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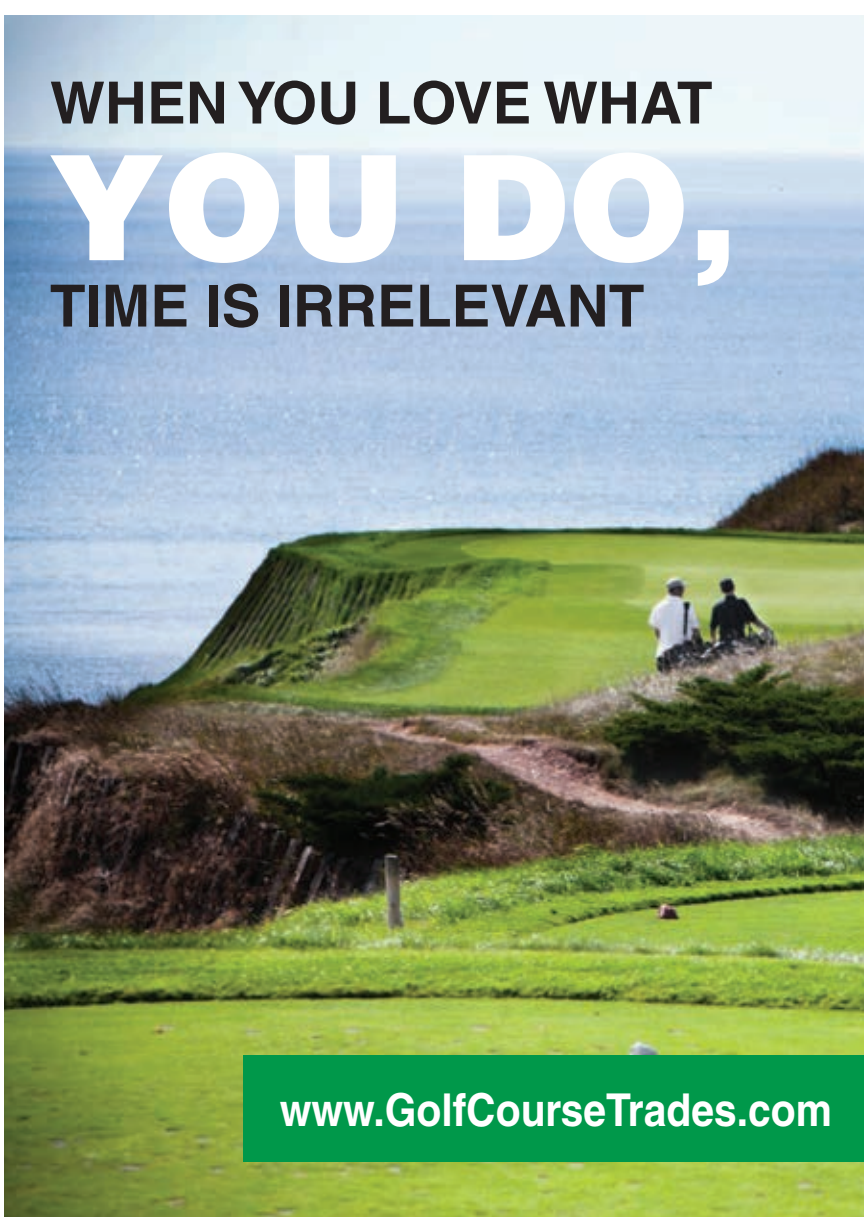
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New England Golf Course Superintendents Are Getting the Job Done

by Linda Parker



Apparently, Mother Nature didn't think COVID-19 was enough of a curveball to throw at golf course superintendents this year. Superintendents in New England, along with their counterparts in many other areas, found that the spring of global pandemic was followed by one of the driest and hottest summers on record, just to make life especially interesting.

Despite all they have been dealing with, members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England took a breather long enough to share a great message about where they've been and where they are going. Their story, both looking back and looking ahead, helps put 2020 in perspective.

Join the Club

On February 25, 1924, forty-one greenkeepers came together at Cottrelle's Restaurant in Boston. Their plan was to establish an official organization through which they would facilitate an exchange of ideas

and information and create comradery, learning and advocacy.

With the "war to end all wars" (World War I) behind them, they had every reason to feel optimistic about their future and their profession. They had no idea that within the decade, America would see the stock market crash and the economy hit rock bottom or that they would face the drought and relentless windstorms of the 1930s Dust Bowl.

As they shared their dinner that wintery Monday evening optimistically making plans for the formation of the Greenkeepers Club of New England, they were clueless that their culture, economy and profession would soon be redefined by billowing black squalls of topsoil blowing from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast.

If you had read this article a year ago, you might have brushed it casually aside,

unable to relate to their situation. Today, however, you can speak from experience, identifying with what it's like to be blindsided by circumstances beyond your control. You know clearly how it feels to see nature behave in the most unpredictable ways and events unfold like falling dominos, taking out segment after segment of life as we know it. You can also look at this historic group of resolute greenkeepers as examples, recognizing that you, too, have the capabilities and wherewithal to survive and even thrive, no matter what the economy or the environment throws at you.

A Rich History and a Promising Future

Almost a full century has passed since its founding, and the Greenkeepers Club of New England, officially recognized as the New England Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is still flourishing. With over 500

active members, including golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents, equipment managers, student members and companies and their affiliates, the New England Chapter of GCSAA has never let global war, economic crisis or nature at its most outrageous stop it from serving and supporting its membership.

The organization's history includes continuous publication of a professional paper since 1929, funding of research at the University of Massachusetts and the Rhode Island Experimental Station plus scholarship funding and administration. Add to that hundreds of meetings, training opportunities and conferences for members, companies, industry representatives and countless other initiatives that benefit, enrich and protect the needs of golf course superintendents and the future of the profession.

This past July, The Golf Course Trades had the opportunity to talk to Don Hearn, who, for more than ten years, has been the first fulltime employee of the association and is its Executive Director. Don is a past golf course superintendent with more than 40 years in that role and a past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. With a job description that spans four pages and includes nearly one hundred discrete duties, it's safe to say that his responsibilities for the organization include "everything that needs doing." He is the organization's recordkeeper, marketing department, communications specialist, administrator, meeting planner and facilitator, membership coordinator, newsletter distributor, content

“As golf course superintendents, I believe that we are all resilient. We continuously adapt to change, and we always find a way to get the job done.”



Don Hearn, Executive Director of the GCSA of New England

creator and website manager along with countless other hats he enthusiastically wears for the association.

Don is not, however, a one-man band. He is joined by the association's President Peter Rappoccio, CGCS at Concord Country Club, Vice President Brian Skinner, CGCS, CPO at Bellevue Golf Club and Secretary/Treasurer Bob Dembek of Lexington Golf Club. The Board of Directors includes David Stowe, CGCS at Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, Eric Richardson of Essex County Club, Greg Cormier from Tom Irwin, Inc., Len Curtin of George Wright Golf Course, Ryan Emerich of Vesper Country Club and Past President Dave Johnson of The Country Club (Brookline), as well as many actively contributing, dedicated committee members. So what is it about this organization that inspires the enthusiasm and support of busy golf industry professionals who all have plenty on their plates already? Each of these members of the New England Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America recognizes that this association provides a vital lifeline for

superintendents, turf managers and others who too often get to the golf course before dawn and leave long after dark, working with their teams to ensure an optimal golfing experience by members and golfers. As Don explained, “The more members our association has, the stronger our organization becomes, and the stronger our members become as individuals.”

Feedback Directly from New England GCSAA Superintendents

Don is a goldmine of information about the state of golf in the New England area. Among the valued insights he shared are data collected through June 10, 2020, surveying 45 golf superintendents, all members of the association. Of the 45 courses they represent, five are 27-hole courses, seven are 9-hole courses, one is a 36-hole course and the remaining thirty-two are 18-hole courses.

Twenty-five of the 45 superintendents identified, that as of the date of the survey, they were maintaining their course as well or very close to as well as they did the year before. A couple of the superintendents even noted that their courses were in better shape than in previous years. Others, who said their maintenance was not up to 2019 standards pointed out that their courses were, in fact, in good shape, “up the middle,” just not on the outskirts.

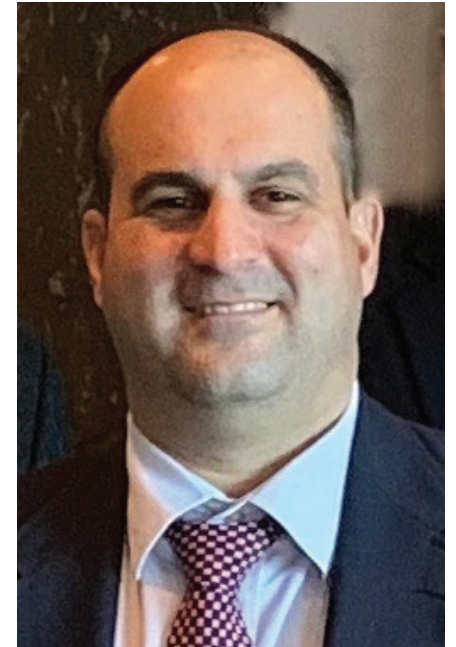
Twenty of the 45 superintendents had either laid off workers, brought their staff back more slowly than they typically would or were working their crew fewer hours than in a normal season. More than half of those surveyed also said they

were working with a reduced budget or frozen spending, while others who had not yet experienced budget cutbacks noted that they were proceeding cautiously. Additionally, many of the superintendents stated that budgets for pay raises, capital equipment purchases or capital projects specifically have been frozen for 2020 or “deferred until further notice.”

Outlooks and attitudes among the superintendents are positive, in spite of the fact that they generally have been trying to do as much as they did in the past but with reduced labor and budgets. In addition, rounds of golf at many facilities have been booming, creating greater stresses and demands. The surveyed superintendents spoke about the importance of communication and noted that most golfers and club members were understanding of course maintenance challenges and social distancing requirements.

Remarkably, the superintendents participating in the New England GCSAA survey even shared optimistic and encouraging messages for their peers. They stated that this difficult year provides an opportunity to get back to simpler approaches and offers an experience for challenging themselves and their crews. Most importantly, they called out 2020 as a time to build stronger bonds with colleagues. Recognizing that “a lot of courses are in the same boat,” they stressed that no one should hesitate to reach out to each other for “help with the burden.”

Hyannisport Club Superintendent Tom Colombo, CGCS summed up the situation



Peter Rappoccio, CGCS, President of the GCSA of New England

and the spirit of New England superintendents especially well, saying, “As golf course superintendents, I believe that we are all resilient. We continuously adapt to change, and we always find a way to get the job done.”

To learn more about membership in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, visit the association's website at gcsane.org or contact Don Hearn at donhearn@gcsane.org.

Linda Parker has been writing professionally since the 1980s. With clients in finance, sports, technology, change enablement, resorts and nonprofit global initiatives, Linda helps organizations communicate their stories in meaningful ways to the people they most want to reach. She has authored, ghostwritten or contributed to more than a dozen nonfiction books. Linda is a member of the Authors Guild and the Golf Writers Association of America. You can connect with her at linda@glindacreative.com

The Brookfield Company: Preserving a Lost Art

by Sharon Scott Wilson, RRP



Whether seeking to beautify an expanse of featureless turf, add some character to a walkway, or even provide an attractive security barrier, there are occasions that call for a little artistry to break up the monotony of endless grass. When it comes to landscape design, there's nothing as elegant as a hand-crafted planter overflowing with flowers and greenery to transform a featureless area into an enticing garden. When designing an outdoor space, whether it's small and confined or spacious, adding sculptural elements can make a huge difference. Statuary can suggest a whimsical Alice in Wonderland land of enchantment; daintily crafted birdbaths, figurines, or statues can emblemize ancient Greece, a French chateau, or an English garden.

We recently visited Brookfield's Ringgold, Georgia, office, just over the Tennessee/Georgia line where co-owner Hilda

Jones gave us a crash course on concrete casting. Jones led us through her manufacturing plant and storage -- or should I say, outdoor/indoor display area -- and commented on the qualities found in better-made concrete products, among them durability. The reason for their durability, she explained, were the many reinforcing short fibers from polypropylene woven throughout the concrete.

"We had a landscape architect in Charleston, South Carolina, call us up after a hurricane to tell us the storm had devastated the house he'd been working on and the Brookfield planters were all that remained," she commented.

After an earlier career teaching art, Hilda Jones and friend John Cline founded The Brookfield Company to help landscape architects and designers achieve such effects. While there are various factory-made options in planters and statuary -- most of them imported

-- what makes Brookfield exceptional is not only the hands-on design, but also the durability and quality of the work. Based just down the road from Chattanooga, Tennessee, the two owners of Brookfield oversee and execute almost all the work themselves.



Brookfield creations have found a home on quite a few golf courses. One of the more unique applications Jones

mentioned was undertaken at a course in the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, in South Carolina. "The builders put one of our fountains behind every home along fairway. It was really remarkable."

Over the years, Jones' sculptural clay work has grown to form the basis for all her professional endeavors. She has earned a Master's Degree in Ceramics and a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education. Her designs exemplify high aesthetic standards, exquisite craftsmanship, and attention to detail. In a fast-paced world that constantly seeks to commoditize our visual surroundings, it's extremely refreshing to still be able to acquire this level of workmanship at such an affordable price.

Case in point -- the course at Black Creek Club in Chattanooga, Tennessee, designed by Golf World's 1999 Architect of the Year, Brian Silva, was an early adopter. Oversized urns and planters are used to add character and are filled to overflowing with colorful flowering plants.

Jones' porcelain sculptures are held in many private and corporate collections. She has shown her artwork nationally and internationally and enjoys teaching workshops in ceramics when time allows. And yet, the humblest space can be graced by her work.

John and Hilda's designs are used to form the molds used to produce objects of various kinds, from elaborate birdbaths and sculpted figurines, to sturdy planters and gushing fountains. Cline earned a MFA in sculpture



and a BA in Fine Arts and has devoted his professional efforts to establishing The Brookfield Company as a design leader in the field.

As founder and co-owner, John works long hours to execute planter and sculpture designs that are clearly superior and of lasting importance. As sculptor, John has shown his work nationally and internationally. He has works in many collections and enjoys teaching evening ceramics classes at a local university.

Before we left, our suggestion to Jones and Cline was to persuade the White House to replace their dull concrete security blocks with rock-solid Brookfield planters filled with luscious flora. "It is really tough to plow through a 1,000-pound planter filled with dirt," grinned Jones.

Sharon Scott Wilson is Publisher of Resort Trades, Resort Trades Weekly and Golf Course Trades magazines. Subscribe to GolfCourseTrades Weekly -- <https://golfcoursetrades.com>.



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Making the Rounds: Part 10

by Jeff Shelley



This column features the author's recollections of his 33 years as a golf writer. These installments stem from his many travels and experiences, which led to a gradual understanding that the game has many intriguing components, especially its people.

A Change in Course

Imagine you've played the same golf course for nearly three decades, and one day it's completely different. Different turf, different greens, different fairways, different bunker placements, different ways to play it. All the institutional knowledge gained over hundreds of rounds is gone, the experience quotient reset to zero.

This happened to me when my club, Sand Point in Seattle, underwent a multi-million-dollar remodel overseen by acclaimed golf architect, David McLay Kidd. The Scotsman converted

a layout built in 1927 that had become a tree-lined, well-watered (naturally and through irrigation) bomb-and-gouge test. It's now a fast-track, links-like frolic complete with hundreds of new terrestrial features that tilt into deep, fescue-bearded bunkers, the number of which was doubled to nearly 100.

Typical of older courses in our neck of the woods, the original site was denuded of the endemic firs, cedars and pines, which were sold as timber when the founder, Sam Hayes, prepped the land for a golf course and adjoining residential development. Hayes and his brother Morris owned a total of 600 acres that extended across a panoramic promontory – where the homes were platted and seven of the 18 holes were arrayed – all the way eastward to the shores of Lake Washington. In addition to the layout designed by British architect, William H. Tucker, and built by another Brit, Francis

L. James, the Hayes' grand plan envisioned equestrian trails and a marina beside the lake. Unfortunately, the Great Depression dashed the horse and boat facilities, but the housing and golf components survived. Original lots sold for around \$250; homes within the neighborhood now go for upwards of \$3 million.

Any 93-year-old golf course will gather "moss." At Sand Point, that meant older and diseased trees had reached their expiration dates, and have been selectively thinned over the past decade. Many have also been limbed up to increase access to sunlight, while improving airflow and recoverability for errant golf shots. Early-day photos of the course show a mere scattering of trees and eight rather deep gullies (only one exists today) that drained surface water off the hill and down to the lake.

Fast forward to late 2017 when a couple of adventurous

members called DMK Golf Design out of the blue to discuss a bunker renovation for the course. Kidd answered their call, and suggested redoing the entire layout instead. A club-wide meeting was set for the personable architect to present his Master Plan. Well over 200 of the club's 400 golf members attended. Aerial drone footage using CGI techniques was shown during the presentation, presenting a virtually new golf course that retained Tucker's original routing.

Enthusiasm was high, and the project went to a vote. Over 96 percent of the ballots approved the work, a shockingly high number for a major transformation at a private country club.

Before the project began, Marcus Harness came to Sand Point from Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Wash., replacing the previous superintendent, Craig Sampson, who retired. Harness explains the rapid timeline for the remodel, which was handled by Ridge Top Golf of Gig Harbor, Wash. "Construction began in September 2019 and the course fully reopened in June 2020," he said.

"The membership's sacrifice and unwavering support throughout the entire process has paid off. The newly renovated golf course has received an overwhelmingly positive response. The finished product

resulted in significant improvements to both golf-course strategy and aesthetics. Our maintenance team is now focused on developing sustainable programs to care for the property and ensure its long-term success.”

course; and the removal and/or reconfiguration of some cart paths.

During my first two rounds, I was struck by the craftsmanship of Kidd and his design associate, Nick Schaan: the pot-like bunkers; the putting surfaces, some of which now sport false fronts and are guarded closely by sand traps; the suddenly mind-bending looks of the holes; and tall and dense stands of fescue

elements and challenges. Their integrity, dedication and commitment to excellence is what put the project over the top.”

It was only during my third round that I grasped perhaps the most subtle, yet biggest change of all: the hard and fast playing surfaces. During the remodel the fairways were plated with sand, making golfers believe they’ve almost been transported to the United Kingdom. A novel battery of shot options is now on our menu. We get – welcome news for this oldster – far more tee-ball roll. And, swirling winds off the lake and Cascades are an added factor in negotiating the challenge.

Kidd is pleased with the results. During his presentation to the members, he noted that Sand Point’s dense trees resulted in errant players being able to only

as much by the passion of its membership as it was by the beauty of the views (available from the course).”

Commented general manager Owen Westervelt, who arrived at Sand Point in April 2018: “We asked David and Nick for bold ideas and they delivered. David told me that, as a Scotsman, the ground game is of particular importance. Before his remodel, few if any holes encouraged the player to attempt to use the contours of the ground because mounds, bunkers or grass height prevented this style of play. That’s no longer true.”

The members’ response to the new course has been enthusiastic, and it’s showing on the club’s tee sheet. Sand Point’s director of golf, Craig Hunter, a Scotsman like Kidd, estimates that the number of rounds played have doubled from a year ago. “For example, we had 6,000 rounds played in July 2020, averaging 200 rounds per day. We used to be around 100 only a few years back,” noted the Isle of Skye native.

While Sand Point golfers are thrilled with the revitalized layout, other creatures have continued to thrive on and above the verdant grounds. Bald eagles, hawks, osprey, crows, swallows, deer and other varmints are headquartered at this urban oasis. They, along with the members, will make this reimagined golf course home for decades to come.

Jeff Shelley has written and published nine books as well as numerous articles for print and online media over the past 32 years. The Seattle resident is the co-founder of the Northwest Golf Media Association. He co-authored (with Michael Riste) “Championships & Friendships: The First 100 Years of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association.” In addition, he wrote three editions of the book, “Golf Courses of the Pacific Northwest.”



Harness is impressed with the project’s details. “Sand Point’s commitment to elevating its golf experience resulted in one of the largest offseason renovations in Pacific Northwest history. The scope of the work included a complete redesign of two holes, remodeling 10 greens, as well as tee and bunker renovations throughout the entire golf course. Additional changes included an expansion of short-cut turf by 57 percent and establishing approximately 15 acres of native areas. The goal of the heathland-inspired design was to create a reimagination of what the golf course may have looked like when it first opened in 1927.”

In addition to bunkers now sporting tall – and ball-swallowing – fescue “beards,” notable changes include: reconfigured and fast, now ponderous-to-read greens with low-cut surrounds; extended tees (versus the previous small, squarish pads); dramatic vistas of the lake and mountains from new points around the

in peripheral areas that were previously mowed.

“The Master Plan served as a solid conceptual foundation,” Harness continued. “However, David and Nick’s creativity and flexibility in the field enabled the design to elevate to even greater levels. Their vision became a reality through the precise execution of Ridge Top Golf. Being a locally-based company, (owner) Kip and (his son) Casey Kalbrener’s experience in the region was paramount in navigating a project of this magnitude through the off-season’s

punch out back to the fairway without other options. “The core thing about golf is: find it, hit it, find it, hit it.” Upon project completion, he noted, “We’ve done all this and couldn’t be more pleased. (The remodel) came out really, really well.

“My goal is to give the average player a fun bogey round and better golfers or sophisticated thinkers more options to strategically play a hole, be that shaping a shot or feeding the ball on a contour,” added the Scotsman, who now resides in Bend, Ore. “My incentive to work with Sand Point was driven



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Baby Bethpage – Head Super Kevin Carroll Brings U.S. Open Experience to Syracuse’s Green Lakes

by Jay Flemma



If by chance you had peeked your head into the maintenance shed of Green Lakes State Park Golf Course last fall, a strange sight may have befallen your eyes. Dozens upon dozens of boxes of Cracker Jack - that iconic, delicious, peanuty-popcorn snack - were strewn around the shop haphazardly.

“Why” you ask? Your Author, in a previous article, described Kevin Carroll, the newly arrived head of golf course maintenance, as “a crackerjack young rising star of a superintendent.”

As we say in our industry, “the press left a label.”

Carroll smiles about it, and he has good reason to: They tease you because they love you, and it’s not just the State Parks crew, but the entire golfing region that’s singing Carroll and his team’s praises. Recently arrived from legendary Bethpage Black, Carroll, with the help of his crew, has Green Lakes firing on all

cylinders, even in the teeth of the Coronavirus outbreak. Locals proudly boast that conditions haven’t been this impeccable in decades, and the tee sheet is filled to the brim.

Moreover, if you can’t laugh at yourself, you can’t laugh at anyone else, and it’s that wonderful unbuttoned feel, that earthy friendliness and casual ease that has defined Green Lakes for the almost ninety years it’s been open. It’s an everyman kind of place: the unquenchable spirit of the American golfer on full display every gorgeous summery afternoon. Sure, there are fancier “daily fee” and casino courses in the area, but high on its hilltop, with captivating views all across the iridescent emerald hue of the lake’s majestic stretch, and with conditions equaling those of private clubs and resorts, Green Lakes punches far above its weight at a fraction of the cost.

Carroll, who began his career as an intern on the Bethpage

Black grounds crew, was a critical addition to the team, bringing a wealth of major championship and PGA Tour experience to what Syracuse-area golfers revere as their own Baby Bethpage. He also brings a first-class, blue-collar work ethic to the way he and the crew maintain the golf course.

“Kevin Carroll was on the crew that prepared Bethpage Black for the 2009 U.S. Open and the 2012 and 2016 Barclays FedEx Cup Playoff events,” recalled golf architect Rees Jones, whose restoration of the Black catapulted it to major championship glory and gave public golfers everywhere a U.S. Open/PGA Championship venue they could play. “His going to Green Lakes is especially nice because it’s yet another connection between the two courses. Both courses are public access, both are run by the state of New York, and both were built as part of workers progress programs during the Great Depression.”

In Green Lakes’ case it was called the C.C.C., the Civilian Conservation Corps, upstate New York’s version of the Works Progress Administration program that constructed Bethpage Black, but the similarities don’t stop there. Both facilities survived the tumult of the Great Depression and the intervening decades with their golf holes more-or-less intact, notable because both courses are seminal mile markers in the respective careers of their designers. The Black was a magnum opus of architect A.W. Tillinghast, a crown jewel in his diadem and an important course to study to learn Tilly’s design concepts.

Likewise, Green Lakes is one of the oldest designs of Robert Trent Jones, another giant of golf course architecture. Jones’s design strategies changed dramatically as his career progressed: As televised golf and tournament golf advanced hand-in-hand during the late 1940s and early ‘50s, Jones’s courses became much more penal. Green Lakes, one of Jones’s first designs, is a kinder, gentler Jones, one not so much concerned with challenging professional players, but delighting ordinary golfers. Green Lakes may never host a major, but Syracusans are just as fiercely loyal to their hometown favorite as New Yorkers are to Bethpage, and they protect and preserve the heritage of Green Lakes just as loyally as New Yorkers do the Black. Also like Bethpage, people still camp out in their cars overnight for a tee time.

Now Carroll stewards Syracuse’s Baby Bethpage just as meticulously and successfully as he did the Black, just on a smaller scale. The hiring of

Carroll makes perfect sense: he worked in the state park system before, and he worked at a municipal facility before: Hand, meet glove. Better still, working tour events and majors taught Carroll how to maximize a golf course's playability even under the most hostile conditions and a crucible of world-wide media scrutiny. The hardest change in coming north might be a smaller budget, but Carroll believes a great superintendent maximizes what he has, not pines for what he thinks he'd like to have.

"At the Black you had all the manpower and resources you could wish for. But we have all the money and people here that we need, and that's a credit to our sustainability," Carroll stated gratefully. "Our focus is primarily on the greens; we cut and roll every day. We did that at Bethpage, and we do it here. For fertilization we try to have a minimalist outlook, but still give the turf what it needs: good topdressing, grooming, and aeration. And with our new Toro Triflex mowers, their latest and greatest, the quality of cut is equivalent to that of hand mowers on the greens with just a quarter of the labor."

The result is silky-smooth greens that bring all Jones's fascinating undulations to life. It also means happy golfers who beam about how conditions are top notch in the region. The fairways, equally curvaceous and heaving, are kept just as fast and firm, an astounding accomplishment given the challenges of Coronavirus. But Green Lakes didn't just survive, it thrived.

"We nailed it from out of the gate. Compliance was easy. We got great direction from our regional director of the state park system. He kept us informed and gave us instructions as to how and when to proceed," Carroll explained. "We staggered out start times as well as employee times to maintain distancing, we disinfected, and – most importantly - everybody was on board, the golfers included. And it's golf...it's easy to socially distance!"

Green Lakes stayed closed until May 15, horribly disappointing because Syracuse – known for

some of the most brutal and long winters – saw so little snow that the course could have opened April 1. So ironic...still, spirits are so high at the course, you'd never known there was a crisis. With the right kind of eyes, a 2020 summer afternoon looks much the same as it back in the mid-20th century, with one exception: the bunkers.

"The bunkers aren't what they used to be. They once were detailed and intricate, with a lot of fingers. We're doing our own in house renovation project, but now that's temporarily halted due to a spending freeze," Carroll confided. As we go to press, work has been completed on nine holes.

The project was necessary. If Green Lakes had a shortcoming, many of the bunkers had become so filled with sand or their faces so eroded, you could play out of them with a putter, an untenable situation for any serious golf course. The situation came to a head recently when Your Author holed out a 100-foot shot out of the back right bunker of the par-3 fourth hole with a putter. It also broke 40 feet if it broke an inch.

That green is set in one of Jones's trademark crossovers, where three tees and three greens all meet. Close to ten groups witnessed the shot or at least the after-celebration, so loud and reverberating Your Author took two bows, a curtain call, and will be dining out that story for a long time to come. "Jay's Sandbox" has now become the working title for the back right bunker. The press left another label.

This has created quite the conundrum for the maintenance team: the staff wasn't sure whether they were going to restore that bunker or remove it altogether. Your Author's nifty bit of prestidigitation may have



chances of revenge just went from zero to even money.

"Green Lakes is the future of golf right now," Rees summarized succinctly. "It's publicly owned, it's reasonably priced, and it's beautiful."

forced their hand, however. When you've cowed the greatest golfing professionals in the world into submission at a national championship, you can't let a scrawny, hobbit-sized, 16-handicap go scoreboard on you, especially not by making a mockery out of your bunker with a putter: no sir! And no less personages than both of Robert Trent Jones's sons agree.

"Green Lakes is an historic course, and one of my father's favorites," said Rees Jones. "And that shot is now part of the course's history."

[Author's interjection: Yeah! There you go!]

"They should rehab that bunker," Rees continued. "Besides, we should praise shots like that for their creativity. I think it's fabulous; it's a smart play. I saw Vinny Giles break the course record at the Breakers, and he did it by getting up and down out of a bunker with a putter. The more options you have around the greens, the better."

Rees's brother Bobby was, typically, more laconic and bloodthirsty.

"Get in there with a backhoe and dig it so deep, it could be renamed 'Jay's Grave,' he snarled menacingly, and that is the best idea. Deepen the bunker: Your

I think Rees might actually have understated the case. Green Lakes is the past, present, and future of golf. Yes, golf has Covid-19 protections built-in. And yes, the reasonable price point has allowed Green Lakes to earn generations of loyal golfers. (It opened at a price point of \$1 greens fees on weekdays and \$2 on weekends.) But Rees and Bobby's dad loved Green Lakes most of all for its homespun feel, Golf Americana, and that's what's been the secret of its nine decades of success. That's what Carroll and team have tapped into, and that's why Green Lakes, right now, is the best it's ever been.

When not reporting live from major sports championships or researching golf courses for design, value and excitement, multiple award-winning sports writer Jay Flemma is an entertainment, Internet, trademark, and banking lawyer from New York. His clients have been nominated for Grammy and Emmy awards, won a Sundance Film Festival Best Director award, performed on stage and screen, and designed pop art for museums and collectors. Twitter @JayGolfUSA

Back to Basics: Predict the Future of Your Irrigation Ponds with Bathymetric Mapping

by Trent Nelson, Aquatic Specialist and Business Development Consultant



One of a superintendent's biggest fears is not having enough water in their irrigation ponds, especially during the dry season when rain is not in the immediate forecast. As a former assistant golf course superintendent, I remember times when our irrigation lake was extremely low, and our greens could not go one more night without water. I knew there was a good chance that I'd be hand watering them several times the next day, and each day without rain seemed to require more applied water than the one before. I knew I would soon be staring at mud in the irrigation lake.

This is not a situation that any golf course or turf manager wants to find himself or herself navigating, yet it seems to happen at some point every year. Along with the tremendous amount of scientific research, management techniques and cutting edge pesticides that are available to manage turf, there

are strategies and tools that are equally important to ensure your ponds are managed properly, they are aesthetically pleasing to your guests, and that they can maintain their capacity for irrigation - one of the industry's most important maintenance tasks.

If you ever questioned what the water-storage capacity is in your irrigation pond or wondered how much water you have left you are an ideal candidate for bathymetry. Bathymetry, which is a study of the three-dimensional volume and bottom contours of a waterbody, can answer your questions and help you budget for the short- and long-term maintenance required to keep your pond in working order. Looking below the water surface is very similar to analyzing a soil test report or evaluating the root system of your greens.

If you observe that your pond's capacity is decreasing, the

bathymetric study will likely indicate that it has accumulated too much sediment and organic matter. All lakes and ponds have a natural lifespan that can be cut short by an abundance of sediment buildup, nuisance algae, vegetation growth, animal activity or a combination of these factors. Poor bank stabilization, improper buffer management and increased upstream development can also be large contributing factors to undesirable sedimentation.

If proper management strategies are not implemented to maintain sufficient depth and volume, your water resources will eventually reach a point of no return. In this event, dredging is generally the only option available to restore the original volume. While dredging is effective and usually necessary at some point in a lake or pond's lifespan, it is extremely costly. Luckily, tools like bathymetry provide valuable data that can be used to calculate how soon

dredging will need to occur and design a management plan to prolong the need for as long as possible. Bathymetry is also crucial to help estimate the eventual expense so you can start budgeting sooner rather than later.

Just as no two waterbodies are the same, no two management plans should take the exact same approach. However, many lakes and ponds can benefit from some combination of proactive management solutions like buffer management, bioengineered shorelines, fountains and aeration, nanobubble technology, hydro-raking, nutrient remediation, and regular water quality assessments. Whether your golf course ponds are already exhibiting depth and volume problems, or you would like to get ahead of potential issues before they become too costly, your lake management professional can design a custom management plan that aligns that helps protect the longevity of your irrigation ponds.



Trent Nelson is a Business Development Consultant with SOLitude Lake Management, a nationwide environmental firm that provides sustainable lake, stormwater pond, wetland and fisheries management solutions. Learn more at www.solitudelakemanagement.com/knowledge.



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DSTE 2020 Reinvented: Tournament, Trade Show and Tailgate

It is with regret that we notify you that our 2020 Deep South Turf Expo, originally scheduled for November 4-5, 2020, at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center has been cancelled. After careful consideration, our Board of Directors made this decision, since we cannot guarantee the positive and rewarding experience that our attendees and exhibitors have come to enjoy each year in Biloxi. A successful Conference and Trade Show relies on in-person networking, face-to-face business meetings and hands-on instruction and that will simply not be possible, given the continued social distancing measures that we anticipate will still be in place throughout the remainder of this year. With so much uncertainty, the board feels it prudent to forgo our education program and trade show and focus on making the 2021 Deep South Turf Expo the best ever!

Tournament
Rather than completely miss an opportunity to have our group come together this year, the DSTE is going to host DSTE 2020 Reinvented: Tournament, Trade Show and Tailgate! Tournament will be hosted by The Preserve Golf Course on Monday, October 26th. This will allow us ample space to socially distance and gather, while keeping the spirit of the DSTE alive for next year. October will be a great time to play this Certified Silver Audubon International Signature Sanctuary Golf Course. One of the only 21 golf courses in the world to receive this prestigious designation, the Preserve is committed to helping protect the natural environment, while maintaining pristine playing conditions. Judging from the popularity of past DSTE Tournaments at this course, they have succeeded! Many thanks to Jeremy Stevens and Stephen Miles, CGCS for hosting the tournament, and their dedication to the Deep South Turf Expo since its inception!

Trade Show
In addition to the golf tournament we are offering opportunities for our vendors

to showcase their products during the tournament by displaying throughout the course during the golf tournament. Players and attendees (aka customers) will come by on their golf carts, or people carriers, and visit with vendors. Vendor registration includes exhibit location and entrance to the tailgate celebration. Since we will have limited space, we suggest vendors register ASAP.

Tailgate
The Tailgate Picnic, which was so popular last year, is being reprised. Whether you golf or not, we encourage everyone to come by for the Tail Gate, sample a variety of delicious food, listen to some great music, and gather with their peers. Please SAVE THE DATE! There will be rooms available at the Beau Rivage for \$109 on Sunday and Monday nights.

While it is of primary importance to the Deep South Turf Expo mission to offer an outstanding education conference each year, there were many factors that determined that we would be unable to host the wonderful program that had been planned. Even a scaled-down live version of this conference would be difficult. Our host hotel, the Beau Rivage, has been mandated to reduce occupancy and many universities have eliminated travel of their faculty during this time. In addition, many of our exhibitors have had travel budgets frozen and could not confirm that they would be able to exhibit until this fall. Our committee is still working on making some offerings that would enable our attendees to get points on a digital platform. As soon as confirmation can be made, we will promote and share this information. The Deep South Turf Expo Board and staff wish you and your family a safe summer. Whether you play in the golf tournament or not, we hope you will come to the tournament and tail gate. We miss you all and would love to see you there!

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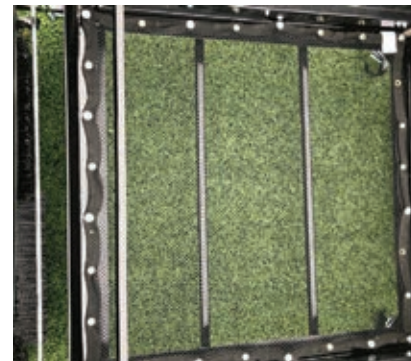
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Leaf Burrito® is a revolutionary and safer tool that every landscaper needs for their crews. Our patented design allows the product to open flat for easy loading, and then zips closed via five heavy-duty YKK® zippers. Our bags offer you a professional and safer way of gathering and transporting landscape debris. They stack cleanly onto golf carts, utility vehicles, trucks & trailers and tremendously speeds up the loading and unloading process. Leaf Burrito replaces short-lived tarps, offers a variety of sizes for varying on-the-job needs, exceeds sustainability goals, and offers a custom branded tool to your arsenal.

“There’s a sustainability side because it eliminates plastic bags and tarps, there’s an ergonomic side and then there’s just the professional side where you can have your landscaping company name printed on it, so you look more like a pro,” says Mataya.

- Easy to collect grass clippings, leaves, hedge trimmings, weeds and trash.
- A safer way to lift heavy loads compared to tarps filled with debris
- Unzips flat which can be used as a cover for trailer and truck loads
- Can zip multiple Leaf Burritos together to create a larger catch area or large cover.

The seven foot commercial-sized Leaf Burrito has 10 strong handles and is designed for bigger, heavier loads. It can hold $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of mulch or six to 12 bags of leaves, and the custom mesh allows the Leaf Burrito to hold up to 800 pounds. Mataya also adds that even if the material is cut, it will not continue to tear. We also have a smaller five foot Burrito for lighter loads and a tote for tight spaces, weeding, and companion to our Burritos.

“We placed additional handles for easier and safer use for the bigger Burrito to make

it more ergonomic,” says Lauri Eberhart with Leaf Burrito. “We want to provide a safer more ergonomic and professional way for landscaping golf course grounds. Our product eliminates plastic bags and tarps from unnecessarily going into our landfills.”

Our company goal is to scale to multiple “Burrito Factories” around the USA and ultimately use upcycled plastic recycling waste to create our product. Our simple construction includes sewing zippers, handles and patches and screen printing, so we can easily create thousands of USA jobs while upcycling our existing waste resources all while supporting our great partners to Keep America Beautiful®!



For more information, please contact us as sales@leafburrito.com or 800-BURRITO.



NEWS

From Around the Industry

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From the Farm to the Fairways, 20 Years at Geneva Golf

After nearly three decades of farming the Thompsons made a bold decision to open a golf course. That decision was made back around 1998. It took a while to eventually decide upon where it would be. A site near Buffalo, MN and a couple of options in Douglas County were among the final choices. It was decided to work with a developer in Alexandria, and the work began to shape what is now Geneva Golf Club. Gary and Barb Thompson had 5 kids, Ryan, Robyn, Rychel, Randy and Rawney. At the time of the decision only the youngest two were still living at home. As a graduating senior Randy started working as the budding golf club's superintendent. Gary's brother Grant was also part of that early crew. The whole family got involved. Gary sold the cows back home in Todd County, but still planted crops for a couple years.

The first round of golf on Geneva Golf Club's original 18 holes took place on April 8, 2000. 120 members signed on to the new course that first year, and now 20 years later, the golf course is still going strong.

Barb gave VOA's Joe Korkowski a tour around the course earlier this week. In addition to the variety and quality of the course, her welcoming attitude is just another example of how the Thompsons have attracted well over 100,000 golfers to the course over the past two decades. The following is a video story on the big milestone.

This weekend Geneva Golf Club will celebrate the 20th anniversary milestone with, what else?, a golf tournament. The scramble sold out in (ironically) 20 hours. There are huge incentives for people in the tournament. Hole in One prizes include a car, a boat, a golf cart and \$5000. There is a chipping contest that will net the winner \$2020.



Gary and Barb Thompson
Owners of Geneva Golf Club

The Thompsons oldest son Ryan was able to purchase a golf course in Arizona. Now, with the rest of the family involved, they've expanded even more and formed the Thompson Golf Group. In addition to Geneva Golf Club in Minnesota, the golf group includes Dove Valley Ranch Golf Club, Trilogy Golf Club and Mountain Brook Golf Club in Arizona.

Original release - <https://www.voiceofalexandria.com/>

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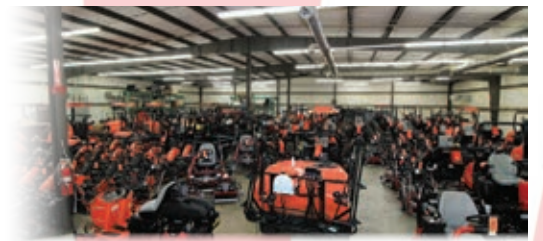
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