

The 19th Hole with...



John Ballard

CGCS, Audubon CC, Louisville, Ky.



Audubon Country Club always has some nice craft beers. I'm a sucker for a tasty pale ale.

The Kentucky Derby is great.

Being from Tennessee, I went to my first seven Derbys once I moved here. It's laid-back and there's great people watching. Plus you pick a winner every now and then, it keeps you coming back for more.

My friend was a spokesperson for Jones Soda.

He had this Jones Soda RV. We took it to the Derby one year. It had these leopard-print couches, the whole nine yards. He'd hand out T-shirts and stickers all day and invite people to hang out with us. It was a great time.

He was putting these Jones Soda stickers everywhere. He'd go into port-a-potties and put stickers on the wall at eye level. A year later, I went to a University of Louisville football game, and stopped in a port-a-potty. There was a Jones Soda sticker inside.

I've been to the Masters a few times. My Dad took me when I was in high school and then we did it again towards the end of my college career, knowing I was heading into the turf industry. Just hanging out with him on that little piece of property was sweet.

The most amazing thing I've ever seen is the birth of my two children. Grant is 8 and Nicholas is 5.



I'm constantly doing and saying the same things my parents did. "Do you know how much that costs?" and "Shut the door, we aren't cooling the entire neighborhood!" are two of my favorites. If my bedtime begins before theirs, the circle will be complete.

We have a foosball table in the shop. We play it more in the winter than we do during the season. We play random partners, building good chemistry. It's a great chance to bring the crew together and work as a team.

I'm a pretty good foosball player. Paul, our spray tech, is the best player here. But everyone else has raised their level of play. Paul doesn't like that.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, March 21st, 2012