C LAREMONT, N.H. — Danny Whitcomb and his chocolate lab Hershey start the morning rounds every day at nine-hole, semiprivate Claremont Country Club here — a course that has been played by the likes of Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge. It has been a routine for the pair since 1992 when Whitcomb left John H. Cain Golf Course in Newport, where he had grown in the new 18 holes. Before the 43-year-old Whitcomb discovered greenskeeping, he was a globetrotting equipment operator, building flood-control dams in South Africa, China and South America.

Then came turfgrass studies at the University of New Hampshire and then at University of Massachusetts’ Stockbridge School, where he earned a winter school degree in 1987 and continuing education units in the winter of 1990. Whitcomb worked at the private 18-hole Keene (N.H.) Country Club from 1988-90 before growing in John H. Cain. A member of the board of directors for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Hampshire, he was a speaker at this winter’s International Golf Course Conference and Show.

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Danny Whitcomb’s Claremont CC

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