

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// GIFT TIME



The First Tee course in Louisville opened with donated maintenance equipment that will help with the upkeep of the newly finished course.

FIRST TEE LOUISVILLE OPENS GIFT AND COURSE

➔ 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.

The nine-hole course, which is expected to serve hundreds of Louisville area youths, will not only host young golfers, but will also serve as a testing ground for turfgrass varieties.

"The First Tee of Louisville and Louisville Metro Parks are doing some great things to grow the game and improve the lives of young people," said David Withers, President of Jacobsen. "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.

// NEW IN, OLD OUT

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 of 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.

// HALL OF FAME

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.

Welcoming *Golfdom's* new staff members

➔ In November, *Golfdom* welcomed two new employees: Molly Gase, Associate Editor and Joelle Harms, Digital Media Content Producer. Gase will be working on the print magazine as well as the social media outlets for *Golfdom*. Harms will work on the digital side, creating content for *Golfdom* and other brands across North Coast Media.

A little background —



Molly Gase

Molly Gase is an Ohio native. Originally from Wauseon, she completed her undergraduate degree in English at The University of Akron. While in Akron, she quickly moved up the ladder at the independent college paper, *The Buchtelite*. After graduating in 2012, she moved on to

graduate school in Syracuse, N.Y. Gase completed her master's degree in Magazine, Newspaper and Online Journalism at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University in July of this year.

Joelle Harms is from the small town of Oxford, Mich., a suburb north of De-



Joelle Harms

troit. She completed her undergraduate degree in Athens, Ohio, earning a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. Harms spent four years working at Ohio University's golf course and was a summer intern for WJBK Fox 2 Detroit.

Welcome to the team, Molly and Joelle!

THEY SAID IT

TOM RUSSELL

SUPERINTENDENT, TAHQUITZ CREEK GOLF RESORT, PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.

To *The Desert Sun*, describing the late-summer storm damage that the course recently reopened from:

“When it came down it was a charcoal wall of (sludge) three or five feet high... This is the first time I’ve seen this where it was mixed with a soil and caused this much damage.”



EMAILS @ TEXTS # TWEETS

What do I find most ironic about GCSAA's announcement (see “Change-Up,” page 8)? For one, the fact that **@Golfdom** tweeted it 11 minutes before **@GCSAA**.

—**John Kaminski, Ph.D.**
(**@iTweetTurf**)

Matt, I thoroughly enjoyed your article (“I’m a flip-phone user,” November 2013.) I am a smartphone user and I have to say that I admire your bucking the system that most of us in society have been sucked into. Keep bucking the system... you’ll look back one day and have one less regret than me.

—**Noy Sparks, superintendent**
Fossil Trace GC, Golden, Colo.

// **SNEAK PEAK**

BEHIND THE... JOURNALISM

Gabriel Thompson, author of November's *Golf Digest* article “The Care Takers”, went undercover with immigrant workers in the golf industry. We talked with him about the article.

Golfdom: Where did the idea for “The Care Takers” come from?

Thompson: (The editors from *Golf Digest*) realized that the topic — of golf's Latino immigrant workforce — hadn't really been covered in the media, and that this key but overlooked workforce was a story worth exploring.”

Golfdom: What was the experience like working undercover on the grounds crew?

Thompson: Exhausting. I think of myself as an early riser, but I'm not used to getting up at 3:30 in the morning for a shift. So just making sure I got into work on time was a challenge, as was trying to learn how to use much of the equipment. (I should also mention that the superintendent got to work even earlier and stayed later.) And I got a sense of just how much can go wrong at any given minute — from leaves blowing into bunkers to water levels being off.”

For the extended version of the Q&A, check out Golfdom.com