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Golfdom Gallery



WE CAME.
WE SAW.
WE TOOK PICTURES.

1 A handful of hardware *Landscape Management* editor Marisa Palmieri and *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones were all smiles at the annual TOCA awards. That's what 17 combined awards will do.



2 Retirement party (L to R) Steve Ciardullo (John Deere), Ed Fatica, Bob Wagner (Lemon Bay GC) and Curt Conrad (El Rio GC) were all happy to help Fatica celebrate his retirement.



3 Calusa GCSA victorious It was a nail-biter, but the Calusa chapter edged the Suncoast at Coral Creek Club in Placida, Fla., by a score of 8-7.

4 Waverley CC visit Turfco's Scott Kincaid (left) and *Golfdom* publisher Pat Roberts (right) got the VIP treatment from superintendent Brian Koffler (center) when they came by for a visit.



5 Major year We expect to see a lot more of our friend Tom Marzolf of Fazio Golf Course Designers (pictured with Jones) this year. Fazio Design is the consulting design firm for all three American Majors this year.

6 Viva Italia! Two more editors and we would have had a quorum. Fellow North Coast Media staffer and *Pit & Quarry* EIC Darren Constantino (with his wife Kay) ran into *Golfdom* Senior Editor Beth Geraci in Monterosso, Italy.



7 Go with the flow Reunion Resort of Orlando director of GC maintenance Tray Maltby takes a look at the course's pump system.



8 Banyan GC A big shout-out to Banyan GC superintendent Deron Zendt for taking the time out of a busy afternoon to give us a tour of his West Palm Beach, Fla., beauty.



9 You've got mail We were also thrilled to see the mailboxes at Banyan stuffed with some excellent reading.



PHOTOS BY: PAT ROBERTS (1) / SETH JONES (2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9)



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My Second Office

BECAUSE THE COURSE IS YOUR FIRST

About our host

JIM RATTIGAN, superintendent/general manager at Schuylkill Country Club in Orwigsburg, Pa., has a short but successful tenure in his role. After attending Penn State University and continuing his interest in competitive golf, he returned to his home town, where he grew up working with the grounds crew. When the position for superintendent opened up, he applied for

the coveted position.

"The members were nice enough to give me a courtesy interview even though I wasn't qualified. And after the interview they gave me the job," he says.

Rattigan has managed the grounds at the historic Willie Park/Donald Ross course since 2003.



"Find time to play as much golf at as many courses as you can. It can motivate you, and you may see something that inspires you to try something new at your own course."

- 1 WOOF** That's Mulligan, she's a 5-year-old Border Collie. She's our geese chaser. She runs the course with me every day and sometimes she'll hang around the first tee and up by the clubhouse. All the members know who she is, she's very friendly and some of the members drive around with treats in their golf bag because they know they'll see her.
- 2 GREEN THUMB** I think there's something to having plants in the office. It just adds some calming.
- 3 CHEERS!** The beer can is an old Yuengling beer can I found during some clubhouse renova-

tions. Yuengling is America's oldest brewery and located a few miles from the golf course. The Yuenglings are wonderful people and have been friends of the family for generations. Dick Yuengling is a regular golfer at the club and plays every weekend.

- 4 FANATIC!** I'm a longtime Phillies fan. Everyone in my family is Phillies, Eagles and so on. Basically we support all the local teams here in Orwigsburg.
- 5 THE NINTH** Years ago before I started here they had these tee markers on the golf course. We were tearing down the barn at

the golf course and a couple of those old signs were in there. That one in particular was in perfect shape.

- 6 SILVER LINING** I've always enjoyed playing competitive golf and those are the superintendent awards. One of my highlights every winter is I get to hang out with a bunch of other superintendent friends (at the GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic) and meet some new ones. I really enjoy going around and saying hi to superintendents and talking about things that are going on, their courses, their challenges.

- 7 STELLAR ROUND** That was special because it was one of those rounds where I shot a 65. So I saved it.

- 8 PICTURE PERFECT** That mural has been here for a couple years. One of my assistant's girlfriend was an artist and she did a mural on the wall for him and I said, "That's incredible," and asked her to do it in my office. She came up and did a mural of the clubhouse and the 18th hole.

BY KATY IBSEN // PHOTO BY SETH JONES
Proud of your second office? Email us a photo of you in it to sjones@northeastmedia.net, and we may feature you and your office in an upcoming issue of *Golfdom*.



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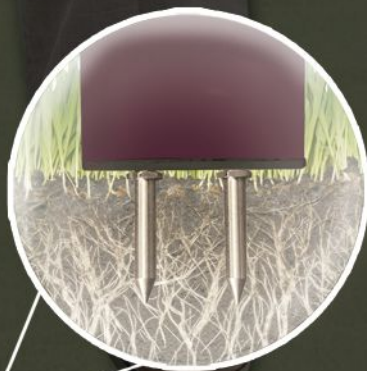
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“You know there is always a place you can go to get away from it all — a place that just gives you a good feeling every time you step upon it.”

MARK WOODWARD, *Contributing Editor*

Best offices in the world

World headquarters for DaMarCo Golf and Mark Woodward and Associates is the fourth bedroom of my house in Mesa, Ariz. The only green space near my office is my yard and the park across the street.

As I was sitting around my office the other day, I began reflecting on the wonderful places we as superintendents have had the honor of working each and every day — our golf courses. We are blessed to have the opportunity to be responsible for such beautiful tracts of land, land that each and every day changes. A golf course is a living and breathing place that continues to give great joy and occasionally takes a little away as well.

I have friends who are accountants, computer techs, doctors, dentists and stock brokers, and I can't even imagine being stuck in an office for eight to 10 hours each day without having the freedom to get out of the office and make a quick spin around the golf course.

I remember my days at Torrey Pines. Even though I was dealing with prepping for a U.S. Open, a ton of political

stuff, attending meetings, giving presentations, preparing for public hearings and in general performing the bulk of the administrative duties of my position, the absolute best part of the job was the fact that I had the flexibility to get on my golf cart and make a tour of the facility.

In that case, approximately 450 yards from my office was the Pacific Ocean. If I was feeling stressed, needed to get the cobwebs out or just needed time to think things through, I would go out to one of the holes that front the ocean, stand on the cliff and watch the dolphins and whales swim around and the paragliders fly by. For some reason it always seemed to put things in perspective for me and would allow for a great moment of self-reflection.

It doesn't matter if your

golf course is on an ocean, a national forest or a park. It doesn't matter if it's at a resort, within the downtown area of a major city or out in the country. Wherever it is, you know there is always a place you can go to get away from it all — a place that is green (in color and environmentally), beautiful, full of wildlife. A place that just gives you a good feeling every time you step upon it.

On top of that, for the most part you are surrounded by people who genuinely want to be there and actually pay money to be there. The best thing is, they want to be there because of you and the work you and your staff do. There are not too many professions that can offer that intangible, rewarding feeling.

There also aren't too many careers where the professionals can go outside, breathe some fresh air, enjoy the best

that Mother Nature has to offer and on top of that, be involved in one of the greatest games in the world.

It's not even close to being the same thing as stepping out of your office into a parking lot or garage, going out on the street or driving on a crowded freeway. The atmosphere is not the same, the air quality is not as good and these places just don't make you feel good about your job and your life in general.

I don't mean to be unkind to people in other professions. Everybody is different, and some seem to enjoy that atmosphere. My only point is to highlight how fortunate we are in our profession to have the luxury of working indoors when we have to, but more importantly, having the privilege of working outdoors when we want to. Most superintendents I know are able to find the necessary balance between being in an office and being on the golf course. Most are happiest out on the golf course.

If you really think about it, it's the best of all worlds. After all, most of us got into this business because we wanted to spend time outdoors, preparing our golf courses for the golfers who come to enjoy this great game.

We really do have the greatest offices in the entire world.

Mark Woodward is president of **Mark Woodward and Associates**, principal of **DaMarCo Golf**, CEO of **MasterStep Golf Group** and a contributing editor for **Golfdom**.

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“It often takes hard times to bring people together for a common cause.”

JOEL JACKSON, *Contributing Editor*

Golf shows and golf days

In January, I attended the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. February found me in San Diego at the Golf Industry Show and in Tallahassee for Florida Golf Day.

My main goal at the PGA show was to connect with my golf media contacts and fellow members of the International Network of Golf. I also was interested in growing the game initiatives and the latest news from the Golf Channel, which unveiled a new Morning Drive feature format.

Like the GCSAA Rounds-4Research project to raise funds for education, research and advocacy, the success of growing the game programs such as Get Golf Ready, Play It Forward and First Tee depends on people's involvement. Everyone can find the time to do what they deem is important in their lives. How are these golf industry-enhancing projects not getting more attention?

Here are some takeaways from the GCSAA Education Conference in San Diego. The show is a melting pot of superintendents from around the globe. As usual, I found the Opening and General Sessions ranging from inspirational to entertaining. I hope Tim Rosaforte and Brandel Chamblee take their newly found regard for superintendents on the air during more telecasts.

I really enjoyed the general sessions on the Politics of Water and the USGA Golf Talk program. There is a nice cross-section of issues, research facts and audience feedback.

Water is our number one concern, especially given officials' and the public's idea that golf is a big water consumer. That brings me now to state Golf Days.

As of February, the Florida GCSA is one of five founding members of the new Florida Golf Alliance, comprising the

North and South Florida sections of the PGA, the Florida chapter of the Club Managers Association and the Florida State Golf Association.

Florida GCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS, joined association leaders and Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation, in visiting with legislators and department heads from the Florida Sports Foundation and the tourism bureau Visit Florida. They were there to encourage the state to target destination golf advertising.

In a golf industry roundtable meeting, each group presented facts, giving state leaders a clear idea of the economic and environmental impact of the Florida golf industry. Beyond the number-crunching stats, quality of life issues were highlighted. A perfect example was the

presentation by Special Olympics champion golfer Susie Doyens.

Doyens explained to this roundtable of imposing “suits” that she was a non-verbal special needs person, who, through the sport of golf, came out of her shell, became a fierce competitor and ultimately became a spokesperson for the Special Olympics. You had to be there. It was a special moment for those of us who sometimes take the benefits of golf for granted.

Beyond Golf Day, the new Alliance hopes to partner more closely on the issues facing the golf industry, including H-2B, water availability and growing the game.

It often takes hard times to bring people together for a common cause. I urge those in states where golf associations haven't joined together yet to do so sooner than later.

I'll have more updates from more meetings — there's never a shortage of those — in the upcoming months. Recently I've been to the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association meeting (nice job, team *Golfdom!*), the Everglades GCSA *Poa Annuua* Classic, the International Network of Golf meeting, the Florida GCSA Spring Board meeting and the Jack Harrell Sr. Ridge Invitational. All good meetings, all very productive.

Joel Jackson, CGCS-Ret., is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.

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“CGCS certainly is a prestigious designation and one that takes considerable effort to achieve.”

MATT NEFF, *assistant superintendent,*
Wedgewood G&CC, Powell, Ohio

We're all certifiable

One of the career goals many assistant superintendents have is to eventually become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS). Many feel certification will increase their marketability and professional image in what has become a highly competitive industry, while others may choose to pursue certification more for the personal benefit of refining and expanding their skill set. Whatever their motivation, embarking on the certification process requires a considerable commitment of both time and effort.

To briefly explain the current requirements, the certification program is composed of four components: self-assessment, portfolio, examination and attesting to the applicant's facility. To apply for the certification program, the applicant must have three or more years of experience as a superintendent, as well as three or more GCSAA points.

These are the same things required to be a Class A member of the GCSAA. The CGCS applicant also will need to have completed the self-assessment tool on the GCSAA website and have a portfolio assembled and ready for review.

Once accepted into the program, the applicant will have one year to complete the final two phases — the examination and attesting components — and make additions or improvements to his or her portfolio as recommended by the two GCSAA-appointed CGCS reviewers.

The examination is a closed-book, three-part multiple choice exam that tests the full range of the superintendent's knowledge and skills. The attesting portion of the program is an evaluation of the agronomic and operational aspects of the applicant's facility by two certified superintendents appointed by the applicant's local chapter.

If that sounds like a lot, it's because it is. I have writer's cramp, and that was just an overview. See the full details of what's required on the GCSAA website.

CGCS certainly is a prestigious designation and one that takes considerable effort to achieve. The good news is those who have set this as a goal for themselves can start working on the first two components while still assistants.

The self-assessment tool is basically a five-part survey that gauges an individual's competencies in agronomy, business, communication, environmental management and leadership. The applicant is asked to answer a series

of yes/no questions about whether or not they feel they have mastered a given skill.

As Penny Mitchell, GCSAA's senior manager of certification, points out, the results of the self-assessment will help identify the skills necessary to advance in the industry and identify the competencies that will be tested on the certification exam. Perhaps more importantly, the results can be used to help design a continuing education plan that will address areas for improvement.

The portfolio component of the certification program consists of work examples, skill statements and case studies. Mitchell says becoming familiar with the contents of the portfolio as an assistant will be helpful when the time comes to complete it. By doing so, a potential applicant can see the types of work examples that will be required and begin to formulate practices that will satisfy those competencies.

While those who choose to pursue certification will have at least three years to begin working on the self-assessment and portfolio once they become superintendents, the benefit of starting sooner is apparent. Even if an individual has no intentions of becoming a CGCS, having a tool for developing a plan for improvement through continuing education and work experience clearly has tremendous value.

Matt Neff (mneff4@yahoo.com) is assistant superintendent at Wedgewood G&CC in Powell, Ohio.