

THROUGH THE GREEN

July/August 2015

Turf and Technology: Reinhardt is Face Of New Generation

Inside

- › Wee One Event Pays it Forward
- › Annual Meeting to East Lake





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Editor's Note: Bulk Aggregate, a regular advertiser in Through The Green, was inadvertently omitted from the May-June issue of the magazine. We apologize for the error.

Cover: Patrick Reinhardt at Georgia Southern University Golf Course symbolizes a bright new generation of superintendents.



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We're Stepping Up Against Water Rule

Recently, your association signed on to a bill that would effectively have the Environmental Protection Agency take the controversial Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and start over. Who knows whether this bill will be successful? Chances are it probably won't. But it is imperative that we try.

What we do know is that as it now stands, WOTUS has the potential to make the work of golf course superintendents far more burdensome and in some cases almost impossible. The rule extends federal government jurisdiction over water regulation in a way that could change the way of life for industries with water bodies on or near their property. That includes farmers, landscapers and many others. It goes way beyond rivers and lakes to include everything from ditches to floodplains.

The rule has the capacity to vastly increase the amount of permitting those industries, including golf, would have to go through in order to keep functioning as they have done in the past. As the bill we became signatories to in June states: "The final rule will have a profoundly negative impact on a large portion of the U.S. economy, as it slows, or brings to a complete halt, numerous projects major and minor across the nation."

Government authorities say the rule is not intended to create sweeping change. But opponents – and the Georgia GCSA is certainly among them – fear otherwise. That is why we signed on to the bill and why we will lead a delegation from Georgia golf to Washington, DC in September. A group of senior Georgia GCSA members along with executive director Tenia Workman and government relations counsel Skin Edge will be accompanied by the Georgia PGA Section. We're going to knock on some doors and let folks know who we are in Georgia and what we stand for.

For the record, we understand as well as anybody the need for protecting and conserving our water resources. We do a great job when it comes to water and we are constantly striving to get better. WOTUS would only impose a heavy layer of bureaucracy and expense on an industry that is already a good water citizen.

On the subject of good citizens, I want to recognize the continued support and generosity of the Scott Griffith and the folks at the University of Georgia Golf Course. Their willingness to make the golf course available for the Bulldog Classic to raise money for our Legacy Scholarships is wonderful. Scott and the rest of the staff at the facility present excellent conditions but also do so much work behind the scenes to ensure a seamless experience. Rain got the better of us this year but we still raised important funds to support the education of sons, daughters and grandchildren of our members.

Events like the Bulldog Classic are all more successful thanks to the continued backing we receive from an outstanding group of industry partners. These folks invest in your association and help us deliver all the services and meetings we provide. Please support them whenever you can. At the very least, make an effort to thank them. Their support makes us all better at the jobs we do.



MIKE BROWN

Wee One Event Aims To Pay it Forward

Georgia GCSA members are urged to support a special fundraising tournament this fall to honor longtime association member Joe Durden and give back to the Wee One Foundation which provides financial aid to golf industry members fighting catastrophic illness. The foundation has made two significant gifts to the Durden family whose lives were turned upside down when Joe Durden was diagnosed with stage four colorectal cancer in the fall of 2013. Durden has since endured multiple surgeries and treatments and has made a remarkable recovery to a point where he is now back on the golf course.

“Every day really is a miracle for Joe,” says close friend Greg Burleson, CGCS from Augusta Country Club, where Durden now works three days a week. “His energy is back, his appetite is good and his weight is good. I feel like it’s very important that we give back to the Wee One Foundation that was so generous to Joe’s family at a time of real need. The foundation is a great cause and unfortunately somebody else in golf is going to need their services and support at some stage. So we need to get on board and keep those resources available.”

Since its inception in 2004 the Wee One Foundation has distributed close to \$900,000 to golf industry members and their families across the nation. The foundation was established by golf course superintendents in Wisconsin to honor the memory of colleague Wayne Otto, CGCS who died after his own battle with cancer.

“The Wee One folks have been really, really amazing to us as a family,” says Durden, who also works a three-day week at Augusta National Golf Club. “For them, as complete strangers to us, to come out of the blue and be so generous, on two occasions, is beyond belief. Their support hasn’t provided all the answers to the financial challenges but it has certainly helped.”

Durden has three children, Ciera, a daughter about to start graduate work at the University of Georgia this fall; Karli, another daughter who recently completed her first year at UGA; and a son, Jake, who is a junior at high school. Durden says their love and support and that of his wife, Karen, has been instrumental in his survival. He is similarly grateful for the opportunity to return to work so he can “get back into shape and hopefully return to the superintendent ranks.”

The first annual Wee One Foundation



Greg Burleson, CGCS and Joe Durden.

Tournament is a four-person scramble at Cuscowilla Golf Club on Lake Oconee on October 26. The club, where Sam Murphy is superintendent, has donated the use of the golf course for the day. “I know the date is still a way off for a lot of folks but hopefully that just gives them all the more time to get it on their calendar and keep the date free to support this cause,” Burleson says.

For his part, Durden is planning to be there to offer personal thanks to everyone who turns up to support the organization that helped him. “It’s been a tough time, and it’s still going on,” he says. “But I’m a lot better off than I was at this time last year. I want to be able to do what I can to make sure we pay it forward for the foundation.”

For more information on the event and to register, go to www.weeone.org. ■

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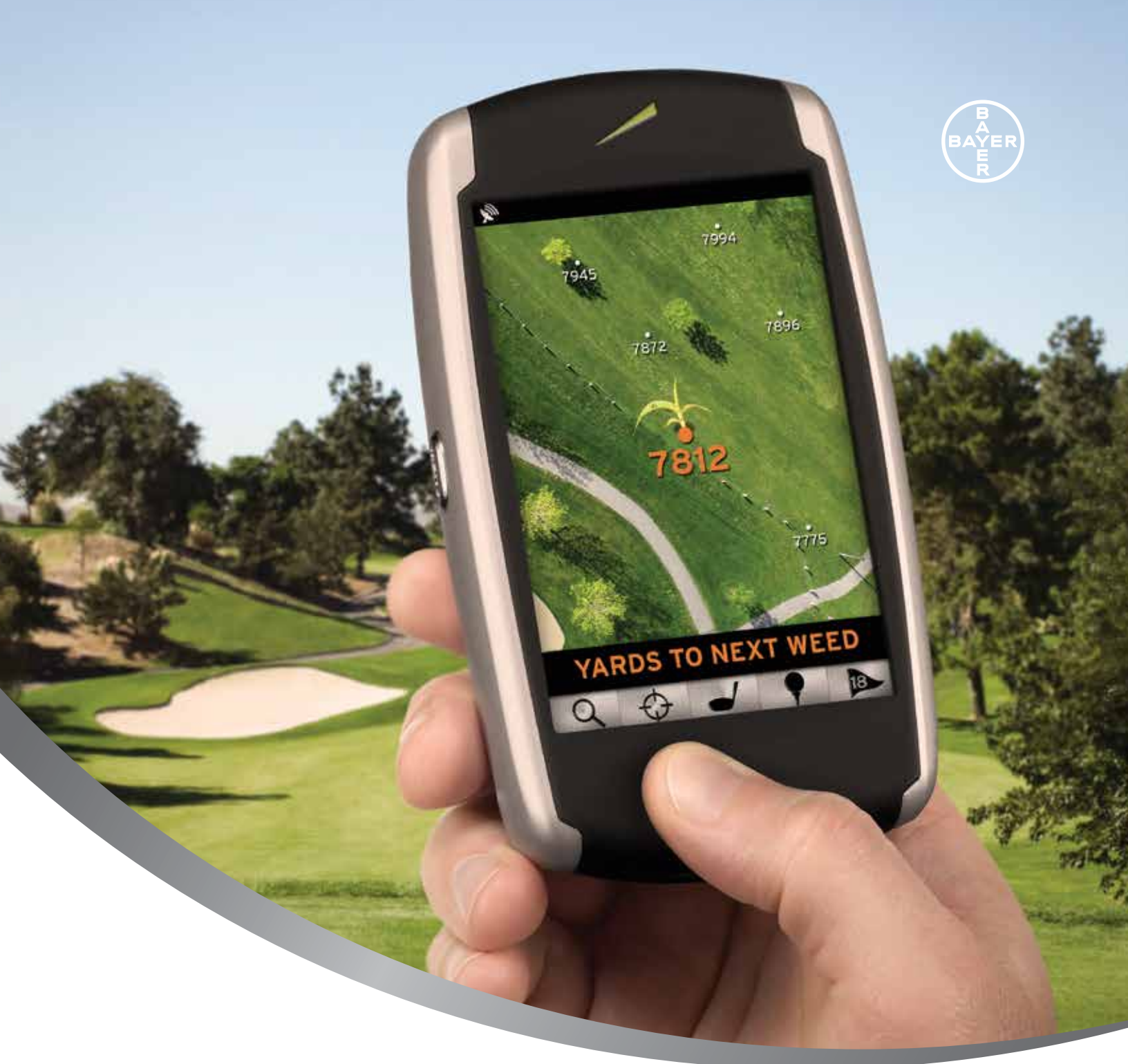


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Big Hitters Coming to Meeting at East Lake

Two of the most active minds in the business of golf will be among speakers at this year's Georgia GCSA annual meeting at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on November 16 and 17. Former president of the National Golf Course Owners Association Henry DeLozier and Pat Jones, editor in chief and publisher of Golf Course Industry magazine headline the list of speakers.

DeLozier is now a partner with Global Golf Advisors, a consulting firm with about 2,700 golf clients worldwide. Karen has been identified by Golf Inc. magazine as one of the most influential people in the game. Before joining Global Golf Advisors, DeLozier was a vice-president with Pulte Homes, at the time the largest developer of golf communities in the country. With Pulte, DeLozier developed 27 golf courses in 10 states and was responsible for the operation of more than 20 courses in the Pulte stable. He has served on committees for GCSAA and serves on the employers advisory council for the PGA of America.

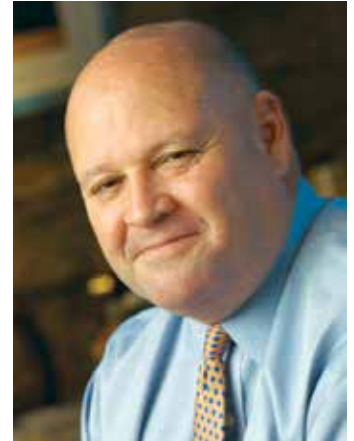
Jones' work is well known to superintendents across the country through his time on staff at GCSAA, then with Golfdom magazine, his own consulting company Flagstick and now with GCI. Well-known Atlanta television meteorologist David Chandley is also among confirmed speakers in a first-class line up befitting the venue.

East Lake hosts the Tour Championship each year for the PGA Tour and will host the Georgia GCSA golf championship on the Monday with the annual awards banquet to follow at the clubhouse that evening. "We're thrilled to be able to go to any of the venues we have enjoyed for our annual meeting," says Georgia GCSA executive director Tenia Workman. "It's going to be particularly enjoyable for everyone because we will have every aspect of the event at East Lake. Our members will get to enjoy the entire facility."

One exception is a new sporting clay event which will run concurrently with the golf championship. Fox Hall Resort and Sporting Club in Douglasville will host the event for those looking for an alternative to golf. ■



Pat Jones



Henry DeLozier

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Members Discuss Twists In Maintaining Bentgrass

Heat stress and how to deal with it occupied a large part of the discussion for bentgrass superintendents at this year's Georgia GCSA annual bentgrass and bermudagrass forum. That was in May while spring was still fresh in the air. By mid-June, superintendents weren't just talking about heat they were smack in the middle of it. Statewide temperatures nudged triple digits for an extended period.

"One thing was clear during the discussions and that was just how differently we all handle it," says Tim Cunningham, CGCS who was moderator and host superintendent at Coosa Country Club in Rome. "The dynamic is so different from big budget clubs, to mid-level clubs and to daily-fee facilities. How everybody attacks the summer is so varied. Do you water infrequently but heavily or frequently and lightly? How much do you roll versus mow? It's fascinating to hear what some guys find that works for them."

Cunningham says there was also considerable interest in University of Georgia plans for test plots with new bentgrass varieties such as 007. Dr. Clint Waltz from UGA outlined plans for the project and also sought feedback from superintendents on what varieties they wanted to see trialed. "Superintendents also wanted to see what plans there were to try and create the kind of real world stress that our greens are put under," Cunningham says. "Guys want to know how these test greens perform with heavy foot traffic, mowing traffic and so on."

Close to 100 people turned out for the forums and a golf tournament. Ralph Kepple, CGCS from East Lake Golf Club moderated the discussion for bermudagrass superintendents. Kepple hosts the Tour Championship for the PGA Tour at East Lake each year on MiniVerde ultradwarf bermudagrass greens.

Cunningham says numbers were "pretty evenly" split between the two forums. "It was good to see a lot of younger guys there," he says. Other speakers included Dr. John Sorochan from the University of Tennessee who discussed mower configurations for optimal putting green health and performance. As is customary, the Georgia GCSA will host a forum later this year – on September 14 – with an exclusive focus on bermudagrass maintenance. ■



Dr. John Sorochan from the University of Tennessee.



Tim Cunningham, CGCS from Coosa Country Club with Georgia GCSA board member Sam Welch from Horseshoe Bend Country Club.



Dr. Clint Waltz from the University of Georgia.



Winners: Sam Crowe, CGCS Summit Chase Country Club; Mike Martin, Hampton Golf Village; Derek Oglesby, Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply; Ron Wright, CGCS GCSAA.



Jason Whitecliff of Syngenta.



Runners-up: Josh Cooper, Currahee Club; Greg Hill, John Deere Landscapes; Joey Franco, CGCS Brookstone Golf and Country Club; Brandon Smith, Trophy Club of Atlanta.



Todd Lime, CGCS from Echelon Golf Club and Steven Ranew of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation.

Golf results

Winners

120 – Sam Crowe, CGCS Summit Chase Country Club; Mike Martin, Hampton Golf Village; Ron Wright, CGCS GCSAA; Derek Oglesby, Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply.

Runners-up

121– Josh Cooper, Currahee Club; Brandon Smith, Trophy Club of Atlanta; Joey Franco, CGCS Brookstone Golf and Country Club; Greg Hill, John Deere Landscapes.

Longest Drive

No. 4 – Mitchell Eickhoff, Augusta National Golf Club.
No. 13 – Mark Hayes, Marietta Country Club.

Closest to the Pin

No. 3 – Jacob Darr, Druid Hills Golf Club.
No. 10 – Cody Aaron, Cartersville Country Club.



Newton Ware of Howard Fertilizer; Matthew Fitzpatrick, Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee; Bradley Tremmier from RiverPines; and Ed Leverett from Coosa Country Club.

Lightning Forces Early End to Bulldog Classic

Storm activity brought a premature end to this year's Georgia GCSA Bulldog Classic but the benefits from the gathering will pass on to the next generation in an even greater degree than normal. The Bulldog Classic contested annually at the University of Georgia Golf Course in Athens generates funding for the association's Legacy Scholarships. Thousands of dollars are raised each year thanks to UGA's support of the event, backing from industry partners and entry fees from players. This year there was extra money in the pool after organizers decided to donate funds that would normally go towards prizes.

"Because we had to cancel the golf tournament after seven holes we thought it would be best to put the money set aside for prizes into the general pool for the scholarships," says Georgia GCSA secretary-treasurer and host superintendent at UGA, Scott Griffith. "It would have been an impossible task trying to determine how to fairly distribute prizes after so few holes. And we know that everybody at the event is there to support the Legacy Scholarships."

Georgia GCSA executive director Tenia Workman expects about \$8,000 will go to the Legacy Scholarship fund as a result of this year's Bulldog Classic. "That's a very good number I think," she says. "We really appreciate everyone's support. We are also very grateful to the University of Georgia. Their support shows great commitment to the work of golf course superintendents and our association."

Similarly, Griffith expects many players were grateful when the golf tournament was eventually canceled after a second delay because of lightning in the area. "A lot of folks have long drives to get home and by that point it was getting late in the day," he says. "We are very grateful to everybody who came out in support of the event once again. We had a full field of 120 players which is wonderful."

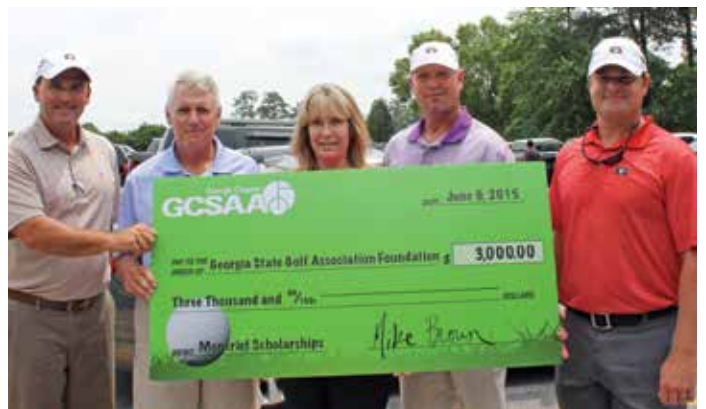
Earlier in the day, attendees experienced a presentation by Bill Brown, CGCS from Turf Republic on new technologies for turf-grass management. Brown covered a range of items in a two and a half hour seminar that held the group's interest from start to finish. "Bill did an excellent job," Griffith says. "He is a great speaker and does a really good job of staying on top of all the technology that is cutting edge. He not only knows what he's talking about he's a former superintendent so he's been in the trenches. He knows our job."

The Georgia GCSA greatly appreciates the support of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation in presenting the Bulldog Classic.

The Georgia GCSA also presented a check for \$3,000 to support the scholarship fund of the Georgia State Golf Association Foundation. ■



Josh Richardson from the Country Club of Gwinnett, Vince Wood now at the Country Club of the South, Ronald McWhorter from Reynolds Plantation and Mike Williamson of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation.



Greg Burleson, CGCS and Mike Martin with Kim Cox from the Georgia State Golf Association Foundation, and Lane Singleton and Scott Griffith, and a check for \$3,000 from the Georgia GCSA.



Ryan Montgomery and Phillip Vera from Augusta National Golf Club.



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Reinhardt Rides Internet into the New Generation

By Trent Bouts

At various points on the Internet you can find Patrick Reinhardt struggling to poke a pen through the crust of a frozen green, running geese off a pond with a remote control boat or tracking how many steps he takes in a day as golf course superintendent at Georgia Southern University Golf Course in Statesboro. On June 8 by the way, that would be 24,184.

The job still comes down to growing grass but as Reinhardt's generation is learning, and loving, some of the coolest tools for getting that done no longer hang on the wall of the shop. Instead, many are on the phone he carries everywhere he goes – whether that's onto a pump station roof, a fresh mown tee box, or even a bathroom. Connectivity is constant. And instantaneous.

Reinhardt, 33, is one of the rising stars in the superintendent profession, and not just in Georgia. Because of his command of myriad platforms that simply didn't exist a generation ago – Twitter, Vine, Facebook - his stock is on the up and up on a broader stage still.

People across the country can see his work and hear his perspective. More than 1,300 of them value it enough to follow him on Twitter.

That presence also makes him visible to those who cover the profession. His words or images – he is a talented photographer too - have appeared recently in national publications such as *Golfdom*, *Golf Course Industry* and *GCM*. Contrast that with the historical stereotype of superintendents being rarely seen or heard, instead letting their work speak for them through the condition of the golf course.

But here's the thing. Reinhardt is doing none of it for self-promotion. It's just part of doing his job as well as he possibly can. "I consider myself late to the technology bandwagon," he says, of his plunge into Twitter at the end of 2012. "I got switched on to Twitter almost out of necessity. So many college students – our target audience, the people we want to reach – had already moved away from Facebook."

Reinhardt quickly discovered that it wasn't just golfers he could reach in an instant. "I can put out a question about something I might be seeing on one of my greens and have people respond within seconds," he says. "Within an hour I might have 15 responses." And when his followers include some very experienced superintendents, prominent researchers and USGA Green Section agronomists, the feedback is often invaluable.

Patrick Reinhardt grew up in the small town of Monroe, MI just north of the Ohio state line looking out onto Lake Erie. Through high school he was set on the idea of a future in civil and environmental engineering. But like so many before him, he unwittingly arrived at a fork in the career road when he took on summer work at a nearby golf course owned by family friends.



Patrick Reinhardt (inset) has all-round skills that include capturing this photo of a dramatic cloud formation over the golf course at Georgia Southern University.

By the end of his second semester at Michigan State University, the lab in the engineering building was beginning to feel a little like a prison. Both his grandfathers were farmers and, while he was very young when both died, he still spent a lot of time bouncing around on tractors as a kid. “I guess you could say it’s in my blood,” he says.

By contrast, he found that engineering was “really not that much of an outside field.” “I’m not a big fan of sitting inside four walls,” he says. “I like to be out, involved, getting my hands in it.” One thing he did learn from his time in engineering though was that Michigan State ran a great turfgrass management program. So he followed his heart and made the switch.

While still at MSU he secured an internship at The Standard Club in Johns Creek under Mark Hoban. That led to a job upon graduation in 2004. Hoban, now at Rivermont Golf and Country Club, left soon after but Reinhardt stayed for seven and a half years. There he helped current Georgia GCSA president Mike Brown with a major renovation of the golf course. Brown was impressed enough to recommend Reinhardt for a number of superintendent positions but the recession had created a severe bottleneck for assistants looking to move up.

In the end, Reinhardt applied for more than 20 different senior roles before catching his break at Georgia Southern in 2011. Ironically, there wasn’t really a golf course to speak of at that point. Instead, there was a tract of land that used to be known as Southern Links, an 18-hole course that had been shutdown and overgrown for seven years. Georgia Southern University bought the land for \$650,000 and committed about \$3.5 million for the resurrection with Florida-based Bob Walker as lead architect.

“There’s that feeling of accomplishment,” Reinhardt says, of finally hearing something other than ‘thanks, but no thanks.’ “There were a lot of great guys who applied for the job. So I was very grateful to be given the opportunity. But then you sit down and think about it and, yes, there’s a sense of oh, oh, what did I get myself into. I’m leaving a great job working for a great guy and now there’s a multi-million dollar project and I’m going to be the one leading it...this should be interesting.”

And it was.

“It was stressful,” Reinhardt admits. “It wasn’t something that was easy to do. We spent \$3.5 million when most people would spend four and five times that to build a golf course. There are things I would have loved to do that the golf course would have really benefited from but we had to prioritize. You realize when you have to make so many decisions that you are going to get some wrong. You just have to hope you get enough of them right, overall, that people will be happy with the end product.”

Apparently, they are. Golf Digest named Georgia Southern to its list of Best New Golf Courses in 2014. Director of golf Martin Olsson credited a “large part” of that recognition to Reinhardt.

Golfers seem to be happy too. The course neared its 24,000 round target last year with close to a 50-50 split between student and public play. As Reinhardt says, at \$10 to walk 18 and \$25 to ride, “To be a student at Georgia Southern who likes to play golf is a really good thing.”

Reinhardt believes it’s a good thing to be a superintendent there too. He has three other full-time staff but the bulk of his workforce comes



Before and after shots towards the 15th green.

from the student body. “I have a killer staff,” he says. “I love the staff I’ve got. I can’t say enough about them. They’re incredibly smart and dedicated. They’re willing to do just about anything. It’s fun working in this setting. I’m fortunate in that I don’t have a lot of people I have to answer to. It’s nice not having 300 different managers (members) that I have to explain myself to.”

The fact that a university is, by definition, a place of learning sits well with Reinhardt too. “I love experimenting with new stuff,” he says. “But I am still cautious when I do it. If it’s a new product I’m trying I hope it works like the manufacturer says it will. But I expect it probably won’t work quite to the extent they say it will. I think new products deserve a shot and someone has to do it.”

Reinhardt’s experimentation is always underpinned by a sense of “cautious optimism” thanks to his social media network. “There is a core group of us who like to try and push the envelope,” he says. “We bounce ideas off of each other and compare notes.” That exchange helps minimize any risk. It also helps spread the benefit.

When, some 20-plus years ago, GCSAA began urging superintendents to come out of the background, the thinking was that if their work was better understood, it would also be better appreciated and, ultimately, better rewarded. One of the challenges was finding platforms - other than visibility at the driving range and the clubhouse - for superintendents to do that. The Internet, as Reinhardt and others of his generation are showing, presents an array of opportunity. “It’s a wonderful tool,” he says. ■

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Before and after views from the 7th tee.

Plane Lands on Golf Course



The Maule M-4 220C aircraft which dropped in on Columbus Country Club.

William Smith, CGCS was busy enough hosting the 86th Southeastern Amateur at the Country Club of Columbus but then he had an unexpected visitor. A single-engine aircraft that had lost power came fluttering in for an emergency landing on the 15th fairway. “There was a twosome on the green and I don’t know how close the plane came to hitting them but once it touched down it was only 50 yards away,” Smith says. The pilot survived without injury and there was no damage to the plane.

However, the golf event – which was in the practice round stage – endured more than its share of disruption. “It turned into a circus once the first responders got word,” Smith says. “I think every policeman in Columbus was there.” The plane had just taken off from a nearby airport when it lost power. Witnesses later said they didn’t hear the plane coming until it appeared in view because there was no engine noise.

Smith says it is the first plane he has had drop in during his 38-year career. “I’ve had some hot-air balloons land on the golf course before,” he says. “It was very fortunate for this pilot that the golf course was here because he had nowhere else to go.” Smith says there was minimal turf damage and the tournament was able to be played without a hitch. ■



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Goshen Valley Fields Are a “Sheer Blessing”

Sam Burgess has poured heart and soul, along with a few gallons of sweat, into building a first-class sports complex at Goshen Valley Boys Ranch. Burgess, from Ansley Golf Club in Roswell, is one of a number of individuals who have been there every step of the way since the project began three years ago. Some of the others include Scott Lambert from Peachtree Golf Club and Joe Hollis from Augusta Country Club. “It is a sheer blessing,” Burgess says of what has been achieved on behalf of boys and young men in the state’s foster care system.

Today, Goshen Valley, in Waleska about an hour north of Atlanta, offers its residents a 60,000 sq. ft. sports field and a fenced baseball field where once there was pot-holed pasture. “It’s a bona fide sports complex now,” says Jordan Bell, also from Ansley Golf Club, who, like Burgess, has taken his turn at leading work days on the project on behalf of the Georgia GCSA assistant superintendents committee. “It absolutely looks legitimate.”

“You wouldn’t recognize it from what it was when we started three years ago,” Burgess says. “Part of the beauty of it is that, every year, kids from the ranch have worked right alongside us. They’ve been involved, worked hard, and I’m sure they’ve picked up some skills along the way.”

Burgess is also impressed and grateful for the manner in which Georgia GCSA members – assistants, superintendents, vendors – and sometimes non-members have pitched in. “It’s been a huge team effort every year,” he says. “A lot of people have contributed to what we’ve been able to achieve.”

Late May, about 15 volunteers spent the best part of a day installing an outfield fence on the baseball field, sod cutting the infield, lining the field, painting bases, spraying out weeds and topdressing and fertilizing both fields. The work team installed 260 feet of fencing donated by Chamblee Fence Company. Other companies that donated

materials or services this year included: Bulk Aggregate Golf, Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply, Harrell’s, Helena, Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation, Peachtree Golf Club and Trion High School.

Goshen Valley leaders have described the new sports facilities as “fields of dreams” that help provide invaluable opportunities for residents. Goshen Valley has six residences on a 300-acre cattle ranch and on average serves about 40 10- to 21- year-olds many of whom have been victims of abuse or neglect. The ranch has the highest occupancy rate of any system facility in the state.

The Georgia GCSA’s relationship with Goshen Valley stemmed from ties the boys home had with Billy Fuller, a former golf course superintendent and now principal of Billy Fuller Golf Design. Goshen Valley’s new sports complex is just one of a series of community projects the committee has engaged in recent years. Assistant superintendents and other Georgia GCSA members have also made significant contributions to Camp Will-A-Way in Fort Yargo State Park in Winder and Habitat for Humanity in Atlanta. ■



Andrew Curtin from Piedmont Driving Club and Scott Lambert from Peachtree Golf Club.

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Standing: Josh Gaddy from Atlanta Country Club, Steven Ranew of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation, Scott Lambert from Peachtree Golf Club, Jordan Bell from Ansley Golf Club at Settindown Creek, Andrew Curtin from Piedmont Driving Club. Crouching: Adam Wilhite of Harrell's and Jamey Smith of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation. Sliding: Sam Burgess from Ansley Golf Club at Settindown Creek.

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Legacy scholarship committee members Richard Staughton, CGCS from Towne Lake Hills Golf Club, Jamie Pate of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation, Chuck Underwood, CGCS from Northwood Country Club, Mike Crawford, CGCS from TPC Sugarloaf and Mike Martin, chairman of the Georgia GCSA turf research and scholarship committee, from Hampton Golf Village.

Karli Durden, daughter of Joe Durden from Augusta National Golf Club and Augusta Country Club, is the major winner in the Georgia GCSA Legacy Scholarships for the second year in a row. She is majoring in biology at the University of Georgia. Joe Durden, now at Augusta National Golf Club and Augusta Country Club, has been a Georgia GCSA member since 1990.

Ryan Cunningham, son of Tim Cunningham, CGCS from Coosa Country Club in Rome won the second highest award granted by the Georgia GCSA scholarship committee in June. Cunningham's scholarship came around the same time he was named outstanding rising senior in the Georgia State Golf Association Foundation's Dick Franklin Performance Awards.

The Georgia GCSA is able to offer the Legacy Scholarship program thanks in part to the sponsorship support of Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation.

In all there were eight scholarships awarded. In addition to sitting for interviews with the scholarship committee, applicants also had to write two essays. Here are the successful applicants and excerpts from one of their essays:



Joshua Abrams

Son of Mark Abrams
Wolf Creek Golf Club, Atlanta

"My dad has been a golf course superintendent for almost 20 years and worked in the golf industry for over 30 years at golf courses all over the state of Georgia. With his years of experience and love for his job, I consider him one of the best superintendents in the state of Georgia. He is also a great father and has always showed me love, care and discipline when needed...For the past three years I have worked at Wolf Creek Golf Club on the maintenance crew and cart staff...Working

has taught me so much that I could never fit into a 300-word essay."



Ryan Cunningham

Son of Tim Cunningham, CGCS
Coosa Country Club, Rome

"To audition for the UGA drumline, you must first complete not one but four separate auditions in order to gain access into this prestigious organization. For me, each of these auditions included both a 120-mile trek to Athens as well as having to cope with the nerves of the actual audition process...I couldn't have made the line without the support of my

family...Whether it be auditioning for the drumline or any other endeavor I have pursued through my life, my family has always been there to support me."



Karli Durden

Daughter of Joe Durden
Augusta National Golf Club and Augusta
Country Club, Augusta

“Throughout the past two years my family has been through a tough time. My father has battled stage four cancer and, through his strength and God’s blessing, he beat it. I have never been more thankful for anything in my life...I have learned a great deal these last two years however.

I have learned to be resilient, I have been tested and succeeded, and been tested and failed...But I have mainly learned that I love my family more than I realized.”



Preston Kell

Son of Lawrence Kell
The Chimneys Golf Course, Winder

“The military has always been an interest of mine. Therefore, it is fitting that my hero is, perhaps, one of the most celebrated soldiers in all American history, George Washington...In his lifetime he set precedents that would impact our country greatly, and staged the United States of America to become one of the most powerful countries in the world. In

order to do this he had to have determination, dedication, character and an unheard of resolve to see his ideas through.”



Hannah Kepple

Daughter of Ralph Kepple, CGCS
East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta

“As I’m sure many people have heard throughout life, people always make mistakes – there’s no avoiding it. But for me, it’s what people do after the mistakes that shape a person – if mistakes are repeated, or if they help others by using their experiences. I also believe, however, that some mistakes take time to learn from and it’s crucial to acknowledge how far

someone has come after battling many obstacles.”



Morgan Kepple

Daughter of Ralph Kepple, CGCS
East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta

“I am nowhere near close to being the person I want to be. What type of person do I aspire to be?...I want my dad’s unwavering dependability and helpfulness. When he is not helping his wife or kids with something they have asked for, he is doing everything else that we all take for granted. He cleans the pool, cares for the lawn, washes the dog, makes dinner, etc.

Every single member of my family has a quality – many, really – that I deeply admire and strive to attain.”



Alex Kicklighter

Son of Hampton Kicklighter, CGCS
Dublin Country Club, Dublin

“My dad has always said that being a golf course superintendent was not a job, it was a lifestyle...When I went to work at Dublin Country Club, I got to experience first-hand what it takes to maintain a golf course. Not only do you have the regular daily tasks like mowing, changing pins and raking bunkers, you also have multiple unexpected things happen. I

found myself looking for ways to complete my work efficiently so that I was able to assist others with their work or be available to assist when the unplanned irrigation leak or other issue arose.”



Ben Murray

Grandson of Buzz Howell
Retired, Bishop

“Now at the end of my freshman year in college, I realize that I have not played any competitive golf throughout the year...So the very next day after returning to Statesboro, I took my clubs to the local driving range after class to focus on my comeback to golf. I understand that my comeback to golf is not quite on the same level as Tiger Woods’, but that is

not the point. I am coming back to golf because I care. I have a passion for the game and the future of the game and I would like to contribute to that future whether it is big or small.” ■



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Cunningham Wins Performance Award



Ryan Cunningham



Joy Moncrief (Mrs. James B. "Monty" Moncrief) is front and center among scholars at the luncheon.

Ryan Cunningham, son of Tim Cunningham, CGCS from Coosa Country Club in Rome, has won the Dick Franklin Performance Award for rising seniors from the Georgia State Golf Association Foundation. A Yates Scholar at the University of Georgia, Cunningham holds a 3.63 cumulative grade point average and is working towards a degree in mass media arts. His award caps a remarkable family double after his sister Courtney won the same honor last year.

Ryan Cunningham is a member of the Red-coat marching band (drumline). He volunteered at a local daycare for career day to introduce children to UGA's drumline. He also volunteered at student-run radio station WUOG 90.5 and interned at WUGA 91.7. In addition, he volunteered teaching the Commerce drumline last fall and is instructing two drumlines this summer.

Cunningham also works 20-plus hours weekly at a part-time job. He says his father is responsible for one his favorite quotes: "Ryan, always be proud of the work that you do. If you're not proud of it, work harder."

The most outstanding rising junior is Bradley Weaver, a Yates Scholar at UGA majoring in psychology. His mother, Bonnie Weaver, is the tennis shop manager at the Country Club of Roswell.

The ninth annual winners were announced at the 2015 GSGA Foundation's annual scholars luncheon. Franklin, a passionate and dedicated volunteer, passed away suddenly in 2005 while he was serving as president of the GSGA Foundation and on the executive committee of the Georgia State Golf Association. These awards of \$3,000 each honor Franklin's legacy while recognizing current GSGA Foundation Yates Scholars with outstanding performance both in and out of the classroom.

The GSGA Foundation also oversees the Moncrief Scholarships that honor deserving students in the field of agronomy and turf management at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia. The scholarship is named in memory of Moncrief, a former USGA Southeastern Green Section director. The Georgia GCSA has helped fund the scholarship for many years.

New Moncrief scholars were also recognized at the annual scholars luncheon. They were:

UGA – Chad Austin, William Bowling, Clint Connard, Aaron Hayes and Silas Ledford.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College – Dylan Cagle, Mackenzie Johnson and David Martinez.

Yates Scholars – Children of superintendents, recognized at the luncheon included:

Class of 2016 – Ryan Cunningham (Coosa Country Club/UGA) and Savannah Gratz (Fairways of Canton/Emmanuel College).

Class of 2017 – Morgan Kepple (East Lake Golf Club/UGA).

Class of 2018 – Karli Durden (Augusta National Golf Club and Augusta Country Club), Henson Fillingim and Ben Ketelsen.

Class of 2019 – Preston Kell (The Chimneys Golf Club/University of North Georgia) and Alex Kicklighter (Dublin Country Club/UGA). ■

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Congressman Tours Stone Mountain

Congressman Hank Johnson, (GA-04), met with GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Anthony Williams, CGCS and toured Stone Mountain Golf Club by Marriott in Stone Mountain Park in April. This was the second time Johnson and Williams met – the first being at Rep. Johnson’s district office in October of 2014.

“The congressman and I have had several lengthy conversations about how we as citizens and leaders can help shape our communities and sustain our unique environmental assets,” Williams says. “It was a true honor to host him for an environmental tour of our facility and share stories of past service and talk about the future of our community.” The congressman was accompanied by his wife, Mereda Davis Johnson, former Congressman Earl Hilliard of Alabama and several staff members. They were officially welcomed to the property by general manager Robert Woolridge.

The group toured not only public areas but also saw behind-the-scenes areas and programs ranging from the new award-winning, state-of-the-art irrigation pump station to pollinator gardens that provide habitat for

butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. The congressman volunteered to adopt a bluebird nest box, one of 108 nest boxes featured in the property’s wildlife habitat enhancement program. Some 150 blue bird fledglings hatched in Stone Mountains nest boxes this spring. The group also found some time to sink a few putts on the putting green while taking in great views of Stone Mountain and Stone Mountain Lake. Congressman Johnson says, “The environmental work, the beauty of the property and the variety of activities and venues are a tremendous asset to our community.”

Williams, who had recently returned to work after emergency open heart surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm, adds, “It was a great day and I know how full the congressman’s schedule is but back in October he said he wanted to see our facility in person and he made it happen. He also gave me a call while I was in the hospital recovering just to wish me well and remind me that I owed him a tour of Stone Mountain. There are moments when a person can find inspiration in the actions of others, this was one of those moments.” ■



Former Congressman Earl Hilliard of Alabama, Robert Woolridge, Congressman Hank Johnson, Anthony Williams, CGCS, Mereda Davis-Johnson, Xeron Pledger and Eric Hubbard gather to share environmental and advocacy stories on the putting green at the Stone Mountain Golf Club by Marriott.

Fillingim Says Farewell GA



Lee Fillingim

Change is evident especially when it comes to the environment that we all call work. Time goes quickly and I am proud to say that I have been a part of the Georgia GCSA for more than 20 years. I have

built so many great relationships over those years which makes leaving Georgia very difficult. The good news is that God has opened a door through which I can move my wife closer to home through my new role as golf course superintendent at Anniston Country Club in Anniston, AL.

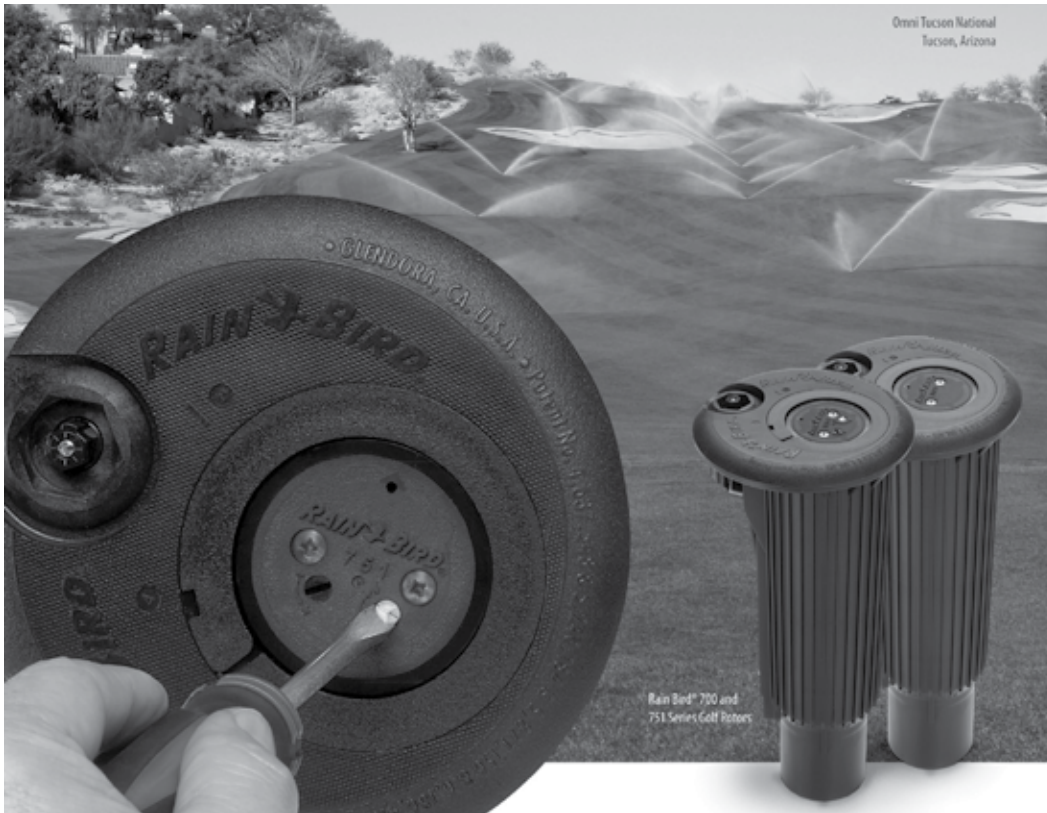
There are so many people to thank for guidance and direction over the years as well as just being there. There is no way one can even begin telling the many ways the Georgia GCSA impacts our daily lives as golf course superintendents.

I cannot leave without saying thank you to the Georgia GCSA (Tenia Workman and Allison Jackson) and all that you do. We are all better people professionally and personally because of the high standards the Georgia GCSA provides.

I also need to thank Gary Wilder and his agronomic team with Club Corp for providing a working environment that is second to none. One person that has truly impacted my life is Wade Thomas. I will never be able to repay Wade for his acts of kindness, generosity, professionalism and personal friendship. When someone mentions honor, integrity and ‘do whatever it takes,’ Wade Thomas easily comes to mind.

I am just across the state line but will always be loyal to Georgia GCSA. I look forward to when our paths cross again. ■

-Lee Fillingim



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Andersen Leaves Athletic Club

I have had an amazing seven-plus year career here at Atlanta Athletic Club to help me prepare for my new role as golf course superintendent at the University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, TX.

It all started in the summer of 2007 as a summer intern while attending the University of Florida. It was one of the most educational and inspiring summers of my life. I was pulled into the AAC history, culture and magnificent beauty. I knew this is where I wanted to be. Ken Mangum, CGCS offered me an assistant superintendent position at the end of the summer, and with the opportunities approaching in the next seven years, I quickly agreed to join the management staff. I rose through the assistant ranks and was promoted to golf course superintendent in November, 2012.

I've done so many things at AAC, and worked with so many amazing people that could fill a career. Two major championships (2011 PGA Championship and 2014 U.S. Amateur), three greens conversions to Champion ultradwarf bermudagrass, bunker renovations and enhancements, tee construction and additions, and a full-scale driving range renovation.

So many people have helped shape and mentor my career. None more than Ken Mangum. All the stories and things people say about him don't even begin to scratch the surface of how truly amazing of a man he is. He sees the fire in people and gives them the tools to be successful. I'd also like to thank my general manager Kevin Carroll and director of golf Rick Anderson, my father John Andersen, CGCS,

Kasey Kauff, Kyle Johnson, Lukus Harvey, Elliot Garrison, Taylor Davis, Jackie McKinzie, Chris Borders and the entire management team at AAC, and all the friends and colleagues I've made during my time in Georgia.

I'd also like to thank Tenia Workman. She runs what I believe to be one of the best associations in our industry, and pours her heart and soul into the Georgia GCSA to make it what it is today. I am also grateful for all the volunteer time our boards of directors – past and present – have devoted to the association and the profession. We are all better off for their efforts.

Thank you. ■

- Tyler Andersen

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East Lake Marks Record Giving

Tournament officials announced recently that the 2014 Tour Championship by Coca-Cola generated a record \$2.2 million for local charities. Organizations that received donations include the East Lake Foundation and The First Tee of East Lake. The Tour Championship by Coca-Cola has a long history of giving back to the communities where the event has been played. The events that have been hosted at East Lake Golf Club, where Ralph Kepple is certified golf course superintendent, have now generated more than \$20 million for charity. The 2015 Tour Championship is set to return to East Lake Golf Club as the FedExCup Playoffs finale from September 23 to 27. ■

Thanks for Smith Lands PGA Trip



William Smith, CGCS

William Smith, CGCS from Columbus Country Club in Columbus, was the recipient of an award-winning thank you note recently. The note recognizing Smith's efforts arrived as part of GCSAA's national Thank a Golf Course Superintendent campaign. Club member Murray Calhoun penned the thank you note and his name was drawn in a sweepstakes winning him a trip for two to this year's PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. "I can't even remember what I wrote about him," says Calhoun, a low single-digit handicapper who plays the course three times a week. "It isn't hard to say nice things about William. He is a quality guy who does great work."

"That was really cool," Smith says. "I have not seen his note but I have talked to the GCSAA and they said I had 20 notes from members. I have known Mr. Calhoun for many years. He has always been complimentary of the course conditions and I assume that was the case in his note. It is nice to have members who appreciate the efforts of the maintenance staff." ■



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- > **John Haguewood, Class AF.** Technical manager, Macro-Sorb Technologies, Clarkesville (573) 214-1518.
- > **Will King, Class AF.** President, Regal Chemical Company, Alpharetta (770) 475-4837.
- > **Chip Thompson, Class C.** Assistant golf course superintendent, Cateechee Golf Club, Hartwell (706) 856-3301.
- > **Randy Wilson, Class R.** Retired, Clayton (678) 492-6634.

> Tee Shots

Weddings

- > Congratulations to **Mark Hayes** from Marietta Country Club and his new bride, Lea, who were married on May 9.

Births

- > Congratulations to **Rob Roy** from The River Club and his wife, Jenna, on the birth of their son, Lincoln James Roy. Lincoln was born on May 31 and weighed 8lbs 2ounces and measured 19 inches long.

Condolences

- > Our condolences to **Mike Sokolowsky** from Hampton Golf Village and his family on the passing of his mother.

> Tee Shots

Movers & Shakers

- > **Zach Abernathy** has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Collins Hill Golf Club in Lawrenceville.
- > **Tyler Andersen**, formerly golf course superintendent at Atlanta Athletic Club in Johns Creek, is now golf course superintendent at the University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, TX.
- > **Colten Beattie** is now second assistant golf course superintendent at Marietta Country Club in Kennesaw.
- > **Joey Brown**, formerly the golf course superintendent at Georgia National in McDonough, is now golf course superintendent at Healy Point Country Club in Macon.
- > **Nelson Caron** has been promoted to director of golf course and grounds maintenance at The Ford Plantation in Savannah, GA.
- > **Jake Colvin**, formerly assistant golf course superintendent at Brunswick Country Club in Brunswick, is now golf course superintendent at Hawks Point Golf Club in Vidalia.
- > **Lee Fillingim**, formerly golf course superintendent at Healy Point Country Club in Macon, is now golf course superintendent at Anniston Country Club in Anniston, AL.
- > **Joe Hollis** has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Atlanta Country Club.
- > **William Oakley**, formerly golf course superintendent at Eagle's Landing Country Club in Stockbridge, is now golf course superintendent at Country Club of the South in Johns Creek.
- > **Chip Thompson** is now assistant golf course superintendent at Cateechee Golf Club in Hartwell.
- > **Anthony Wright**, formerly second assistant golf course superintendent at Capital City Club Brookhaven, is now first assistant golf course superintendent at Rivermont Golf and Country Club in Alpharetta.

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Georgia GCSA Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 14, 2015
Bermudagrass Forum and Golf Outing
King and Prince Golf Course
St. Simons Island, GA
Host superintendent: Chuck Moore

October 19, 2015
Assistant Superintendent Seminar
and Golf Championship
Druid Hills Golf Club, Atlanta, GA
Host superintendent: Neal Wisdom

November 2, 2015
Challenge Cup
Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee
Eatonton, GA
Host superintendent: Sam Murphy

November 16-17, 2015
Annual Meeting and
Golf Championship
East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta, GA
Host superintendent: Ralph Kepple, CGCS

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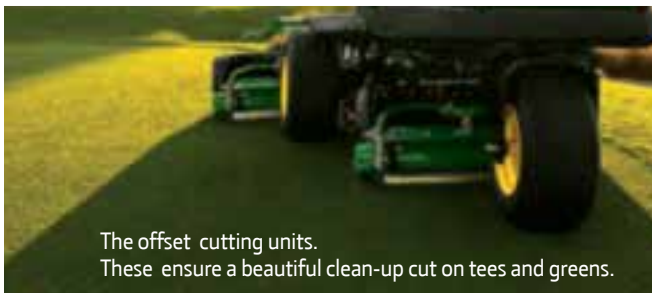


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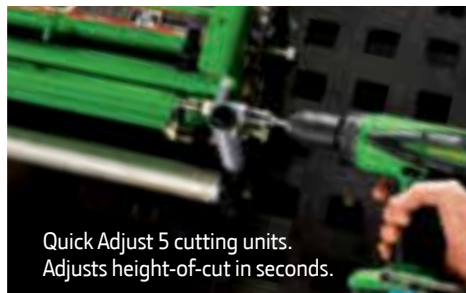
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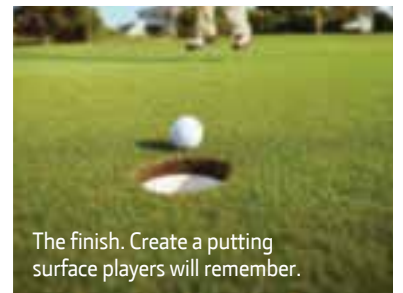
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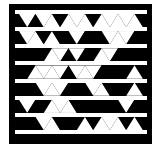
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