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## **Golfdom**//09.18

VOL. 74 // NO. 9





#### COLUMNS

- //6 Keeping up with The Jones—Seth Jones Youth on Course expands to Pinehurst Resort and beyond.
- //36 The Turf Doc—Karl Danneberger Ohio State's STEM summer camp opens students' eyes to careers in turfgrass.

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

- // 8 Starter
- // 10 Golfdom Gallery
- $/\!/\,38\,$  The Shop
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## Keeping up with **The Jones**



"I'm reimbursed the normal junior rate by the Utah Golf Foundation and at the same time we're hopefully growing the next generation..." Barker says, "at a dollar per nine holes."

SETH JONES, Editor-in-Chief & Associate Publisher

## Embracing the youth (on course) movement

ast month in this space I heralded the unification of the First Green and the GCSAA. Let's keep this youth golf movement rolling this issue and show some love to our new friends at Youth on Course.

It was T.A. Barker, CGCS, the subject of this month's cover story — he's our 2018 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year Award winner who first told me about the positive impact on his facility from Youth on Course. Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah, is a big proponent of the program, which now has expanded to more than 900 courses across 26 states and 30,000 members.

"It's a win-win — a win for the kids, a win for us," Barker tells me. "I'm reimbursed the normal junior rate by the Utah Golf Foundation, and at the same time we're hopefully growing the next generation of golfers... at a dollar per nine holes."

Youth on Course allows golfers ages 7 to 19 to play a round of golf for \$5 (or, in some cases, like T.A. mentioned, only \$1 to get on the par-3 course at Fore Lakes.) By paying an annual fee, varying around the country from \$5 to \$30, young golfers can tee it up during slow-play periods on the course at deeply discounted prices while the course recoups much of the greens fee from the local golf foundation. Youth on Course, founded by the Northern California Golf Association in 2006, has subsidized more than 650,000 rounds to date. The organization also boasts caddie programs, internships and scholarships.

Youth on Course recently celebrated a victory when they announced a partnership with the golf mecca known as Pinehurst Resort. Now Pinehurst No. 1, 3 and 5 are on the list of courses offering \$5 greens fees for kids. An interactive map of courses offering Youth on Course rounds is available on the organization's website. A few names that stand out to me include Poppy Hills GC in Pebble Beach, Calif., (where the program is based), 2015 U.S. Open host course Chambers Bay in Washington, and a fine Michael Hurdzan design near me, Drumm Farm in Kansas City. Click around youthoncourse.org to see all the courses involved.

"Pinehurst Resort is a name that makes people take notice," Adam Heieck, executive director of Youth on Course, tells me. "These announcements really move the needle. When you tell superintendents some of the places that are already involved, it makes the conversation so much easier."

Heieck and his team currently are experiencing rapid growth with Youth on Course. Heieck predicts 2019 is going to be the biggest year yet for the program, with eyes on being in all 50 states soon.

"From a golf course standpoint, we're taking unused inventory - not Saturday morning tee times - and letting the golf course decide if they would rather have an empty course or would they rather have a kid bring his mom and dad out," Heieck says. "I recently got a letter from a parent in San Francisco and they said they can't afford dinner and a movie — that's \$100-plus. But with Youth on Course, for closer to \$60 they're spending time with their kids, teaching them soft skills."

Any successful course makes a special effort to please its members. In today's golf world, that even includes those card-carrying members who are under the age of 19 and pay no more than \$5 a round.

"I think the kids are the best golfers you can get out here because they don't know anything different. Take the ball, hit it. Go find it, hit it. Go find it, hit it... those kids play quick," Barker says. "As long as their parents teach them the basic rules, we're happy to babysit their kids for a day while they play... getting those kids to play golf is my livelihood." **G** 

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### ASSISTANT KILLED IN ACCIDENT; GOLF INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT

A fatal accident at Terradyne CC in Andover, Kan., took the life of 27-year-old Jeff Williams, the course's assistant superintendent.

According to KAKE News in Wichita, Williams and a co-worker were in a hole working to repair a water line break when a brick column fell on top of the men, trapping them. Emergency responders freed the men, with Williams in critical condition and the other man sustaining non-life-threatening injuries. Williams would later pass away at the hospital.

According to KSN News in Wichita, emergency personnel from three fire departments, two emergency medical services and the local police department all were on the scene in an effort to free the men. "We needed a lot of hands real fast," Andover Fire Chief Chad Russell told KSN.

Williams was the father of one and expecting the birth of his second child. A Go Fund Me campaign has been created to help support his family in this time of loss. As of press time, the campaign had generated \$28,000 of the \$100,000 goal.

"As much as Jeff learned from our superintendent about growing turf, we got back tenfold in the example of how he treated others," wrote Paul Hanneman, organizer of the campaign. "He was the kind of guy that always helped out when someone was in need. Always buying lunch for guys that didn't have money for food, or giving guys rides to and from work that didn't have vehicles."

To contribute to the campaign, visit gofundme.com/jeff-williams-family-foundation.

#### //investing in soil tech A COOL \$20 MILLION

Cool Planet announced that it has closed on an additional \$20.3 million of new investment and note conversion to fulfill growing customer demand for Cool Terra and to further progress the company's technology. This financing is an extension of the company's previously announced Series A funding, and is being led by its two largest existing investors, Agustín Coppel and North Bridge Venture Partners.

**Cool Planet develops and markets** engineered biocarbon technology products for soil health. The company's first commercial product line is Cool Terra, a carbon-negative soil amendment that works to improve key soil performance characteristics for greater plant growth and quality. The company has experienced a surge in customer demand in 2018 through its national distribution network. The company is working across a wide variety of industries with hundreds of customers such as conventional and organic growers, city park departments, professional sports teams, universities and **aolf** courses.

#### //WINNING B.I.G.

#### ANUVIA RECOGNIZED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Anuvia Plant Nutrients has been selected by the Business Intelligence Group as a winner of its 2018 Sustainability Awards Product of the Year. The Sustainability Awards honor those individuals and companies worldwide that have made sustainability an integral part of their business practice.

Anuvia Plant Nutrients produces plant nutrients for agriculture, turf and lawn care markets. According to the company, its products provide better nutrient utilization with less leaching and volatilization, and it says soil health is improved. Its products produce a smaller carbon footprint than conventional fertilizers, and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

"We're proud to reward and recognize Anuvia Plant Nutrients for their sustainability efforts," says Maria Jimenez, chief nominations officer, Business Intelligence Group. "It was clear to our judges that their vision and strategy will continue to deliver results toward a cleaner, more sustainable world."



#### //THE GOVERNOR'S GOING TO CALL



### Florida governor visits GT AirInject

Florida Gov. Rick Scott recently toured the Air2G2 factory at GT AirInject, Inc., in Jacksonville, Fla. The governor was greeted by Glen Black, president of GT AirInject.

Gov. Scott chose GT AirInject's Air2G2 factory as the backdrop for a campaign stop to promote his bid for U.S. senator as a pro-business candidate, and to announce his endorsement by the National Federation of Independent Business, a pro-business organization of which GT AirInject is a member.

Scott spoke to the assembled media on the GT AirInject story. "This company is less than eight years old and, if you look at the map, they're selling products in over 50 countries. They're all across the United States. And it's because Glen and his team have put together a great business model and it's done really well," he said.

#### //BIOBLITZ 2018

#### COUNTING COURSE CREATURES

Audubon International's BioBlitz 2018 recorded more than 2,000 unique species of animals, plants, fungi and insects living on golf courses. This year's program was sponsored by the USGA.

Now in its fourth year, Audubon International's BioBlitz creates an opportunity for school children, community members, golfers and more to take a closer look at the habitats provided on golf courses. In addition to demonstrating the large diversity of species on golf courses, the competition also engages local interest and support of the green space and recreational opportunities they provide to their towns. Participants competed for three awards for most species counted, most participants and best photo.

Naples Lakes (Fla.) CC received the Biodiversity Award for the greatest number of species counted. Volunteers at this year's event spotted,



Deborah Repasz won the Best Photograph contest with a spectacular photo of a hummingbird at Bay Oaks CC in Houston.

identified and listed 496 species, including the federally threatened wood stork and the little blue and tricolored herons, both state-threatened species in Florida.

The Community Engagement Award for having the most participants went to Southwinds GC, Boca Raton, Fla., with 242 volunteers assisting with their species count and identification.

#### COFE

#### Must-see TV

TNT garnered its most-watched PGA Championship coverage since 2015, averaging 1.3 million viewers for an 11-percent increase when compared to last year. Additionally, the event produced its most-viewed third and fourth rounds since 2010 (up 40 percent and 39 percent, respectively, versus 2017). Sunday's final round telecast — which peaked with 2.5 million viewers from 1:30-5p.m. ET—averaged 1.9 million viewers.





**Great Scott!** We really were selfsatisfied after the opening round of the 2018 PGA Championship when three of the top five players were guys we interviewed, including Adam Scott, who finished in 3rd place.

Golfcon

**Almost famous** One has made multiple appearances in *Golfdom* Gallery, the other has the same name as a famous golfer. Great to see Seth Smith, assistant superintendent at Royal Oaks CC in Dallas (left) and Justin Thomas, assistant superintendent at Lawrence (Kan.) CC, at the 2018 PGA Championship.

**That's Na-cho cheese!** Bellerive CC's Connor Watson happily displayed his bowl of nachos... but refused to share.

International contingent (L to R) Chris Richmond, greenkeeper, Gleneagles and Laura Campbell, senior greenkeeper, Gleneagles, Perthshire, Scotland, with Rob Marchbank, deputy course manager, Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport, England. The group made the trek across the pond to volunteer at the PGA Championship.

4

**Speed demons** Lee Miller, University of Missouri (left), and Rob Wagner, Trump National Golf Club Bedminster (N.J.) were on the job at Bellerive stimping greens.

**Deere friends** (L to R) Ren Wilkes, tactical marketing manager, John Deere; John O'Leary, golf and sports turf sales manager, John Deere; Kim O'Leary; Craig MacGregor, Golfdom publisher; and Mike Scaletta, creative team leader, John Deere Marketing Communications, celebrate a successful PGA Championship.

Keeping up with the Joneses (L to R) Rees Jones Golf Course Design's Bryce Swanson, *Golfdom* Editor-in-Chief Seth Jones, Rees Jones and *Golfdom* Digital Editor Kelly Limpert took time for a group photo near No. 9 green at Bellerive.



PHOTOS BY: SETH JONES (1-3, 5, 6); KELLY LIMPERT (4); BRADLEY S. KLEIN (7)



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The 2018 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year, T.A. Barker, CGCS, is taking care of business at his family course, throughout Utah and now across America.

is Taking Care of Business

#### **The Herb Graffis**

**Businessperson of the Year** Award is named in honor of Golfdom's founder, World Golf Hall of Fame member Herb Graffis. Graffis was one of the first people to think of golf as a business when he and his brother Joe founded Golfdom in 1927. With his foresight, Graffis helped advance the game in numerous ways, from founding the National Golf Foundation and the Club Managers Association of America to his work advocating on behalf of superintendents and elevating their profile.

The award includes a *Golfdom* cover story celebrating the person's accomplishments, as well as expenses-paid trips to both the *Golfdom* Summit and the Golf Industry Show. It is with all due respect that we present this award in Mr. Graffis' honor.

#### WORDS BY SETH JONES

hen last we heard from the protagonist of this story, he was nervously laughing about the time he charged \$10,000 on his personal credit card to cover his chapter's annual meeting expenses. That was April 2014, in a story about the work of the GCSAA field staff and how they were helping smaller chapters grow.

The \$10,000 has been reimbursed and the then-president of the Intermountain GCSA has seen it paid back, plus interest.

T.A. Barker, CGCS, superintendent

#### PHOTOS BY TOM LEBSACK

SUSINESSPER

at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah, is an advocate for getting more people on the golf course kids, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities. He also was an advocate for superintendents as a golf radio talk show host on ESPN 700 in Utah. More recently, he was elected to the GCSAA Board of Directors.

Now Barker adds the title of 2018 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year to his résumé for his work in the family business in the Salt Lake City golf market.

Continued on page 14

### **2018 HERB GRAFFIS** BUSINESSPERSON AWARD

4000

Todd "T.A." Barker Jr. (right) looks to his dad, Todd Sr. for guidance. "He knows what good golf is," says Barker.



#### 2018 HERB GRAFFIS BUSINESSPERSON AWARD

Continued from page 12

#### **KEEPING GREENS, NOT READING THEM**

Barker is a third-generation superintendent, working his entire career at his family-owned golf course. The course is centrally located south of Salt Lake City between Interstate 15 and Interstate 215, and features a 9-hole executive course and a 9-hole par-3 course along with a driving range and practice green.

The course, built by his grandfather on family farmland,





Barker shares his love of the game with his sons. From left: Peyton, 10; Greyson, 3; and Boston, 7.

opened in 1974. When Barker was a baby, his family moved to a home between No. 2 green and No. 3 tee on the par-3 course. Barker's earliest golf memories are of chasing his father out the door in hopes of catching a ride in the golf cart to go fix divots and pick up cigarette butts while his dad changed cups.

"I always tell people that I was the only kid you'd ever meet who never wanted to be an astronaut," Barker says. "My dream was to be a golf course superintendent."

"He just wanted to spend time with his dad," Todd Barker Sr. says of those days. "It was pretty obvious he also loved the work. As he got older the jobs got better... now he's much more knowledgeable in terms of agronomy than I ever was."

That's high praise from his dad. Men striving to live up to their father's image, pity T.A. — Todd Barker Jr. — because in his father he has a doozy of a namesake to live up to. Along with being a dedicated family man and influential local business owner, Todd Sr. is a member of the Utah Golf Hall of Fame, a five-time Utah Golf Association Player of the Year, a five-time Salt Lake Amateur champion and a two-time GCSAA National Golf Champion. (Fun fact: T.A.'s grandpa, Vaughn, also won the GCSAA tournament back in 1977.)

T.A. says he's no hack (he won the Division Four Championship at the 2015 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio), but a long time ago he realized his future was in keeping greens, not reading them.

"I gave up a golfing career a long time ago, and I've always found the science behind golf more interesting than actually playing," Barker says. "Dad is my biggest critic, which makes me better. He knows what good golf is. As long as he's happy, I know the course looks good."

Continued on page 16



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#### BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018 HERB GRAFFIS

Continued from page 14

#### A LIVELIHOOD AND THE FUTURE

The Salt Lake City area is rich with majestic mountains and great golf courses. Golf tourists traveling through the area might not have heard of Fore Lakes. That's OK—the course isn't designed for them.

"It's a great facility to take your first step in golf. It's affordable, there are a lot of leagues," says Bill Walker, the former executive director of the Utah Golf Association, now executive director of



the International Association of Golf Administrators. "The greens are great, and there's a large practice putting green and chipping green. If you're talking about getting kids into the game, it's ideal. It's right off I-15. It's just a great set-up."

An adult walker pays \$12 to play the 9-hole executive course, \$10 to play the par-3. A senior pays \$10 for the executive,

\$7 for the par-3. The price of a beer ranges from \$2.25 to \$2.50, the quarter variance depending on the cerveza's country of origin.

Barker believes Fore Lakes' practice putting green is the mostused golf green in the state of Utah. Seeing people on it constantly makes his day.

This Utah course is surprisingly diverse. Beyond the beer league, the women's league and the couples league, there's the veterans, the Pacific Islanders and the Special Olympians, among others. A busy day is 300-plus 9-hole rounds with 100 plus visiting the driving range throughout the day.

The father of three (he and wife, Natalie, have three children, Peyton, 10; Boston, 7; and Greyson, 3) loves it when kids play the course. He's embraced the Youth on Course program (youthoncourse.org) to encourage more young golfers to visit Fore Lakes. A kid buying a \$10 membership to the program can play the par-3 course for \$1 any time, or the executive course for \$4. The difference is subsidized by the Utah Golf Foundation.

"One time," Barker says, "I drove up to a group and I said, 'Do you guys know about the Youth on Course program? Every time you come here, it would only cost you \$1 if you show your card.' One of the kids in the group, his brain clicks and he says, 'That means I could have played five times today!' Getting those kids to play is my livelihood, it's what feeds my kids and it's the future of the game."

"T.A. has never said no to anyone," Walker says. "More players, more diversity. A lot of the veterans go back and play there because it's such a welcoming place to go. T.A. seeks out ways to get customers there."

Continued on page 18

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Continued from page 16

#### **'THE RADIO GUY'**

There's a problem when a person becomes known for saying 'yes' — that means more and more people will ask for favors.

And that's how T.A. Barker became a radio personality.

He originally was to be the guest on a Utah golf radio show broadcast Saturday mornings with Paul Pugmire, executive di-

rector of the First Tee of Utah, as host. But shortly after his first appearance, Pugmire asked him to become a regular.

"There's a reason I asked him to join the show," Pugmire says. "He has two areas of expertise: 1) he's a certified superintendent from Penn State, and 2) he knows as much as anyone about growing up on a golf course, running a golf course, owning a golf



Paul Pugmire

course. A long time ago I worked on a grounds crew, so I have a soft spot for maintenance. But we were able to have impromptu conversations on the radio show that we never would have otherwise had without T.A. And he taught me things about golf courses that I never knew!"

"Before (at Fore Lakes), I was known as the superintendent, but now when I'm out on the range I'm known as the radio guy," Barker laughs. "I don't know how I ended up on the radio. Paul and I are polar opposites but we mesh together well. I'm a big proponent of



Peyton (right) and Boston Barker are just two of many kids who learned how to read greens at Fore Lakes Golf Course.

#### **2018 HERB GRAFFIS** BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

slowing down green speeds, so we talk about that kind of stuff."

Barker recently retired from the radio show because of his new responsibilities as an elected member of the GCSAA Board of Directors, a position that thrills Barker.

"Serving the 18,000 members of GCSAA is an honor. Since being elected to the board at the Golf Industry Show, I have found the staff and the board of GCSAA live our mission every day," Barker says. "It's been a lot of work that fills my heart with joy knowing that I contribute to our mission every day. We truly are the global leaders in golf course management."

Pugmire says it wasn't the radio show or the GCSAA election that made Barker's name known throughout Utah.

"T.A. and his family matter way beyond Fore Lakes... you have to remind yourself that T.A., his dad and his grandpa are running a golf course, because they're all over Utah... the Barker family is a family that matters in Utah golf," Pugmire says. "T.A. is involved and serves both the golf community and the Salt Lake City community. He's a guy who gives back. Fore Lakes participates in all the programs — Get Golf Ready, Play 9, you name it."

#### **MORE OF THE SPOTLIGHT**

The spotlight seems to have focused on Barker lately. Around the same time as this story was being written, he was nominated for Utah Section PGA Superintendent of the Year – Public Golf.

Megan Huntsman, program director for the Utah Golf Founda-Continued on page 20



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ractice Greens

Built by T.A. Barker's grandfather in 1974, Fore Lakes Golf Course has been instrumental in growing the game in Utah.

Continued from page 19

tion, is happy to see Barker's success. She manages the Youth on Course and the Veterans Golf programs, and owes some of her success to Barker, as he was one of the first adopters of both programs. "I understand T.A. a little bit because he grew up in golf, and I



grew up in golf," Huntsman says. "He's not in golf because of the family connection, but because he genuinely loves it. He loves golf because of the people... and you can't go wrong with people involved in Utah golf. It's a family game here, because it has to be we have big families here."

Megan Huntsman

Todd Sr. is happy to see his son's success as well. "(T.A.) is a go-getter, he has lofty

goals," Barker Sr. says. "I'm happy to put in a little extra time for him to support him. We're blessed, we're not the only family in the golf business here... and we just keep chugging along."

"I don't process it well," Barker says about the accolades after a Sunday afternoon installing an irrigation system in his yard. He can't help but choke up a little. "I've never realized how people look at our family. I know who my dad is and what he accomplished, but for me he was just dad. Golf put food on the table.

"We owe golf nothing, and golf owes us nothing," Barker continues. "I just love this industry, not even golf... but people enjoying golf, kids enjoying golf and knowing I impacted their day."

So the guy who charges \$10,000 on his personal credit card for the local chapter meeting expenses — the same guy who charges local kids \$1 to tee it up at his course — is a good businessman?

Indeed he is. If Herb Graffis were here today, he'd look at Fore Lakes and congratulate T.A. for taking care of business.  $\Theta$ 

## Believe in Believe in Believe

#### By Seth Jones and Kelly Limpert



t's been 10 days since Brooks Koepka hoisted the Wanamaker Trophy at Bellerive CC in St. Louis, Mo. Carlos Arraya, CGCS, director of agronomy, has witnessed his crew dwindle from 52 people to 18.

Cooler weather is allowing the course to heal.

"I realize now the magnitude," Arraya says of the tournament in hindsight. "It was theatrical on TV. We had a lot of people watching on TV and in person. The leaderboard was fantastic. And what it did for the city..."

A highlight for Arraya and his crew was the praise the course conditions drew from players and fans.

"It was great seeing what the players were saying about the course on social media," Arraya says. "I ran into (Koepka), and some of the things he said to me were great. After the 'negative' things that were said in the media early in the week, and how that ended up not being an issue... the whole thing was awesome."

If he could do one thing differently, he says he wished he would have taken 30 minutes to himself to soak in the moment.

"It went by so fast, it was hard for me to slow down," Arraya says.

We couldn't agree more. So allow us this moment to go back and revisit some of what we saw and wrote from our week at the 2018 PGA Championship. Despite the bad timing of skies finally opening, Bellerive CC in St. Louis played host to a memorable PGA Championship.

Continued on page 22

#### // 2018 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP IN REVIEW

Continued from page 21

POSTED TUESDAY, AUG. 7

#### Jones: When it comes to greens, everyone has an opinion

"Bellerive's greens look burnt and patchy" read a headline in Monday's e-newsletter from *Golf Digest*. The title of the email was, "Conditions of Bellerive's greens brought into focus."

*Golf Digest* is a fine publication, but the description of "burnt and patchy" is a head-scratcher. The greens look great!

It then followed up the e-newsletter with a tweet, including a photo that wasn't even of a green.

There are areas that are patchy on the outer edges of a few greens. It's not anything that is critical, and it's something



#### DUSTIN JOHNSON ON COURSE CONDITIONS

POSTED WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8

"I think the course is in good shape. It's soft, obviously, after all the rain we got... but it's in good shape. I think the greens are fine and roll well. They're probably going to get a little (rough) with all the traffic on them, but it's what you expect. As long as you hit your clubs, it won't matter."

golfers rarely play through or that viewers will see on TV.

Once the tournament kicks off, television viewers will see how amazing this course looks, and this story/tweet will be a distant memory. The crew here at Bellerive has done a phenomenal job in a brutal summer. Everyone knew an August major in St. Louis was going to be tough *Continued on page 24* 

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#### // 2018 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP IN REVIEW



#### Continued from page 22

going. And the crew and the PGA of America's Kerry Haigh have pulled it off! Golf claps all around.

The problem is, early in the week, we (the golf press) feel the need to have headlines right away... big, bold headlines that get readers to click on them so our internet traffic numbers rise. And yet, there's not much going on during the PGA Championship on a Monday. Many players are still arriving, and many haven't even played the course yet — so it's hard to get player reactions.

With all due respect to *Golf Digest*, viewers and golfers will enjoy these greens at Bellerive, and we're in store for a heck of a championship.

#### Just for fun

We try not to take things too seriously while we're at golf's majors. That's why we always try to have a little fun on Twitter and Facebook while we're there, working hard (but only about 50 percent as hard as the crew and volunteers).

This year we gave out two John Deere Grizzly coolers to readers who came closest to picking the PGA Championship winner *Continued on page 26* 



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#### // 2018 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP IN REVIEW

#### Continued from page 24

and the winning score (congratulations to Seth Smith and Miles Carlson for picking Brooks Koepka at -15, only one stroke off the right score!) We also challenged readers to give us a funny caption for the photo of Bellerive Director of Agronomy Carlos Arraya, CGCS, and Assistant Superintendent Nick White on page 24.

Our two winners are first and second off the tee. The honorable mentions then follow.

Thanks to everyone who played along, and thanks to John Deere for sponsoring our coverage and our giveaways!

#### WINNERS

"Brandel... Brandel... come check this!!"

@WallyGresham

"Pretty sure the boys at *Golf Digest* should stick to clubs, balls and swing tips!" @JPTurfIdiot HONORABLE MENTIONS

"Ma! The meatloaf!"

@SethSmith50

#### "Someone get me a TDR over here! My hand isn't working!"

@SpectrumTech

'We have a pool and a pond. The pond is better for you."	@CreekSupt
<b>'Omaha!''</b> @b	uildsmartgolf

'Hey, stop that beer cart!!!!"	@TurfTank
'I haven't slept in 10 days! Ahhhhhhhh!!!!"	@JaredDilbone

"The heck with it, let's pull cores!"

Kenneth J. Schumacher (via Facebook)

"You'd be safer squatting next to the hole so you don't get hit by Seth Jones' approach shot."

Thomas Lervik Jr. (via Facebook) Continued on page 28



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#### **2018 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP IN REVIEW**

Continued from page 26

POSTED TUESDAY, AUG. 7

#### Three friends make the trip of a lifetime

Isaih Arraya, the late son of Carlos Arraya, is only at the PGA Championship in spirit, but his three best friends are here in person to honor him and to support his father. Reuben Berridge, age 22; Traevon Clark, 20 and Michael Davenport, 20, all made the trek from Orlando, Fla., to St. Louis to volunteer on the Bellerive crew. Originally meeting in high school, they have no background in golf, but knew they wanted to be here to represent for "Izzy." (Editor's note: As reported in the July issue of Golfdom, Isaih was killed in a car accident two years ago. The Monday of the PGA Championship would have been his 21st birthday.)



Honoring "Izzy." From left: Reuben Berridge, Traevon Clark and Michael Davenport.

"We wanted to be here to support Carlos," says Berridge. "My first time seeing Carlos was at the hospital, when he flew in, I was there. I didn't really get to speak to him, I just gave him a hug... As the days went on I've gotten to talk to him, and we've been in contact ever since."

The three say they weren't golf fans before, but they definitely are now. Berridge and Davenport go so far as to say they're becoming interested in working in the industry.

"I'm actually not (working) at the moment, you could say the (accident) set me back," Davenport says. "I tend to think about things differently now. That's what Izzy knew about me. I learned from Carlos that he was speaking to him about motivating me. We wanted to start a business together. I feel like I can do a lot. Being around the PGA, I could probably see myself going into golf."

"It's beautiful, I've never seen anything like it, honestly," says Berridge. "Everything is pinpoint. We weren't golf fans (before) but we are now."

Berridge says as he has gotten to know Carlos Arraya better, he realizes why his son was the special person he was, calling him a "mini version of his father."

"I've learned why Isaih was the way he Continued on page 30



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PHOTO BY: SETH JONES

## **FASHIONABLY**



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#### // 2018 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP IN REVIEW

#### Continued from page 28

was," Berridge says. "He was very tight knit, very motivated, driven, nothing was going to stop him. There's not going to be another Isaih, he was special. I don't even know how to explain it, you could have just known him for a day and you would remember him, and he touched many people."

#### POSTED SUNDAY, AUG. 12

### Making connections at Bellerive

Talk to some of the volunteers from Bellerive and it'll be no surprise that one of the main reasons they ventured to Missouri was for the networking. Sure, pitching in for a world-renowned sporting event is a serious perk in and of itself, but after a long week of working together to get the course picture perfect, it'd be a bigger challenge not to bond and connect with peers.

It has been said before, but let's say it again: It's a small turf world, after all. But it's events like these that really bring together turfgrass professionals from across the globe.

Australian Wesley Cochran is no stranger to Bellerive, and his strong ties to the course and the maintenance crew prompted his 9,000-plus mile journey to St. Louis.

Back in 2002, he interned at Bellerive as part of Ohio State University's Ohio International Program, an international exchange program for students wishing to study horticulture, agriculture and turfgrass.

In Cochran's case, he wanted to spend some time in the United States learning about the way courses manage things stateside.

Thinking on it now, he said one of the main things that stood out to him was the two management styles. From his perspec-

tive, the U.S. management system is "top heavy" in comparison to Australia. Having two assistants in Australia is rare.

Cochran wasn't the only one drawn back to the historic course for the 100th PGA Championship.

Jon Prange, a Missouri State Technical College graduate, was senior assistant golf course superintendent at Bellerive for 10 years before he took on the role of superintendent at Holiday Island Country Club in Holiday Island, Ark., a few years back.

"It is really nice to be back and see my staff and see Carlos take it to the next level," he says.

While reminiscing is part of the fun, Prange also was at the tournament to guide industry newcomers.

"One of my favorite parts of this experience is mentoring the next generation," says Prange. "That's what has made me successful — mentors." **G** 



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#### // what's best in the low desert NATIVE GRASSES, GROUNDCOVERS WITH TURF REMOVED

By Kai Umeda

o reduce water use, golf courses are reducing turf in non-play areas by xeriscaping, or incorporating desert-adapted plants. There's a need for salt-tolerant grasses and ornamental plants in the Southwest United States because of high-salinity soils and poor water quality. After turfgrass removal, expectations are for the aesthetic qualities of the site to be maintained or improved.

Native grass species alkali muhly (*Muhlenbergia asperifolia*), alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*), big galleta (*Hilaria rigida*), plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), spike dropseed (*S. contractus*) and sand dropseed (*S. cryptandrus*) have a low water requirement and need few other inputs. A warm-season annual forage, Teff grass (*Eragrostis tef*) is gaining interest for pastures and as a hay crop. Kurapia



Native grasses and groundcovers at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension demonstration field day at Camelback Golf Club, Paradise Valley, Ariz.

and management requirements in the low desert. Experiments were initiated in spring 2015 at Camelback Golf Club in Paradise Valley, Ariz., with Kurapia plugs planted to evaluate preemergence and postemergence herbicides for safety. A second fall planting of Kurapia demonstrated that establishment during the cooler season was less aggressive than in spring. In the spring of 2016, the grasses and Kurapia were planted to evaluate their performance. The same grasses and Kurapia were planted again in 2017 at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City, Ariz. Plains lovegrass, alkali sacaton, alkali muhly, blue grama and Kurapia remained green and attractive throughout the year. **G** 

Kai Umeda is the Extension agent, turfgrass science at University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Phoenix, Ariz. You may reach Kai at kumeda@cals.arizona.edu for more information.

#### **NEWS UPDATES**

#### PBI-GORDON ISSUES SECTION 2(EE) RECOMMIENDATIONS FOR KABUTO FUNGICIDE SC

PBI-Gordon Corp. issued Section 2(ee) recommendations for use of Kabuto Fungicide SC in select states for the treatment of spring dead spot (SDS) in warm-season turfgrass.

Labeled for use on golf courses, sports fields and residential and commercial turf, Kabuto is a proprietary formulation that inhibits all stages of development in the fungal life cycle of SDS. It can be applied up to eight times per year as part of a resistance management program.

This additional use recommendation is permitted under Section 2(ee) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIRA) in the following states but has not been submitted or approved by the EPA: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The recommendations can be downloaded for various states, and the applicator must have a copy present when treating for SDS.

According to PBI-Gordon, other features of Kabuto include: a flowable (suspension concentrate) formulation, highly effective at low- and high-use rates, no phytotoxicity concerns and FRAC Group 7.

TREES WITH CRACKS, HANGING BRANCHES, CO-DOMINANT LEADERS, STEM-GIRDLING ROOTS AND DECAY ARE CAUSE FOR CONCERN..." John C. Fech

(see story on page 32)

#### //SHIFTING YOUR PARADIGM

## Lower-cost trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flowers

By John C. Fech

rnamentals serve an important function on the golf course, providing fairway definition, creating a backdrop for greens, preventing errant golf shots from striking golfers, producing shade in appropriate locations, screening undesirable views, providing habitat for songbirds and increasing the aesthetic appeal of the facility.

Unfortunately, all these benefits come at a price.

The good news is that a number of techniques and best management practices can lower costs while retaining the protective, functional and amenity value of ornamentals.

#### A LOOK-SEE

When the focus is lowering maintenance costs, a logical first step is to have a "look-see" into the inputs and

outlays of cash. This is much easier to accomplish if part of your budget is delineated specifically for ornamental care, separate from turf maintenance. Typical categories to itemize include labor, water, pesticides, fertilizer, mulch, replacement plants and tools/equipment. Depending on your individual needs and region of the country, other categories also may be useful. But the initial action is identifying expenses that at first may appear to be high. You might say something like, "Whoa, we're spending a bunch of money on fertilizer. Is that really necessary?"

Once you've identified a particular group of costs, next comes a deeper examination. Digging deeper into each line item helps bring clarity to what could be a muddy area.

Look closely at ornamental labor



"Gotta look good," high-priority locations.

costs, for example, including the specifics of seasonal help, benefits, incentives and training, and even possibly assigning them to another line item. One way or another, take them into account. After all, somebody has to do the work. The idea is to see if it can be done with fewer or different people. In this day of "work smarter, not harder," common labor efficiencies include reduction of hand weeding, watering through integration drip systems, mulching and herbicide applications. On the other hand, if a large number of inexpensive and ambitious summer interns are available, it may be less costly to use them than to invest in materials or equipment.

#### PRIORITIZE

In addition to looking closely at each individual area of cost, prioritization can be helpful. More than likely, certain spots are "gotta look good areas" of high importance to various groups associated with the course. Maybe it's the approach to the clubhouse door, the No. 1 tee box, the No. 18 green or the signature hole.

Though it can be overwhelming, it might be beneficial to seek input from stakeholders (the owner, the green committee, the club manager, the golf pro). The pitch to each of these might go something like, "Hey, we're looking at lowering the ornamental maintenance cost on some areas on the course. Which are the most important to you?" This could yield more information than you intend, so use this technique with care. But it may also turn over a rock that had not yet been turned over. Once priority has been established for several locations, calculate input costs for each bed or grouping of trees and shrubs. Focusing on a spot or area of the course can be as helpful as looking at each maintenance category.

#### **REMOVE BAD TREES**

Continuing to prune and treat poorcondition or pest-ridden trees and shrubs is a black hole of cost. Removal requires an outlay of cash but pays off in just a few years. Other benefits likely are realized as well, such as increased sunlight on greens and tees, enhanced views to the green from the rough or near rough and greater air circulation. In many cases, you may justify tree removal costs through reduced fungicide applications for brown patch, dollar spot and Pythium blight because of improved ambient microenvironment above greens.

As an arborist, I hesitate to endorse wholesale tree removal, but poor-condition trees are a liability. Trees with cracks, hanging branches, co-dominant leaders, stem-girdling roots and decay are cause for concern, as well as trees that are leaning. Depending on the extent of the defect(s), the time to remove may be soon, very soon or immediately. The specific location of problematic trees comes into play when considering which to remove first.

The arboricultural term "target," aka a person (golfer, golf maintenance worker, superintendent) or item of value (clubhouse, refreshment stand, rain shelter, parking lot, maintenance facility) brings the issue of damages to mind, which means dealing with a lawsuit (the first case), or replacement costs (the latter case). In addition to what the tree could fall on, superintendents need to consider the issue of "frequency of occupation," or the likelihood that a person could come into contact with a tree. No superintendent wants to be faced with the situation of negligence, where trees in poor health are called to their attention and he/she



Though quite manageable at this size, it's conceivable that "ornamental creep" could add maintenance costs to this bed.

fails to act appropriately.

Scouting for developments in condition, defects and pest incidence is a costsaving technique. There are a couple general approaches to scouting. Either assign a crew member with extensive experience in spotting ornamental problems to inspect specimens daily or ask each team member to be on the lookout for an abnormal appearance of non-turf plants. A third route with significant value is to hire an ornamentals consultant. This option may be especially advantageous if no herbaceous and woody plant experience exists on the staff. When looking for a scouting firm, strongly consider a certified nursery professional (i.e. California Certified Nursery Professional) and an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, preferably one with Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) training. Monitoring and a series of scouting inspections made weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or quarterly is desirable on courses with many established specimens.

#### SHIFTS

In 1975, Joel Barker introduced the concept of "paradigm shifts," which

"Either assign a crew member with extensive experience in spotting ornamental problems to inspect specimens daily, or ask each team member to be on the lookout for an abnormal appearance of non-turf plants."

are ways to view changes in culture, manufacturing or the marketing of goods and services. The classic example he described was the shift in automobiles being manufactured in Detroit to Japan. Barker saw these as common, everyday fresh looks at all facets of life, with the goal of seeing the world anew. Shifts are appropriate in the golfscape as well.

Continued on page 34

#### **Super Science**





Species such as saucer magnolia can drop significant amounts of debris.

#### Continued from page 33

The first is a shift from hedges to multi-stem shrubs. Keeping most hedges looking neat and trim requires monthly shearing. Not only is this labor intensive, it's bad horticultural practice. Over the years, this technique keeps the oldest, least productive, most disease- and insect-prone stems in the canopy of the plant, which leads to fewer flowers, thinner foliage and increased pest pressure. A onceper-year thinning of the oldest stems is much preferred to reduce pest control costs and retain function and attractiveness. A saying in the arboricultural world is, "Real horticulturists don't shear, they thin."

The next shift is from annuals to perennials and ornamental grasses. If annuals are strongly requested by stakeholders for color and textural appeal, choose industry-proven cultivars such as those designated as improvements by All America Selections or new introductions revealed at industry proving grounds such as the California Spring Trials. Once established, perennials generally require less water, fertilizer and pest control than annuals, yet offer most if not all the same benefits. Choices among perennials also are important. The Perennial Plant Association is a leader in this evaluation effort, designating certain new and underutilized cultivars.

Another pertinent shift to consider: size. As a transition is being made within ornamental beds with specific plant material, also consider reducing their size. Many beds are subject to "ornamental creep," where because of their beauty they tend to increase slowly in size as just a few more plants are added each year. If a real plant lover is on the crew, beds can double in size in just a few years. If you observe this trend, lean on your prioritization of use area to hold costs in check.

#### PLANT SELECTION

When in the plant selection mode no matter if it's a tree, shrub, groundcover or flower — investigate the disease susceptibility of the cultivar just as you would with a turfgrass species. Depending on the species of ornamental considered, significant differences exist. For example, approximately 200 to 300 cultivars of crabapple are available in various locations in today's market. Though it's hard to be exact, about half of these are susceptible to fireblight, apple scab or cedar apple rust. They remain on the market because they offer great architecture, flower color, superior winter hardiness and/or size characteristics.

Other characteristics such as debris production can significantly impact cost of maintenance. Some woody plants such as eucalyptus, magnolia, maple and elm can drop large amounts of debris on turf. This may have little impact if the tree is in the rough or in an out-of-bounds area. However, when near a green or tee or even a cart path, play can slow while golfers look for balls or grumble lining up a putt. Not all species produce seeds, flowers, exfoliated bark and other plant parts in abundance. Obtain assistance in selection by visiting local arboreta and botanic gardens and/or by contacting local university Extension faculty.

#### INSTALLATION

Everybody knows how to plant a tree or flower, right? Wrong. The No. 1 mistake is poor planting technique. People get in a hurry, and they often simply don't know how. No matter which type of plant is being installed, take time to spread out the roots in a wide, shallow planting hole — or better yet — think of it as a "planting area." Failure to do

#### РНОТО 4



Pictured are well-placed small trees. If tree debris drops, it's unlikely to affect play.

#### // SHIFTING YOUR PARADIGM



Good implementation of separation of turf and ornamentals.

so compromises the extent and orientation of the root system, which in turn increases the stress level of the ornamental plant. Because any stressed plant on the course, turf or otherwise, is more likely to succumb to pests and damage from golf play, it makes sense to get it right from the start.

After planting technique, one of the most important installation considerations is location. The industry term "Right Plant, Right Place (RPRP)" has been coined to underscore its importance. Consideration of the site in terms of shade, sun, size and usage is crucial. For example, hostas in full sun won't last long and will require replacement in short order, leading to additional costs. Shrubs near tee markers must be of the correct size to avoid covering sign information.

The guiding principle of separation of turf and ornamentals and other elements such as ball washers, benches and signage lead to healthier plants and reduced mowing costs. On average, most ornamentals require about a third to half of the water and fertilization inputs as turf. So, it's wise to separate them to avoid over-application.

A classic violation of RPRP is

the installation of "planter boxes," aka "tree surrounds." Installation of wooden structures around the base of mature trees is common to avoid bare turf areas that develop because of tree shade and root absorption. These enclosures necessitate the placement of soil against the bark of trees and shrubs, which usually stays wetter than desirable, leading to rotting bark/sapwood and eventual demise of the tree. Instead, you may achieve coverage of the compromised surface by integrating or "shoehorning" in groundcovers and perennials that are adapted to the low-light conditions.

Lowering the cost of maintaining ornamentals is not a "once and done" endeavor. Periodic evaluation and reflection in a step-by-step process is key to success. This is best achieved by placing all costs on the table and examining each one to see if there is a better or less costly way to achieve the same goals and objectives. **G** 

John Fech is an Extension educator with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, serving the Omaha, Neb. area. He also is an ISA Certified Arborist. You may reach John at jfech1@unl.edu for more information.

## **Golfdom**.

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"We had copied the idea of 'Cool Tools' from First Green, and we implemented it not only on the golf courses but at these stadiums."

KARL DANNEBERGER, PH.D., Science Editor

## Returning to summer camp

colleague of mine, Pamela Sherratt, this year created and organized a week-long STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) camp through The Ohio State University. Pam's STEM summer camp focus was on the science behind turfgrass management.

I asked her why she would want to take on such a task, which requires a major time commitment along with a monetary cost (students would attend free). Pam told me that when she was 16 years old she took a STEM camp in horticulture in England. That camp, she said, started her down the path to a career in turfgrass science. Pam hoped her summer camp would open up other students to the same possibilities.

Twenty six secondary-level students, middle school aged, signed up to take the camp during the week of July 9. Although most of the students came from the Columbus, Ohio area, some came from as far away as Dayton (60 miles). The students, both male and female, came from diverse backgrounds, ranging from your "normal" middle school students, with some sons and daughters coming from families of golf course superintendents and athletic field managers.

The faculty and staff of the turfgrass program, along with two student counselors, assisted with the program. Prior to the start of the camp, we had to go through the security checks and training classes required of all who are in contact with minors. I must admit that the classes and subsequent testing were not easy.

Because the focus was hands-on experience, the students were broken up into four groups of six to seven students who rotated among four stations during the morning and afternoon sessions. Throughout the week, Pam emphasized hands-on activities for the students in short bursts. She based many of the activities on the 20 years that First Green (thefirstgreen.org) has been conducting environmental STEM classes on golf courses. The First Green effort is supported by the United States Golf Association, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, local GCSAA chapters and golf associations. First Green research has found that students retain the least material through lectures, with demonstrations

slightly higher, and hands-on activities having the most retention. Additionally, the attention of a middle schoolage student is 10 to 12 minutes.

During the week, the students visited golf courses and athletic fields throughout central Ohio, including two golf courses, The Ohio State University Golf Courses in Columbus and Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin. Dennis Bowsher and Chad Mark, golf course superintendents at Ohio State and Muirfield Village, respectively, and their staffs coordinated these visits and conducted the learning stops.

Visits to Ohio Stadium and Mapfre Stadium were hosted by Brian Gimbel and Wes Appelfeller and their staffs, respectively. We had copied the idea of "Cool Tools" from First Green, and we implemented it not only on the golf courses but at these stadiums as well. We used tools to make field measurements, including the Clegg Impact hammer, shear vane, TDR, ball bounce, infrared gun, macrometer and mowing height prism.

Of the many highlights of the camp, two stood out for me. One was the putter each student made on the first day of camp. Faculty from the Professional Golf Management program worked with each student to construct a putter that they would use through the week. This was one of the students' favorite activities.

The second was at Ohio Stadium, where Vlade Janakievski, owner of Easy Living Deli in Columbus (a lunch sponsor), revisited with the students the spots where he kicked game winning field goals during his varsity career at Ohio State (1977-1980).

We face a shortage of qualified people coming into the golf management profession. Camps like this could serve as a feeder system for the future. **G** 

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., *Golfdom*'s science editor and a professor at The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.





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3



2

#### **1** Posterity fungicide

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#### **3** PPF-2620 pruner

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TECHI







#### 4 Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) propane conversion program

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#### **5** Shuttle transport vehicles

The **CUSHMAN** Shuttle 4 features seating for up to four people, with a stake-side cargo bed to carry equipment, luggage or personal belongings. The 72-volt AC drivetrain on the newest shuttle models generates longer battery life, enabling vehicles to travel further between charges, and delivers remarkable hill-climbing capabilities. Cushman shuttles feature standard headlights, a brush guard, an hour meter and a USB port, and can be equipped with a range of options and accessories, including a limited-slip differential, windshields, canopies and more. Cushman.txtsv.com

#### **6** Earth & Turf dump cart

The **EARTH & TURF** dump cart box is 42 inches wide, 31 inches long, 11 inches deep and weighs 125 lbs. empty. Its overall height to the top link connection is 24 inches and it offers a capacity of 8.75 cubic feet and a weight capacity of 800 lbs. The dump cart moves on 3-inch caster wheels and easily can move on smooth surfaces either empty or with a load. *Earthandturfattachments.com* 

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# The 19th Loge

## **Pete Tescher**

SUPERINTENDENT // Grand Lake (Colo.) Golf Course

What can I get you? I'm a craft beer fan... I'll take a fresh IPA, any of them, I'm not picky.

**Tell me about Grand Lake GC.** It's a gem of a little golf course, situated on the western slope of Rocky Mountain National Park. Beautiful scenery, wild animals and tons of stuff to do year-round.

#### Some of the guys saw a moose out here today, how often does that

**happen?** Several times a week. Just yesterday we had a big Bullwinkle in our shop yard, chowing on the willows.

**Tell me about your family.** I've been married to Stephanie for 22 years. No kids, no pets, just my golf course staff.

What's it like maintaining turf at 8,300 feet? It's like starting over every single year. Once the season gets going, it's easy — not too many diseases, just get some water, we've got perfect weather. But you start over from scratch each year, and you better be ready for it.

#### What's your favorite tool in the

shop? Probably the sod cutter. There's always an issue on a green after snow melt. And it means it's summer again. Plus, I like running it.

What's one thing I have to do while I'm in town? Go check out the view from the front porch at Grand Lake Lodge... they call it "Colorado's favorite



front porch." They have swings there, grab a beer or a wine and enjoy the amazing view.

#### What's one song lyric that you

really relate to? That's a tough one... probably the Rolling Stones: "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you just might find you get what you need."

What is the most unusual item you keep in your office? In the summer, my fly rod. In the winter, my skis.



#### //BEST ADVICE

"I WORKED CONSTRUCTION OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. I KNEW I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT. MY DAD TOLD ME, 'FIND WHAT YOU LIKE TO DO... THEN DO THAT.' I WAS PLAYING GOLF ONE DAY AND I THOUGHT, 'THIS HAS GOT TO BE COOL.' AND OFF I WENT."

What are your sports teams? The Broncos, the Rockies and for college, my Oregon State Beavers — 2018 National Champions in baseball.

I'm a Chiefs fan, do I need to worry about your Broncos this year? All we have is a defense. I'll say we go 9-7 and we split the series, both teams winning on the road.

I like it! Thanks for having me out to the Rocky Mountain GCSA Affiliate Cup, it's been a fantastic day. Come back and see us again soon, and send

your people our way — we'll take care of them!

As interviewed by Seth Jones, Aug. 28, 2018.

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