

## ROLL CALL

Hampton Golf named **Anthony Baur** superintendent at Selva Marina Country Club, Atlantic Beach, Fla.

**Wayne Kappauf**, golf course superintendent at the Island Country Club in Marco Island, Fla., has been recognized by the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association (EGCSA) with its Presidents Award for Lifetime Service.

**William Spence**, the longtime grounds superintendent at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., will be honored in October at Eighth Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic.

**Darren J. Davis**, superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla., was elected president of the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association (EGCSA).

**Marc Dufour** has been named president and CEO of Club Car. In addition, Randy Marquardt has been named vice president of global marketing.

**Lind Hunemuller** joined the Standard Golf corporate marketing group as account executive.

Golf Maintenance Solutions hired **Steve Schendel** as their Midwest VP/agronomist.

Natural Forces added **Guy Russell** as its national vp of sales.



## Rued roos' rude ruse

It's no joke: some hungry hoppers have left Meadow Springs Golf and Country Club in Perth, Australia, without much spring in its step. According to superintendent Greg Simmonds, the local kangaroos eat away at the course's turf, picking on the new growth of the understory and leaving behind acres full of weeds and plenty of their own natural waste.

The course is meant to preserve the natural look of the bushland before development, according to Simmonds, but the kangaroos seem to be more excited about a preserved area full of turf and native grass for snacking. He says the roos' nosing will change the ecosystem of the area, with more than 50 acres of the course already cleared this season. And with a recent count at more than 200 local kangaroos, maybe he'd be better off opening a boxing gym.

## A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Heavy winds tore through Meadow Lake Golf Course in Saskatchewan one evening in the middle of July. Superintendent Daryl Wood inspected the course the next morning, prepared to find debris and for a day of cleanup. But what he found looked more like a war zone, he says.

The storm had demolished the trees of the front nine holes of the course. Every single hole either had damaged trees or completely toppled across the course. "The front nine were pretty much covered. A lot of our main trees were just down along the course," he says.

After gathering his five-man crew, they started work on the damaged course, just trying to move and clear away what they could. But then, someone on his team got in contact with a local logging company, whose crews were unable to get to their regular work because of the storm. They came out to help, and word spread that the course had been devastated. Course members, local residents and even businesses started turning up to help.

Some sawed through trunks and cleared away brush, while others provided equipment and even others provided food from town to keep the volunteers going.

All in all, the volunteers gave about 750 hours of labor to clear the debris and created a giant wood pile, something Wood's crew never could've accomplished on their own that day.

"This is a place where everybody knows everybody, and we help each other out," he says. "Without that volunteer effort, we would've had no chance at dealing with that."





**Jeffrey D. Brauer** is a licensed golf course architect and president of GolfScapes, a golf course design firm in Arlington, Texas. Brauer, a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, can be reached at [jeff@jeffreymbrauer.com](mailto:jeff@jeffreymbrauer.com).

## PHIL: "MODERN ARCHITECTURE IS KILLING GOLF"

Some big questions arise from the recent PGA Championship, for those not paying attention. If Rees Jones is the Open Doctor, is Mickelson – who also dabbles in architecture – on tap as “Dr. Phil?” Is Phil Mickelson a regular reader of my column? For those of you who didn’t follow the PGA Championship this year, Phil had these comments about modern architecture:

*“I also think if you look at the four par 3s here, it’s a perfect example of how modern architecture is killing the game, because these holes are unplayable for the member. You have water in front and you have a bunker behind, and you give the player no avenue to run a shot up. And the 7th hole, where there is not any water, there’s a big bunker in front and right of the green; instead of helping the player get it on to the green, it goes down into the lower area, as does the left side.”*

Now, for us out here, it doesn’t make a bit of difference, because we are going to fly the ball to the green either way. And that’s why I say it’s great for the championship. But it’s a good reason why the number of rounds are down on this golf course amongst the membership. And it’s a good reason why – in my opinion, this is a great example again of how modern architecture is killing the participation of the sport because the average guy just can’t play it.

Standard disclaimers: No one confirmed Phil’s comments about reduced play among members, nor can we attribute to design alone, since many clubs have declining membership in this economy. And, he ignores the forward tees, which make the course more playable for others and may have teed off on the Rees Jones re-design because he disliked Rees’s remodel of Torrey Pines, where Phil played as a youth.

Despite those quibbles, for once, a tour pro seems to be “right on” in his comments about architecture. Play is down, and certainly, architecture can be a reason.

As I wrote in my May column, modern design had been driven by “one-upmanship,” which was defined as harder, more photogenic – ie, more bunkers – longer, award-winning and highly-rated. And all were probably difficult for average players.

However, after the initial publicity of awards and rankings, there is anecdotal evidence that eventually, golfers play where they have the most fun, lose the fewest balls and shoot near their average score. Rankings, awards and course ratings be damned!

In two states, I have the two top-ranked public courses. In both cases, the higher ranked – and more difficult – course initially had higher play. Over time, though, the second-ranked courses – both easier – surpassed them in rounds played.

...there is anecdotal evidence that eventually, golfers play where they have the most fun, lose the fewest balls, and shoot near their average score. **Rankings, awards and course ratings be damned!**

There might be other reasons, such as proximity to urban areas and availability of other activities, but the intimidation, cost and frustration of high scores and lost balls may contribute.

After all, golf is supposed to be fun! Most play for the camaraderie. Others play with business associates and don’t take them to the golf course for a miserable time.

Courses that offer its players reasonable challenge rather than epic struggles are emerging as the most popular in all but the “destination resort” category.

Yet, in renovation after renovation, the discussion inevitably turns to “tournament play” as if a PGA Tour stop will ever come to Tiddy Links Golf Club. While it’s perfectly fine for Atlanta Athletic Club to host, and Rees Jones to design for a PGA Championship, it’s *not* all right for the other 4,000 courses built in the last decade to do so.

Next month, I will reiterate some of the basic design steps we can take to remove unnecessary difficulty from our “every-day play” courses.

Hopefully, Phil will be happy! Tune in. **GCI**

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For one week in August, the eyes of the golfing world were set on **Ken Mangum**, his crew and Atlanta Athletic Club's Champion Bermudagrass greens.

# THE Center of attention

BY BRUCE WILLIAMS, CGCS

**I**nterviewing Ken Mangum, especially coming off his great success with Atlanta Athletic Club following the 2011 PGA Championship, has been one of the highlights of my journalistic career.

I was fortunate enough to work with Ken on a variety of GCSAA committees in the 1980s and eventually as fellow board members in the 1990s.

Over that time my appreciation for Ken has grown significantly. He is a soft-spoken giant in the industry who is armed with an infectious smile. Ken is a quiet and gentle fellow, but when he speaks everyone listens.

He is as loyal and dependable as they come in the world of golf. He

learned from his mentors and mentors the next generation not only in agronomics, but leadership, as well.

I've been fortunate to have known Ken all these years and honored to interview him after his great success at this year's PGA Championship.

I believe I mirror the views of many of my contemporaries when I say that when I think of professionalism in our business, I think of Ken Mangum.

Now with the big event over, I had an opportunity to sit down with Ken to discuss the days leading up to the championship, the lessons learned both on and off the course and how this experience has impacted him as a turf professional.

## How many years has it taken to prepare the course for the tournament?

The preparation started with our first rebuild of the greens and bunkers in 1994-95. The greens we played this week were built and contoured then. The highly successful renovation of the Riverside Course forced us to start planning for Highlands in 2005 and do the work in 2006. All the fairways were laid out then because of the inside-outside irrigation layout. Rees Jones, Kerry

Haigh and I worked hard to make sure we had the right widths five years out. Nothing was changed, so I guess we did a good job. The final and most important change was in 2009 when we changed to Champion Ultra Dwarf greens.

## What was your staffing during the tournament and leading up to it as compared to previous years?

Our staffing levels peaked from 2001-07 to as many as 77 people. Those numbers were reduced

to 68 since 2008 as a result of lower revenues and the loss of members. We get by with fewer people because we mow less with the new grasses.

## Many superintendents who have hosted majors have told me that a major is 90 percent preparation and about 10 percent execution. Would you agree with that?

I have not thought about it that way. We had the golf course where we wanted it two weeks

out. After that, we just looked for little things to do. Dead branches were removed, limbs trimmed for views, weeds pulled and we also stepped up the mowing frequency. There was plenty of irrigation and utility locating to do for signage and scoreboards. I would say more 50/50 because we still had plenty of execution to do during our front nine/back nine routine that we use all week.

## No matter how well we prepare there are always a

**few things that are surprises. So what were yours during this event?**

The first surprise is that we watered every night – greens, tees and fairways – to keep the course from becoming unplayable. We could have gone over the top very easily. I did not expect to put down that much water. Kerry Haigh wanted the course to play firm, not hard and fair. The other surprise was just how well the Champion held up and how little we had to do to get the speeds. We single cut greens Monday and Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday mornings. We did double cut on Saturday and Sunday, but only rolled once on Tuesday night to smooth out spike marks from so much practice-round play. Our biggest challenge was keeping

them slowed down. Again, Kerry wanted good speed, but not off the charts because of the loss of hole locations.

**How many phones, beepers, radios, etc., do you carry the week of the event?**

Too many, but only two radios and a phone. I had to stay on the PGA Rules channel with Kerry to monitor play, rulings and any course issues. Let's just say the first two days... there were many issues with the pace of play. I carried our radio so I could relay information from Kerry to Kasey and Tyler. The iPhone was always there, as well. Fortunately, my younger brother, Randy, spent the week with me to assist with radios and appointments. Randy went back to turf school as a second career and worked with me

here from 1990-95. He is in sales now with Howard Fertilizer. He was such a help with monitoring and making calls while I did all the media requests that kept on coming. I am not sure I could have made it through the week without him to drive me to and from work and just keep an eye on me. He was a great sounding board for the press conference and generally encouraged me throughout the week.

**I know how close your family is. Hopefully you have had a chance to enjoy a few minutes with them as you smell the roses of such an important event.**

We did have a dozen roses for that, but not sure I really got to smell them enough with all the pressure from the predictions for

this Championship. Pam came out everyday and spent some time with me, along with my daughter, Miranda, son-in-law, Scott, and their kids, Katie and Evan. My son worked with CBS so I saw him quite a bit. It is always good to have the grand kids around. Katie is 7 months old and I held her a couple of days while doing announcements. Now I get to go back to being "Papa" again.

**Will there be any letdown after several years of planning and a week of a tournament in which the whole world of golf is focused on the property you manage?**

Yes, there will be some. I experienced that a little in 2001. It is something I talked to my staff about, as well. It is a very high pinnacle to reach so you have no-

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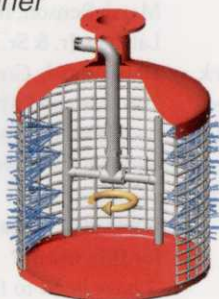
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where to go but down. I will work on through August for restoration and then take a good bit of time off for traveling and fishing with my good friends in September. Fly fishing is the best way for me to unwind and the company of friends like you, Mike Crawford, Gary Grigg, Cal Roth and Darren Davis make it even better. Where are you, Ed Walsh?

## What were your greatest challenges during the event?

The high expectations that were the result of Ron Whitten's article, "The South's Gonna Rise Again." It is a great article. I just had to make sure he was right. Pat O'Brien has been telling me for two years that this event would change golf in the south, as well. I felt a great deal of pressure having the first Major on the new grasses. I knew they would perform, but needed to see them do it. Now, I believe we exceeded the expectations and we have set a new standard.

## Now that the event is in the history books, were there any particular lessons learned during or prior to the event and would you have done anything differently?

Dealing with the media has become a very big part of championship golf. It is an option that can be a huge benefit if you are prepared to handle all of the requests that come your way. I am so glad I had the media training offered by GCSAA while I was on the GCSAA board. I have continued to work with Mike Jousan of Clear Communications over the years. This training helped me get through all the interviews and the press conference on the Golf Channel. I have received as many compliments on my interviews as I have on the condition of the course. It was great to have Jeff Bollig, GCSAA's director of communications, on hand to help with media contacts and issues. I also had Robin Applebaum, of CSE, on hand all week to assist with and set up interviews with local media.

## Were you ready and waiting for the playoff?

Yes, we had people in position to go back and check Nos. 16, 17, 18 and 10 if needed. It only took a few minutes and three people. We had a great ending with a champion who I predict will continue to win and go on to have a great career.

## How much excitement was there from your team during the event and what did

## you do to motivate them daily?

It didn't take much to get them going, but I think that is one area I excelled in. I started a couple of weeks out with talks about making history. I challenged them to exceed what was written in the article. I started off Thursday by holding up a copy of the "South's Gonna Rise Again." I got a few rebel yells out of that one! The guest that we had each day also played a big part in the motivation. I tried to include as many people as possible in the videos and interviews. Kasey Kauff, Highlands superintendent, and his assistant Tyler Anderson were both very good on camera. Every volunteer — with the exception of a couple of people — had a connection to the club as a former superintendent, assistant, intern or long-time sales and service provider. Newcomers quickly noticed the family atmosphere.

## Which golf course superintendents or events did you learn the most from prior to the PGA Championship?

The experience of 2001 was invaluable for routing work and getting around the players. The requirements and chain of commands are very different with each organization. I love the structure of the PGA of America. I have one person to deal with — Kerry Haigh. Since we worked together in 2001, we both knew what to expect. The two of us work on a system of trust and respect. On the flip side, he has one person to work with from the club, as well. We discuss things and make decisions based on how the course is playing and what the forecast is. I know he is ultimately responsible for the outcome of the event, so I try to meet or exceed any request he has for course conditioning — nothing like teamwork. I have always picked up a few gems from friends in the business that have had or been involved in championships. Cal Roth, Collier Miller, Mike Crawford, Mark Kuhns, Jim Nichol, Michael Lee, Steve Cook, Tom Lively, Mark Wilson, Jon Maddern, Mark Woodward, Pat Finlen, Bob Farren, Tim Moraghan, Patrick O'Brien, Chris Hartwiger, Craig Courier, Marsh Benson, Brad Owen, Jim Zimmer, Paul Latshaw Jr. & Sr., Russ Meyers, Matt Schafer, Dave Ward, Gordon Moir, Kenny McKay, Tom Alex and Mark Michaud are some of the people that come to mind. This is quite a list! Now I have to worry who I left off.

## What site visits did you make to prepare for this event?

I have been to the Masters every year since 1976. I have attended the PGA since 1995.

I don't think I have missed but a couple of US Opens since 1998. You can pick up things every place you go, even though they are all very different venues and grasses.

**Tell me a little about your Twitter feeds and blogging for the event.**

I find Twitter to be very easy and quick. I would normally tweet on the way in while Randy drove. It is very easy to take a quick picture and send it out with a few words. The blog can be longer and more detailed. It is very quick also. I send the contact information to members so they can follow if they choose to do so. Facebook helps, as well. Kasey and Tyler have set up an AAC Golf Course Management Page. Communication will slow now that the championship is over.

**The Champion Bermudagrass greens at AAC have been the buzz of the turf industry. Did they live up to your expectations and do you expect to see a trend for Southeastern courses to switch to improved varieties in the future?**

The only reason to change to Champion is if you want great greens to play on all summer.

I could not be happier with the performance during the Championship. It provides us more good months of golf for less money. I don't think the members really care what kind of grass it is as long as it provides a firm, fast surface. As the economy continues to struggle we need to find ways to keep golf sustainable. The money saved on greens alone could be the difference in facilities staying open. More courses will now be advertising "Ultra Dwarf greens" instead of the old ads that used "bentgrass greens" to draw players.


Another key point is that all of the golf course peaks at one time, which gives us more months that we can hold events. The collars also come out of the winter much better because they have been covered and have had much less traffic on them. Many bentgrass courses suffer from "ring around the bent" in the spring. Using the covers allows us to play more golf in the winter since the greens seldom freeze under the cover. We can usually remove the covers in the 9-10 a.m. range for play and the bentgrass greens will still be frozen. Our golfers play more rounds in the winter on the Champion than the bentgrass! **GCI**

*Bruce Williams, CGCS, is the principal in Bruce Williams Golf Consulting and Executive Golf Search. He is an author and speaker in the golf industry, a GCSAA past president and a regular contributor to GCI. Reach him at [brucewms1@hotmail.com](mailto:brucewms1@hotmail.com).*

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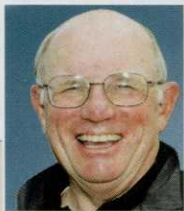
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**Monroe Miller** is a retired golf course superintendent. He spent 36 years as superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wis. Miller can be reached at [groots@charter.net](mailto:groots@charter.net).

## DEDICATED TO HARRIET

**H**is name is arguably the most recognizable among turfgrass academics: Dr. James B. Beard. Not just in this country, but wherever turf meetings and conferences have been held, Dr. Beard has been a favored lecturer. He has served as major professor for grad students at Michigan State and Texas A & M universities who have done great things for turf in their own right. His leadership has been powerful, his teaching well respected and his research has stood the test of time.

And then there are the books. Never satisfied with limiting himself to some narrow aspect of turf, his books have been thorough and complete and comprehensive.

The thought occurred to me that Jim Beard had dedicated all of his books to Harriet, his wife. She even co-authored one of those books – “Beard’s Turfgrass Encyclopedia.” It piqued an interest in this woman who clearly was a positive force in Dr. Beard’s career.

More inspiration about Harriet Beard came at a late 1990s Wisconsin Green Industry Expo. Dr. Beard was scheduled for a couple of lectures, but he was sicker than a dog. Harriet was there, too, and I am sure she is the reason he was able to travel and present two excellent lectures to us. I had the chance to meet her, see what she looked like and chat a bit. But I still wanted to know more.

So, this summer, before leaving for Traverse City, Mich., to visit relatives, I called them at their summer home on Lake Leelanau and asked if I could visit. They graciously agreed. That short visit turned into most of the day. I couldn’t have had a more enjoyable time, and I really learned who Harriet Beard is.

Jim and Harriet Beard grew up on adjacent farms in west central Ohio,

and despite that proximity they attended different schools. They recall cultivating cornfields next to one another and waving back and forth. They also attended the same church and Sunday school class.

Harriet is two years older than Jim. After graduation she worked at the bank in town. She told me that she knew for a long time that he was a bright young man. He finally asked her for a date – to go fishing!

Few know that Jim Beard was an excellent high school athlete and recruited by 10 colleges to play football. He made an academic decision instead and enrolled at Ohio State. They continued to date, were engaged in 1954 and married on spring break 1955. They’ve been married 56 years.

Michigan State hired the new PhD in 1961, the same year Harriet

He took a break for dinner at the student union, and completed his writing for the day when doors to the library closed at 11:00 p.m. He left that day’s work on Harriet’s desk, and when he left for campus in the morning, the manuscript had been typed perfectly for him. That was teamwork.

His writing continued on at Texas A&M in much the same way. Nowadays, when they are working in the MSU library, she is also busy with tracking down references, abstracting and other duties that give Jim more time to do the actual writing. I have heard that when they go to campus to work they arrive early and stay late. They are still working hard after all these years.

Harriet told me her life with Jim Beard has been wonderful. They have lived carefully and shared their

“I had the chance to meet her, see what she looked like and chat a bit. **But I still wanted to know more.**”

was pregnant with their son Jim. It was a difficult time for her, one that required bed rest at home. But it was the beginning of 14 happy years (1961–75) for the Beards. A second son John was born there.

When Jim decided he was going to write a book, Harriet played an even more active role in his career. There were secretarial tasks she was always happy to take care of, and she did a lot of the parenting of their young sons while Jim worked. He didn’t even have to mow the lawn or shovel snow! But the book added an entirely new dimension to her role in his life.

The MSU library is where he spent most of his free time during the eight years of writing. He went to the library at the end of each day to write.

prosperity, through the James B. and Harriet Beard Endowed Graduate Fellowship at MSU, and their \$1.4 million gift to the Beard Collection at TIC.

Dr. Beard will tell anyone how proud he is of Harriet and how fortunate he has been to have her as his wife and best friend. “She has allowed me, over 56 years of marriage, to double my productivity because of her help and support.” In just the few hours I spent with them this summer I could see how deeply they feel about one another.

Those two new history books Dr. Beard is closing in on – I am betting they’ll be dedicated to “Harriet.” Just like she has been dedicated to him for so long. **GCI**