

# SEA to SAND

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC | VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 3/4 | MARCH/APRIL 2020



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Readers,

Much of the content of this issue of Sea to Sand was composed prior to the escalation of the current health crisis. We deleted those articles that were rendered obsolete due to cancellation of events, etc., kept those articles that retained relevance, and added some content to help inform and guide you through the very challenging times we are all facing.

If you are not already doing so, please regularly monitor the association websites ([www.gcsasc.org](http://www.gcsasc.org) and [www.hilodesert.org](http://www.hilodesert.org)) and Twitter accounts for resources and information. We have added a COVID-19 resources page to each site, and we continually add resources to the webpages and Twitter feeds. We also circulate frequent announcements and resources via email, so if you are not receiving regular emails from us, please check your spam folder, then call or email me at (916) 214-6495 or [mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com](mailto:mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com).

Association events have been thrown into a state of flux, but we continue to communicate with venues and monitor the status of social distancing policies in anticipation of rescheduling. Events planned for June through the end of the year remain on the calendar for now, and we will let you know as soon as we have a clearer picture of the feasibility of those plans.

We continue to work closely with our golf industry allies at the state, regional and national levels on those issues of great importance to you and our industry, including reopening courses, proper safety protocols for reopening, aid to impacted businesses and employees, and more, and we will keep you informed as new information is available.

Please contact me if you have any needs, and know that we are here to assist and guide you through this crisis.

Wishing you, your family, friends, and co-workers safety and peace,

Marc Connerly

## **2020 ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH AUCTION POSTPONED**

The 2020 Rounds 4 Research auction, originally scheduled for April 27-May 3, has been postponed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information about the future date for the auction is forthcoming. Donations for the auction are still being accepted. Please contact Mischia Wright, associate director, EIFG, if you have questions.

UPDATED MARCH 20, 2020



*Publisher's Note: Below is a letter from Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO. You are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available to you by visiting the GCSAA website.*

UPDATE MARCH 17, 2020

## **RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR FACILITY IN WAKE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Dear members:

In a world that is changing day by day, and seemingly hour by hour, we know it is a stressful time for all. I wanted to update you on what is happening at GCSAA in response to the pandemic, and let you know about new golf management-specific resources we are offering in this challenging time:

We have compiled a page of golf-specific COVID-19 resources. We also encourage you to send in any helpful hints or suggestions for the way your facility is dealing with the crisis. There is a great deal of general COVID-19 information out there, but we hope this information pertaining to golf course management will be helpful for you and your facility.

In a joint effort with the Ontario, Canada chapter, we are offering select On Demand webinars that are free to everyone and eligible for CECs. Of course, all GCSAA webinars are free to members, but please share with your friends and peers who aren't. The free webinars will be available through June 1. National Golf Day, which was scheduled for May 4-6 has been postponed. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of decisions by public health agencies, federal and state governments, a decision on whether to reschedule NGD will be made later.

As of Monday, March 16th, we modified our operation model and most of the staff are working remotely. All services are available, so, with the exception of visiting headquarters, please reach out to us in the all ways you normally do. We are here to help. We will continue to monitor the situation to determine when we feel it is safe to return to our traditional operation.

As many of you spend more time at home with your families as you practice social distancing, I just want to remind you that your GCSAA family is here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are in this together!

Wishing you health and safety,

Rhett Evans  
GCSAA CEO

## DISASTER RELIEF FUND AVAILABLE TO THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19

**GCSAA IS SERVING YOU DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
*Find golf-specific information and tools with GCSAA's COVID-19 Resources.*

UPDATE APRIL 8, 2020 -

Many GCSAA members have had their lives impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund is now providing financial assistance to those affected by the crisis.

GCSAA will provide up to \$500 to members who have experienced the loss of their jobs, layoffs or have been unable to work due to the effects of COVID-19. Funds can be used for items such as, but not limited, to groceries, medication, fuel, personal bills and childcare.

Any GCSAA member is eligible for this assistance, excluding the Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent classification.

Assistance will be processed on a first-come, first serve basis. Members must contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or email [mbrhelp@gcsaa.org](mailto:mbrhelp@gcsaa.org). Members are also welcome to submit names of GCSAA members they may know who need assistance.

GCSAA's goal is to provide financial assistance as quickly as possible.

Donations made to the fund are an opportunity for those in the golf industry to directly assist their peers and are tax deductible. The fund is administered through GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf. You can donate today online or by texting Disaster to 785-693-2593 and following the link in the response. •••

## GREETINGS

# FROM THE SEA

*By John Nachreiner • GCSASC President*

If you were not able to attend, you missed the news that our association president, Don Ebarb, has transitioned from a superintendent member to an affiliate member by taking a position with SiteOne Landscape Supply.

I have known Don for eight years and worked with him at Shady Canyon Golf Club. He is passionate and loyal to his family and friends, our industry and association. I have never seen him at a loss for words or unable to make a personal connection with another person.

.....  
*Thank you to all of those who were able to support the Dual-Chapter event this year at Pechanga Resort. It was great to connect with so many of you and learn from our guest speakers.*  
.....

Don volunteered his time and was elected to the Board of Directors after our friend and colleague, Chris Freniere, passed away from Leukemia at the age of 30. Don felt he owed the association

his efforts after witnessing the incredible support Chris and his family received from other association members and the Duff Shaw Benevolent Fund. *(continued on next page)*

**FROM THE SEA**

Don's example inspired me to get involved and led the way for my participation in the governance of the association as well.

Because of his membership category change, the bi-laws state Don must step down as President, which gives me the opportunity to fill his position. Also, the movement on the Board left an open Director position, which has been filled by Jason Fuertes from Industry Hills Golf Course. I am looking forward to getting to know Jason and all of our members over the next year. During that time, we will continue our commitment fostering the involvement of our members by providing quality programs and services, supporting the golf industry, and advancing the golf course management profession. •••



*More Dual-Chapter pictures on page 12.*

**GREETINGS****FROM THE SAND**

*By Nick Leitner*

*Assistant Superintendent • El Dorado Country Club*

*From a young age, I grew up playing the game of golf and always wanted to be a part of the industry. During my freshman semester at The University of Arizona, I planned on being a business major and didn't think anything of it. During that first semester, I took an Introduction to Business course and realized that it wasn't for me. I began searching for different majors and realized I could become a turf manager and gain entry into sports field or golf course management.*

*Throughout my education at the U of A, I was able to learn many things from the head turf professor, Dr. David Kopec, and was able to transition into a student-worker position supporting the athletic fields at the U of A. When I made the transition into sports turf management, I began to learn the fundamentals and gained key insights of managing turf from one of my mentors Matt Anderson. In this article, I am honored and privileged to interview Matt, who helped me find my way and help me become the person I am today.*

**WHAT INTERESTED YOU IN GETTING A DEGREE IN TURF SCIENCE?**

*I was a struggling civil engineering student at Michigan State. After my freshman year, I got a job on the grounds crew at a local golf course where I grew up. I absolutely loved the work. I had no idea that Michigan State had a turf program until the superintendent mentioned that he went to MSU to learn how to manage the golf course. That fall, engineering classes were still kicking my butt, and I made the decision to switch majors. One of the best decisions I've ever made. (continued on page 9)*

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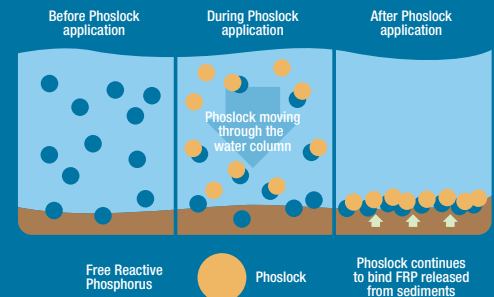
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**FROM THE SAND**

**WHO WAS YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCER IN THE INDUSTRY?**

Hard to say there was only one. Probably my biggest influence was my time spent working at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center as an undergrad and graduate student at Michigan State. I developed close relationships with many of the turfgrass faculty at MSU, as well as numerous graduate students, many of whom are now professors across the country. The network has been a consistent resource for me through all of my various career stops.

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FROM THE GOLF INDUSTRY AND YOUR MOST ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FROM THE SPORTS TURF INDUSTRY?**

Probably my most enjoyable experience was the year I spent working on the MSU Athletics grounds crew in 2011. I had been a Head Groundskeeper for six years before that in

minor league baseball and went to MSU as an assistant. We had a terrific group to work with that summer and I was able to just take a step back and focus on my work. I had minimal meetings, no budget stress, nothing like that. I could just show up, work hard and really try and focus on my craft. It was a fun summer, with everything from spring floods to a U2 concert and subsequent field renovation. Excellent learning experience.

**WHAT INTERESTED YOU MORE IN THE SPORTS TURF INDUSTRY IN COMPARISON TO THE GOLF INDUSTRY?**

Initially, I got into sports by just following the opportunities that were out there. Once I got into it, one of my favorite things is the separation of work and play. In golf, I remember it being frustrating trying to get work done on the course when it was busy,

*(continued on page 15)*

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# FROM THE BUNKER

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

## WOTUS [WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES]

*New Rules for the Nation; Nothing New for California*

Many of you have no doubt read the headlines about the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issuance of a new “Waters of the United States” Rule that reversed the course taken by the Obama Administration a couple of years ago - a course that caused alarm bells to ring for the nation’s farmers, ranchers, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which made reversal of the Obama Administration Rule the centerpiece of its national advocacy effort.

Many of you have no doubt also read GCSAA’s trumpeting of that successful effort in the form of the new Rule. What many of you may have forgotten is the caveat the California Alliance for Golf (CAG) issued about the irrelevance of that Rule here in California. CAG issued comments at the time that were separate and apart from the comments issued by GCSAA and the game’s other national organizations, albeit they sought the same end - a redo of the Rulemaking process.

But before we dampen the enthusiasm that may have been generated by all the “happy” headlines, let us share with you what all the “happiness” was about.

Here is the new definition of what constitutes a “water of the United States” for the purposes of federal regulation:

### JURISDICTIONAL WATERS:

- For purposes of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq. and its implementing regulations, subject to the exclusions in paragraph (b) of this section, the term “waters of the United States” means:
- The territorial seas, and waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- Tributaries;
- Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and
- Adjacent wetlands.

### NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS. THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT “WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES”:

- Waters or water features that are not identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section;
- Groundwater, including groundwater drained through subsurface drainage systems;

*( continued on next page )*

**KESSLER**

- Ephemeral features, including ephemeral streams, swales, gullies, rills, and pools;
- Diffuse stormwater run-off and directional sheet flow over upland;
- Ditches that are not paragraph (a)(1) or (2) waters, and those portions of ditches constructed in paragraph (a)(4) waters that do not satisfy the conditions of paragraph (c)(1);
- Prior converted cropland;
- Artificially irrigated areas, including fields flooded for agricultural production, that would revert to upland should application of irrigation water to that area cease;
- Artificial lakes and ponds, including water storage reservoirs and farm, irrigation, stock watering, and log cleaning ponds, constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters, so long as those artificial lakes and ponds are not impoundments of jurisdictional waters that meet the conditions of paragraph (c)(6);
- Water-filled depressions constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters incidental to mining or construction activity, and pits excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel; *(continued on page 13)*



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## DUAL-CHAPTER MEETING



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- Stormwater control features constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters to convey, treat, infiltrate, or store stormwater run-off;
- Groundwater recharge, water reuse, and wastewater recycling structures, including detention, retention, and infiltration basins and ponds, constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters; and
- Waste treatment systems.

Those with excellent memories will immediately understand that so much of what was included as a “water of the United States” for the purpose of asserting USEPA jurisdiction is now categorically excluded from the Rule just issued. All the worry created when the Obama EPA was venturing down a road that some concluded might include puddles and land locked ponds has vanished.

Whether the “worry” could return after this November’s election is a “worry” we’re certain GCSAA and others have contemplated. But there is no need to contemplate it here in California. As Executive Director of the California Farm Water Coalition Mike Wade recently said in a media interview, “we’re not going to receive much if any relief in California from the revisions at the federal level because we’re already living under a more strict definition of Waters of the State, as it’s known.”

New state regulations adopted last April require permitting for discharges of dredged and fill material and provide a broad definition of what is to be considered a wetland. California’s “Waters of the

State” Rule does not contain most of the exclusions that were included in the new Navigable Waters Protection Rule enunciated by the USEPA. California has spent much of the last 15 years establishing water rules more stringent than the federal government and isn’t going to be deterred from staying that course because President Trump occupies the Oval Office.

We reiterate all of this not because we seek to dampen your enthusiasm, but rather to underscore a point that cannot be repeated enough. California is a universe unto itself when it comes to environmental regulation. Unless specifically preempted, California follows its own course, and when the course involves the environment, it is always a much stricter one. •••



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**FROM THE SAND**

yet you wanted the course busy for revenue. In the sports turf world, there is time for work and time for events, and rarely, if ever, do those overlap unless it's the in-game infield drag or covering an infield during rain.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING STORY YOU HAVE IN THE TURF INDUSTRY?**

One of the most unique events I got to help with happened years ago at the Buick Open at Warwick Hills CC. I was in grad school working at the Turf Research Center at Michigan State, and we were approached about assisting with a hitting clinic for Tiger Woods. We ended up taking 4 spare turf modules that were used to renovate Spartan Stadium in 2002 up to Warwick to make a temporary tee box. We built this tee box in the middle of the 18th green (during tournament week mind you!). We laid a base of moving blankets and plywood and used a telescoping boom forklift to set the modules on the green after one of the practice rounds. Tiger came out and did his clinic, and afterwards we removed the tee. He ended up hitting most of his shots right off a seam between modules if that tells you how perfect we lined these things up! The whole reason for the event to be on the green was so they could fill the stands with spectators, and the biggest stands were on 18 green.

**WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD YOU MAKE TO A YOUNG TURF MANAGER?**

Don't burn bridges. This is a small industry and if you stay in it, your path will cross with many of the same people over the years. You never know when you might need someone's help in the future and it would be a shame if you burned that bridge years ago.

**WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL AT MICHIGAN STATE?**

I honestly can't say I had one. I've always been a person who is looking out for opportunities to advance my career and those opportunities don't always follow a set plan.

**IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES THAT TURF MANAGERS FACE CURRENTLY?**

In my travels I hear the biggest issues facing everyone right now is labor. Finding good quality staff, who are reliable, is challenging everywhere. I also think guys are still getting asked to do more with less. This creates a difficult situation because no one wants to fail, so you find a way to make it happen. If there is no dip in quality, management figures you must have what you need, so now you've sealed your fate in terms of resources. We can be our own worst enemies sometimes in that respect.

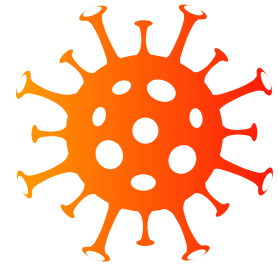
**YOU WERE PART OF THE 2004 OLYMPICS IN ATHENS, WHAT WAS THE GREATEST ASPECT YOU TOOK AWAY FROM THAT EXPERIENCE?**

Turf managers in the US have no idea how good they have it. We have access to all the products, tools, equipment and knowledge we could ever want. In Athens it was the polar opposite. It was challenging to find good fertilizer. It was near impossible to find equipment and parts. I would have given anything to get some quality rakes and shovels. Other parts of the world don't have near the industry support that we do here.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME, AND WHAT DO YOU FIND RELAXES YOU THE MOST WHEN YOU ARE NOT ON THE JOB?**

When I'm not working I'm spending time with my wife and son. We love to be active, travel and be outdoors. When I find time, I like to ride my mountain bike or road bike whenever possible. •••

**NOTE:** The below handout is available at the USGAA website. If you don't already have it, cut or tear out this page for your your reference.



## MINIMUM MAINTENANCE FOR GOLF COURSES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

After a period of extended closure, a store can restock its shelves and easily resume normal operations. A restaurant can fire up the burners and be back in business. But a golf course is a living thing, and superintendents can't bring the course back to regular playing conditions simply or quickly after a period of neglect. Even if the course is closed, a minimum maintenance regimen will help keep the turf healthy and "standing by" for when facilities are able to resume standard operations.

The GCSAA and USGA recommend the following minimum practices for course maintenance. Keep in mind that turf conditions and needs vary greatly around the country, so the guidelines should be adapted to the current growing conditions in your region.

As you carry out your maintenance operations during this time, it is important that each golf facility comply with CDC guidelines in addition to any state or local executive orders. Measures should include but are not limited to:

- Minimize the number of maintenance staff members working on the golf course at one time.
- Maintain social distancing guidelines at all times.
- Assign staff equipment to avoid sharing between employees.
- Stagger working hours and break times.
- Place hand sanitizer throughout maintenance area.
- Regularly disinfect any surface that is contacted.

### MOWING

In order to maintain turf that is healthy enough to survive while also reducing weed encroachment, the following mowing frequency is recommended:

- Greens 2-3x per week
- Tees 1-2x per week
- Fairways 1-2x per week
- Collars 1-2x per week
- Approaches 1-2x per week
- Driving Range Tees and Targets 1-2x per week
- Driving Range 1x every two weeks
- Rough 1x every one to two weeks

Utilize plant growth regulators where possible to manage growth rate and clipping yields. Increasing mowing heights will allow for longer intervals between mowing.



### BUNKER MAINTENANCE

Bunkers should be maintained as necessary to prevent weed encroachment.



### EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Carry out routine maintenance as required to keep essential equipment in good operating condition.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



GCSAA COVID-19:  
[gcsaa.org/pandemic](https://www.gcsaa.org/pandemic)



USGA COVID-19:  
<https://www.usga.org/course-care/covid-19-resource-center.html>

### IRRIGATION

Irrigation should be applied as necessary to ensure adequate turf health and density. Avoid excessive irrigation, which will promote unnecessary growth.



### PLANT PROTECTANTS AND FERTILIZERS

Apply plant protectants and fertilizers judiciously to maintain plant health while not encouraging unnecessary growth.



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\*The Geolink fairway mowers shown is in test, availability is undetermined at this time.



Stephen Munday/Getty Images

Most golf fans will have heard of Gene Sarazen's double eagle on the par-five 15th during the 1935 Masters. It has come to be known as "the shot heard 'round the world." However, what many people don't know is that Walter Hagen played a big part in this memorable Masters moment.

.....  
**Just a bit of Masters Trivia**  
.....

Hagen was playing alongside Sarazen that afternoon and Sarazen could not decide on a club for his second shot while standing in the middle of the 15th fairway. Finally, Hagen yelled over from the side of the fairway, "Hurry up, will ya? I've got a date tonight." This caused Sarazen to finally decide on a 4-wood, which he then belted 235 yards and right into the hole for a double eagle.

What many don't know about the 1935 Masters is that Sarazen's double eagle on 15 only helped him come back and tie Craig Wood for the lead after 72 holes. Wood and Sarazen would take part in a 36-hole playoff the following day, which Sarazen won by a score of 144-149.



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HI-LO DESERT & GCSASC  
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