

TeeOff News

First Quarter 2024



Monarch Dunes–
Challenge Course



President's Message *Andy Cordova*



As I sit down to write this presidents message, we are already two months into the new year. Although not as wet as last year, we've still had a winter with a significant amount of rainfall. It has also been warmer than usual which has brought on a new set of challenges for superintendents. Hopefully, as we move towards the latter part of winter we can get back in the groove and it will be business as usual.

As a chapter, we are looking to continue the momentum we carried over from last year with our annual election meeting in January at Visalia Country Club hosted by superintendent Dominic Peluso. We had one of the best attended election meetings that we have had in quite some time. It was exciting to see the familiar faces that we don't get to see as often as we would like, as well as many new members of the chapter. Everyone was able to review what the chapter accomplished in 2023 and how we are looking to continue that positive energy in 2024. At the national level, Jeff Jensen, our GCSAA representative, gave us an update on the state of the GCSAA as well as some new regulations coming down the pipeline.

On the golf course, Dominic and his teams had everything in exceptional shape and even scheduled some amazing weather for us. Visalia CC has always been such a gracious host to our events and they went above and beyond to make this one exceptional. Thank you to Visalia CC and to everyone who came out to show support.

As we start this year, we had little change up and turnover on our chapter's board of directors. First off, I want to thank Elliot Weber for stepping up and taking the Secretary/Treasurer position. He has been a valuable member of our board since coming on and his services are greatly appreciated. I also would like to thank Craig Johnson for his service to the board this past year, serving as one of the affiliate representatives. His dedication and input was crucial to our success in 2023. Thank you Craig!

As we say goodbye to Craig, we would like to welcome David Avila, from Harrell's, as the new affiliate representative. David has been very involved with chapter events since starting with Harrell's and his enthusiasm and new ideas will be a welcome addition. Thank you David for supporting the association and joining the Board of Directors.

As we look forward into the remainder of 2024, we hope all of our members will be able to attend at least one of our events, if not more. The board works hard to schedule association events that will bring value and enjoyment to break up our busy work schedules. Our next event, The Al Glaze, at Monarch Dunes Challenge course on May 13th is set to bring a great day of golf in a different format than usual. The 12-hole, par three course lends itself to many hole-in-one opportunities, prizes, and sponsorships. Since it is a smaller venue, space will be limited so be sure to sign up when you get the notice. I hope everyone has a good aerification season and I look forward to seeing everyone out at Monarch Dunes.

Andy Cordova

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Round 4 Research

April 22-28, 2024

Welcome to Rounds 4 Research, an innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. The premise is simple: Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four or "stay and play" packages and other items that are auctioned online.

Whether you are an organization looking to solicit rounds or a golfer looking for the opportunity to support research while enjoying the sport you love, Rounds 4 Research provides a way for all aspects of the game to come together to ensure its future.

Why R4R matters

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners with the vast majority of proceeds going back to those organizations. In this way, these organizations can direct the proceeds to specific projects that will have the most significant impact in their local areas.

The Rounds 4 Research program is addressing a critical shortage of funding for ongoing, university-based agronomic research, education, advocacy programs and course operations. You can help foster sustainability with a donation or by bidding on rounds during the online auction.

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



Jeff Jensen

Thank you to all the Sierra Nevada and Central California GCSA members that attended the GCSAA Conference and Show in Phoenix. Your support created an extraordinarily successful show that will assist in moving the association and industry forward.

The show drew 11,000 attendees spanning 352,000 square-feet of exhibit space and 470 vendors (which marked a complete sell-out of show space). Over 6,600 education seats were sold for the event, the highest since 2008.

While there was too much going on to cover in this column, a few highlights stood out that I wanted to share:

Jeff White, CGCS at Indian Hills Country Club in Mission Hills, KS., was elected

President of GCSAA. T.A. Barker, CGCS was elected Vice President Paul Carter, CGCS, was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Incumbents Doug Dykstra, CGCS, and Marc Weston, CGCS, were re-elected to the board and Greg Jones, CGCS, MG, was elected a new board member.

Mike Hoffman, retired Chairmen and CEO of the Toro Company donated \$1 million to GCSAA's First Green Program. The Mike and Tami Hoffman "STEAM Ahead" Initiative will fund the addition of arts to First Green, which will elevate it from a STEM curriculum to a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) curriculum.

The Cal Poly Pomona Turf Team finished ninth in the annual Turf Bowl. 63 teams participated in the event.

Congrats to the Cal Poly students and advisor Brian Fuentes for the top-10 finish.

Seth Strickland, Superintendent at Miami Beach Golf Club won the GCSAA National Golf Championship posting a two-day total of 6-under par 138. It marked the sixth time that Strickland has captured the championship. The GCSAA Golf Championships had 638 competitors split up over three 36-hole facilities in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area.

CBS Sports golf reporter Dottie Pepper received the annual Old Tom Morris Award. The award is presented to an individual who, through an enduring lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped shape the welfare of the game. See a great clip from Jim Nantz discussing the award with Dottie at <https://x.com/GolfonCBS/status/1753929933074641391?s=20>

We appreciate your continued support of the GCSAA Conference and Show and Golf Championships. We look forward to heading back to San Diego in 2025 and we have some wonderful things in store including golf at Torrey Pines!

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter at GCSAA_SW for industry updates.



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TEE-OFF News

Superintendent Profile

Dominic Peluso– Visalia Country Club

This Quarter we had the chance to catch up with a relatively new member of the Central California Chapter, Superintendent Dominic Peluso.

Hey Dominic! We appreciate you taking some time out of your day to answer these questions!

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. Born in Scotland but most of my life grew up in Hanford, CA.

Q. How did your interest grow for the golf course industry?

A. Playing baseball and taking care the fields after the games and practices. I wanted more of a challenge so I decided to try golf, plus I pitched in college and could swing a bat so I picked up golf pretty easily.

Q. Where did you go to school and what was your major?

A. In Western Pennsylvania, Westmorland County Community College. That is where I got an AA degree in Turf Management, and Landscape Design.

Q. What was your first paying job in the industry?

A. I cant remember what I got paid, somewhere from 8-10 dollars/hour, but it was in Johnstown, PA. at Sunnehanna CC. The cost of living over there is significantly cheaper than California.

Q. Where were you at before coming to Visalia CC?

A. Morgantown, West Virginia. Pikewood National Golf Club

Q. What part of your job excites you everyday?

A. Every day there is always a new challenge.

Q. What tool/s do you need to have everyday to make your job easier?

A. My Leatherman is used the most fixing ball marks. I think have a strong, well trained staff and that is what makes my job easier.

Q. What hobbies or hidden talents do you have?

A. Any chance I can, I'll be on the lake, wake boarding, and in wintertime I'll be snowboarding. I enjoy golfing when I have time as well.

Q. What does your perfect day look like?

A. Relaxing out by the pool, drinking a few beverages.

Q. What is one dream vacation destination?

A. Bora Bora

Q. What is your favorite food or meal?

A. Lasagna

Q. What music do you enjoy listening to?

A. Rock, Alternative, Country

Q. What sports do you enjoy watching? Favorite teams?

A. Baseball – Giants Football – 49ers and College-- Pitt

Q. If you could give your younger self some advice, what would that be?

A. Travel more and enjoy life while you are still young.

Q. If you weren't working in the golf industry, what would you have liked to do?

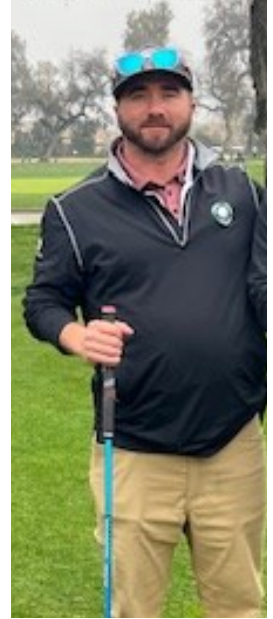
A. Probably coach baseball

Q. What advice would you give to someone wanting to get into the golf industry?

A. Head down, pay attention, Work hard, be patient good things will happen.

Thank you Dom for taking this time. We look forward to seeing you at our next chapter event.

-David Avila



David Avila

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Mechanic Seminar Copper River Country Club

The First Annual Mechanic Seminar took place this month at Copper River Country Club. We had over 20 Superintendents and mechanics in attendance for this event and are already planning ways to improve on this for 2025. We want to “Thank” everyone who attended, our Sponsors, and our meeting speakers for putting together a great program.



Above left, Host Superintendent Landon White with meeting sponsor Kevin Eppich

Above middle, Kevin Eppich and meeting speaker Eli Espino from Turf Star, and speaker Steve Pence with TORO.

Left, Steve Pence discussing electrifying your shop

Right– GCSACC Past President Glen Matthews with meeting sponsor Pete Bowman.

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**California Room
2024 Golf Industry Show
Phoenix, AZ. –Blanco Cantina**

The 2024 California Room in Phoenix AZ. Was a huge success. The show was the largest that we have seen Post Covid, and the California Room was a great example of those larger numbers. With over 400 California members in Attendance, the Blanco Cantina put out a wonderful spread for those who made it. Dinner, drinks, and conversation were in no short supply. The California Board of Directors “Thanks” all of the event sponsors, and we are looking forward to seeing all of you next year in San Diego.



Above , GCSA CEO Rhett Evans, and GCSA Past President Kevin Breen (A California Boy)



Above, CJ Boon with Brown Sand, and the Events Premier Sponsors.



Above, some of the wonderful GCSA Staff members who graciously attended the event.



GCSACC Affiliate Rep, Dean Kinney with fellow Sierra Pacific colleague Kelly Kerr, and SNGCSA President, Muhammad Ali



Belcorp representatives in attendance, Matt Graves, Kyle Teubert, Ryan O'Connor, and Jim Sherman



Association manager Kim Milne, and Past President Glen Matthews

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Safety Moment:

WORKPLACE CONCUSSIONS: IDENTIFY, RESPOND AND PREVENT

Concussions can happen to anyone, not just athletes. Employees working at heights, cooks in a kitchen, and drivers may be exposed to risks of head injury. Immediate medical attention is required after any head injury.

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of mild traumatic brain injury—or TBI—caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. This sudden movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging brain cells. The most common causes of workplace brain injuries are falls, being struck by or against an object, and motor vehicle collisions.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

A concussion may or may not involve a loss of consciousness. You do not have to black out or be knocked out to experience a concussion.

SOME COMMON DANGER SIGNS* AND SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Drowsiness* | Different sized pupils* | Convulsions or seizures* |
| Trouble recognizing people or places* | Confusion, restlessness, or agitation* | |
| Unusual behavior | Loss of consciousness | Headache (or sense of pressure in your head) |
| Nausea or vomiting | Dizziness | Seeing stars or lights |
| Blurred or double vision | Slurred speech | Balance problems |
| Sensitivity to light and/or noise | | |

Symptoms may not appear right away and may not be noticed for days or months after the injury. It is important to monitor the person for symptoms following a head injury.

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot that crowds the brain against the skull can develop.

RESPONDING TO A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION

Immediate medical attention is required after any head injury. Even if the person shows no symptoms or any of the danger signs, they must:

- Stop work
- Tell their supervisor
- Get immediate medical attention

Supervisors must ensure that employees know that head injuries can be very serious and require immediate medical attention.

Employees recovering from a concussion must follow their medical provider’s instructions. Restrictions may include avoiding activities that are mentally and/or physically demanding, driving and operating heavy machinery.

HOW CAN CONCUSSIONS BE PREVENTED?

Supervisors, managers, and employees can help to reduce the risk of falls, falling objects, and bumps to the head, and ensure that proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and used.

- Remove tripping hazards. Make sure walkways and work spaces are free of clutter, cords, puddles of liquid, or anything else that can cause a slip, trip or fall.
- Regularly conduct inspections relevant to the workplace.
- Use signage to alert employees of:
 - *Wet or slippery surfaces
 - *Low overhangs/overhead clearance
 - *Secured temporary floor covers
- Wear safety footwear to prevent falls if you work in slippery or rough areas.
- Clean and organize shelves, storage areas and workspaces to avoid falling objects.
- Do not stand on chairs, desks or tables.
- In storage areas, do not climb on shelves; place the heaviest objects on the floor or the lowest level
- Use caution when working at heights.

New Members

Annual Meeting Visalia CC

Justin Tracy
California Landscape Supply
Class Affiliate

Juan Banda-
The Links at Riverlakes
Class B

Cesar Martin
Omya
Class Affiliate



2024 Board of Directors– Affiliate Rep. David Avila, President Andy Cordova, Sec./ Treasurer Elliot Weber, Director Landon White and Mike Prouty, Past President Glen Matthews, Affiliate Rep. Dean Kinney



Andy Cordova delivering our Annual Report before Golf



Landon White, Host Dominic Peluso, and Dean Kinney with guest



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Save The Dates

2024

May 13
Al Glaze
Monarch Dunes -Challenge Course

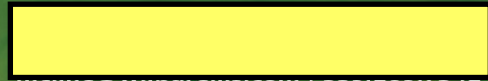
August 12
Tri-Chapter Tournament
Woodbridge Golf & CC

October
Charity Tournament
TBD

December 7
Holiday Event
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VENDOR PROFILE

Craig Johnson– Nutrien

Q: Where did you go to school and what was you major?

A.: Cal Poly, SLO; Environmental Horticulture

Q: Where did your first golf course career start? What were you doing?

A: Internships: Del Rio CC (1996); Sierra Nevada GC (1997), Assistant Superintendent: Sunnyside CC (1998)

Q: What part of your job excites you every day?

A: I like seeing Superintendents happy. When they are happy, things are going well. I like brainstorming ideas that change perspectives.

Q: What is trick of the trade you know now, that you wish you knew a few years ago?

A: Be a people person, a friendly smile goes a long way.

Q: What hobbies or hidden talents do you have?

A: I love to golf, ski/snowboard and I love to cook. I have cooked since I was a kid.

Q: What's your retirement dream look like?

A: Make my wife happy. Hopefully be near my kids and their families, be an awesome grandpa. I'd love to shoot my age in golf one day.

Q: What is your favorite food or meal?

A: Good Mexican food is tough to beat.

Q: What sports do you enjoy watching? Favorite teams?

A: Golf Football- LA Rams Baseball- Anaheim Angels Basketball- LA Lakers

Q: If you could've given yourself some advice when you were starting in the industry, what would it be?

A: Don't stress the small stuff & find some time for yourself.

Q: If you weren't working in the golf industry, what would you have liked to do?

A: I'd be a chef. I wanted to start my own food truck for years, but talked myself out of it. When I think about it, the hours and stress might be worse than our business.

Q: What was the biggest transition for you switching sides of the desk?

A: Not having to be somewhere specific every day. Now I spend a lot of my time driving the California highways. I still wake up at 4:30 AM every day. No alarm clock needed.

Q: What do you miss most about the Golf Course Superintendent role?

A: I appreciate the superintendent's role to prepare a surface to play a sport on. I love tournament prep. It gave me an excuse to push boundaries. Every so often, when it all comes together you find that moment of pride. I miss that. I love when my golf course could stand tall and silence the critics.



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