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The Official *news* of the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA | Volume One | Issue Two



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The Official *news* of the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA | VOLUME ONE | ISSUE TWO

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Hi-Lo Desert Chapter

GCSAA



Hi-Lo Desert Chapter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Thanks"

Chris Bien, Hi-Lo Desert GCSA President,
Desert Willow Golf Resort



As things start to slow down for golf courses around the valley (for some at least), and hopefully the Bermudagrass is filling in, I would just like to give thanks. I apologize in advance for anyone or anything that I have omitted from this random and rushed list as Molly has been texting me daily asking me for my President's message. I honestly had a number of article ideas but have been spending a great deal of time searching for Tifdwarf on greens that were overseeded in mid November and haven't been able to find enough to make me feel better. So, you get a list of things I am thankful for, some with an explanation and some without and in no particular order.

1. Dogs- no matter what level of stress I have from the daily grind, seeing my dogs as I walk in the front door always makes it better.
2. Sports- coming off of a great weekend of watching the PGA and rewatching "Air", I was nostalgic and amazed at the level of play by Michael Block and Brooks Koepka, and the reminder of MJ.
3. Family- having the house full again after the college year for my girls completed has been really nice. (check back with me a month from now and I may not feel this way).
4. Brewpubs- whether you drink or not, brewpubs are a great place to hang out.
5. THE Ohio State Buckeyes- never had a sustained down time in my lifetime. If only the Browns hadn't ruined some many Sundays after a great Saturday.
6. The Valley- hiking, biking, golfing, the mountains, etc. This really is a great place to live and work.
7. Molly. She just makes things easier.
8. Golf.

I hope this finds you all well and preparing for a long and deserving vacation.

Chris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Molly DuVall, Hi-Lo Desert GCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DuVall Management



In March, I had the opportunity to go to GCSAA headquarters in Lawerenc, Kansas for the Executive/Leader Symposium. It was two days full of education, touring the facility and meeting all of the GCSAA staff. I was able to learn more about the BMPs, just as many of you did in the Spring Meeting and the importance of implementing them at your facility. We had collaboration sessions with other Executives and had some good take aways on what other chapters are doing that are and are not working for them. All in all, it is always nice to meet new people and see what others are doing to help make their chapter successful.

Very recently, we learned the WaterSmart WEEG (Water Energy and Efficiency Grant) has been awarded. While we are excited to have an update, this will take time as the process has to go into contract to receive funding and this could take a few months, if not more. But, the good news is the grant has been awarded and we will have more information to come as we find out. This is not the only thing happening with the Golf & Water Task Force, we are now looking into doing an extensive project that includes the mapping of each golf course in the Coachella Valley. While this too, will take time, we are moving forward with getting proposals and receiving funding in order to have every golf course in the Coachella Valley mapped.

Many of you may have seen the Board of Directors Announcement about our newly created benevolent fund, it is also included in this addition of the Hi-Lodown, if you missed it. In addition to this announcement, we have also applied for the Chapter Outreach

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Grant with the GCSAA to also help with this newly created fund. While this grant was applied for before the chapter received a generous donation, this would only help in growing what we didn't even think we had. We are grateful to have the opportunity to create another fund to help benefit our members, as well as add in what we hope to be another annual fundraising event. More to come on when and what that will look like in the upcoming months.

We definitely have had a full winter and spring with already having three meetings since our last *Hi-Lo* publication and our Election Meeting is right around the corner on June 15th. We are going to keep this fun and lighthearted at Shots in the Night at Indian Wells Golf Resort. Prior to the fun though, we need your help in voting on the bylaw amendments that were sent out earlier this month. The changes are mainly due to the fact GCSAA has included a new membership class, Equipment

Manager. What this means for the chapter is we are now able to have all equipment managers, mechanics and more able to join in our association. What some of you may not know is our local Equipment Managers and Mechanics have created their own association and this is now going to give them the opportunity to join with us and allow them to hopefully get more exposure and support than what they have had in the past. They will be invited to the Election Meeting. Please take the time to cast your vote prior to May 31st. In addition, we have three superintendent positions and one affiliate position open, so get your nominations in by May 31st, as well. You will be receiving your option to vote prior to the Election Meeting and if you would like to vote in person, ballots will be available the day of.



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In other news, this summer we will be moving away from our member platform WildApricot and moving to StarChapter. The reason for this change is

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NEWS, *cont.*

being able to keep everything on one platform instead of the multiple we are currently on. We hope this software will be more user friendly and automatic for everyone. With this, we will have a new website, and yes you will need to create a new login profile, so please keep your eyes out for the instructions I will send once we go live.

I should end this with a follow up to Chris's "thanks", while I'm not sure if I texted him daily about a President's Message, it may have only been a few times, and he was on it. You are all busy enough with work, family and everything that is thrown your way and taking on a roll as this is more work than one might think, so I cannot thank Chris enough for taking the calls and texts that seem to be never ending all in hopes to keep the chapter thriving. With the term coming to an end, the board has been truly amazing in the support and effort they put into the chapter and should be commended and I will miss any who do not repeat their term and look forward to anyone coming on board.

I hope your transition is on the right path and can look ahead for a summer vacation.

Molly



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Hi-Lo Desert Chapter



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2022 NTEP RYEGRASS OVERSEEDING TEST WITH DR. BAIRD AND TEAM

The Field Day with Dr. Baird and team happened the morning after the treacherous wind storm we had overnight in the early hours of February 22nd with many of you losing palm trees and nevermind all of the debris you and your teams were left to clean up to make your courses pristine again. Thank you to everyone who was still able to make it out for the morning, even with everything that happened over night. A lot of great information came from the 2022 NTEP Ryegrass Overseeding Test.



From the Field with Jeff Jensen

GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region



I hope this finds all of our Hi-Lo Desert GCSA members doing well and getting a short break after another busy golf season in the Coachella Valley.

The California Legislature is still in session, and we are tracking numerous bills that could have an affect on the golf industry. AB 363 would require the California DPR, by July 1, 2024, to publish a reevaluation of the latest science regarding the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides, as defined, on pollinating insects, aquatic ecosystems, and human health when used for the nonagricultural protection of outdoor ornamental plants, trees, and turf, and, by July 1, 2026, to adopt regulations governing that use that are necessary to protect the health of honeybees, native bees, and other pollinating insects, aquatic ecosystems, and human health.

While the California golf industry doesn't oppose the reevaluation, we do oppose the change to the assessment protocol as well as the potential influence, interference, and timeline of the legislature on the outcome of the reevaluation. It is not the place of legislature to circumvent the established regulatory process. Comments have been filed requesting that the bill be based on a risk assessment without undue outside interference from legislature.

While the drought issues have certainly eased for the upcoming summer season, water is always at the forefront of our legislative efforts. AB 460 and accompanying SB 389 would create new administrative enforcement processes that would allow the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to make binding determinations on water rights. Significantly, AB 460 in particular would grant interested parties the right to file petitions for the SWRCB to impose restrictions on water rights that could

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significantly limit or eliminate a diverter's ability to exercise those rights. Collectively, both bills would undermine existing legal protections for pre-1914 and riparian water rights and result in significant changes to how California's water rights system is administered.

Golf doesn't have many pre-1914 water rights in the state, but we do have numerous courses that have riparian rights, and this is a bill we will be following closely. More information as well as action alerts (where warranted) will be forthcoming as the bills stall or advance through committee. For more information & updates visit <https://www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/take-action>.

Thank you for your continued support of GCSAA and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW for industry updates. Best of luck with your summer projects and hope you all get some down time to spend with family or friends!

Jeff



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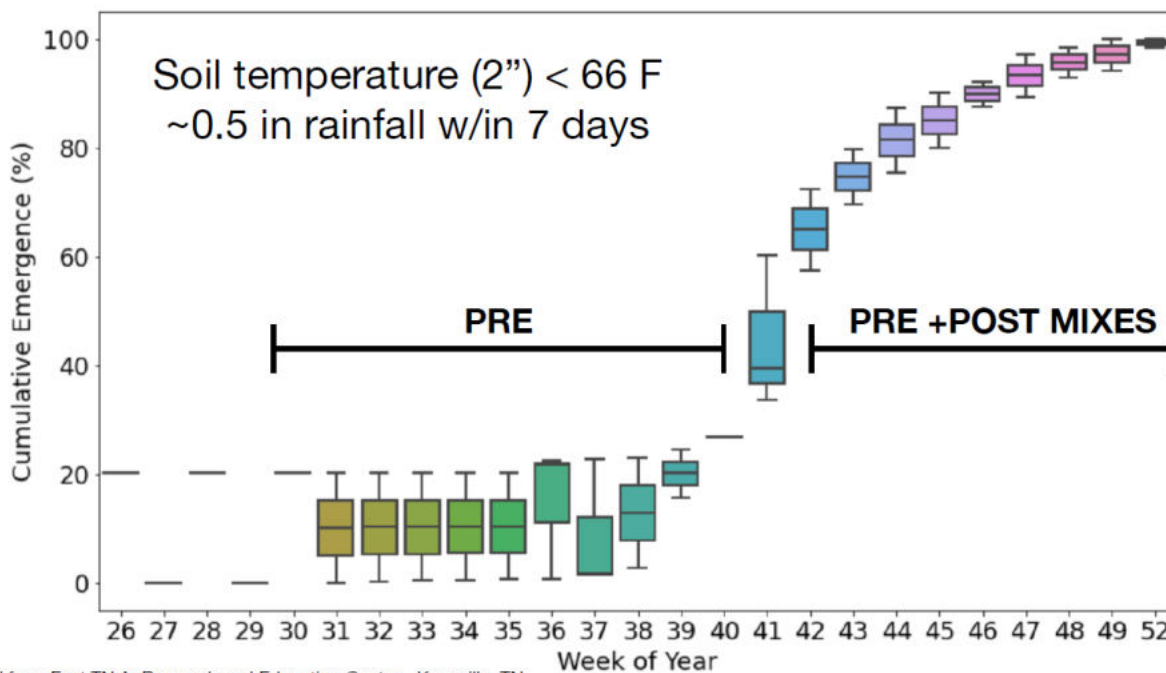
Winter Education Meeting and Golf Recap

We were fortunate enough to have Dr. Jim Brosnan from the University of Tennessee and Kai Umeda from the University of Arizona give presentations at this year's Winter Meeting at The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa. Dr. Jim Brosnan spoke on Poa Annua, while Kai Umeda spoke on how to control summer weeds in the desert. We had a great turn out, close to 100 in attendance.

The following are a couple of slides and mobile weed app for downloading from Dr. Brosnan's presentation.

The below slide shows when soil temperatures drop to 66F at a 2" depth in fall, then Poa Annua begins to germinate.

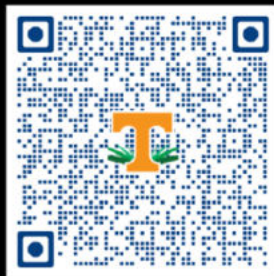
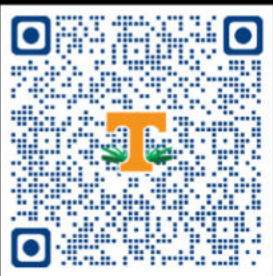
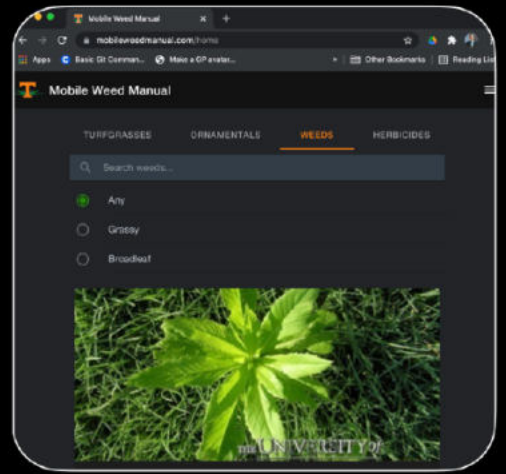
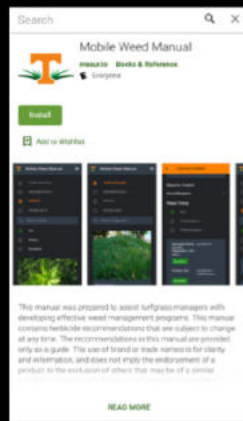
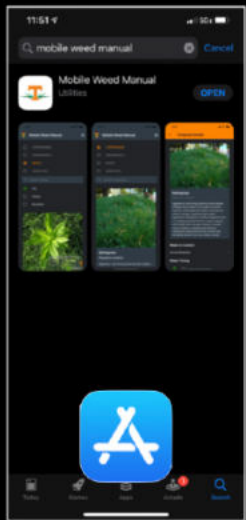
Poa Annua Emergence in Tifway - 2019 + 2020



Data Collected from East TN AgResearch and Education Center - Knoxville, TN

0.5" HOC

1" HOC



The University of Tennessee has a mobile weed app that you download and use.

**It was a great day of golf at Russell Tessandore's Pete Dye Course
Westin Rancho Mirage! Team James walked away the winning
team along with a skin!**

**Billy James
Nick Hanson
Shaun Mahaffey**

2nd Place

Chris Bien

Dr. Jim Brosnan

Jared Stanek

Geoff Johansen

**Nick Hanson #8
Joel Addink #11
Edgar Mendoza #16**

Long Drive

Lone Skin

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by Craig Kessler, SCGA Public Affairs & Chair CVWD Golf & Water Task Force



So much focus is given to the obvious benefits of turf reduction that we sometimes forget that using less water on existing turf is another key tool in the game's conservation toolbox. And it's an essential tool. Home, business, and HOA common areas can rip out turf in favor of California friendly drought tolerant landscapes that are as aesthetic as they are functional. Golf can only be played on turf, and while it can be played on less turf, we're still talking about turf, which nature has assigned a certain biology cum evapotranspiration factor that cannot be altered by government diktat. And only so much less turf, as there are only so many cards in the turf removal deck of conservation cards.

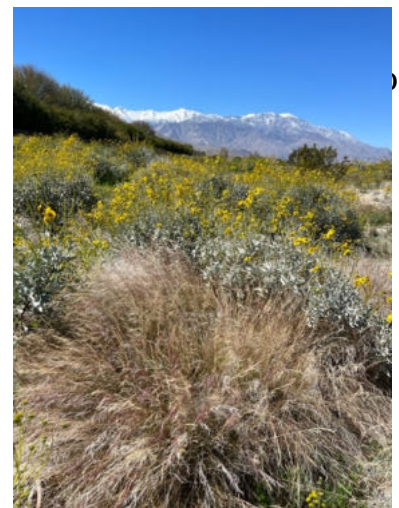
However, human ingenuity driven by research can produce strains of turf able to thrive and remain passably green with much less water consistent with nature's assignments. Strains already in wide use like the TifTuf variety developed by the University of Georgia have more than demonstrated that. And we're told by UC Riverside's Dr. Baird that a couple of fairway-friendly, passably winter green Bermuda strains are set to hit the market in 2024.

"Human ingenuity" is by its very definition a labor-intensive task. "Research" requires highly educated, specialized labor. Taken together, they spell expensive. That's why every GCSAA Chapter in California supports not just the UC Riverside program, but many state university and community college programs as well. SCGA has written large checks to the UC Riverside program through the California Turf & Landscape Foundation (CTLF) for years and has begun to support some of those same state university programs. But I do think we're the only amateur association that does that.

That's great. We're doing our part – in terms of what the GCSAA Chapters have in resources, some would say more than their "part." I would say that unabashedly!



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who works in the game, and all the manufacturers and suppliers who outfit those who play and work in the game. It’s never fair to paint with too broad a brush because there are “others” who very much do their part. However, who reading this really thinks that all who benefit from what turf research and agronomic education do for the game are doing their part re research and education?

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Never answer a rhetorical question!

I don’t know about you, but I’m done with being shy about putting the squeeze on all those who benefit but don’t pony up. I’m not entirely sure what it means to work together to be more aggressive in making these asks, but I’m sure of this. To the degree to which the long-term viability of golf in California is dependent upon the fruits of research, our game will be less than it is today in the not-too-distant future if we don’t speak up. That’s all we should need to know that this is one of those situations in which it makes sense to err on the side of ruffling a few feathers.

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Spring Meeting and Golf Recap

What a great May 16th! We started off the morning with breakfast and Jeff Jensen doing a BMP workshop to help with creating and building the facility BMPs, giving everyone a little more insight and importance of why BMPs are critical. After the workshop there was information on what the regulations will look like in 2024 for equipment, followed by a demo day with Turf Star (Toro), Stotz Equipment (John Deere), Site-One, Makita, Milwaukee, Trinity Equipment and Eberhard Equipment.



GO GREEN. SAVE GREEN. ON BRAND-NAME, BATTERY-POWERED EQUIPMENT.

CLAIM INCENTIVES HERE, WHILE THEY LAST.

In an effort to accelerate the purchase of zero-emission equipment, South Coast AQMD has launched an incentive program to help with the upcoming changes to state laws. To help contractors get a head start on the transition, state, city and municipal bodies are offering a variety of incentives to “go green” early, starting now!



At SiteOne, we offer a full-line of battery-powered landscape equipment, including walk-behind and stand-on mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, chainsaws, edgers, and more from trusted brands like Makita®, Echo®, Milwaukee®, Husqvarna®, Gravely® and others.

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WE'RE A SOUTH COAST-APPROVED DEALER. Best of all, as a South Coast-approved dealer, we'll walk you through the funding sources and vouchers available to you, and even process the paperwork. Change is coming slowly, but the incentives will be going fast. Talk to us today!

Don't forget the golf! It was a great day at The Springs Club and as always, the course was in great shape thanks to JT Pogue and his team and they even got to play! The Foster Gardner team had some great shots with Jimi Davis rocking his flip flops and sometimes bare foot to make those approach shots worth it!



Closest to the Pin Winners!
Hole #5 - Jordan Holcomb
Hole #8 - Jake Heck
Hole #12 - Jr. Munoz
Hole #15 - Jordan Holcomb

Spring Meeting Champions - Cody Stewart, Chris Davidson, Jon Kelly, Zach Dobek
2nd Place - Jeff Stephenson, Tim Isle, Jordan Holcomb, Jim Schmid

There were two SKINS won and with their generosity both teams donated the winnings back to the association for our scholarship and research efforts!

Thank you to Chris Bien, Jeff Jensen, Jared Stanek, and Jake Heck for their skin on #9 and to Cody Stewart, Chris Davidson, Jon Kelly and Zach Dobek for their skin on #14!

the **Hi-LO** down

ASSISTANT SPOTLIGHT

EDGAR MENDOZA

Mission Hills Country Club, Class B Superintendent



Q: Where are you from?

A: *San Jose, California*

Q: How long have you been at Mission Hills Country Club?

A: *Two Years*

Q: Where did you go to school and what certificate or degree did you receive?

A: *College of the Desert. I received my Associates Degree in Science*

Q: Who have been your mentors?

A: *I can't say one person, I have worked with many great Supers*

Q: Do you play golf? What is your handicap or average score?

A: *Yes, I play golf. I'm an 11 handicap.*

Q: What is your favorite course?

A: *Mission Hills Country Club, Arnold Palmer*

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: *Riding bikes*

Q: What do you think is the most important aspect of your job?

A: *Communication*

Q: What advice would you give people who are getting into the business.

A: *Do what you love, not what you are told to do.*

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: ***Being outdoors***

Q: What are your goals in the industry?

A: ***I would like to become a Director of Agronomy.***

Q: Any special awards or nominations that you have received?

A: ***Best greens of the year in 2017.***

Q: What is the hardest part of your job?

A: ***Reprimanding employees***

Q: Any tricks or practices that you have recently learned that you would like to share?

A: ***Work smarter, not harder.***

If you have someone you would like to spotlight, please reach out to Molly DuVall at molly@duvallmanagement.com | 760-397-794



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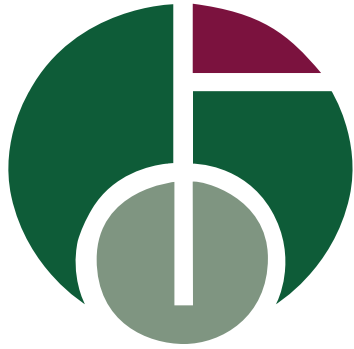
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Hi-Lo Desert Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Dear Members,

We recently received a generous donation from Stotz Equipment. As a board, we had many discussions in regards to using this donation in helping with our scholarship and research efforts as we have done in the past with others supporting in donations. However, we continued our discussions and because we have not received a donation quite like this, we have decided to open a Benevolent only account and match their donation as an association.

As an association we have been able to contribute to our members in the past in a time of need, but have not had a specific account to allow us to build on. This came to us as a way to help our members more in the future if there ever comes a time an unfortunate circumstance may happen in one's life of our association. While we never want to see unfortunate events happen to those around us, we truly find this as way to grow our association and know we are there to support all of our members in some way. To help continue this new fund, we are in the early stages of planning a new fundraising event that hopefully will turn into an annual event beginning in 2024.

We cannot thank Stotz Equipment enough for their contribution and are grateful to have them here to support our Hi-Lo Desert Chapter along with our annual sponsors and sponsors throughout the year. We hope you find this announcement of benefit and pride of being a part of our Hi-Lo Desert GCSA.

If you have any questions or would like to also contribute to this Benevolent fund, please reach out to Molly DuVall at 760-397-7944 | molly@duvallmanagement.com.

Thank you,

Hi-Lo Desert GCSA Board of Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELECTION MEETING

Thursday, June 15th

Indian Wells Golf Resort, Shots in the Night

AFFILIATE'S & ASSISTANT'S TOURNAMENT

Thursday, July 27th

Mountain Vista Golf Club @ Sun City Palm Desert

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 7th

Mountain View Country Club

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We appreciate your commitment, participation and support of our Hi-Lo Desert Chapter.

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