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## GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet

GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic  
February 24 - 26, 2012

Desert Willow Resort (Firecliff Course)  
Palm Desert, Calif.

Quinta, Calif.; 1991 California State Open, La Quinta Resort, La Quinta, Calif.

**Previous tournaments hosted by facility:**  
2005 Subaru Southern California Team Championship; 2004 The Prestige at Palm Desert; 2003 Frank Sinatra Celebrity Classic

## Golf Course Management Information

**GCSAA Class A Golf Course Superintendent:**  
Michael J. Tellier, CGCS

*The title "CGCS," after a superintendent's name, stands for Certified Golf Course Superintendent, which recognizes the achievement of high standards of professionalism through education and experience.*

**Availability to media:**

Contact Mike Tellier by phone 760-346-6512; cell 760-250-2363; fax 760-773-3876; email [mtellier@desertwillow.com](mailto:mtellier@desertwillow.com)

**Education:**

Certificate, Turgrass Management, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., 1987

**Years as a GCSAA member:** 26

**Years GCSAA certified:** 16

**GCSAA affiliated chapter:**

Hi-Lo Desert Golf Course Superintendents Association

**Years at this course:** 7

**Number of maintenance employees:** 22

**Previous positions:**

2001-2004, Golf Course Superintendent, Arrowhead Country Club, San Bernardino, Calif.; 1994-2001, Golf Course Superintendent, Avondale Golf Club, Palm Desert, Calif.; 1989-1994, Golf Course Superintendent, La Quinta Resort, La Quinta, Calif.

**Previous tournament preparation:**

1993 PGA Tour Final Qualifying School, La Quinta Resort, La Quinta, Calif.; 1992 PGA Club Professional Championship, La Quinta Resort, La

## Course statistics

**Average tee size:** 800 sq. ft.  
**Tournament Stimpmeter:** 11 ft.  
**Average green size:** 7,000 sq. ft.  
**Soil condition:** Sand  
**Green construction soil mix:** California  
**Rounds per year:** 45,000  
**Acres of fairway:** 20  
**Source of water:** Well, effluent water  
**Acres of rough:** 60  
**Drainage conditions:** Excellent  
**Sand bunkers:** 100  
**Water hazards:** 4

## Course ratings

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
<b>Black</b>	7056	72	73.6	138
<b>Blue</b>	6676	72	71.7	133
<b>White</b>	6173	72	69.3	124
<b>Gold</b>	5642	72	67.2	117
<b>Red</b>	5079	72	69.0	120



Syngenta Professional products is proud to support GCSAA and the efforts of GCSAA golf course superintendents to produce the finest quality tournament playing conditions.

## Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
<b>Tees</b>	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.375"
<b>Fairways</b>	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.437"
<b>Greens</b>	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.109"
<b>Rough</b>	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	1.25"

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## Environmental management/features

Desert Willow Resort uses water efficient plant material throughout the facility, as well as a drip irrigation system and non-potable water use. Desert Willow is currently in the process of becoming an Audbon Certified Cooperative Sanctuary. The ACSP is an education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf.

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## Wildlife on the course

Bobcat; Canada goose; Coyote; Eagle; Hawk; Quail; Snakes; Squirrel; Several different species of birds

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## Interesting and historical course-related facts

The Firecliff golf course at Desert Willow Resort, measuring 7,056 yards, is a true test of skill where golfers must negotiate their way around extensive natural areas, numerous water features, and more than 100 bunkers/waste areas.

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### Course architect/date:

Michael Hurdzen/Dana Frye, 1995

### Original course builder/date:

Park West, 1995

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## Other key course personnel

Raul Melero, Assistant Superintendent  
Ray Barroso, Assistant Superintendent  
Cesar Sanchez, Equipment Manager  
Richard Mogensen, Club Manager  
Justin Amelung, PGA Professional  
City of Palm Desert, Club Owner  
Darrell Souza, Director of Golf

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## [Golf course management facts](#)

For additional information please visit the GCSAA [association news](#) section or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 19,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. The association's philanthropic organization, [The Environmental Institute for Golf](#), works to strengthen the compatibility of golf with the natural environment through research grants, support for education programs and outreach efforts. Visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).