



# GOLFDOM SUMMIT

WITH A YEAR  
OF EXPERIENCE  
UNDER OUR BELTS,  
GOLFDOM'S OWN EVENT,  
BRINGING SUPERINTENDENTS  
TOGETHER WITH VENDORS,  
GETS JUST A LITTLE  
BIT BETTER.

Version 1.2  
in '12

## BY THE GOLFDOM STAFF

**T**he names and the location changed, but neither was the major difference between 2011 and 2012 when it came to the *Golfdom* Summit. “This year was just better,” said Damon Di Giorgio, superintendent at Fieldstone GC in Wilmington, Del., and one of only four superintendents to attend both years. “Having more sponsors really helped in that we had more meetings to attend, but the event was also more organized and the speakers were all great.”

The *Golfdom* Summit, an invite-only event, is in its second year. Attendees apply to the Summit by registering at [www.golfdomsummit.com](http://www.golfdomsummit.com). This year, a group of 40 superintendents convened at the Reunion Resort in Orlando to meet with eight sponsors of the event (see sidebar, page 34).

“It is a fabulous event. The intimate setting and constant interaction between superintendents and vendors is incredibly effective. The conversations between grass growers and product representatives over a continual time vs. a one-day event, or multi-day events with 15 times as many vendors, brought so many more questions from us, which delivered so many more

answers from the vendors,” said Jackson Reisinger, superintendent at Coral Creek Club in Placida, Fla., and a first-time attendee. “I will absolutely be casting my ballot for next year’s event, and even though I’d like to keep it to myself, I will in fact be sharing my experience with those of my peers who I know will benefit from such a directed event.”

Indeed, the key to the success of the Summit is the interaction between vendors and superintendents, but there is still a great list of speakers for attendees (see sidebar, page 34). Attendees also teed it up on the Reunion Resort’s scenic, yet challenging Palmer Course and got to enjoy a round of golf far away from the stresses of their own course.

“I had a great time, met some new supers, picked up a couple ideas and vendors helped me on a couple issues,” said Joe Stribley, superintendent at Yellowstone CC in Billings, Mont. “Great venue, well organized and I enjoyed the agenda.”

Scott Ramsay, CGCS at Yale Golf Course in New Haven, Conn., said he was surprised by how many of his colleagues had never heard of the event.

“I’ve texted a lot of the guys back home, and I’ve told them  
*Continued on page 34*



**1** Superintendents from around the country converged on the Reunion Resort in Orlando to attend the 2012 *Golfdom* Summit.  
*Photo by Seth Jones*

**2** Only at the *Golfdom* Summit! Jacobsen's Chuck Greif and John Deere Turf's Rhonda Flannery willing to share a plate. Peace on earth!  
*Photo by Tim Kreger*



**3** George Kinkead, president of Turfco, shows Paul Chojnacky, superintendent at Pasatiempo GC, all the bells and whistles on the Turfco Triwave 40.  
*Photo by Seth Jones*

**4** Thanks to Tim Kreger, executive director of the Carolinas GCSA, for herding all these cats to make a group photo possible. Next year he's in charge of this photo again. *Photo by Tim Kreger*



**5** "It's not a magazine that over-editorializes, it gets down to the facts, and that's one of the reasons I like *Golfdom*," Rees Jones said. No, seriously, he said that. We have witnesses!  
*Photo by Tim Kreger*



**6** There was an uncomfortable moment when Pasatiempo superintendent Paul Chojnacky and *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones realized they both arrived to a party wearing the same Pasatiempo pull-over. *Awkward!*  
*Photo by Beth Geraci*



## Summit 1.2

Continued from page 32

where I'm at," Ramsay told *Golfdom*. "They're clueless to this event. But I'm going to tell them: You need to register for this next year, and if you get invited, you absolutely have to come."

### From one Jones to another

The speakers at the *Golfdom* Summit were definitely diverse. From Rees Jones' keynote, discussing changes he made at Medinah in anticipation of the 2012 Ryder Cup, to *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones' story of a bottle of tequila bought for him in Mexico, attendees got a lot outside of normal agronomy.

Medinah's director of golf course operations, Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, talked about his career path and preparing for the 2012 Ryder Cup.

"Two nights ago somebody won \$500 million in the lottery. I didn't play. But I'll tell you a quick little story about the day that I hit the lottery," Tyrrell told the group. "I was working in Las Vegas. I get a call and Jeff Spangler (Troon Golf's Senior VP, Science and Agronomy) says, 'How would you like to move to



**7** Orlando Delgado, superintendent at Marrakesh CC in Palm Desert, Calif., and FMC's Adam Manwarren, wanted to know the course record... then they found out it was a scramble. Sorry, guys. Photo by Beth Geraci



**8** (L to R) Jackson Reiswig (Coral Creek Club), Chris Vernon (Jacobsen), Scott Ramsay (Yale GC) and Kevin Stoltman (North Coast Media) may not have shot the low score, but they looked like pros. Photo by Beth Geraci

### 2012 SPONSORS

Course Vision / FMC / Jacobsen / John Deere Turf Smithco / Sunbelt Rentals The Toro Company / Turfco

### 2012 SPEAKERS

Rees Jones, architect

Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, Medinah (Ill.) CC

Anthony Williams, CGCS, CGM, Stone Mountain (Ga.) GC

Seth Jones, *Golfdom* EIC

Paul Chojnacky, superintendent, Pasatiempo GC, Santa Cruz, Calif.

David Littrell, superintendent, Iroquois GC, Louisville, Ky.

Mark Woodward, CGCS, DaMarCo Golf, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tim Kreger, Executive Director, Carolinas GCSA

Joel Jackson, CGCS-Ret., Executive Director, Florida GCSA

Connecticut and build 36 holes with Rees Jones' And, what do you say to that except 'When do we leave?' And literally that was the day that changed my life."

Rees Jones shared some interesting facts on the work done in anticipation of the Ryder Cup.

"During the (2006) PGA Championship, (17) wasn't that hard a golf hole. But then Davis Love (III) put the pin on the tongue of the green on the right side where the bunker comes into play. He thought he was protecting his lead," Jones said. "Little did he know that he would be trying to catch up. So many guys hit it into the left bunker, it was astounding. When you get under pressure in the game of golf, your body doesn't work as well and the alarms take over. And I think that's what happened to a lot of players coming down the stretch."

### Futurecast

There will be a 2013 *Golfdom* Summit, but undetermined is the where, the who and the how many.

If things continue on the current path, there is one scoop to be shared: The hope is to host two Summits in 2014, enabling us to double the amount of supers we can host in a year. The more superintendents we can introduce to the Summit, the better. ■

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