is all about.

It is about interacting with your peers, building new relationships, and holding on to those relationships because you never know what life will hit you with or where it will take you.

Everyone I have met along the way has had some sort of impact on something I've done on one of the many courses I have been at and each time, I was able to better myself, the course, and the club overall!

In closing, I want to thank all of you out there for the continued support of our chapter as we all know in this time of transition, the support is that much more important. I am truly looking forward to what the chapter will become as I am sure many good things are on the horizon.

Thanks again to all of you. And best of luck to our new President Tyler Truman, Vice-President Jim Schmid, our new affiliate Megan Zeiger, and our new Superintendent Director, Mike Magnani. I am excited to see what new and great ideas this group will bring to our board and help stimulate the chapter even more. •••

HI-LO DESERT GCSA

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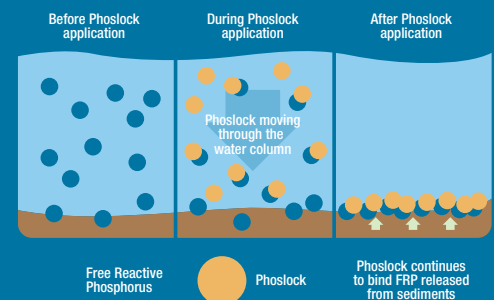
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From the Field

JEFF JENSEN

GCSAA Field Staff • Southwest Region



GCSAA recently refreshed our logo to assist in unifying all GCSAA brands and identities. The change is meant to be gradual and you are going to see a refresh of not just the primary GCSAA logo, but also updates to the logos of GCSAA programs, related entities, affiliated chapters, membership classes, partnerships, awards and more so that they have a consistent look and feel.

While the primary objective is to create a cohesive brand that strengthens our connections and increases the visibility of our members, the change also allows the GCSAA marketing department to have more versatility in the use of the logo making it more compatible with many of today's digital formats and requirements.

Chapters, including Hi-Lo and Southern California were sent their respective affiliated logos on May 6. The goal is to transition chapter marketing materials over to the new logo as soon as possible without wasting current materials like letterhead, envelopes, business cards, etc. Chapters will also be provided with financial assistance to help with potential costs associated with the transition.

For those of you needing to access the new logos for scorecards, business cards, websites or staff apparel, you may do so by visiting <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/secure/gcsaa-member-logos>.

We believe this change will be beneficial for GCSAA and we appreciate you promoting the refreshed brand.

On the membership front, GCSAA will be rolling out two new member classifications

and one new member promotional program this summer.

The Facility Membership and Friends of GCSAA are the two new classifications. The Facility Membership (\$200) is for courses with smaller budgets and provides an introduction to GCSAA benefits while the Friends of GCSAA is for individuals who want to support superintendents and the game of golf but do not qualify for any other membership category (\$50-\$400). The friends program provides a way for golfers and other golf advocates to become involved with GCSAA.

The Multi-Member Promotion will allow facilities to receive a 10-percent discount on membership dues (up to \$100 in savings per 9 or 18-hole equivalent) when they add an additional GCSAA member. It's a great way to introduce an additional assistant, equipment manager or irrigation tech to GCSAA at a discount while providing your staff with some additional tools to do their jobs.

For complete information on the two new classifications and the Multi-Member Promotion, [click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW for weekly industry updates. •••



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“IT’S NOT THE CRITIC WHO COUNTS...”

By Jeff Stephenson

That is the opening line in a famous speech from our 26th President. “The Man in the Arena,” for those who are too lazy to Google or don’t quite remember civics, was Teddy Roosevelt. I believe that in today’s social media world this quote is more relevant than ever.

I am specifically referring to the influx of anonymous accounts popping up on Twitter related to golf course management. What started out as a funny/harmless account, “@GrumpySuper” was a great place for supers to send pics or comment on the struggles or add some levity to our stressful profession. It has turned, and turned quickly, to dozens of accounts that seem to be critical of everyone.

I, for one, don’t put a whole lot of stock into what “@concernedGCSAAMember” has to say if they don’t have the testicular fortitude to put their own name on their statements, but then again, I haven’t been in the crosshairs of the ugly Twitter mob or a victim of cyberbullying.

Dave Wilbur wrote an article on Turfnet.com that highlighted handling criticism in a much more in depth and well written way, but hopefully you enjoy my consolidated take. Golf has so many great things going on right now;

Tiger is all the way back, Brooks Koepka is a big American winning machine, Gary Woodland just won on Father’s Day with the most heart-warming story about fatherhood imaginable, and for once we got a US Open that wasn’t completely critical of the course and set up by the USGA.

These are great times, people, and life is much too short to argue with strangers online. Alternatively, if you want a more badass quote, “A lion doesn’t concern himself with the opinions of sheep.”

With all that being said, feel free to say any and all mean things to me about this article on Twitter @therealMJSthe2. ...

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Pump Station Presentation *By Jorge Morales • Alta Vista C.C.*

First, I would like to say, "Thank you" to Variable Speed Solutions and Agri-Turf Distributing for sponsoring the location, lunch and golf for the recent assistant superintendent meeting. In addition, I would like to thank Daniel Pollock and Steven Plummer for organizing and running the meeting.



The meeting was held for 14 assistant superintendents at Dad Miller Golf Course, helping assistants further their knowledge on basic troubleshooting "do's and don'ts." Greg Lunch provide a PowerPoint presentation on troubleshooting, including the potential problems one may face for proper pump station operation and how to potentially fix those issues.

A primary recommendation that was given was to constantly take pictures of your pump station and all of its settings when it is properly running. This will give you a proper guide on how to fix any of your issues should any ever arise.

After the PowerPoint presentation, all of the 14 attendees got the opportunity to see a real-life demonstration with electrical settings on the pump control board.

The demonstration was very thorough and any questions that were asked were answered thoroughly as well. After the demonstration, lunch was held and following lunch all 14 attendees had the opportunity to play a round of golf at Dad Miller Golf Course.

Overall, this meeting was a great experience and a great learning opportunity for all attendees. I look forward to the next one. •••

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FROM THE BUNKER

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

NATIONAL GOLF DAY

Those of you who read this column know that I never tire of preaching the truth of the following dictum: All politics are local. Golf's fate is almost always much more determined by planning commissions, city councils, special districts, public utilities, regional regulatory bodies and arcane state bureaucracies than in the United States Congress or California legislature. This is particularly true in California, where almost without exception the rules that govern wages, hours, working conditions, and the environment exceed the minimum standards established by the federal government.

That's why I approach each year's "National Golf Day" with expectations limited to doing no more than giving golf a measure of unified presence in the national Capitol along with a demonstration of the game's positive impact upon local/regional economies, health, charitable giving, environmental stewardship and municipal parkland operations.

But this year's edition of National Golf Day was different. We were able to actively lobby for a couple of legislative matters of specific interest to the California golf industry: 1) The appropriation of the monies designated in the 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill to fund the National Turfgrass Research Initiative that the GCSAA successfully lobbied into the 2018 Farm Bill after years of trying, and 2) the excision from Section 144 of the United States Tax Code language that places golf on the "sin list" of industries categorically exempt from receipt of development and redevelopment bonds in cases of natural disaster, opportunity zone designation, and/or other federal instruments of business development/redevelopment - a list that the golf industry didn't really know it was on until the golf courses wiped out by Hurricane Katrina in 2006 were denied access to the same kinds of disaster relief instruments routinely available to other businesses in the storm ravaged Mississippi Delta/Gulf Coast region.

No state is in more desperate need of turf research dollars than California. For complicated reasons requiring a long history lesson about Land Grant Colleges, Northeastern endowments, and California's two-tiered educational system, the nation's largest state in

terms of population, economic output, agriculture, and tourism has a grand total of one turf research program in its University of California system. Access to the public dollars that would be provided by appropriating funding called for in the 2018 Farm Bill's "National Turfgrass Research Initiative" would be of disproportionate value to a California golf industry in need of the water reduction breakthroughs that only a robust research and development program can deliver.

The U.S. Tax Code singles out golf businesses and any "massage parlor, hot tub facility, suntan facility, racetrack or other facility used for gambling, or any store the principal business of which is the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption off premises" for categorical exemption from receipt of various forms of federal largesse available to more "socially desirable" business enterprises. Bills have referenced this Code provision to preemptively exempt golf businesses for the last 41 years, most recently in the "Opportunity Zones" provision of the 2017 tax overhaul, where the language was put in there by a Republican Congress and Republican President who happens to be in the golf business not because they intended to categorically exclude golf, but rather because the language from the original 1978 law was simply moved forward into the new legislation without thought. The U.S. Tax Code is a beast; to review every provision when considering changes, even changes purporting to rise to the level of an "overhaul," would consume 100% of Congress' time over more than one 2-year session. Golf needs to challenge this exemption by default; otherwise it will never be able to access the funding instruments routinely enjoyed by virtually every other recreational industry in the nation.

[continued on page 11]

KESSLER

With any luck, we gave members of the California Congressional delegation reason to give a bit of “thought” to the damage done to golf and tourism in their Districts by retention of this 1978 “sin” language, and we made a strong case for the disproportionate value California would receive from fully appropriating the turf research monies called for in the 2018 Farm Bill - not just “value” for agriculture and golf, but value for every residential and commercial landscape in a drought prone state that climate change all but guarantees will be seeing more of its precipitation come in the form of rain that escapes storage than snow that aligns with the storage model it has built to serve its population rich southern half.

Southern Cal and Hi-Lo’s new Executive Director Marc Connerly has suggested that California’s 6 GC-SAA Chapters consider working with the California Golf Course Owners Association and the state’s other organizations actively engaged in legislative/regula-

tory advocacy to create a California version of GC-SAA’s national “Ambassadors” program, one that would ask golf properties, superintendents, GM’s and key members of club governing boards to work in unison to make personal contact with Assembly/Senate members as well as their District Directors in an effort to achieve two (2) ends: 1) The creation of the personal connections that are always antecedent to the exertion of influence; and 2) the expansion of today’s rather limited California Capitol Day operation into something more akin to National Golf Day, which this year sported 219 separate Congressional meetings and garnered significant national media attention.

That’s something the SCGA can endorse with enthusiasm and tangible support. •••



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**HI-LO DESERT GCSA BOARD MEETING • DESERT WILLOW GOLF RESORT
MAY 14, 2019**

In Attendance: President Chris Hoyer, Vice President Tyler Truman, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Schmid; Directors Roger Compton, Andy Means, Jeff Stephenson

Called to order at 6:13 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 28 Board meeting were presented. Vice President Truman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Means seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Schmid presented the financial report through April. He noted that the bus for the Assistants meeting and the Mike Huck payment are the two unexpected expenses. Vice President Truman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Director Means seconded the motion. to approve Treasurer's. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Marc Connerly noted that the transition is going smoothly. The new bank accounts have been established with Bank of the West and the funds have been transferred to the new accounts. He noted that the transition of the Quickbooks accounting software has encountered a snag because Cindy was using a different version of the program than Connerly & Associates. As a result, the transactions from the beginning of the year will need to be input. The website is the other transition piece that is taking a little longer than expected due to issues accessing the current domain hosting account, but a draft of the new site is expected in June.

Marc asked the Board for their direction on charging members and non-members to promote job openings. After discussion, Vice President Truman made a motion to charge \$100 for non-members to post job ads (including courses from out of the region). Director Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jobs will be posted to the members only section of website.

Marc mentioned that the association appears to charge the same price for members and non-member to attend events. After discussion, it was agreed to continue this policy in order to maximize event attendance.

Marc asked the Board for their policy on non-members submitting articles to Sea to Sand. It was agreed that non-members can submit articles to the Board and the Board will review the content prior to publishing. DWI can submit an article if it is non-commercial.

Marc provided an update from National Golf Day.

California GSCA: The BMP development is continuing, and there are 3 or 4 to go before the full BMP's are finished. A late summer release is anticipated.

GCSAA Also focusing on BMP's.

Golf & Water Task Force: There was a meeting at The

Classic Club meeting, hosted by SCGA and attended by President Truman, Secretary/Treasurer Schmid, Director Nelson, and Marc Connerly. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage courses to conserve water voluntarily in anticipation of long-term concerns. The Board generally agreed that until there are tiered rates, courses are unlikely to save water.

It was tentatively agreed to hold a November meeting at President Truman's course to follow-up on the April water meeting.

Internal Affairs: Nothing to report.

Membership: Director Means will put Marc in touch with Daniel at Mikita. Marc will provide a membership report at each Board meeting.

Meetings: The Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 7, from 6pm to 10pm at Riviera. We should be able to get a good rate at Riviera (block of 10 rooms, roughly \$100-\$150 with fees). We need a microphone (through DJ). Staff will look into DJ's, and we will plan to do a casino night or trivia night. Dinner will be a buffet, and we will plan on 80-100 people. Raffle prizes are key (electronics, booze packages @ Costco, Instapot pressure cooker/crock pot). We will have a dance floor area, and seating will be round tables.

Director Negrete is passing off the Assistant programs to Nick Leitner (Craig Ellis' Assistant). Leitner will be the new Assistant Superintendent liaison on the Board. President Hoyer suggested a calibration clinic for Assistants.


There was discussion about a tri-chapter meeting in January 2020 (2nd or 3rd week), with SDGCSA, GCSASC. The ideas was for a full day of presenters, 3 speakers (90 minutes each), a mini trade show (60-90 mins at trade show), rotate through classes and trade show, a keynote (Henry DeLozier last time), and golf the following day. Suggested location was Temecula (Temecula Creek Inn). The event was last held in July 2018. Jeff Jensen was heavily involved, and the event included a "Speed dating" type game for vendors at the trade show. Sponsorship price will be \$500 per sponsor. Marc will ask GCSASC about a tri-chapter meeting, and will email Amy Conrad (SDGCSA). Possibly Dr. Ball could speak at tri-chapter.

It was agreed that it is tough to do meetings in February and March.

2020 meetings will tentatively be in January (tri-chapter), April (tree meeting), May (elections), June, and September (S&R).


New Business: Vice President Truman made a motion to donate \$2,000 to Rob Cressey. Director Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned 7:36 a.m. •••



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Remembering John Frederick Dixon



Palm Springs - John Frederick Dixon was born September 11, 1953 in Jerome, Idaho to John Prichard Dixon and Gertie L. Lewellen. His early years were spent on his family ranch in Wendell, Idaho, where he attended Wendell High School and served as the President of Future Farmers of America (FFA). He also played football for Wendell High School, lining up on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball.

Soon after high school, John moved to Pasadena to obtain a Mortuary Science degree. In 1975 he earned his AA degree at College of the Desert, and worked for Fitzhenry Funeral Homes as a mortician, and also served as an EMT.

In 1985, John started his own business, High Tech Irrigation, in Indio California. 1975 was also the year that John married Lisa Hadley. The couple had two children, Alex, born in 1982, and Brad, born in 1986.

John remarried to Debra Dixson Clark in 2005, and they built a home in Missouri on Table Rock Lake, where they enjoyed fishing, the seasons, wildlife, and eventually retirement.

John is survived by his wife Debra, daughter Alex (Josh Main), and granddaughter Mazie of Phoenix, Arizona; son Brad of Indio, California; stepsons Robert and Aaron (Amy) Clark; and granddaughters, Audra, Sadie, Kayla, and Olive of San Diego, California. He is also survived by his brother Wally of Wendell, Idaho, and sisters Reta Strout of Gooding, Idaho and Kay Bowcutt of Mellon Valley, Idaho. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Steve, and sister Valerie Hobeey.

John passed away, May 19, 2019 due to complications related to small cell carcinoma that had metastasized to his brain. Celebration of life was held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Palm Desert, CA.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made in memory of John to Camp Table Rock 2079 Peninsula Drive, Shell Knob, MO 65747 or KU Cancer Center www.kansashealth-system.com/giving. •••

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Francisco Arevalo, Ryan MacNair, and Dan Cruse On #13 Green
(Absent, Brian Wolfand)

It's an honor to present our host superintendent for the 2019 Scholarship & Research Tournament at Santa Ana Country Club -- Dan Cruse, Director of Agronomy. Dan is a native of Minnesota where he was introduced to golf at a very early age by his father and grandparents. His first golf employment was as a Caddy at Hazeltine National Golf Club. At age 16, Dan decided to try the maintenance side of golf at his local golf course, Dahlgreen Golf Club. At Dahlgreen, he was inspired about golf turf management by his first mentor, Keith Flatebo. As a local public golf club with a small and seasonal crew, Flatebo provided a great learning experience where nearly all duties were accomplished by members of a young crew.

Dan attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, and received a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art, and a Minor in Environmental Science. He continued to be interested in golf course maintenance and worked at Interlachen Country Club in 2008, helping to prepare for the US Women's Open in 2009. He eventually received his Associates Degree in Golf Course Grounds Management from Anoka Technical College. With education behind him, Dan decided he should garner experience growing turf in all regions of the country that would include both warm and cool season grasses.

With that goal in mind, and an opportunity to work in warm season turf, Dan ventured to the Club at Pelican Bay in Naples, Florida.

GCSASC Scholarship & Research Tournament

*Submitted by Steve Plummer, CGCS
Golf & Turf Business Manager, Agri-Turf Distributing LLC*

Host Superintendent, Dan Cruse

From there, he accepted an opportunity to grow Bentgrasses in North Carolina, and moved on to the Cliffs at Walnut Cove in Arden, NC - a Jack Nicklaus golf course with Bentgrass from Tee to Green. As the assistant superintendent, Dan was able to gain great experience growing Bentgrass in a difficult climate. It was here where Dan met and worked under John Nachreiner, who he credits with inspiring and encouraging him onward to be a golf course superintendent.

From North Carolina, John eventually moved on to Shady Canyon Golf Club in Irvine, and in 2014 offered Dan the opportunity for more turf experience as the Assistant Superintendent at Shady Canyon. With Hybrid Bermuda fairway and Bentgrass greens experience at Shady Canyon, Dan moved to his first Superintendent position at Winchester Country Club in Meadow Vista, CA. At Winchester, in the winter of 2016, they received significant rainfall where he added improving drainage to his resume; and best of all experience with Pure Distinction Bentgrass greens. His experience with Pure Distinction Bentgrass greens in the Sacramento area, and variety of experiences with all grasses in various regions has now landed him at Santa Ana Country Club, where he began in February this year.

Santa Ana Country Club (SACC) was recently renovated to a design by Jay Blasi Design. It is kind of a "Throw Back" design with an Ode to Classic Golf. It is extremely walkable with nearly 50% of the members choosing to walk, and Dan particularly likes that you can see nearly the whole course from any location on the property.

The golf course turf consists of 60 acres of Kikuyugrass Tees and Fairways all currently mown at .450" height of cut, and 9 acres of Pure Distinction (3 acres green; and 6 acres green surrounds). The roughs consist of 30 acres of CA

— continued on page 19

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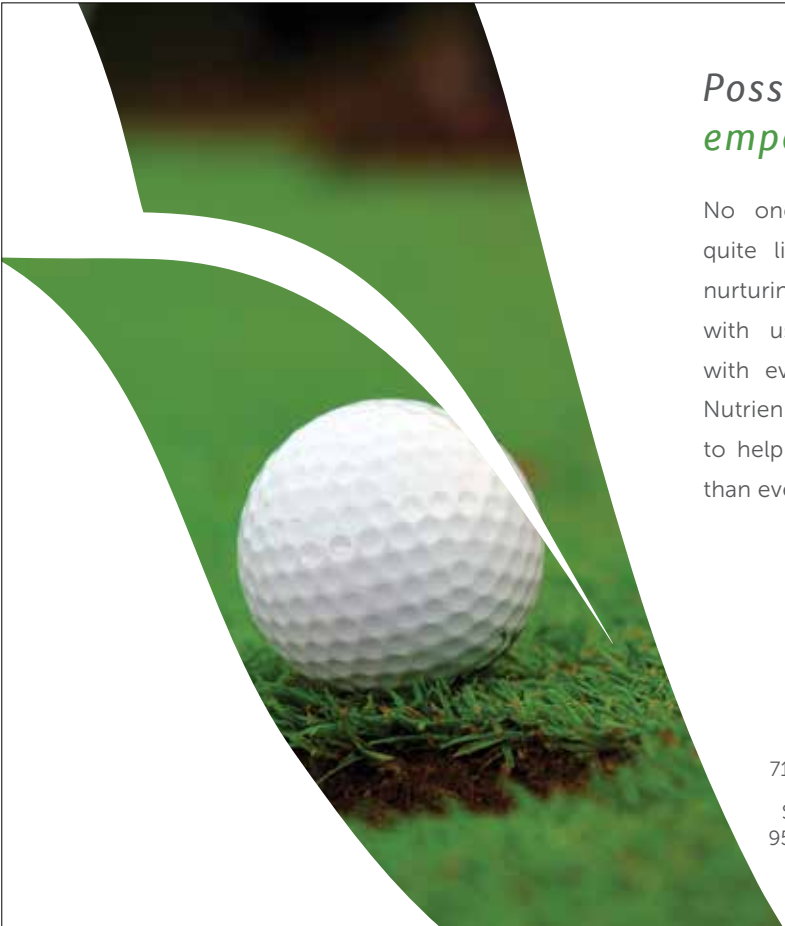
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DAN CRUSE

native grasses, so though the fairways are wide and closely mown – plan to hit it straight and stay in the short stuff.

Their water is sourced from wells, and they have an on-site RO Plant to provide 66% of their water as treated. Dan and the team at SACC are currently working with Tim Jackson of Jackson Kahn Design on any modifications needed to enhance the property and golfing experience.

He is definitely looking forward to the hosting the 2019 S&R, and the years ahead working with the entire golf and turf team at Santa Ana.

Rob Tanaka, General Manager is a former Superintendent, and they have a strong agronomic team of 32 crew members, including Francisco Arevalo, Golf Course Superintendent; and Ryan MacNair and Brian Wolfand Assistant Superintendents. Sounds like a great team and a formula for success.

In his spare time, Dan is a 14 handicap golfer; and he enjoys rebuilding old Honda motorcycles and watching Formula I and Moto GP racing.

Thanks go out to Santa Ana Country Club and Dan Cruse for hosting our 2019 fundraising event. •••



Francisco Arevalo, Ryan MacNair, and Dan Cruse

SANTA ANA COUNTRY CLUB RICH IN TRADITION. RICH IN HISTORY

- **In 1901**, thanks to the donation of the land from James Irvine, a nine-hole golf course called The Santiago Country Club was built in Peters Canyon. The largest membership at Santiago was around 45 players.
- The Santiago Country Club operated in this spot until **1914**, when an 18-hole course known as Orange County Country Club was opened on the Castaways property in Newport Beach.
- On **April 17, 1923** it was noted in the Santa Ana Register that “the purchase of 144.29 acres from Bradford and Bryan McCoy, Santa Ana Heights, as a site for new Santa Ana Country Club”. It is understood the site was bought for \$71,000.
- On the evening of **April 26, 1923** a meeting was held to elect officers for the Board of Directors and adopt bylaws. The original Board of Directors hoped to procure 400 members at an initiation fee of \$400 each.
- In **June 1931** the first issue of the Putter Patter was produced “with the intent of being published by and for the Members in the interest of the Club.”
- In **1932** the economy of the country was beginning to negatively impact golf and country club operations all over the United States. Determined Orange County professionals, businessmen and their wives kept Santa Ana Country Club afloat by diligent planning and assuming duties at the Club and dinner parties.
- Resignations peaked in **1938** at nearly 90 men due to the cloud of the Depression. During that year, Bob Fernandez submitted a report on Membership Income and Club Expenses in a Club Meeting. Years later, Mr. Fernandez would have a tournament named in his honor for all his efforts dedicated to keeping Santa Ana Country Club going during the Depression.
- During the summers following **1942** it became a tradition of many Los Angeles residents to summer vacation in Orange County and many became regulars at the course.
- Sunday, **October 25, 1942** would be one of the grandest days of golf at SACC. A gala golf exhibition was staged for the benefit of the “Army Emergency Relief Fund” with the following participants worth mentioning: Bob Hope, Ed Kennedy, Bing Crosby, Mickey Rooney and many golf champions.
- In **August 1949**, with the Course and Club’s popularity rising among the summer visitors from Los Angeles, the Board of Directors initiated the first Invitational Tournament.
- In **1951** Santa Ana Country Club upgraded the course, refurbished the clubhouse, and added a golf shop.
- In the early **1960’s** there was a lot of discussion to renovate the Clubhouse and make improvements on the Course in order to stay up with our competition. By 1962 the decision had been made to go with the improvements but the Club had one major reservation. One of the renovations passed was to replace dry wash areas with shallow lakes which would need massive amounts of water that the Club did not have access to. Together the President at that time, Lou Clem, and the Greens Superintendent, Joe Williams, eventually convinced the Board to go ahead with these changes. “The success of the project dramatically changed the topography, beauty and play of the course.” — continued on page 23



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A Phone Call from the Caretaker *Courtesy of Terry La Curan, TLC Materials*

At dawn the telephone rings, “Hello, Señor Bob? This is Ernesto, the caretaker at your country house in Palm Desert.”
“Ah yes, Ernesto. What can I do for you? Is there a problem?”
“Um, I am just calling to advise you, Señor Bob, that your parrot, he is dead”.
“My parrot? Dead? The one that won the International competition?”
“Si, Señor, that’s the one.”
“Damn! That’s a pity! I spent a small fortune on that bird. What did he die from?”
“From eating the rotten meat, Señor Bob .”
“Rotten meat? Who the hell fed him rotten meat?”
“Nobody, Señor. He ate the meat of the dead horse.”
“Dead horse? What dead horse?”
“The thoroughbred, Señor Bob.”
“My prize thoroughbred is dead?”
“Yes, Señor Bob , he died from all that work pulling the water cart.”
“Are you insane? What water cart?”
“The one we used to put out the fire, Señor.”
“Good Lord! What fire are you talking about, man?”

“The one at your house, Señor! A candle fell and the curtains caught on fire.”
“What the hell? Are you saying that my mansion is destroyed because of a candle?!”
“Yes, Señor Bob ..”
“But there’s electricity at the house! What was the candle for?”
“For the funeral, Señor Bob.”
“WHAT BLOODY FUNERAL?!!”
“Your wife’s, Señor Bob, Senora Bev. She showed up very late one night and I thought she was a thief, so I hit her with your new Ping G410 titanium head golf club with the TFC 149D graphite shaft.”
SILENCE.....
LONG SILENCE.....
VERY LONG SILENCE.....
“Ernesto, if you broke that driver, you’re in deep shit.

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SANTA ANA COUNTRY CLUB

- In **1969**, after deliberations, the perimeter property, now known as The Master's Circle, was annexed to Costa Mesa, while the Santa Ana Country Club grounds remained in the unincorporated part of Orange County and still does today.
- In **1970**, the Board of Directors were successful in moving a few holes of the golf course for zoning reasons, keeping the Clubhouse construction project under budget and moving the maintenance yard. Due to heavy rains and other expected setbacks the new Clubhouse was completed in 18 months, July 12, 1970.
- By **1980** the Santa Ana Country Club had 400 regular, 15 young associate, 34 women associate and 194 social executive members. President in 1980, John Griff, decided the Clubhouse needed to be remodeled calling it a "necessity". The kitchen was modernized, storages were improved, the ladies locker room was expanded and improved, a patio was created outside the dining room, the Terrace Room was created and much more.
- In **October 1984** the retirement of Director of Golf, Gerald Hall was announced after 23 years on the job. He passed down the reins to Mike Reehl. Mike's career at Santa Ana Country Club started in 1967 as a bag boy eventually moving to a part-time starter, to the Assistant Pro & Teacher to eventually the Club's Golf Pro.
- With the Clubhouse reaching its 20th birthday in **1990**, their discussion about renovating the Clubhouse became a hot topic, with many members wanting to see the facility upgraded.
- On **November 12, 1993**, the Clubhouse renovation was complete and the House Committee was proud that work was done within the established budget of \$1,370,000. The renovation project included the air conditioning and heating in the main bar, new administrative offices and the extension of the Club entry and reception area, new oak doors added at the golf entry, the clubhouse was re-carpeted and the clubhouse was completely re-painted.

— continued on page 24

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SANTA ANA COUNTRY CLUB

- During **1998** the Club celebrated its 50th anniversary of the Santa Ana Invitational Tournament.
- In **2008**, the Club's long tradition of tournaments continued with the two big events celebrating anniversaries. The Santa Ana Invitational celebrated its 60th anniversary and continues to thrive. During the same year, the Santa Ana Derby Member-Guest celebrated its 50th anniversary and has become an event the membership looks forward to year after year.
- In **2009 and 2010**, after much debate among the membership about the best approach, a Clubhouse renovation project was completed with a budget of approximately \$4 million. The major work of the project was aimed at carrying the rich wood ambience of the Men's Card Room throughout the entire clubhouse; work included new carpet and paint throughout, new chairs and furniture, renovations and upgrades to the Women's Locker Room, and a complete remodel of the Golf Shop to its current state.
- In **June 2012**, Director of Golf Mike Reehl retired – and was named Pro Emeritus – after 25 years in charge of the Golf Operation, and 45 years of service to Santa Ana Country Club. Geoff Cochrane was named successor to Reehl as Head Golf Professional.
- In **2014**, the Club initiated a construction project to create a Mixed Tavern in the location of the former women's card room. Today, TAVERN 1901 has a prime location and view of the Golf Course, including beautiful patio seating.
- In **2016** the golf course underwent a complete transformation and the embarked on an 8 million dollar golf course revitalization project and complete rerouting. The project commenced on February 1, 2016 and the grand opening was on November 3, 2016.
- During the Golf Course Revitalization Project the Club also complete rebuilt Mulligan's snack shake – the finished look is Mediterranean motif.
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Grasspoint USA	17
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Nutrien	18
Precision Labs	26
Redox Turf	21
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Syngenta	20
TLC Materials	09
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