

TeeOff News

First Quarter 2022



Dragon Fly Golf Club

April 4, 2022

Central California Chapter

GCSAA



President's Message *Glenn Matthews, CGCS*



Glenn Matthews, CGCS

Greetings,

In my last message I made an appeal for help and the request was dutifully answered. Our association was in search of a much needed infusion of new blood for our board of directors. At our annual meeting, at Valley Oaks Golf Course, elections were

held and 4 new board

members were elected to fill vacancies. Allow me to welcome and introduce the new members of your Central California GCSA board of directors.



Josh Heptig, a veteran Central California board member and past president, returns to the board after a brief hiatus. Josh is the Director of Golf Operations for the County of San Luis Obispo and oversees its three golf courses, Morro Bay, Dairy Creek, and Chalk Mountain. He has been in his current role since 2008.

His wife Christiane is a professor in the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Together they have two young daughters who share his passion for golf.

Kevin Wiles is veteran superintendent in the Central Valley. He is the current golf course superintendent at



Riverside Golf Course in Fresno, but has served time at San Joaquin Country Club and Dragon Fly Golf Club. Before coming to California Kevin was a superintendent in North Carolina.

Todd Najac is relatively new to the Central California chapter. He has been the superintendent at Dragon Fly Golf Club, in Fresno, since 2019. Before coming to the Valley Todd was an assistant superintendent with Vail Resorts in Colorado for many years.



Dave Goodrich is our new affiliate representative on the board. He has been a product manager for Nutrien's west region the past 16 years. All told David has been involved in the ag/turf and ornamental chemical side of the business for over 40 years. Much of his work experience was with Simplot, Western Farm Service, and CPS before Nutrien. He has 4 grown children and in his spare time enjoys regular travel and gardening. Apparently he has the best looking lawn in his neighborhood.

Can't wait to see you all at an upcoming meeting!

Glenn Matthews, CGCS

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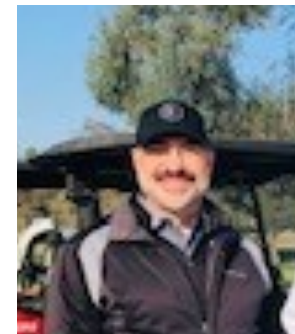
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Executive Directors Kimberly Milne
Newsletter Editor Michael Scott, CGCS

2022 Board of Directors



Our annual elections were in January at Valley Oaks G.C. in Visalia. Hosted by Superintendent Mike Prouty. In addition to the new board members highlighted in the President’s Message we have existing board members that have chosen to continue their terms. Those individuals include Michael Prouty from Valley Oaks G.C. pictured at left. Mike was appointed mid year 2021 to the board after our Secretary Treasurer, Mark Weitz left to pursue other interests.



Rob Lomeli , Ridge Creek G.C. in Dinuba has serviced on the board since 2019 and has agreed to continue on in his service to the membership.

Andy Cordova, Blacklake G.C./Avila Beach Resorts, pictured at left. Andy is returning to the board to take on the Secretary Treasurer position after serving as Past President for the past two years.



Jose Alvarez, Superintendent at Fort Washington C.C. assumed the duties of VP for the association. Jose joined the board in 2019 serving as board member and then Secretary Treasurer. Jose is pictured below.



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From the Field Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region



Jeff Jensen

Thank you to all the GCSAA members, exhibitors and partners who joined us in San Diego for the 2022 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show and Golf Championships. After going virtual in 2021, it was great to see so many familiar faces around the city and convention center enjoying the opportunity to learn and network with their peers.

In addition to all the great education and products on the show floor, there were a lot of highlights throughout the week in San Diego including the election of GCSAA's Board of Directors. California's own Kevin Breen, CGCS, was elected the 86th President of GCSAA. Kevin serves as the Superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos. Kevin Sunderman, CGCS, will serve as Vice President with Jeff White, CGCS, being elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Doug Dykstra, CGCS, and Marc Weston, CGCS, were both re-elected to the board and were joined by the newly elected Steve Hammond of Traverse City Country Club in Michigan.

The GCSAA dues adjustment passed overwhelmingly with over 96 percent voting in favor of the adjustment which is based on CPI. Dues for Class A & B will now be \$430 with Class C members at \$220.

The entire outcome of the meeting including voting results can be viewed at <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/annual-meeting/2022/2022-annual-meeting-results>.

The GCSAA Golf Championships were held Feb. 5-7 at San Diego area golf facilities including Bernardo Heights Country Club, Encinitas Ranch Golf Club, Singing Hills Golf Resort and Torrey Pines. 400 players turned out to support the championships with Seth Strickland of Miami Shores Country Club (Fla.) winning his fifth GCSAA National Championship recording a two-day score of 5-over-par 149. Low Californian was Mike Stieler of Spring Creek Golf & Country Club in Ripon tying for fourth at 9-over-par 153.

While this year's show may have been smaller than in the past, it certainly didn't lack content and a lot of excitement, and we truly appreciate the support of our members, vendors, partners, and sponsors who make it a success. It's a step in the right direction and I hope it encourages you to consider attending some of the upcoming chapter events that your local chapter will be hosting.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and make sure to visit my regional website at <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/southwest> to keep up on the latest happenings in the region. Hope you all have a great Spring golf season!



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Newsletter Chairman & Newsletter Editor Michael Scott, CGCS

Executive Directors Kimberly Milne

Welcome
New Members

Elliott Weber
Alisal Ranch Resort
Class A

Landon White
Copper River C.C.
Class A

Paul Leshinsky,
Class C
San Joaquin C.C.

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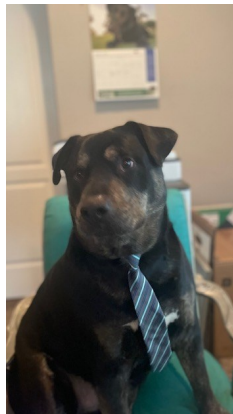
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Golf Course Dog Profile "Zoey"

Blacklake G. C./Avila Beach Resort by Hank Milne



Good Day to all of my fellow working dogs and their handlers. I'd like to take an opportunity to introduce myself. I am your loyal Association Manager, Hank. I live with my family Kim, Taylor, Alex and Liam. They have been my family since they adopted me 2 years ago. I have been diligently learning the ropes of daily office work, guarding the house, and keeping the yard free of birds. I cant wait to meet all of my golf course dog members, and to learn about your daily lives.

In todays issue I had the pleasure of interviewing Zoey Cordova.

Good Afternoon Zoey: Please state you Name, Age, Breed, Facility, and Occupation
Zoey, 11, Weimaraner, Blacklake/Avila Beach, semi-retired coot and lizard chaser and people greeter.

1. Name the members of your family that live in your home. **- Dad (Andy), Mom (Sarah the softie), the little boy who's my best friend (Theo), brother (Clyde - dog)**

Hank "The Tank"

2. What are your hobbies outside of work? **Sleep, relax, sleep, relax, play with brother if I feel like it, chase some lizards (if I feel like it), play with the boy (if I feel like it)...mostly sleep and relax.**

3. On a scale of 1-10, how lucky are you? Please elaborate. **- I feel like I am the luckiest dog in the world, so a 10. In my younger years I was able to go to work with dad and chase birds and lizards and whatever else tried to run from me. I would run until I was tired then I would take a nap and maybe greet some really nice people. Sometimes the chef would even have cheese or other special treats waiting for me when I went to visit her while working. I had to follow strict rules (I couldn't chase the little white ball, even though I really wanted to) but I like rules, it keeps me focused.**

4. After a bad day at work, what makes you feel better? **- A good nap! That always fixes everything**

5. What's your favorite treat or cheat meal? **- Cheese. But really anything that isn't my normal food (especially when Theo sneaks it to me from the table). Everything tastes good even though it doesn't agree with me...its ok because it's worth it.**

6. What are some of your nicknames? **Most people call me Zo. I know I'm in trouble though when dad or mom call me ZOEY.**

7. What is your biggest vice?
- Pretending that I can't hear when it's time to get out of bed in the morning on my days off.

8. What 3 words would someone use to describe you?
- goofy, sweet, stubborn

9. At what age did you start working? **- 10 months**

10. If you had a favorite quote, or one to describe you, what would it be. **- "I'm not stubborn, my way is just better than yours"**

11. What's your most embarrassing moment? **- Once I was running and playing with my Dad, Mom and friends and forgot about the 4 foot drop off so instead of jumping off of it I awkwardly fell and rolled a couple of times. Everyone laughed at me and I was so embarrassed that I buried my head in shame but looking back it was pretty funny and I would have laughed too.**

It has been such a pleasure to interview Zoey. If you have a golf course dog that you would like to have interviewed by me, Hank, please reach out to Kim at the association office.



GCSAA Updates for California GCSA Members

From Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Representative

I hope this finds all of our California GCSA members and families doing well and getting ready for a great Spring golf season.

A couple of reminders concerning some GCSAA initiatives and programs that I hope you will consider participating in:

The annual GCSAA Rounds 4 Research Program is scheduled for April 25 – May 1. Rounds 4 Research allows participating chapters to raise funds for turfgrass research, education, and advocacy. California courses can donate a twosome or foursome and 80 percent of the funds raised in the auction go back to the chapter in which the rounds were solicited. The remaining 20 percent goes to cover the costs of the auction. It only takes a few minutes to donate online, and courses can stipulate blackout dates and times as needed. Donations can be made at <https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research>. Additional information including marketing materials is also available on the webpage to help you promote the auction to golfers. For those wishing to view the auction and who is participating, please visit <https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?vhost=rounds4research>. Donations will be accepted through the end of the auction.

BMP Best Management Practices



members, and you can easily create a facility specific BMP that highlights the sustainability efforts and day to day management practices at your facility. The guide can be downloaded and printed in a PDF or Word format to share with your golfers, board members, community, and local/state policymakers. At the time of this article, 81 California golf courses have adopted the guide with an overall goal of approximately 370 courses participating. The BMP facility tool can be accessed at <https://www.gcsaa.org/environment/bmp-planning-guide>. There is a series of twelve brief How-To videos that will assist with your adoption as well as a variety of state webinars that have been hosted on adoption including two that are specific to California. BMP adoption is critical to our industry as we continue to face challenges with water use, nutrient and pesticide use and our use of open space.

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 make sure to follow me on Twitter [@GCSAA_SW](https://twitter.com/GCSAA_SW) for industry updates. I hope to see all of you soon at some of the great upcoming chapter events taking place throughout the state.

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In Memory *Robert "Bob" Dalton*



Visalia - Robert "Bob" Dalton was a native of the Central Valley. He was born in Bakersfield, Ca. in 1950 and grew up and resided in Visalia, Ca. until he passed on November 20th, 2021. He was an alumnus of Mt. Whitney High School, College of the Sequoias, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

He spent his career in the golf industry, first as a greens superintendent at a number of golf courses including: Sherwood Forest, Visalia Country Club, Castlewood Country Club, and Kings Country Club, then as an equipment salesman for Toro/Turf Star. He was a highly creative and active person who enjoyed woodworking, landscaping, and cycling. Bob was a big man that had an equally big personality. He was such an approachable figure who loved getting lost in conversation and story-telling.

Bob was an active member of our association for more than 30 years. He served as a board member and as President of the association from 1986-1987. Our hearts are saddened by this news and he will be greatly missed by all of those that knew him .

Bob is survived by his high school sweetheart of 50 years, Mary Ellen Dalton, his daughter Kellie Holley, son Robert Dalton Jr. and his 4 grandchildren.

A private celebration of life service is held on 2/27 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Visalia. In lieu of sending flowers the family encourages donations to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Heart Association in Robert Dalton's name.



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La Rinconada Country Club
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2022 GIS Highlights



Above is Jose Alvarez, Glenn Matthews, and Michael Prouty.

The California GCSA hosted approximately 400 members during the Hospitality Night Event held on the USS Midway during the GIS in San Diego. A Big THANK YOU to Turf Star as the Premier Sponsor for the event. Thank you to all that supported the event. For a full list of sponsors go to CaliforniaGCSA.org. Remember to support those that support us.



Pictured below are Jim & Kathy Culley



We want to congratulate Kevin Breen, CGCS, was elected as President of the GCSAA Board of Directors at the association's annual meeting at GIS in San Diego this year.

Kevin has served as the superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, Calif., since 2011. Prior to that, he served as the director of maintenance at Lahontan Golf Club in Truckee, Calif., and as the superintendent at Los Alamos (N.M.) Golf. Kevin has served on the Environmental Programs, Nominating, Research Proposal Review and Strategic Communications committees, as well as the Board Policy Oversight and Competency task groups.

Kevin is a member and past president of both the Sierra Nevada GCSA and the California GCSA. He has also previously served as a superintendent representative on the California Alliance for Golf and the Nevada Golf Industry Alliance.

VALLEY OAKS GOLF COURSE JANUARY ANNUAL MEETING

Pictured below is the Rob Lomeli, Salvador Gonzales, and Ricardo Gonzales,



Above the new board poses for a photo op. Todd Najac, Glenn Matthews, CGCS, Michael Prouty, Rob Lomeli, Kevin Wiles, and Jose Alvarez

Below is Jose Alvarez and Brian Rios share a story



Above Mike Farnen and Gavin Diskson prepare for a day of golf.



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Jose Alvarez took on the crazy challenge of ABC's "Holey Moley"



Superintendent Jose Alvarez on ABC's "Holey Moley," a mini-golf competition featuring NBA star Stephen Curry as resident golf pro. The series, which attracted 3.7 million viewers for its Season 3 premiere in June, is filmed at Sable Ranch in Santa Clarita, Calif., previously the site of the obstacle course show "Wipeout." Photo courtesy of ABC/Christopher Willard

We all know Jose Alvarez as a mild mannered gentleman that is hard working and fun to be around. What we didn't know was just how fun!!!

Jose became a national legend when he tried out and was chosen to be a game show contestant, on ABC's "Holey Moley," which aired the final episode of its third season last September. As if that wasn't enough for this celebrity association VP he was featured in a GCM Magazine article this last November.

Jose says "What an experience. Crazy fun," He was sworn to secrecy to keep the outcome of the show to himself until it aired. Jose didn't win but did make it to the finals and gave it a great effort.

Jose Alvarez Continued



Alvarez attempting the Corn Hole and the Fishing Hole on the quirky (and perilous) "Holey Moley" golf tract. Photos courtesy of ABC/Christopher Willard



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