Add the First Tee of Louisville, Ky., among the big winners of 2013. The organization opened a new 9-hole course last month. In honor of the occasion, the course was also gifted a shiny new greens mower.

To commemorate the opening of the course, a GP400 riding greens mower was donated by Jacobsen. The local Jacobsen dealer for the area, Wolf Creek Company, helped make the donation possible. The gift retails for over $40,000.

“The equipment donation from Jacobsen and Wolf Creek was a critical part of getting this done and we appreciate their partnership,” said Ed Perry, President of the First Tee of Louisville. “The maintenance equipment will help us keep the course in top-notch shape for many years to come.”

Louisville’s Mayor Greg Fischer was at the opening of the course along with other local officials. Within the Louisville Metro Parks system, there are three other golf courses run by the First Tee.

“We’re very proud of their initiatives and look forward to helping them succeed.”

The First Tee golf program is designed to get youths ages five through 18 onto golf courses. Through their time on the course, youngsters can cultivate life skills such as respect, honesty and responsibility. For additional information visit thefirsttee.org.

FIRST TEE LOUISVILLE OPENS GIFT AND COURSE

GCSAA THROWS A CHANGE-UP

GCSAA announced some big staffing changes in a member email on November 22. The changes stem from earlier this year when the GCSAA Board of Directors and staff began to look forward to where they wish to be in 2020. The goal: to become global leaders in the golf course management industry.

To accomplish that goal they have done a little in with the new and out with the old. New additions include Matt Shatto, chief operating officer, and J.D. Dockstader, chief business development officer. Shatto has experience in both public management and small business. Dockstader has 17 years of experience in business development and will be focusing on increasing GCSAA’s brand and revenue in his new role.

However, Jeff Bollig and Greg Lyman will be leaving GCSAA behind. Bollig, who had been with the association for 17 years, was most recently senior director or communications. Lyman was director of environmental programs. “We thank them both for their many years of service and their contributions,” GCSAA President Pat Finlen, CGCS, stated.

Both Shatto and Dockstader will begin with GCSAA January 1st.

MANGUM AND ESODA IN GA. HOF

Ken Mangum, CGCS Atlanta Athletic Club, and Mark Esoda, CGCS Atlanta Country Club, were inducted into the Georgia GCSA Hall of Fame in November. The annual award ceremony was held at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

Mangum has prepared for two PGA Championships, the U.S. Women’s Open Championship and the U.S. Junior Championship during his 25 years at the course. He has also served as president of the Georgia GCSA and a director of the GCSAA.

Esoda has spent 24 years at the Atlanta Country Club. During his career he has won many awards and is one of only two superintendents to be inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame.

The Georgia GCSA Hall of Fame, in its second year, now has eight members.