

the Hi-Lo down

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



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“THE WHOLE ENCHILADA”

Thoughts on Overseeding 2022

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



As the middle of February rolls in, I find myself looking back at this past years' overseed. This was my 15th and 16th overseeds as a Superintendent in the desert, and in many ways the most challenging and stressful. I am normally fairly laid back in regards to overseeding. Calibrate, monitor the seed numbers, keep an eye on the patterns and bag counts. When that all checks out, water, fertilize and mow. Obviously, it is not that simple, but I have always felt that overseeding was a fairly predictable outcome, albeit with numerous potholes to navigate along the way.

This relaxed attitude all changed for me in mid September this past year. I was walking out of a meeting and overheard a conversation between managers with one manager saying “ as long as the overseeds are good we may have a record breaking year”. I am not certain why the comment hit me like a ton of bricks but that is exactly what happened. I'm also not sure why I hadn't felt this kind of pressure before to this magnitude. With a very early overseed date and weather not conducive to overseeding, my fears/concerns/apprehension grew by the day. Of course the seed popped, and those first glorious ryegrass mow lines were a sight to behold. Posting the pictures proudly, reading the comments about how great it looked! All fools gold as the temps persisted and the Bermuda began to win the battle. I thought back to the comment, and had the realization that my work was what was going to set us back. I made a few phone calls to my closest friends in the valley, and heard many of the same problems and outcomes from them. At least I wasn't alone in my despair.

Near the mid/end of October, as the cart traffic really began to take hold, I became resigned to the possibility that the courses were not going to be great this year. It was a sobering confession but I felt like I had put up a good fight but Mother Nature had kicked my butt. And then... the weather broke. An undercut and a lot of fertilizer, and 10 days later ryegrass was back and the world was right again. I called my friends again and one of them said that as the ryegrass started to thrive again, he had a moment where he realized that it was going to be okay and he sat on his golf cart and cried. Tears of joy? Tears of relief? Tears of happiness? Yes! All of the above.

I am not really sure what the message of this story is other than to share with a group that can probably relate, and maybe help someone out there who thought they were the only one really struggling. I had no interest in writing or reading another article about how to deal with stress. Our stress is our stress. I will say that for me what helped more than anything was talking to other supers. Listening, sharing ideas, complaining about the weather. It all helped. Thanks!

Chris

P.S. Transition is right around the corner.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Molly DuVall, Hi-Lo Desert GCSA Executive Director

DuVall Management



Wow, 2022 came and went and now we are already off to a great start in 2023 with just finishing the Coachella Valley Golf & Water Summit held at Mission Hills Country Club on January 11th. With 68 golfers on the pristine Pete Dye course, followed up lunch and the Water Summit in the afternoon with over 160 people in attendance was a great way to start off the New Year! We were grateful for the support of the SCGA, SCPGA, USGA and CVWD to help partner with our association to put on this successful event. We were able to not only have our association in attendance, but also your leaders and others in the community to listen to Dr. Baird (UC-Riverside), Dr. Matteo Serena and Brian Whitlark (USGA) and the CVWD's District Director, Peter Nelson and Assistant General Manager, Robert Cheng to speak on alternatives to overseeding and information on the Colorado River basin and future funding. While much of the information is what we already know, we do know there will be potential funding coming and we continue to wait to hear on the funding with the USBR WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant we applied for. While I continue to be a part of the Golf & Water Task Force with the CVWD, I will now also be a part of the smaller groups being created to allow for more communication between the CVWD and all of your courses, to hopefully allow us to partner better together.

This week we will be having a Field Day at Sun City Palm Desert on February 22nd. This will be on the NR Ryegrass Trials, followed by breakfast and updates from Dr. Jim Baird.

March 28th we will be having our Winter Education Meeting at Westin Rancho Mirage with speakers Dr. Jim Brosnan (University of Tennessee) and Kai Umeda (University of Arizona). Dr. Brosnan will be speaking on Poa Annuua and Kai Umeda on how to control summer weeds in the desert. DPR hours have been applied for. The meeting will end with lunch and golf in the afternoon on the resort's Pete Dye course. We look forward to this education meeting, as they have been few and far between due to the pandemic. Please keep an eye out for registration and get signed up early.

Save the Date, the Spring Meeting and golf will be hosted at The Springs in Rancho Mirage on May 16th. More information to come on topics.

For future events, we are in the planning stages of having our Election Meeting in June, and an Assistant's and Affiliate Tournament tentatively slated for July.

Please note, memberships were due January 1st for 2023. For anyone who has found

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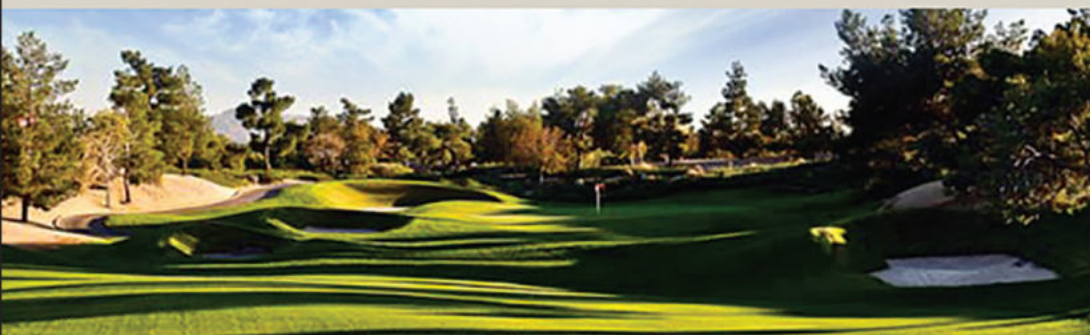
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themselves a little delayed in renewing your membership, please do so before you are lapsed and stop receiving updates from the association. Also, please make sure to check any of your outstanding invoices you may have from 2022 that may have rolled into 2023. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

I am very excited about what 2023 will bring to the Hi-Lo and I cannot end this without a huge thank you to our new 2023 Annual Sponsors. We have 20 sponsors signed up currently with our annual program and there is no way we would be able to do what we do without them. The support has been tremendous and shows how many of you are recognized as great supporters of



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our Sponsors, as well. So, thank you to all for bringing us all together and allowing us to be able to put on events, raise monies for our scholarships and for our research.

See you all soon! And as always, never hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

Molly

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Roger Compton**



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(Toscana Country Club)

CABOT ELLIS
(son of Craig Ellis, Eldorado Country Club)

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Distinguished Service Award Recipient and Lifetime Member

Roger Compton

Roger was raised in Pacific Grove on the Monterey Peninsula in the 1960s and 1970s along with two sisters and his twin brother. Roger played some golf in Pacific Grove at the beautiful 18-hole local municipal course with nine holes running along the ocean coast, known to many as the poor man's Pebble Beach.

In 1976, Roger began his golf course maintenance journey at the now closed Rancho Canada Golf Course, working weekends and whenever he possibly could. He was hired by Larry Lloyd who built and maintained the entire Club for the local golf course owner. Lloyd became the developer of the Turf Groomer that is used by Toro and other turf equipment companies. (Roger has a great story on the Groomer coming to market to share with anyone who may have interest.) After Rancho Canada, Roger went to Carmel Valley Country Club, led by Steve Carlton. It was a small crew of six or seven who became a very close bunch and had a great time together. Roger had a six-hole section he had to maintain on his own, enjoying and learning a lot, being the youngest on the crew.

In 1979, there was rumor a new course would be built in Carmel Valley. This was Roger's first dose of politics...believing the majority of residence were opposed to Carmel Valley Ranch being built, and he quickly learned it was not something he wanted to be involved with. So, Roger decided to take a different turn and found out Landmark Land Developer Company was the developer and builder and he proactively reached out to (or constantly bugged) David Pfaff (the inhouse architect, next to Pete Dye as the main architect) to see if he could be hired on to do some construction for the project. Thankfully, David was one of the nicest and talented people Roger has met and it worked and Roger was hired on at Landmark!



Distinguished Service Award Recipient and Lifetime Member

Roger Compton



Landmark is the reason for Roger being in the Coachella Valley, bringing him here in 1979. The valley wasn't quite the same in 1979, as it is today, there were only 20 golf courses and Highway 111 and Washington Street was a four way stop, but that didn't stop the young 21-year-old Roger who came to help build the Mountain Course at then named La Quinta Hotel. Maybe unknowingly but this began Roger's venture of a lifetime career in the Coachella Valley, gaining so many mentors along the way, as well as becoming involved in the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA and becoming a mentor, himself, to so many. He gained the knowledge and friendships from Jim Mercer, Carl King, Mike Mcgeehee, Jack Roesinger, Mike Mongiello, Bud Lombard, John Dixon and Terry Wilcox, along with their families, especially Tammy King who has remained a dear friend, and whom many of you know as the historian and biggest supporter of the Hi-Lo.

In 1983, Landmark purchased Mission Hills Country Club and Roger moved his way across

the valley as Jim Mercer's assistant on the 36-hole project. He then became the Golf Course Superintendent at Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort. Roger's journey with Landmark lasted 14 years. Landmark was a lot of fun for Roger, as he met so many great people and knowing all of the principals in the company were golf people made it even more enjoyable to work with.

In 1993, it was time to make a change and that he did. Roger sent his resume to Thunderbird Country Club in April and was hired in May. This was Roger's last stretch before beginning retirement and

Distinguished Service Award Recipient and Lifetime Member

Roger Compton

was at Thunderbird Country Club for 30 years. He believes Thunderbird to be the friendliest club in the valley, also to admit he had his challenges but always felt supported by so many members and colleagues, especially Pancho Ruelas and Ralph Cortez who have both been there for forty-three years, contributing to much of Roger's success over the years.

Now in retirement, Roger sets off for new adventures with his wife, Ronda, and dogs, planning trips, hiking, fishing and finding more time to relax and be with friends and family. But don't be surprised if you find him consulting one of these days, just not being able stay away from the industry he holds dear to his heart.

"I have so many memories of many people. The Superintendents and Sales professionals in our chapter have always been there to help. I remember during bad overseedings Rick Sall, Craig Shafer and Ty Broadhead crawling around looking for rye seedlings and convincing me it would be alright and then in the afternoon Cal Hardin and Bud Lombard would come and look at my situation and assure me it would work out. And of course, Ross O'Fee, who welcomed me to the neighborhood when I started at Thunderbird and he was at The Springs Club. I could call on each one of you to help me. Two other people who helped me more than they probably know is Ed Martinez at Stone Eagle, whom I worked with twelve years at Thunderbird, and Gaylord Moller, who was my assistant at Westin Pete Dye. We were young and crazy and learned a lot.

I would like to thank the Hi-Lo Desert's Golf Course Association and the Board of Directors for awarding me the Distinguished Service Award. I was surprised and shocked to receive this honor. I am proud to be part of this industry it has come a long way."

-Roger





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FROM the FIELD

Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

It was great to see so many Hi-Lo members at the recent Coachella Valley Golf Industry Water Summit at Mission Hills. Molly DuVall put together a terrific day and a special thanks to our partners at the CVWD, SCGA, SCPGA and USGA who sponsored the summit.

As we approach February, now is the time to consider donating to Rounds4Research. The 2023 auction is scheduled for April 24 – May 30. We are now accepting donations for rounds of golf (twosomes or foursomes) that will be auctioned off nationally through the BiddingForGood website. 80 percent of the funds raised from the donated rounds will go back to the chapter in which the round was solicited. The proceeds can then be used by the chapters to fund specific projects including research, education, and advocacy. As we all know, the research efforts at UC Riverside as well as the advocacy efforts of the California Alliance for Golf (CAG) are vastly underfunded and Rounds4Research is a way that our local GCSAA chapters can assist in supporting these endeavors. Facilities can donate online at <https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research/r4r-online-donation-form> and the entire process takes approximately 10 minutes. Facilities can also indicate restrictions including blackouts on times of the year or days of the week. If you are a private facility that is unable to donate a round, we also accept monetary donations for the program at <https://gcsaa-foundation.snbll.com/r4r-donor-form>. If you have any questions concerning Rounds4Research, please don't hesitate to contact me or Katie Lomshek at klomshek@gcsaa.org or 800-472-7878.

In other news, the California Legislature reconvened on Jan. 4, 2023. The last day for bills to be Introduced is Feb. 17. In addition to the outreach efforts of CAG and particularly the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA), GCSAA Government Relations Manager Michael Lee and I will be making some visits to various legislators and state departments in Sacramento this winter in an effort to better serve the golf industry in California, particularly in regard to pesticide regulation.

Our various allied golf associations in Southern California have a terrific relationship and we work closely together to serve all of the interests of our golf community both locally and at the state level. While all involved will admit we have a long way to go, we are looked at by the golf industry as a model for government relations activities, something that we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your support in 2022 and we look forward to a successful and prosperous 2023. 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 in 2023.

Jeff

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coachella valley golf & water summit recap



COACHELLA VALLEY
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Coachella Valley
Golf & Water Task Force

It was a spectacular day of golf on Ryan Coburn's Pete Dye course at Mission Hills Country Club! 68 golfers enjoyed the beautiful day, even if a little chilly, just ask Molly because she thought it was a good idea to change into shorts! What a dumb idea!

Mission Hills Country Club's food and beverage team put on a great lunch and followed it up with a great setting for the Water Summit. The room was packed with over 160 people in attendance! What a great turnout for our association!

A special THANK YOU to our speakers, Dr. Jim Baird (UC Riverside), Dr. Matteo Serena (USGA), Brian Whitlark (USGA), Peter Nelson (District Director, CVWD) and Robert Cheng (Assistant General Manager, CVWD) for presenting some needed information especially for those who were guests of our association in attendance.

A huge thank you to the SCGA, SCPGA and USGA for co-hosting with us to make this event possible and successful.

If anyone would like copies of the presentations, please reach out to Molly – molly@duvallmanagement.com / 760-397-7944.

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2nd PLACE with a score of 57 and winning the scorecard playoff

Chris Bien, Derek White, Nate Glaser and Josh Tanner

3rd PLACE with a score of 57

Max Lenz, Tim Putnam, Craig Ellis and Cabot Ellis

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

WINNERS

- Hole #3 - Nick Reyes @ 28'
- Hole #6 - Kevin Wallace @ 4'2"
- Hole #11 - Nate Glaser @ 6'10"
- Hole #17 - Derek White @ 5'10"

AND OUR LUCKY (we mean skill) EAGLE SKINS WINNERS

The put together team of Ladera Ranch, Eldorado CC and LaQuinta CC of Cabot Ellis, Max Lenz, Craig Ellis and Tim Putnam on hole #9 and our host Mission Hills CC team of Ryan Coburn, Jonas Conlan, Miguel Lopez & Edgar Mendoza on hole #14



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- Approved for turf on golf courses, sports and athletic fields.
- Delivers consistent turf quality during reduced water conditions



Practical tips

- Allow sufficient time for product to dry (up to 2 hours) - longer at temperatures under 50°F.
- Maximum turf coverage can be achieved using flat fan or air induction spray tips.
- CIVITAS TURF DEFENSE is an emulsified concentrate.

What about fungal resistance?

- CIVITAS TURF DEFENSE can be used repeatedly throughout the growing season with no known resistance issues.



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Government Affairs

IMPASSE ON THE COLORADO RIVER; WHAT TO MAKE OF IT

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

January 31 came and went without the seven (7) states that form Upper and Lower Basins of the Colorado River Compact coming to agreement on how to cede enough of their extant river allocations to meet the federal government's (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) short-term 2023-2026 requirements. When 2026 arrives, the seven (7) states are supposed to have come to agreement on permanently ceding 2-4 million-acre-feet of their current allotments. As has been the case since 1922 and for reasons having to do with California's enormous population cum agricultural sector, California has enjoyed the largest allotment.

However, January 31 did not come and go without six (6) of those states issuing what they termed a "consensus-based modeling alternative" that could serve as the framework for a negotiated settlement. Arguing that their "framework" was a good 1st step in coming to a collaborative solution, the six states (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona) proposed a model based upon an evaporation/water loss scheme that would put the largest burden upon California, according to California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, who was quoted in the Los Angeles Times as stating that *"It doesn't seem like a constructive approach for some states to fashion a proposal that only impacts the water security and rights of another state that's not part of that proposal."*

Go figure. Wade Crowfoot thinks that a "consensus" that vitiates the Law of the River and all past agreements to the detriment of the holder of the most senior rights and privileges without including the holder (California) in said "consensus" isn't much of a consensus. He is hardly alone. Metropolitan Water District (MWD) General Manager Adel Hagekhalil was quoted in the Los Angeles Times as follows:

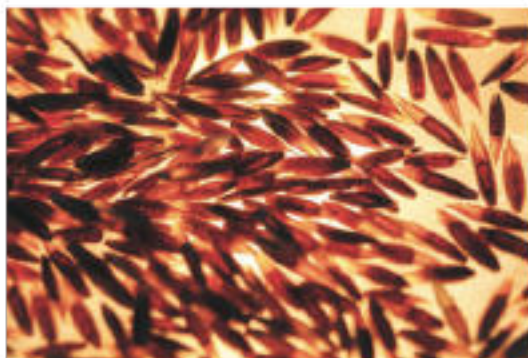
“We must do it (reduce allocation) in a way that does not harm half the people who rely on the river – the 19 million people of Southern California. We must do it in a way that does not devastate our \$1.6 trillion economy, an economic engine for the entire United States. We must do it in a way that can be quickly implemented, adding water to Lake Mead and Powell without getting mired in lengthy legal battles.”

Mr. Hagekhalil sounds a lot like the golf community in our entreaties to various water providers and policymakers. We’ll get this done. We’ll get this done quickly. We’ll get this done while fully meeting the ostensible goal of the action, in MWD’s case doing what’s necessary to add the water to Lake Mead and Lake Powell necessary to keep both well above dead pool status. In golf’s case, doing what’s necessary in the short term to meet emergency restrictions and in the long-term what’s necessary to reduce water footprints more permanently.

And this why January 31 did not come and go without that largest stakeholder (California) issuing its own proposal in a letter to the federal government from newly elected California Colorado River Board Chair JB Hamby of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) – a proposal Hamby characterized in his letter as providing *“a realistic and implementable framework to address reduced inflows and declining reservoir elevations by building on voluntary agreements and past collaborative efforts in order to minimize the risk of legal challenge or implementation delay.”*

The letter makes clear that California has no intention of deviating from its strong legal position, going so far as to suggest that should the seven states not be able to come to a “consensus” that would include California, everything under American law and all past agreements require that the whole matter default to the “Law of the River,” which would guarantee California’s right to require that all others, including the State of Arizona, perform surgery on their allotments before California would be required to make any cuts.

One is tempted to suggest, let the posturing begin! And that really is the best way to interpret what happened this week. The parties are positioning themselves for the coming negotiations – the 1st round of which involves the immediate cuts necessary to keep Lakes Mead and Powell above dead pool status with a 2nd round commencing immediately thereafter in which the seven states perform the voluntary givebacks that have characterized past practice in the Compact, the most recent of which was the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement in which, as Hamby’s letter to the Bureau of Reclamation makes vividly clear, *California “was able to find ways to develop and implement intrastate agreements to drastically reduce water use and live within the state’s limited Colorado River water supply.”*



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IMPASSE ON THE COLORADO RIVER; WHAT TO MAKE OF IT *cont.*

Specifically, California permanently reduced its Colorado River water use by 800,000 acre-feet per year through various water management programs that turned out to be the largest agricultural-to-urban water conservation and transfer agreement in American history, something Hamby's letter suggested Arizona might consider. Or as Hamby's letter more caustically put it: *"Just as the State of California was able to find ways to develop and implement intrastate agreements to drastically reduce water use and live within the state's limited Colorado River water supply, so too may the State of Arizona be required to make similar arrangements to live within its available Colorado River water supplies."*

What to make of all this?

The Sierra snowpack may be the deepest in 40 years, a full 128% of its April 1 average if it snows not one flake more the rest of the winter, and that has brought substantial relief to the state's depleted reservoirs with the promise of much more when the snowpack melts. It has allowed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase its state water project allocation from 5% to 30%. However, that won't change anything in the Colorado Basin, where the last 25 years have been the driest in more than 1,200 years. Nothing about all the posturing and positioning alters that reality. Cuts are coming, both temporary and after 2026 permanent. The precise nature of them may not yet be known, but they're coming.

That's what the Coachella Valley golf community should make of all this. And that's exactly what a small contingent of the CV Golf & Water Task Force is working with CVWD to get out in front of right now.



The advertisement features a circular logo for Columbia River Seed. The logo contains a stylized globe with a blue and yellow color scheme, surrounded by the text "COLUMBIA RIVER SEED" at the top and "LOCALLY GROWN, GLOBALLY SOWN" at the bottom. The background of the ad is a photograph of a lush green golf course with several palm trees in the foreground and snow-capped mountains in the distance under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in white and yellow.

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ASSISTANT SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with

TYLER EISENFELD

Indian Wells Golf Resort, Superintendent, Class B

Q: Where are you from?

A: *I was born in Tucson, AZ, but moved to the desert from Phoenix, AZ*

Q: How long have you been at Indian Wells Golf Resort?

A: *I've been in the Valley and at IWGR since October 2022*

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

A: *I got my Bachelor's Degree from the University of Arizona in Crop Production with an emphasis in Turfgrass Management*

Q: Who have been your mentors?

A: *Cr Salisbury – Head Groundskeeper for the Colorado Rockies Spring Training facility and Nick Leitner – Director of Agronomy at Indian Wells Golf Resort*

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

A: *I have been playing golf since I was 13 years old and played competitively in high school. My handicap is between a 7 and 8.*

Q: What is your favorite course?

A: *Chaparral Pines in Payson, AZ*

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: *A couple of my hobbies consist of golfing, trying new foods with my fiancé and traveling.*



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

A: ***The most important aspect of my job is making sure the playing surface is at the highest level of playability along with making sure my team puts out the best product possible.***

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

A: ***Make sure to get your name out there and learn as much as you can. Utilize fellow superintendents for any questions and support.***

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: ***My favorite part of my job is seeing my product being played on every day. I also like seeing courses from a golfer's perspective to see what I can improve with my team.***

Q: What are your goals in the industry?

A: ***My biggest goal is to further my knowledge in the turf world and become a Director of Agronomy.***

Q: What is the hardest part of your job?

A: ***One of the hardest things for me is the language barrier. Making sure everyone is seeing the final product from a golfer's perspective is also something that takes time to adapt to.***

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

A: ***Make sure you read every pesticide and fertilizer label thoroughly and understand what you are reading to avoid any mistakes.***



Hi-Lo Desert Chapter



GCSAA

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Wednesday, February 22nd

Mountain Vista Golf Club @ Sun City Palm Desert

WINTER EDUCATION MEETING with GOLF

Tuesday, March 28th

Westin Rancho Mirage Resort

SPRING MEETING with GOLF

Tuesday, May 16th

The Springs

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