

TeeOff News

Third Quarter 2025



Bakersfield Country Club



Central California Chapter

GCSAA

President's Message *Jose Alvarez*



GCSACC Members on the scope -

Although we had a mild summer here in the valley, our occupation as golf course superintendents keeps us plenty busy year round, taking care of the golf course. Even when the weather is not too challenging, we are challenged with maintaining good, healthy greens. My position as President with the Central Chapter has given me the opportunity to delve into what being a member of the association entails, and how important it is for all of us in the industry to stay connected. Now that we are cooling down in temperatures going into early fall and it is the perfect time to catch up on paperwork, complete the CEU's for license renewal and hopefully, join the associate at a few events.

In the last couple of months, a survey from GCSACC was sent out to our members with an incentive of being drawn to win a \$100 gift card for filling out the survey. The purpose of this survey was to better understand where we stand in the eyes of our members. To see if what we provide as a local chapter is viewed as "enough", and what can be done different to attract members to stay informed and participate;. The survey results went as follows; We had 46 % of the registered membership volunteer to fill out the survey. From this group 75% do open the E-mails sent by GCSACC on a regular basis. 50% responded that they did attend events with the chapter, 95% of the respondents were satisfied with the events. We asked "what keeps you from attending events?" Responses varied on this question, 50% were due to budget restraints and 33% said that time away from the golf course was an issue. The web site is visited by 58% of the participants regularly. "What is your take away from being a member of GCSACC?" Most of the respondents agreed on the importance of networking with peers and professionals within the industry, education topics, meeting other members and socializing in groups with common interests. Participants were asked to provide feedback or ideas on how we could better the GCSACC. We are a diverse group, some want more events in the cooler months, others wanted more meetings like Montecito, social media presence where comments or useful questions can be asked. There was a high demand for offering more CEU for DPR and PDI points. This was all feedback well taken and some good ideas to put on the table for discussion at our next Board meeting. We are a work in progress to accommodate what most of us want. Hopefully with the resources available some of the needed improvements can be achieved. Thanks to all of you that took the time to fill out the survey, this was a great help to all of us on the board of directors. Congratulations to Michael Bova of Davey Resource Group for being the winner of \$100 gift card.

Special thanks to GCSACC Executive Director Kim Milne, and all of our board members on a job well done in organizing this survey. I look forward to seeing you all at our next Chapter Event in Bakersfield.

"Adios Amigos"

Jose Alvarez

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California Alliance for Golf Monthly Newsletter

Please check out the attached link to the monthly CAG Newsletters.

[CAG Newsletter-July](#)

[CAG Newsletter-August](#)

[CAG Newsletter-September](#)

[CAG Newsletter-September Volume 2](#)



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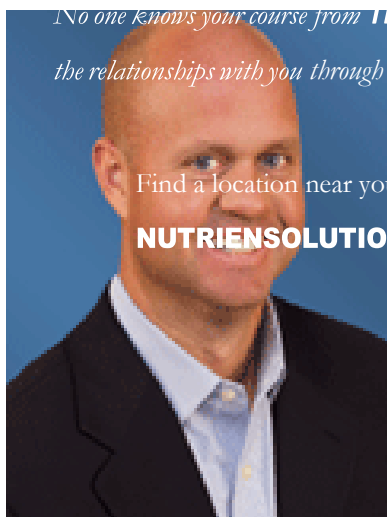
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From the Field Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region



GREEN

I hope this finds everyone enjoying some nice fall weather! I know it is a big relief to get through the stress of the summer heat and take some pressure off the turf.

GCSAA is ramping up for our annual Conference and Show in Orlando. The 2026 event will take place Feb. 2-5 at the Orange County Convention Center with the GCSAA Golf Championships being held Jan. 31 – Feb. 2 with the Omni Orlando at Champions Gate, serving as the host hotel/golf facility.

There are some major events already planned for Orlando headed up by our Centennial Celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at ICON Park. ICON is an entertainment destination with over 50 shops, restaurants and attractions including the world famous Orlando Eye. Food, drink and live entertainment will be provided at numerous locations throughout the park. Make sure to stop by and help us celebrate 100 years of GCSAA!

Also, do not forget about the California Room which will be held Wednesday, Feb. 4 at Kavas Tacos + Tequila. Located off International Drive and just down the street from the Convention Center, the California Room is the premier networking event during show week. Stop by for drinks, great food and mingle with hundreds of members and guests of the California GCSA.

Registration for the 2026 Conference and Show opened September 23 and you can register online at <https://gcsaaconference.com/>. You can register separately for the California Room at <https://cgcsa.wildapricot.org/event-6309331>. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

In other news, GCSAA's Best Management Practices (BMP) tool is undergoing a significant refresh and will continue to be provided as a free member benefit to better serve our chapters and members. The updated GCSAA BMP tool will be mobile-friendly, quick to navigate, and upon facility BMP adoption will generate a customized certificate of completion tailored specifically to your course for display. Lawmakers and regulators have made it clear that facility-level adoption of BMPs is the critical next step for the golf course management industry. While developing BMPs in all 50 states by 2020 was a landmark achievement, continued progress now depends on superintendents and facilities customizing and implementing their own plans. Adoption of your state BMP could be required in the future by the EPA for spraying activities as well. This upgrade is just the first step in many more planned improvements that look to not only meet the anticipated needs of policymakers and regulators but also provide direct value back to the member and the facility. The upgrade will be available in October.

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 to see you soon!

Jeff Jensen

2026 Golf Industry Show– Orlando, FL.

Don't miss out on the 2026 California Room at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL. Registration will be open on 9/23/25

[Register Here](#)

This year the California GCSA will host the popular event at Kavas Tacos Bar. Located directly across from the convention center at Pointe Orlando. The discounted registration price is good through 12/31/25, so don't delay in signing up.

California Room Registration

Hotels always book up fast for the show, so please see the attached GCSA list of accommodations and the map of their locations.

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Equipment Manager Profile Patrick Stone– Monterey Pines GC

1. I grew up on the Monterey Peninsula, which is such a special place for golf. Being surrounded by iconic courses and a community that appreciates the game really shaped my early connection to both the sport and the industry.
2. I began working with the equipment side of golf course maintenance. I've always had a hands-on background as a mechanic, and the combination of craftsmanship, problem-solving, and a respect for the culture helps to keep me motivated.
3. I didn't take a traditional school route for this career. My foundation comes from years of hands-on experience working as a mechanic, combined with a natural aptitude for problem-solving and technical work. That background gave me the skills to adapt quickly to the unique demands of golf course equipment management.
4. My first job in the golf world was when I was about 14. A friend and I worked Saturday mornings at our local driving range, hand picking balls. We made five sometimes 10 dollars, plus a candy bar and a fountain drink — which felt like a big deal at the time.
5. I love that that no two days are the same. The environment is always changing, and there's always something new to learn. I enjoy the hands-on side of the work — repairing equipment, keeping everything running smoothly, and finding better ways to get the job done. The technology coming into the industry, like GPS systems and autonomous equipment, makes it even more exciting. It's rewarding to stay on top of those advances and know I'm helping the course move forward every day.
6. A big cup of coffee and a good pair of boots are definitely at the top of the list of things I need each day to get the job done. Beyond that, it's about having a good sense of humor, the right wrenches, diagnostic tools, and technology.
7. Some of my hobbies include RC cars and crawlers. Building a new kit or working on a track or course has become a passion of mine. Beyond that, I love working on anything with wheels or an engine. It's a hobby that keeps my hands busy, its challenging and its fun.
8. If I could go anywhere as a Dream Vacation, Honestly, I'd go anywhere as a foodie. Street foods in Asia, traditional meals in Europe, or hidden gems closer to home. For me, travel is all about discovering new flavors, meeting people, and experiencing stories you can't get anywhere else.
9. My favorite food of all time? That's the hardest question, but the old go-to answers are sushi, tacos, and pizza.
10. My music choices depend on the mood for sure. Classic rock, rap, and metal mixed with country, hip hop and electronic. If it's got rhythm, I'll listen.
11. My favorite things to watch are auto racing and rock bouncing. I love the thrill, the skill, and the unpredictability of both. There's something exciting about watching precision, speed, and strategy come together in real time.
12. If I could give my younger self some advice, I'd tell myself to be patient, work hard, and never sell myself short. The journey takes time, and the effort you put in now, pays off later. Trust your instincts, keep learning, and stay confident in your abilities — it makes all the difference.
13. And lastly, advice I would give to someone entering the industry, I'd say be willing to start at the ground level, stay curious, and never stop learning. Hands-on experience is very important, establish a social network, don't be afraid to ask questions, and be open to every opportunity.





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VENDOR PROFILE***Evan McFadden– Simplot***

Our newest Affiliate member is Evan McFadden. Working with Simplot, he joined the association this quarter and we were excited to sit down with him and get some info on him and his life, outside of the job.

Q: Where did you grow up?

-I grew up in Corning, CA a small agriculture town off of the I-5 in Northern California.

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

-Like many of us I didn't know that being a superintendent or working in the turf industry was an option for a career. I grew up farming rice, walnuts and almonds, so I have always had an affinity for agriculture. I have been playing sports my entire life so when I found turf management I fell in love, because it was the perfect cross of the two things I love, agriculture and sports.

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

-I went to school at Oregon State University and I have a Horticulture degree with a Focus in Turfgrass Management. I also have a Business & Entrepreneurship Minor from Oregon State University.

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

-My first job in the industry was an internship at Victoria National Golf Club. It was a great experience diving headfirst into the industry at a top 50 club, in the country right in the transition zone! I did not have a vehicle that summer and I lived at the shop, so most afternoons were spent chasing greens in the heat and humidity!

Q: What part of your job excites you everyday?

-I am excited every day. I get to visit diverse golf courses and landscape properties while working closely with turf managers to identify solutions and source high-quality products. I have always been a turf nerd and constantly research new techniques and products in the market. Now I get to use my personal on course experience along with ongoing turf research and be a resource for turf managers.

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

-To make my job easier I need my phone, my truck and a soil probe. I cover a large territory, so I am on the road a lot and the truck takes me where I need to go. My soil probe is great to have because there is only so much you can see when looking at the turf, the other half of the story is below the turf surface. My job is to always be available, so having the phone on me and being available is paramount.

Q: What hobbies or hidden talents do you have?

-I am an avid fly fisherman both fresh water and saltwater. My dad taught me to fly fish at a young age on the Sacramento River. It is a great hobby that I still share with my father and try to do one trip a year together fishing somewhere new.

Q: What is one dream vacation destination?

-I would love to do a snowboarding trip in Japan!

Q: What is your favorite food or meal?

-Mexican food is my all-time favorite food. I prefer a taco truck over almost anything else!

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

-College football is my favorite sport to watch, but I am a sports junkie and will watch anything. Oregon State is my team, but we are in the dark days currently. For pro football I grew up a 49ers fan. I love watching pro football, college football, PGA & USGA golf and college basketball!

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

-“Don't be afraid to fail” This career move to work with Simplot is an example of me taking a risk and not being afraid to fail. I would tell my younger self to take more risks, and everything will work out in the end.

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

-This is the same advice I gave all our interns when they came through our program at Martis Camp Club. I told them to do as many internships as possible in different environments. This way they get exposure to different turf types, management styles and club types. This will make them a well-rounded individual in the job market and help make an educated decision when they are finishing with school.

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Save The Dates

2025

November 3
Charity Tournament
Bakersfield GCC

December 6
Windows on the Water

March
Mechanic Seminar
Copper River CC

June 15
Al Glaze S&R
Monarch Dunes GC

2026

January
Annual Meeting
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February
GIS
Orlando, FL.

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Hosted by GCSACC
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October
Charity Tournament
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*Around the Green**By: David Avila**Here's a quick roundup of recent changes in the region:***☒ Riverside Golf Course**

- **New Superintendent:** Julian Banda
- **Replaces:** Kevin Wiles (retired)
- **Background:** Former assistant to Juan Banda, at River Island CC

☒ Copper River Country Club

- **New Superintendent:** Patrick Reynier
- **Replaces:** Landon White (moved to Utah for another superintendent role)
- **Background:** Former assistant at Seven Oaks CC, Bakersfield

☒ Bakersfield Country Club

- **New Superintendent:** Brian Rios
- **Replaces:** Javier Sanchez (left the industry)
- **Background:** Former assistant at Visalia CC

☒ River Island Country Club

- **Superintendent:** Juan Banda (joined about a year ago)
- **Reason:** Led reconstruction after flood damage
- **Background:** Former superintendent at Riverlakes GC, Bakersfield

☒ Cypress Ridge Golf Course

- **New Superintendent:** Frank Lemus
- **Replaces:** Ryan Pitkonen (relocated to Pacific Northwest)
- **Background:** Former assistant at Avila Beach Resort

☒ Fort Washington Golf & Country Club

- **New Superintendent:** Freddy Carlyle
- **Replaces:** Jose Alvarez
- **Background:** Came from Palm Desert area

☒ Eagle Springs Golf & Country Club

- **New Superintendent:** Jose Alvarez
- **Note:** First superintendent at the club in several years
- **Background:** Former superintendent at Fort Washington Golf & CC

On a Non Job Related Change–

- Affiliate Member Ryan Thornberry and his wife Rachel had their second son Charlie on July 22, 2025. We wish Ryan and family the best!

That's all for me this time around. If you hear of or know of other changes in the region, feel free to drop me an email, or give me a call. I will be happy to include them on my next go, Around the Green!

Maintenance Yard Safety

Main

Safety in the Golf Course Maintenance Yard: Protecting People & the Property

Golf course maintenance yards are more than just storage areas—they're the operational hub for keeping the course pristine. But with heavy equipment, chemicals, and constant movement, they can also be high-risk zones. Here's how to keep safety front and center:

Golf Course-Specific Hazards

- **Mowers & Utility Vehicles:** Always park on level ground, engage brakes, and never leave keys in unattended equipment.
- **Irrigation Systems:** Mark valve boxes and exposed piping clearly to prevent tripping and damage.
- **Golf Ball Traffic:** Be aware of nearby fairways—use protective fencing or signage if the yard is in play range.

☑ PPE for the Turf Team

- Mandatory gear includes:
- Safety glasses when mixing or spraying chemicals
- Hearing protection near blowers and mowers
- Gloves and boots when handling fertilizers or sharp tools

☑ Chemical Safety

- Store pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in labeled, ventilated cabinets.
- Maintain a spill response plan and ensure all crew members know it.
- Keep SDS (Safety Data Sheets) accessible and up to date.

☑ Yard Organization

- Designate zones for equipment, fuel, and chemical storage.
- Keep pathways clear and well-lit—especially around early morning shift changes.
- Use signage to mark hazards, restricted areas, and emergency exits.

☑ Training & Communication

- Conduct monthly safety briefings tailored to seasonal tasks (e.g., aeration, overseeding).
- Encourage reporting of unsafe conditions—no issue is too small.
- Post emergency contacts and first aid procedures in multiple languages if needed.

A well-maintained course starts with a well-managed yard. Prioritizing safety not only protects your crew—it ensures smooth operations and a better experience for every golfer.

SAN JOSE MERCURY

August 21, 2025

By Paul Rogers | progers@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

New setbacks could be fatal for \$2.7 billion plan to build major Reservoir in Santa Clara County

Cost overruns, delays and opposition have hobbled project planned near Pacheco Pass

Already facing significant delays and cost increases, a proposed plan to build a new \$2.7 billion reservoir in the rural hills of southern Santa Clara County near Pacheco Pass has suffered two major new setbacks, leading water officials who first proposed the idea to say it might be time to cancel the project that's cost \$100 million so far.

On Wednesday, the California Water Commission, a state agency that distributes state bond money to water projects, voted 7-0 not to provide any additional funding to the proposed Pacheco Reservoir project, citing lack of progress by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which has been pushing it since 2017.

"We have to really think about stages of readiness and prioritize not putting good money after bad," said commissioner Davina Hurt, an attorney who is a former mayor of Belmont. "We should put the money toward projects that are moving closer to becoming implemented."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, a key federal agency that provides water to cities and farms across the West, said last month it will not provide any funding for the project, help with its environmental studies, or allow water from the federal Central Valley Project to be stored in it.

That information came to light in recent days in a staff report by Santa Clara Valley Water District. The agency, based in San Jose, has scheduled an update next Tuesday for its board to discuss how to proceed.

The board's chairman said Wednesday it may be time to pull the plug.

"I think we are at a decision point and it's probably more likely than not that the board will vote to suspend it," said Tony Estremera. "I don't know if we can overcome these challenges now."

The district, a government agency known as "Valley Water," provides water to 2 million people in Santa Clara County. In 2017, it proposed building a 320-foot high dam on Pacheco Creek near Highway 152 and Henry Coe State Park. If built, the project would be the largest new reservoir in the Bay Area since Los Vaqueros Reservoir was built in Contra Costa County in 1998.

The new earthen dam on the North Fork of Pacheco Creek in rural canyons about 2 miles north of Highway 152, east of Casa de Fruta, would replace a small reservoir that has been there since the 1930s.

The new reservoir would hold 140,000 acre feet of water — enough for 700,000 people a year when full — and would be filled mostly by piping in water from nearby San Luis Reservoir in wet years that the district buys from state and federal agencies and needs a place to store to use in dry years.

But the project has run into setback after setback. When the district applied to the state for funding seven years ago under Proposition 1, a water bond passed by voters in 2014, it said the new reservoir would cost \$969 million. The California Water Commission promised it \$504 million, although it has only released \$24 million so far.

Continued...

Since then, the project's costs have tripled to \$2.7 billion. The district has said for years that it would secure partnerships with other large Bay Area water agencies to help share the costs and the water. But none have been signed. The original plans were to break ground in 2024 and finish construction by 2032.

In May, however, district officials told the California Water Commission that they still haven't secured major permits needed to start construction, haven't secured water rights, and only have completed 30% of the design. They said they won't be able to break ground until 2029 and wouldn't complete construction until at least 2036.

District officials said the project had been slowed by lawsuits by environmental groups, discoveries of geological problems, and other issues, with costs driven up by inflation.

The Bureau of Reclamation's decision not to participate is a major blow. Not only does it mean that water the Santa Clara Valley Water District buys from the federal government can't be stored there, it also means other water agencies with federal water contracts won't want to partner on it, Estremera said.

"It's significant. It was pretty gut-wrenching to hear," he said.

With no partners to share the costs, Santa Clara County residents would pay nearly all of the bill.

"I think we could pull off the project, but it's not going to be a very effective without partners," Estremera said. "It costs too much. We are realists. We aren't going to let water rates go through the roof."

The district has already spent \$100 million on planning, environmental studies, engineering work, geotechnical borings and other work for the proposed reservoir.

The California Water Commission had \$453 million to distribute Wednesday. That money became available last September, when the Contra Costa Water District abandoned plans to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir, citing disagreements with other Bay Area water agencies over how much each would pay, and how much water each would receive, particularly during severe droughts.

The commission voted Wednesday to commit \$219 million of the former Los Vaqueros money to the Sites Reservoir project, a huge reservoir proposed for Colusa County that has 22 water agencies as partners, with construction scheduled to begin next year. Two other groundwater projects in Southern California, Chino Basin and Kern Fan, received \$54 million and \$22 million.

Critics of the Pacheco project have included environmental groups, U.S. Rep. Sam Liccardo, D-San Jose, and rural landowners whose land would be flooded. Several have noted that the Santa Clara Valley Water District studied the site 25 years ago and rejected it, citing unstable geology, which made its water cost more than other options, like groundwater storage, recycled water or expanding existing reservoirs.

"This never should have advanced past go in the first place," said Osha Meserve, an attorney for the Stop Pacheco Dam Coalition. "It was never affordable. It was always too risky in that mountain location. If the project made sense there would be partners lining up to participate. But there aren't. It's way too speculative."