

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY

BEAR TRACE, JACOBSEN HOST EARTH DAY EVENT

BY JOHN WALSH // Contributing Editor

➔ What a way to celebrate Earth Day — on a golf course showcasing the environmental stewardship of Paul Carter, CGCS, and his crew at The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay just outside Chattanooga, Tenn. The Audubon (and now GEO) certified course is a shining example of sustainable golf course maintenance. Various segments of the industry,



Jacobsen president, David Withers (left), Bear Trace superintendent Paul Carter (middle) and Bob Martineau from the TDEC celebrate Earth Day.

media, government officials and staff of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) attended the Jacobsen hosted event to celebrate this example.

Bear Trace has implemented many sustainability initiatives, from plant and animal habitat projects to maintenance equipment emission reductions. Additionally, Carter, director of agronomy, naturalized more than

50 acres of the course to minimize maintenance and changed the turf-grass on the greens from bentgrass to Champion ultradwarf bermudagrass, helping to reduce the course's annual chemical use and budget from \$39,000 to \$8,000.

In March of 2013, Carter purchased a fleet of all-electric Jacobsen turf maintenance equipment (except diesel fairway and rough mowers), including bunker rakes, utility vehicles and greens rollers. Since then, the course has saved more than 9,000 gallons of fuel and posted more than 175 days of emission-free operation. Carter and his crew also have saved about \$30,000 in maintenance costs as a result of not having as many gas engines.

"On normal days, especially the weekends, the only machinery used on the course is completely electric," Carter says.

One of Carter's ultimate goals, though, is to install solar panels on the maintenance and golf car buildings so the crew can generate as much, if not more, power than they use to charge the equipment at night.

"I'd love to be completely off the grid at some point," he says.

To read more about the Bear Trace go to golfdom.com/category/online-exclusive.

// IHMS UPDATE

GCSAA PREZ GETS NEW GIG

GCSAA President Keith Ihms, CGCS, recently accepted a new position as the golf course maintenance manager at Bella Vista Village in Bella Vista, Ark., according to the GCSAA.

Ihms was elected president during the 2014 GIS in Orlando. Shortly afterwards, he announced that he had left his position as director of grounds maintenance at the Country Club of Little Rock. We spoke with Ihms about his departure from the CC of Little Rock at the end of March in last month's issue (*The Golfdom Conversation: Keith Ihms.*)



Keith Ihms

According to GCSAA bylaws, the president of the association must be a working superintendent. Ihms had six months to find a new job before having to relinquish his presidency. It took Ihms only a month to find a new position.

Bella Vista Village, located in Northwest Arkansas, features six 18-hole and two 9-hole golf courses.

// SUPER SUPERS

MANGUM TO ENTER GEORGIA GOLF HOF

Ken Mangum, CGCS, Atlanta Athletic Club, has been named one of the four inductees in the class of 2015 for the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame. He will become only the third superintendent member of the HOF, established in 1989. Mangum joins Palmer Maples, Jr., CGCS (retired) and Mark Esoda, CGCS from Atlanta CC.



Ken Mangum

Mangum will be the host superintendent this summer for the U.S. Amateur Championship. In the past he has hosted the PGA Championship in 2001 and 2011, the U.S. Women's Open Championship in 1990 and prepared the golf course for the U.S. Junior Championship in 2002.