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Tournament Fact Sheet

PGA Tour
Barbasol Championship
July 13 - 19, 2015

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail
at Grand National (Lake Course)
Opelika, Ala.

Golf Course Management Information

GCSAA Class A Director of Maintenance:

Jeffery L. Oelmann, CGCS

The title "CGCS," after a superintendent's name, stands for Certified Golf Course Superintendent, which recognizes the achievement of high standards of professionalism through education and experience.



Availability to media:

Contact Jeff Oelmann by phone 334-742-9551; cell phone 334-319-1027; or email

joelmann@rtjgolf.com

Twitter: [@JeffOelmann](https://twitter.com/JeffOelmann)

Education:

B.S., Horticulture (emphasis on turf management), Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 1991

Age: 46

Native hometown:

Mitchellville, Iowa

Years as a GCSAA member: 20

Years GCSAA certified: 10

GCSAA affiliated chapter:

Alabama Golf Course Superintendents Association

Years at this course: 14

Number of employees:

16 full time, 30-40 seasonal

Number of tournament volunteers: 20

Previous positions:

1998-2001, Golf Course Superintendent, RTJ Trail at Silver Lakes, Gadsden, Ala.; 1994-1998, Assistant Superintendent/Golf Course Superintendent, RTJ Trail at Oxmoor

Valley, Birmingham, Ala.; 1992-1994, Assistant Superintendent, Country Club of Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala.

Previous tournament preparation:

2004 NCAA Ladies Championship, RTJ Trail at Grand National, Opelika, Ala.; 2008-2014 *Golf Digest* Couples Classic, RTJ Trail at Grand National, Opelika, Ala.; 2012-2014 Tiger Invitational, RTJ Trail at Grand National, Opelika, Ala.

Previous tournaments hosted by facility:

1997 Nike Tour Championship; 1998 LPGA Tournament of Champions; 2000 NCAA Men's Championship; 2004 NCAA Ladies Championship; 2008-2014 *Golf Digest* Couples Classic; 2012-2014 Tiger Invitational

Get to know the superintendent:

"Married for 20 years to my wife Leigh, have 3 beautiful girls Janie (17) Anna (14) Allie (10) and Jesse my loyal lab (7)."

How Jeff got involved in golf course management:

"Playing golf beginning around 10 years old a lot during the summers and fell in love with being outdoors like my dad, he was (now retired) a state soil scientist for the NRCS for over 40 years."

Course statistics

Average tee size: 2,400 sq. ft.

Tournament Stimpmeter: 11 ft.

Average green size: 6,800 sq. ft.

Soil conditions on the course:

Sandy clay loam

Green construction soil mix:

USGA (sand 85%, peat 15%)

Rounds per year: 65,000

Acres of fairway: 20

Source of water: Lake

Acres of rough: 80

Drainage conditions: Good

Sand bunkers: 53

Water hazards: 10 holes with water in play

Championship ratings

Tee	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Purple	7149	72	74.3	136

Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	Bermudagrass	0.437"
Fairways	Bermudagrass	0.437"
Greens	Bermudagrass	0.125"
Rough	Bermudagrass	2-2.5"

Environmental management/features

Grand National comprises approximately 270 acres of managed turf, 600 acres of water that is the city water supply, all on 1600 acres of Opelika Water Works Property. Water testing has been done three times per year for 24 years with outstanding stewardship and water quality protection records.

Water conservation, management and/or controls:

Grand National updated its irrigation control systems and installed part circle heads on greens. GPS mapping of the course has provided moisture mapping info, which is utilized with soil sensors to manage watering to zones in need of additional water. The course also recently added native grasses to eliminate irrigation needs to those area.

Abnormal weather conditions/occurrences in the last 12 months that affected the course:

An unusually cold spring has delayed the green up of bermudagrass and shortened the growing season.

Unusual wildlife on the course

Numerous fox and squirrel in varying colors

Predominate species of trees on course:

Loblolly pines

Interesting notes about the course:

Grand National has two rock chimneys from past structures located on the property, one of which was a two-room frame house in which Johnny Lipscomb and his wife Bessie Johnson lived and raised 17 children. Johnny's father, Henry Lipscomb, bought the property now the lake and golf course for about one-dollar per acre. The family sold the property (about 1200 acres) to the City of Opelika water board in the early 1940s. In 1944, the dam was started which created the lake as seen on the property today.

Comments overheard about the course:

Most golfers are amazed at the amount of water on the property and ask whether it is natural or man-made.

Significant changes recently made to the course:

The Lake Course greens were no-till renovated in 2011, switching from bentgrass to Champion ultradwarf. In 2014-2015, addition and renovations of tees to tournament holes No. 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,14,15,18 (front and back nines are reversed for the event except No. 9 and No.18 will play as is). Drainage installation and repairs on tournament No. 2., as well as bunker sand replacement on all 53 bunkers with one bunker removed.

Course architect/date:

Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1991

Original course builder/date:

Phillips and Jordan, 1991

Other key course management personnel

Patrick Pierce, GCSAA Member Golf Course Superintendent
Patrick Bell, Assistant Superintendent (Lake Course)
Ben Anderson, Assistant Superintendent (Links Course)
Eric Malloy, Equipment Manager
Jim Bishop, PGA Professional
Retirement Systems of Alabama, Club Owner
Scott Gomborg, Director of Golf

- The benefits of a golf course to the community and the environment
- What's new in turfgrass research
- Superintendents doing more with less
- Get to know an interesting superintendent
- Who's in charge? A visit with the CEO

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

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.

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

Craig Smith
Director of Communications and Media Relations
Phone: 785-832-4431
Cell: 785-691-9197
Email: csmith@gcsaa.org

Media story ideas to consider

- Water: Golf's biggest challenge