

TOP Assistants

Clint Forstrom finds contentment in the mountains of Colorado

Editor's note: Top Assistants will feature a question-and-answer session with an assistant superintendent every month. If you'd like to nominate someone for the feature, please send an e-mail to Larry Aylward at laylward@questex.com.

He was born for this job, developing an infatuation with John Deere tractors and golf from an early age. Now in his 11th year in the golf industry, 27-year-old Clint Forstrom is assistant superintendent of Brightwater Club, a Robert Trent Jones Jr. layout in Gypsum, Colo.

Golfdom: What's your favorite part of the job?

Forstrom: Right now we are in the middle of a construction/grow-in on a 1,000-acre gated community. Being able to work directly with the different companies putting in all of the amenities and infrastructure and seeing everything come together to form an outstanding product is what does it for me.

Golfdom: Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

Forstrom: Every superintendent that I have had the privilege of working for has been very influential on my career. Although, the one that sticks out the most would be David Swift, superintendent on the Straits Course at Whistling Straits in Sheboygan, Wis. I have known Swift my entire life, and he took me under his wing and was very influential with my schooling and employment path from the time I graduated high school. I worked four years for Swift, helping with the grow-in of the Irish Course (Whistling Straits) and preparing for and hosting the 2004 PGA Championship. He is very passionate about what he does and is a great teacher. If he

wasn't teaching you something about turf, he was giving you some kind of life lesson — he's a great mentor as well as a great friend.

Golfdom: What was the defining moment in your professional life?

Forstrom: When certified superintendent Daryl Dinkel hired me onto this project in 2006. Upon graduation from Penn State's Turfgrass Program, I was very adamant about finding a construction job in the mountains, and it really could not have turned out any better.

Golfdom: What's your favorite product or piece of equipment and why?

Forstrom: The John Deere XUV. It does a really good job getting around the construction site as well as checking our irrigation ditches and head gates.

Golfdom: If you could change something about the industry right now, what would you change?

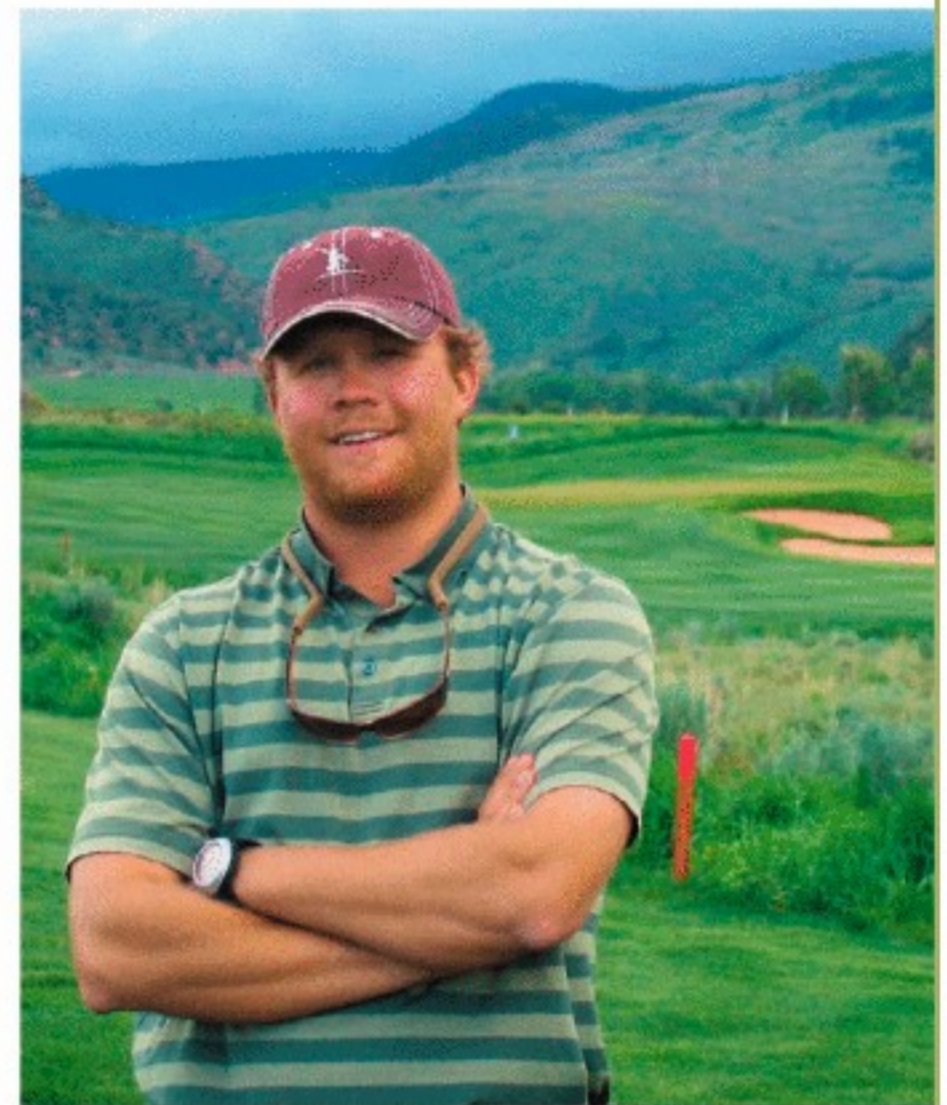
Forstrom: The pay. For all the time and dedication that assistants put in day in and day out, I do not believe we get compensated fairly. But then again, I would not trade it for anything else.

Golfdom: Describe yourself in one word:

Forstrom: Inquisitive.

Golfdom: What is your favorite hobby and why?

Forstrom: Backpacking. I love to explore new areas, and it's a good way to get far from the grind of everyday life.



Golfdom: Favorite vacation spot:

Forstrom: Right where I live. We have access to whitewater rafting, fly-fishing, skiing, hiking, golf — you name it. For me, that is what I envision as a perfect vacation spot.

Golfdom: Favorite golf course besides your own:

Forstrom: The Nicklaus Course at Pronghorn in Bend, Ore. It's a great area, beautiful layout, and the attention to detail on the course is amazing.

Golfdom: If a movie were made about your life, what actor would play you?

Forstrom: Mark Wahlberg. He plays all the good roles.

Golfdom: It's your last day on Earth. What would you do?

Forstrom: Spend it with my family and friends. It would not matter what we did, just that I would be around the people that mean the most to me. ■

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