

TeeOff News

Third Quarter 2024



Eagle Springs Golf & CC



President's Message *Andy Cordova*



As we head into fall, I hope everyone enjoyed a great summer! Here on the coast, we had a relatively mild season, which usually means the valley experienced some heat. I have a lot of respect for the valley superintendents and hope you all made it through the summer unscathed.

In early August, the Sierra Nevada chapter held our annual Tri-chapter meeting at Woodbridge Country Club. Although I didn't get to stay and play, the course looked phenomenal, and the morning weather was perfect. It was a long trip just for a meeting, but it was well worth it—not only for the educational sessions but also for reconnecting with superintendents from other chapters.

The educational portion focused on Turf Conversion, offering valuable insights into the options and processes for changing turf types. Our chapter Vice President, Jose Alvarez, gave an excellent presentation on the progress Fort Washington has made in their conversion efforts. The club's overall goal is, not only to convert to a newer variety of turf, but to improve the uniformity and quality of the playing surface. It sounds like quite an involved process, but it will definitely pay off in the long run. I can't wait to see their results!

Exciting news: our chapter is getting a new website soon! The current site is outdated and a bit tricky to navigate. The board of directors has decided to revamp it, making it easier for members to sign up for upcoming events and access information. We're looking forward to unveiling the new site and will keep everyone posted on its launch.

Our next chapter event is the Charity Tournament at Eagle Springs Golf and Country Club, hosted by superintendent Mike Best. The course is always in great shape, and I'm sure the weather will be just right. Join us for a fun day while supporting a worthy local charity. I can't wait to see everyone there!

Andy Cordova

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California Alliance for Golf Monthly Newsletter

Please check out this attached link to the monthly CAG Newsletters. There is a lot of great information about our water issues in this months flyer.

[CAG Newsletter– August](#)

[CAG Newsletter– September](#)



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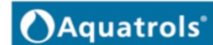
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From the Field Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region



I hope this finds everyone's fall season off to a productive start. It was a tough summer with the heat and fires, so let's hope that Mother Nature brings us some early season precipitation. I have been busy with GCSAA Conference and Show activities and just returned from a visit to the San Diego area. The 2025 event will take place Feb. 3-6 at the San Diego Convention Center with the GCSAA Golf Championships being held Feb. 1-3 at Torrey Pines, Omni La Costa, Aviara and Del Mar Country Club.

There are some great events already planned for San Diego including the Opening Reception aboard the USS Midway, The Health in Action 5K in downtown San Diego, interactive facility tours at some of San Diego's finest golf courses, the Sustainability Showcase, Sunrise Celebration to open the trade show floor, hundreds of educational seminars and power hours, GCSAA Annual Meeting and Election, and the Closing Reception.

Also, do not forget about the California Room which will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5 at Petco Park. Located directly across from the Convention Center, the California Room is the premier networking event during show week. Stop by for drinks, great food and mingle with over 600 members and guests of the California GCSA.

Registration for the 2025 Conference and Show, GCSAA Golf Championships and housing opens on September 24 at <https://gcsaaconference.com/>. You can register separately for the California Room at <https://cgcsa.wildapricot.org/event-5846255>.

In other news, the annual GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting will be held Oct. 28-30 in Lawrence, KS. The meeting brings together representatives from each of GCSAA's affiliated chapters to discuss initiatives and issues facing GCSAA and the profession as well as providing the opportunity to meet Board of Director candidates who will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in February in San Diego. T.A. Barker, CGCS, will serve as the 2025 GCSAA President with Paul Carter, CGCS serving as Vice President. The remainder of the candidates can be viewed at <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/annual-meeting/2025/2025-annual-meeting-preview>. Your respective chapter delegate will provide the board and membership with a breakdown of the meeting prior to Conference and Show. Thank you for your continued support of GCSAA and if I can be of assistance or answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on X at GCSAA_SW.

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TEE-OFF News

Superintendent Profile

Mike Best– Eagle Springs Golf & CC

This month we are proudly sharing a recent interview with Mike Best from Eagle Springs. Mike is the host of our 2024 Lowell Stone Charity Tournament.

Q: Where did you grow up? **I was born and raised in Oakhurst, California**

Q: How did your interest grow for the golf course industry? **I started playing golf at age 13 and was immediately hooked by the game. From this time, I knew that the golf industry was where I wanted to have my career.**

Q: Where did you go to school and what was your major? **I went to college at Cal State Stanislaus and majored in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations.**

Q: What was your first paying job in the industry? **In college I started working at Turlock Golf & Country Club as a starter in the Pro Shop.**

Q: What part of your job excites you everyday? **I love the interaction with players, staff, and management. Golf is in the entertainment industry, and I enjoy the atmosphere that is created around the game.**

Q: What tool/s do you need to have everyday to make your job easier? **The tool that I use the most is communication, it is crucial for running a successful business and having the team all on the same page, working closely with a common goal.**

Q: What hobbies or hidden talents do you have? **No hidden talents, you get what you see. lol**

Q: What is one dream vacation destination? **There are still so many places that I would like to see. It would be hard to pick one, but I know that traveling the world will be part of my future. I still have the bucket list item of playing golf at Saint Andrews.**

Q: What is your favorite food or meal? **I love a good steak dinner.**

Q: What music do you enjoy listening to? **I like most music but typically listen to Classic Rock or Country.**

Q: What sports do you enjoy watching? Favorite teams? **I love sports. I'm a Central California guy, my teams are all regional. I like the 49ers, Giants & Warriors.**

Q: If you could give your younger self some advice, what would that be? **I always joke that in my next life I will be smarter, although it seems that I have learned more from the mistakes that I have made than from what I did right. . The advice that I would give to my younger self would be to take more time to spend with family and friends, work will still be there when you get back.**

Q: What advice would you give to someone wanting to get into the golf industry? **There are a lot of things that you could do to make more money, but if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.**



We thank you Mike for taking the time to answer our questions, and we look forward to playing your course in October!

2024 Charity Tournament
Eagle Springs Golf & CC

Don't miss out on the 2024 Charities Tournament. Hosted by our very own Mike Best at Eagle Springs Golf & Country Club. It will take place on October 21, 2024. This year we are raising money for the :

“Cen Cal Sports” Association.

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Tri Chapter Meeting Woodbridge Golf & Country Club

August was the Sierra Nevada GCSA's turn to host the Annual Tri Chapter meeting. Woodbridge Golf & CC in Lodi, CA. was a fantastic site to hold all of our Chapters members. There was a panel discussion on Turf Grass conversion. Local Superintendent and GCSACC Vice President, Jose Alvarez, from Fort Washington CC was able to be a part of that panel and shared his adventure into converting multiple areas on his course over the last 3 years. Grass and seed vendors from all over the state also weighed in on the ins and outs of converting turf. We "Thank" all of the members who were able to attend the event, and while Central Ca. was not able to maintain the Chapter "Win" from last year, they held their own on the golf course. We hope everyone is able to attend one of these events in the future.



GCSACC Board Members Elliot Weber and Andy Cordova made the long drive to attend, on behalf of the Central Chapter.



Central Members Ryan Thornberry, Jose Alvarez, Dillon Aldrich, and Justin Tracy were just a few member who attended.



Above: Our esteemed panel, discussing all of the details on turf conversion and how to successfully manage it.



Above Right: Jose Alvarez giving his presentation.



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Safety Moment:

By Elliot Weber

As we enter into another school year for our parents out there and during those first weeks and months of school, new germs and virus spread around as we are reunited with friends. We should expect to see more illness going around. So, we should remind ourselves and team members to think about good hygiene and use sick time to stay home when ill.

Here are some strategies to help manage it:

1. **Promote Hygiene:** Encourage regular hand washing.
2. **Stay Home When Sick:** Create a supportive environment where team members feel comfortable taking sick leave. This helps prevent the spread of illness and gives everyone a chance to recover.
3. **Improve Ventilation:** Ensure good air circulation in the office. Proper ventilation can help reduce the concentration of airborne viruses.
4. **Clean and Disinfect:** Regularly clean high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, and shared equipment.
5. **Promote Healthy Habits:** Encourage employees to get enough rest, eat well, and stay hydrated, which can help boost their immune systems.

Flexible Work Options: If possible, offer remote work or flexible hours to help employees who are sick or need to care for sick family members

In addition, Cal/OSHA still requires COVID-19 policies (see attached). If you or a team member tests positive for COVID-19 monitor the employee and make sure they are aware of return to work policies.

Isolation Policy

- Positive cases with symptoms must isolate for 24 hours from symptom onset (Day 1 is the day after symptom onset).

Positive cases without symptoms do not have to isolate.

Return to Work Policy

- Positive cases may return after 24 hours if symptoms are mild and resolving, and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- For COVID-19 cases with no symptoms, there is no infectious period for the purpose of isolation or exclusion. If symptoms develop, the criteria above will apply.
- A negative test is not needed to return to work.

Board Positions Available

Its coming up on that special time of year when we are looking for our next volunteers for the Board of Directors. We have had an incredible group of people leading our association over the last 2 years and we look forward to keeping our positive momentum going. Our Current Board is asking for at least 1 or 2 Superintendents to volunteer, as well as 1 Affiliate Member. These are typically a 2 year term that consist of once a Month Zoom meetings for approx. 1 Hour.

Our returning Board members consist of :

- Jose Alvarez - President
- Elliot Weber - Vice President
- David Avila– Affiliate Representative
- Josh Heptig– Superintendent Member
- Andy Cordova– Past President

- We are looking for a Secretary/ Treasurer**
- We are looking for an additional Superintendent Member**
- We are looking for an additional Affiliate Member**

Please reach out to any of the current Board of Directors or Kim at the Association Office if you have an interest in joining the team. Elections will be held in January.

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Save The Dates

2024

October 21
Charity Tournament
Eagle Springs CC

December 7
Holiday Event
Windows on the Water

2025

January 20
Annual Meeting
Hunter Ranch

February 5
GIS
California Room
Petco Park



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VENDOR PROFILE

Justin Tracy– California Landscape Supply

This Quarter we are featuring a newly joined Vendor to the association. Justin Tracy with California Landscape Supply joined our Chapter at the beginning of 2024. We sat down with him and got some of our questions answered so that we can all get to know him a little better.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Clovis California.

Q: How did you get into the golf industry?

A: My interest in the golf course industry is solely based on my interest in growing and managing turfgrass. I found an interest in this when I was a kid helping my dad with his landscaping company.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I graduated from Fresno State University with a BS in Plant Science.

Q: What was your first job in the industry?

A: My first paying job in the industry was working here at California Landscape Supply.

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: The part of my job that excites me is helping out people with their problems at the course, coming up with plans and solutions for those problems, and mostly meeting new and interesting people every day.

Q: What do you like to do when you are not at work? Hobbies or talents?

A: My hobby outside of work is that I am an instructor at the Fresno Judo Club and have been doing judo for 20 years.

Q: What is a dream vacation you would like to take?

A: A dream vacation destination would be either Greece or Rome.

Q: What is your favorite meal or food?

A: My favorite food is sushi.

Q: What is some advice you would give your younger self?

A: If I could give my younger self advice it would be to work hard, be open-minded, and learn as much as you possibly can.

Q: What is some advice you would give to someone who is looking to get into the industry?

A: If I could give someone advice that is wanting to get into this industry it would be to network as much as possible. There is so many interesting and smart people that have taught me a lot along the way.

And there you have it, Justin Tracy in a nut shell. If you have not had the opportunity to meet him yet, please attend one of our future events or give him a call. He likes to consider himself a One Stop Shop for all of your golf course needs!

