

TeeOff News

Second Quarter 2024



Monarch Dunes Golf Course—
Host of the 2024 AI Glaze



President's Message *Andy Cordova*



As summer approaches and the U.S. Open returns to Pinehurst No. 2 this year, here's a trivia question: How many of the 123 U.S. Opens, including this year, have been hosted at Pinehurst No. 2? The answer is at the end of this message.

Moving on from U.S. Open caliber golf, our annual Scholarship Tournament was held in May at the Monarch Dune Challenge Course. We had a fantastic turnout, and the change of venue was well received, featuring games on every hole and a shorter playtime. A big thank you to our vendors for their amazing support. The golf course was in excellent shape, thanks to Herminio Plata and his team. Seeing the course evolve and fulfill the vision set from the beginning has been wonderful.

This year, we proudly awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to Bayley Weber, daughter of current board member Elliot Weber. Bayley's impressive achievements in both academics and athletics made her the perfect candidate. Congratulations, Bayley! Thank you to everyone who came out to support our chapter and our ongoing efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students, whether in the turf field or as sons and daughters of our chapter members.

As we enter the second half of the year, we have three exciting events lined up. In August, the Sierra Nevada chapter will host the Tri-Chapter event at Woodbridge Country Club, in Lodi. While it's a bit of a drive, the course is beautiful, and it's always a pleasure to connect with members from other chapters. On October 21st, the Charities Tournament will be held at Eagle Springs, hosted by Superintendent Mike Best. Come out, enjoy some golf, and support our local charities. We will close the year with our annual Christmas party at Windows on the Water in Morro Bay. This event, held on the first Saturday of December, coincides with the local lighted boat parade. The venue is stunning, and the company is delightful, making it an event not to be missed. Be sure to book your hotel room early, as the boat parade attracts many visitors and rooms fill up quickly.

Good luck to everyone this summer, especially the Superintendents in the valley. I hope to see you at one of our final three events. And to answer the opening question: Pinehurst No. 2 has hosted the U.S. Open four times, in 1999, 2005, 2014, and this year, 2024.

-Andy Cordova

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Save the Date! August 12, 2024

Tri-Chapter Tournament, Hosted by the Sierra Nevada GCSA at Woodbridge CC in Lodi, Ca.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming event, on August 12, 2024. The Central Chapter has a title to defend from last years Tri-Chapter Cup, in Morro Bay.

Notices for this event will be sent out shortly and we look forward to seeing you all there.

-GCSACC Board of Directors



Gavin Dickson
gavin@grassrootsturfsupply.com
 Mobile: (831) 333-6839



Ken Mauser
 Territory Manager & Agronomist,
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☎ 1-805-402-4863
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From the Field *Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region*



I hope this finds you all doing well! I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming chapter events.

GCSAA just finalized the 2024 Rounds 4 Research Auction that was conducted April 22-28. The auction raised a record \$679,541 which marked an increase of \$154,000 over 2023. 1,731 items (foursomes in most cases) were secured for the auction and 1,671 or 97 percent, were sold.

Just over 3,000 bidders registered for the auction and 2,161 bid on items valued at \$843,000. The auction was promoted through numerous media outlets in hourly spots on The Golf Channel as well as assistance from our allied golf partners including the PGA of America, PGA TOUR, and United States Golf Association.

California donated a record amount of rounds for the state (85 foursomes) with 80 percent of those funds going back to the chapter in which they were solicited. The funds can be used for research, education, or advocacy.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the 2024 auction. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better one next year. More information on the program is available at <https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research>.

In other news, the second annual GCSAA Women’s Leadership Academy has been scheduled for November 12-14 in Lawrence, Kan. The academy is focused on providing women in the turfgrass industry with education, mentoring and networking enabling participants to unleash their potential, empower their future and become inspirational leaders.

The 2 1/2-day event (with a keynote reception the first night) will guide participants from all walks of the industry and various years of professional experience on a path of discovery aimed at breaking down barriers and producing a spark to inspire women to be successful leaders.

The academy’s featured speaker is Suzy Whaley, PGA Master Professional and first woman to serve as president of the PGA of America. Whaley, who has a unique understanding of the work of turfgrass professionals, having worked side by side with many GCSAA members, will speak about her experience in the golf industry and relate it to turfgrass professionals during a fireside chat. Applications close on July 19 and the academy is limited to 40 participants. More information as well as the application link is available at

<https://www.gcsaa.org/education/womens-leadership-academy>.

I appreciate your continued support and if I can be of Any assistance to you please don’t hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on X for industry updates at GCSAA_SW.

I hope you all have a great summer!



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TEE-OFF News

Superintendent Profile

Herminio Plata– Monarch Dunes GC

This Quarter we had the chance to catch up with the man responsible for the Monarch Dunes GC, and our host for the 2024 Al Glaze Scholarship Tournament.

Hey Herminio,

We hope the week has been treating you well. I appreciate you taking some time out of your day to answer these questions.

1. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Carmel Valley which is on the Monterey Peninsula.

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

My Father and Uncles worked in Landscape maintenance when I was growing up so I would help them during the Summer.

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

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Ornamental Horticulture with a concentration in Turfgrass Management.

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

Greenskeeper at Quail Lodge Golf Resort in Carmel.

5. Where were you at before coming to Monarch Dunes?

I was an Assistant Superintendent at Pasadena Country Club in Monterey.

6. What part of your job excites you every day?

I get to be outside everyday and everyday is different.

7. What tool/s do you need to have every day to make your job easier?

Phone and TDR 350 moisture meter

8. What hobbies or hidden talents do you have?

I am a soccer referee. I referee at different levels: youth club soccer, high school and college.

9. What does your perfect day look like?

Clear and sunny in the morning. Nobody calling out sick. No equipment issues. No need for any spot watering of any kind. Go home at the same time as the rest of the team.

10. What is one dream vacation destination?

I would like to visit the Greek Islands.

11. What is your favorite food or meal?

Tacos al Pastor

12. What music do you enjoy listening to?

I enjoy listening to Mexican Ranchera music.

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

I like to watch football and soccer. I have been a 49er fan for a long time.

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

Keep a journal.

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

I probably would have been a CHP officer.

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

Try and work at several different facilities so that you can experience different management styles and different ways of doing things.

Thank you for spending some time, and letting us get to know you better Herminio! We all had a fantastic time on your course, and look forward to doing it again next year.

- David Avila, Harrell's



Scholarship Recipient– Bayley Weber



Bayley applied for, and received the Legacy Scholarship at our 2024 Al Glaze Scholarship Tournament. Bayley is the daughter of GCSACC member Elliot Weber from “The Alisal”

Bayley is currently in the process of getting her Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Her goal is to reach the at-risk youth of her community, and show them how they can gain higher education through sports.

She has first hand experience in using sports as part of a means to gain higher education. She played water polo and swam for USC while pursuing her Bachelors degree. She was also a part of the USA Water Polo National team from 2021-2024.

The GCSACC Board of Directors felt that Bayley was well deserving of this scholarship because of the high level of grades she has maintained, community service, and the desire to better her community through sports. We were proud to select Bayley as our 2024 Legacy Scholarship Award winner.

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2024 Al Glaze Scholarship & Research Tournament Monarch Dunes Golf Course

The 2024 Al Glaze Scholarship and Research Tournament was a huge success at Monarch Dunes GC Challenge Course. Everyone in attendance had an absolute blast at the Par 3, every Hole is a Hole in One, Tournament. So much fun, that Mike Best of Eagle Springs scored the very lucrative Hole in One on #4. He took home \$5000 as his prize for that shot. We truly hope that everyone will come out again next year. The Silent Auction was our best yet as well. We want to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to all of our vendors who donated. Without their support we could not have had such a great event.



LEFT: Winning team from Site One, member Evan Moffitt

BELOW: Mike Best with hole #4 sponsor Scott Figura from TSF Agriturf

RIGHT: Jose Alvarez, Phil Brown, Dean Kinney, and Alec Lemay



ABOVE: Albert Nunez and his team from Morro Bay Golf Course



BELOW: Andy Cordova, Glen Matthews, Bill Griffith, and Mike Cline at the Casino Hole, sponsored by Pete Bowman. "Buy a Drive and a Putt"

RIGHT- Hole #5 was Sponsored by California Landscape Supply & Quali Pro. Pictured is David Avila, and Terry Vassey, with Reps from Quali Pro and Justin Tracy of Ca. Landscape Supply



Danny Vandecoevering
danny.vandecoevering@envu.com
425-606-0491

Safety Moment: Hydration Safety

Hydration:

During physical activity or overexposure to high ambient heat, your body loses fluids through sweat. If you don't replace those fluids by drinking water or other liquids, you can become dehydrated. If a person becomes dehydrated and cannot sweat enough to cool his or her body, the internal body temperature may rise to dangerously high levels, causing heat stroke.

Causes of Dehydration:

Under normal conditions, we all lose body water daily through sweat, tears, breathing, urine, and stool. In a healthy person, this water is replaced by drinking fluids and eating foods that contain water.

Other factors that contribute to dehydration:

- Diets that include salt-heavy processed foods
- A lack of hydrating greens and fruits
- Prescription medications for pain, stiffness, allergies, or other chronic conditions
- Diets that are heavy on alcohol, sugar, starches, coffees, and teas
- Sitting is dehydrating --- Immobility slows down water delivery into your cells as well as the outflow of waste particles.
- overexposed to the sun and not drinking enough water.

How Do You Know If You Are Dehydrated?

Dehydration can manifest as fatigue, lack of focus, lowered mood, and poor sleep. Afternoon fatigue is often attributed to dehydration. As are headaches, weakness, UTIs and constipation.

- The color of your urine should be light yellow.
- If you pinch your skin, it should bounce right back.
- If you put pressure on a fingernail, color should return to normal within three seconds.

Proper Hydration

The "perfect" amount of water for you depends on a lot of different factors – body size, climate, sweat rate, exercise, and diet.

The water you drink isn't the only fluid that counts toward your 'quota'. Many foods are great sources of fluid and drinks like tea and coffee count too.

- If you're looking for an easy way to monitor your hydration level – check your urine color.
 - o Transparent --- you are overhydrated. Hold off on water for a bit.
 - o "Weak lemonade" --- This is optimal hydration.
 - o Amber --- Time to drink water. Mild dehydration.
 - o Any shade of brown to burnt orange --- Dehydration, start drinking water with electrolytes.

Hydrating With Gel Water

Most water is H₂O — or so we thought. Groundbreaking research from Harvard and Cornell has found that the water in our cells and in plant cells is actually H₃O₂ (structured water). It's gel-like water that's been charged by electrolytes. When you cut a piece of Aloe Vera, what you see is gel water.

Safety Continued

Eat Your Water

- European research shows that consuming plants rich in gel water — including most fruit and -veggies — “is up to twice as hydrating as drinking water.” Gel water from plants passes more readily into our cells — and it is denser and less likely to leak out of damaged or aging cells.
- The water in plants is already purified, the right pH, mineralized, full of nutrients, and structured to absorb more easily into our cells.

Water-Rich Foods

- Lettuce and cucumbers are 96% water; broccoli and cauliflower ~91%; spinach and cabbage ~93%; watermelon, grapefruit and cantaloupe fall at around 90-92%; peaches, plums, apricots, blueberries, pears, and oranges ~85-87% water.

Electrolytes

Electrolytes are certain minerals essential to human health (i.e., calcium, chloride, magnesium, potassium, sodium ions). As an essential mineral, an electrolyte mineral can only be obtained through diet.

Without electrolytes, you could not move, think, or live. Within the body, electrolytes are dissolved in body fluids. In terms of hydration, electrolytes are responsible for directing water (and nutrients) to the areas of the body where it’s needed most and maintaining optimal fluid balance inside the cells. Besides maintaining fluid balance, electrolytes help your muscles to contract and relax and assist in the transmission of nerve impulses from your nervous system to different body parts.

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Save The Dates

2024

August 12
Tri-Chapter Tournament
Woodbridge Golf & CC

October 21
Charity Tournament
Eagle Springs CC

December 7
Holiday Event
Windows on the Water



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VENDOR PROFILE– Scott Figura of TSF Agriturf

By Elliot Weber

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: **Johnstown, PA**

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

A: **Started playing golf in my late 20's, moved to NM in 1994 and was downsized from my Network Engineering position in 1998. I started my own network and computer desktop support company. I also had a side business that I was selling consumable products to people. The company had an agricultural line of surfactants and biostimulants. New Mexico's soil and water are awful so I started calling on golf courses. I had grown up where my father ran a small hobby farm of about 40 acres so I had an agricultural background from that but had other experience in the golf industry. Ironically, I went to school to get away from agronomy and farming and to work as a network engineer. However, I came full circle back to farming and golfing industry on the agronomy side as an independent consultant and full service fertilizer company.**

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

A: **Indiana University of PA**

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

A: **When I started my own company.**

Q: What part of your job excites you everyday?

A: **Opportunity to help the golf course superintendent do their job better and more efficiently and make the golf course they work for more profitable.**

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

A: **Relationships with:**

1. **The many farmers and golf course superintendents**
2. **Other vendors. Knowing other trustworthy vendors to provide needed products and information is paramount.**
3. **Suppliers. Finding suppliers with high quality cost effective products that are willing to work with me.**
4. **Family. I travel a lot, handling an area that includes West Texas, New Mexico parts for AZ and CA My wife and children support me 100%**
5. **A thick skin. You have to not take rejection personally.**
6. **Faith in Jesus.**

Q: What hobbies or hidden talents do you have?

A: **I play golf when I can**

Q: What is one dream vacation destination?

A: **Anywhere in Prime Conditions. Monument Park, when it has rained and you hear the monuments singing from the water falling off the top. Going fishing in the middle of week. Being able to go on a family vacation, wherever that may be.**

Q: What is your favorite food or meal?

A: **20 oz ribeye steak, medium rare. Sauteed mushrooms in butter, and a double shot of Woodford Reserve over a large ice cube. All while surrounded with good friends or family.**

Q: What music do you enjoy listening to?

A: **70's and 80's pop, and rock and roll**

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

A: **Baseball– The Pittsburgh Pirates**

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

A: **Work with people that respect you and don't worry about who likes you.**

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

A: **Build relationships with the people you want to work with. Let them teach you the industry by asking them what they do and think.**



Scott, with Hole in One winner, Mike Best at the Al Glaze 2024