

The 19th Hole with...

Scott Ramsay

CGCS // Yale Golf Club, New Haven, Conn.



What's your drink of choice after a round at a new course?

I usually ask if there is a house cocktail. Lots of clubs have signature sandwiches and drinks. But my standard is a tall Absolut and tonic, plenty of ice.

You're at Yale Golf Club. Is it safe to say that some of the smartest college kids on any golf course crew can be found working for you?

I'm continually amazed with the Yale students. Each year I hire a dozen students for the summer, but I usually only have four to six at any one time since they're so busy with other opportunities. One month they're hover-mowing bunker banks, the next they could be in Washington D.C., on Wall Street or at an NHL training camp.

You're always taking great photos with your iPhone. Can you give us a tip?

I use a macro lens made by Olloclip (www.olloclip.com), which slips onto my iPhone for close-ups of turf for disease diagnosis. It's a fish-eye lens, a wide-angle lens and a macro lens all in one body. Anytime we get a disease, they want a picture... it's hard to get a macro photo. The macro (lens) is what I use the most.

You guys have had some crazy weather lately.

This past year we were on the very eastern edge of Hurricane Sandy. We lost 264 trees on the golf course and we are still



"IT SEEMS LIKE THE WEATHER PATTERNS ARE VERY INTENSE NOWADAYS. WHETHER IT IS CLIMATE CHANGE OR HOW THE NORTH ATLANTIC OSCILLATION IS SET UP, THE NORTHEAST IS GETTING WHACKED."

cleaning them up. Connecticut didn't get the news coverage that New York and New Jersey did, but golf here took a hit.

But spring is here! Ready for March madness? Go Yale! Currently ranked No. 13. Hope they make the regional in Providence, R.I., and ultimately the Frozen Four. You meant hockey, right?

Uh, no. Tell me about your family?

I married Meg, a superintendent's daughter, 26 years ago. Our son Bennett is at the University of South Carolina. Meg is a registered nurse and manages two Ambulatory Medical Centers.

Wait, you married a superintendent's daughter?

My father-in-law (Roger Turcotte, Montaup CC, Portsmouth, R.I.) is a longtime superintendent, nearly 50 years at the same golf course. My wife and I were both in college — her roommate was my roommate's girlfriend. I had no idea I was going to be in the business. I didn't know of him until our fourth date. She pulled out a *Golf Course Management* magazine from my 1972 Volkswagen Beetle, and she goes, "Golf course management? That's what my father does!"

So she must have sympathy for the hours you keep, then? It's probably why I'm still married.

As interviewed by Seth Jones on February 19th, 2013.

PHOTO BY SETH JONES / YALE UNIVERSITY