

Camelback (**Ambiente**) (GCSAA Championships)

National Championships

Director of Grounds

Erick Montano, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 9

Years at Camelback: 1st (started October 2023)

Previous Courses: Whirlwind, The Gallery, Ritz-Carlton
Grand Cayman, Dove Mountain

Professional Events: He was at Dove Valley for 6
Accenture Match Play PGA Tournaments.

Ambiente Course Superintendent

Greg Brandriet, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 14

Years at Camelback: 1

Years as a Superintendent: 14

Previous Courses: Elkhorn Ridge (super), Cattail
Crossing (super)

Hometown: Watertown, S.D.

Education: North Dakota State University

Other Key Golf Personnel

Eric Clapper, Equipment Manager

Course Architect

Architect (year): Jack Snyder (1970)

Renovation Architect (year): Jason Straka (2012)

Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-36--72

Yardage: 6,630

Stimpmeter: 10.5

Course Statistics

Number of Sand Bunkers: 65

Number of Water Hazards: 1

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 3

Water Sources: Well, storm runoff

Turfgrass

Greens: Champion bermudagrass .160"

Collars: Ryegrass overseed .550"

Approaches: Ryegrass overseed .550"

Tees: Ryegrass overseed .550"

Fairways: Ryegrass overseed .550"

Rough: Ryegrass overseed 1.25"

Additional Notes

- Ambiente is a links-style course that stretches three miles around a wash area.
- Montano grew up in Nicaragua and moved to the United States at age 20.
- Brandriet plays in bands and performs in theatre in his free time.

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA TOUR, LPGA, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry and Epson Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (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 20,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

Camelback (Padre) (GCSAA Championships)

National Championships

Director of Grounds

Erick Montano, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 9

Years at Camelback: 1st (started October, 2023)

Previous Courses: Whirlwind, The Gallery, Ritz-Carlton
Grand Cayman, Dove Mountain

Professional Events: He was at Dove Valley for 6
Accenture Match Play PGA Tournaments.

Padre Golf Course Superintendent

Thom Wilbur, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 29

Years at Camelback: 41

Years as a Superintendent: 23

Hometown: Pinetop, Ariz.

Education: Arizona State University

Other Key Golf Personnel

Eric Clapper, Equipment Manager

Number of Employees: 31 for two courses

Golf Course Dog: Cloud 15-year-old border collie

Course Architect

Architect: Jack Snyder (1970)

Renovation Architect (year): Arthur Hills (2000)

Renovation Details: Intensive tree removal, addition of
computer controlled irrigation system. Push up greens.
Improved low flow design for floodwater removal.

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Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-36--72

Yardage: 6,524

Stimpmeter: 10.5-11

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,042 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 135

Acres of Fairway: 24.17

Acres of Rough: 89.89

Number of Sand Bunkers: 52

Number of Water Hazards: 5

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 9

Soil Conditions: Loam

Water Sources: Well

Turfgrass

Greens: 419 bermudagrass .160"

Tees: 419 bermuda (rye overseed) .450"

Fairways: 419 bermuda (rye overseed).450"

Rough: 419 bermudagrass 1.5"

Additional Notes

- Average fairway widths in landing areas are 40 yards.
- Land was a ranch before golf course was built in 1970.
- Course is one of few in lower valley that does not overseed its bermuda greens.
- Camelback was one of few courses abiding by Arizona Department of Water Resources newest guidelines for water usage before the plan was enacted.
- There is a planned renovation in 2026.
- Wildlife on course include coyotes, geese, waterfowl, birds and some javelina.
- Both courses are Audubon Certified.

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Talking Stick (O’Odham & Piipaash) (GCSAA Championships)

Four Ball (I, II), Golf Classic (all)

Director of Agronomy

Paul Blumke, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 25

Years at Talking Stick: 14 / Years as a Superintendent: 11

Previous Courses: Monarch Beach (asst), McAllister Ranch (asst), Kenosha CC (asst), Whispering Springs (asst)

Hometown: North Fond du Lac, Wis.

Education: University of Wisconsin

Other Key Golf Personnel

Bryce Karnes, GCSAA Superintendent

Years as GCSAA Member: 8

Heriberto Urbano, Assistant Superintendent

Roberto Garcia, Equipment Manager

Roy Smith, General Manager

Number of Employees: 27

Course Architect – Both Courses

Architect (year): Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw (1997)

O’Odham Course

Tournament Set-up

Par: 35-35—70

Yardage: 6,472

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 6,778 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway/Tees: 71.5

Acres of Rough: 0

Number of Sand Bunkers: 68

Number of Water Hazards: 0

Soil Conditions: Clay

Water Sources: Well

Turfgrass

Greens: Poa Trivialis overseed .115”

Tees: Perennial ryegrass overseed .500”

Fairways: Perennial rye overseed .500”

Rough: None

Piipaash Course

Tournament Set-up

Par: 35-36—71

Yardage: 6,305

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 4,939 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairways: 42

Acres of Rough: 39

Number of Sand Bunkers: 61

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 5

Soil Conditions: Clay

Water Sources: Well

Turfgrass

Greens: Poa Trivialis overseed .115”

Tees: Perennial ryegrass overseed .500”

Fairways: Perennial rye overseed .500”

Rough: Perennial ryegrass overseed 1.75”

Whirlwind (Cattail & Devil's Claw) (GCSAA Championships)

Four Ball (III), Scramble (all)

Director of Agronomy

Matt Bachman, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 18

Years at Whirlwind: 2 / Years as a Superintendent: 10

Previous Courses: Princeville Makai (superintendent)

Hometown: Phoenix, Ariz.

Education: University of Arizona

Other Key Golf Personnel

Jin Seo "Jackson" Park, Cattail Super., GCSAA

Dean Hall, Devil's Claw Superintendent, GCSAA

Eric Maki, Equipment Manager

Keith McVea, Director of Golf

Brandon Gordon, Golf Professional

Number of Employees: 25 full-time / 7 part-time

Course Architect – Both Courses

Architect: Gary Panks (Whirlwind-2002 / Cattail-1999)

Cattail Course

Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-36—72

Yardage: 4 Ball (6,194), Scramble: M (6,391) / W (5,315)

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,900 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway: 28

Acres of Rough: 55

Number of Sand Bunkers: 53

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 5

Soil Conditions: Unscreened native soil

Water Sources: Reclaimed

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Turfgrass

Greens: Poa Trivialis overseed .115"

Tees: Perennial ryegrass overseed .425"

Fairways: Perennial rye overseed .475"

Rough: Dormant 419 bermudagrass 1.75"

Devil's Claw Course

Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-36—72

Yardage: Men's (6,264), Women (5,492)

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,800 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairways: 28

Acres of Rough: 50

Number of Sand Bunkers: 57

Number of Water Hazards: 1

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 3

Soil Conditions: Screened natural desert soil

Water Sources: Effluent

Turfgrass

Greens: Poa Trivialis overseed .115"

Tees: Perennial ryegrass overseed .425"

Fairways: Perennial rye overseed .475"

Rough: Dormant Tifway 419 bermuda 1.75"

Notable

- Jin Seo "Jackson" Park was born in South Korea and raised in Australia. The 1-year member has been at Whirlwind for 3 months.
- Dean Hall is from Australia and has been at Whirlwind for one year and is a 20-year member.
- The golf courses are on the land of the Gila River Indian Community.
- Cattail is #24 and Devil's Claw is #20 on Golfweek Public Access courses in Arizona.

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2024 GCSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP NOTABLE

TORO'S 30TH YEAR – The Toro Company is the presenting partner of the GCSAA Championships for the 30th year. The sold-out golf events include the National Championship, Classic, Four Ball and Scramble competitions Jan. 27-29. Host facilities include Talking Stick Golf Club, Whirlwind Golf Club and Camelback Golf Club with more than 600 golfers participating overall.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 27 - Four Ball at Talking Stick / Four Ball at Whirlwind

Sunday, Jan. 28 - Classic at Talking Stick / Scramble at Whirlwind / National Championship at Camelback

Monday, Jan. 29 - Classic at Talking Stick / National Championship at Camelback

IN ARIZONA – The GCSAA Championships have been held in Arizona four previous times:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Notable</u>
1971	Harry Cirata	8 th of 8 different champions in 8 years (tied for longest such stretch in tournament history with nobody winning twice (also 1992-99)
1984	Dan Meyers	3 rd title for Meyers, who also won in 1979 and 1981
1987	Mike Apodaca	Last time show was in Phoenix / Tournament was in Tucson
1991	Roger Null	2 nd of back-to-back for Null who also won in 1983 / Show was in Las Vegas, but golf was in Arizona

DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPION – Dylan Foster, a five-year member and superintendent at The Verandah Golf Club in Fort Myers, Fla., is the defending national champion. His 74-70—144 was five strokes better than Edward Martinez and Bill Davis at ChampionsGate in Orlando last year. Individual consecutive championships have only been accomplished nine times in the 73-year history of the event, including by Seth Strickland, who won back-to-back in 2021 and 2022 before Foster's win last year (Strickland also repeated in 2008 and 2009). Another title would also have Foster joining 14 others who have won the event at least twice.

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD – Previous national champions in the field include Dylan Foster (2023), Michael Stieler (2012, 17), Seth Strickland (2005, 08, 09, 21, 22), and Shawn Westacott (2016).

STRICKLAND TRYING TO TIE RECORD - Seth Strickland needs one more title to match Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi for most national championships won at six. Masciocchi won his six from 1940-50, while Strickland won in 2005, 08, 09, 21 and 22. Strickland finished first or second in five straight championships before last year when he placed fourth. Strickland also owns the tournament record for longest stretch between first and last victory at 17 years (2005 to 2022). Four players have won three career titles.

WARM WEATHER CHAMPIONS – A superintendent from the state of Florida has won the last four titles [Deron Zendt (Boynton Beach) in 2020, Seth Strickland (Miami, Fla.) in 2021 and 2022, and Dylan Foster (Fort Myers) in 2023]. The last non-Floridian to win was Steve Gilley from Conroe, Texas in 2019. In fact, 18 of the last 19 champions have come from warm-weather states – Florida (8), Texas (6), California (2), Arizona (1), or Alabama (1). The exception was David Brown of Boulder, Colo. in 2011.

OTHER PLAYER NOTABLE – Two-time champion Michael Stieler has six top-five finishes in the last seven years... Last year Edward Martinez was runner-up en route to finishing as the top senior.

ALL-TIME GCSAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Year	National Champion	1987	Mike Apodaca
1938	Ernie Jacob	1988	Dave Powell
1939	Don Boyd	1989	Dave Powell
1940	Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi	1990	Roger Null, CGCS
1941	Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi	1991	Roger Null, CGCS
1946	Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi	1992	Gary D. Bennett, CGCS
1947	Roy Jones	1993	Richard A. Stuntz, CGCS
1948	Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi	1994	Robert Friend
1949	Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi	1995	Todd Barker
1950	Emil "Mashie" Masciocchi	1996	Jim Dusch, CGCS
1951	Paul Schurtz	1997	Michael Suess
1952	John Zoller	1998	Al Pondel, CGCS
1954	Marcus List	1999	Chandler Masters
1956	Marcus List	2000	Todd Barker
1958	John Connolly	2001	Mitch Clodfelter
1960	Bill Adams	2002	Mitch Clodfelter
1962	Bob Mitchell	2003	Joseph Pantaleo
1963	Chuck Fatum	2004	Tommy Robinson
1968	Art Donaldson	2005	Seth Strickland
1969	Gene Stoddard	2006	Joseph Anderson
1970	Bob Martino	2007	Jason Regan
1971	Harry Cirata	2008	Seth Strickland
1972	Bob Martino	2009	Seth Strickland
1973	Bob Martino	2010	Adam Hess
1974	Ennio Lattini	2011	David Brown
1975	John Doughton, Jr.	2012	Michael Stieler
1976	William Knox	2013	Charles Costello
1977	Vaughn Barker	2014	Deron Zendt
1978	Thomas C. Hamilton	2015	Matt Cowan
1979	Dan Meyers	2016	Shawn Westacott
1980	Thomas C. Hamilton	2017	Michael Stieler, CGCS
1981	Dan Meyers	2018	Matt Cowan
1982	Mike Apodaca	2019	Steve Gilley
1983	Roger Null, CGCS	2020	Deron Zendt
1984	Dan Meyers	2021	Seth Strickland
1985	Dave Powell	2022	Seth Strickland
1986	David Oliver	2023	Dylan Foster