



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet

PGA Tour
Travelers Championship
June 16 - 22, 2014

TPC River Highlands
Cromwell, Conn.

Golf Course Management Information

**GCSAA Class A
Director of Golf Course
Maintenance Operations:**
Thomas M. DeGrandi



Availability to media:

Contact Thomas M. DeGrandi by phone 860-635-2954; fax 860-613-3911; email thomasdegrandi@pgatourtpc.com

Education:

A.S., Turfgrass Management, University of Massachusetts (Stockbridge School), Amherst, Mass., 1993

Years as a GCSAA member: 23

GCSAA affiliated chapter:

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Years at this course: 21

Previous positions:

1992-1994, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn.; Golf Course Intern, Wethersfield Country Club, Wethersfield, Conn.

Previous tournament preparation:

2004-2006 Buick Championship, TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn.; 1992-2003 Canon Greater Hartford Open, TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn.; 2007-2013 Travelers Championship, TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn.

Previous events hosted by facility:

1984-2003 Greater Hartford Open; 2004-2006 Buick Championship; 2007-2013 Travelers Championship

Course statistics

Average tee size: 2,200 sq. ft.
Tournament Stimpmeter: 10.5 ft.
Average green size: 5,500 sq. ft.
Soil conditions: Sandy loam
Rounds per year: 21,000
Green construction soil mix:
USGA (80% sand; 20% peat)
Acres of fairway: 25
Source of water: Lakes
Acres of rough: 60
Drainage conditions: Excellent
Sand bunkers: 119
Water hazards: 5

Course ratings

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Red	4871	70	68.7	117
White	5873	70	68.6	121
Blue	6518	70	71.8	128
Gold	6820	70	73.1	131

Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	Bentgrass	0.400"
Fairways	Bentgrass	0.400"
Greens	Bentgrass	0.135"
Rough	Kentucky bluegrass; perennial ryegrass; fine fescue	3.5"

Environmental management/features

TPC River Highlands was the 49th course to become fully certified in the Audubon

Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). The ACSP is an education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf.

DeGrandi and TPC River Highlands are multiple GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Award winners. Presented by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Wildlife on the course

Coyote; Deer; Fox; Rabbit; Many different species of birds; American Bald Eagles

Interesting and historical course-related facts

As the soothing bagpipes emanate through the cool morning air and across the dew-ridden landscape of TPC River Highlands, it signals the opening ceremonies of the Travelers Championship. The setting for the Travelers Championship is an all too fitting throwback to the ancient game founded in Scotland and a reminder of the original course architect, R.J. Ross, cousin to legendary architect Donald Ross.

The River Highlands course was not always the gallery-friendly venue viewers experience today. The original piece of property was designed in 1928 and was known then as Edgewood Country Club. It laid untouched until 1982, when the Travelers Championship was looking for a new home to replace the original venue, Wethersfield CC. The Greater Hartford Jaycees, who ran the Travelers Championship, hired Pete Dye to come to Connecticut and build a championship course to host the event. Instead of building a new course, Dye recognized the potential the property that housed Edgewood CC possessed and decided to redesign the existing course.

The TPC Connecticut, as it was called then, hosted its first Travelers Championship in 1984,

with the first champion at the venue being Peter Jacobsen. Many of the new holes on the back nine, especially the finishing holes, were designed with spectators in mind, many containing natural amphitheaters for ideal viewing. However, with the great taste of change already on their plates, the course was redesigned again in 1989 and renamed the TPC River Highlands. A most fitting name, considering the course sits high atop the Connecticut River. The redesign was undertaken by golf course architect Bobby Weed, with assistance from Howard Twitty and Roger Maltbie. TPC River Highlands is second only to TPC Scottsdale for most spectators at a tour event.

A 23.5-acre practice facility was built in 2008 adjacent to the new First Tee of Connecticut four hole golf course.

Course architect/date:

Robert J. Ross and Maurice Kearney,
1928

Most recent redesign/renovation:

Bobby Weed, 1998

Other key course personnel

Noel Hall, GCSAA Class C 1st Assistant
Superintendent
Jason Cannata,
GCSAA Class C 2nd Assistant
Superintendent
David Corrado, General Manager

Golf course management facts

For additional information please visit gcsaa.org/news or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their

profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on [Facebook](#), follow GCSAA on [Twitter](#), and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org. The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit www.eifg.org.