

## Jason Edwards turns youthful offense into a career opportunity

Jason Edwards is the superintendent at Cider Ridge and moved to Anniston, Alabama to take this job. Jason certainly has one of the most unusual stories about how he got involved in the business. When asked Jason said:

Well, that's a long story in itself. Anyone that has been in this profession for any length of time has come in to work in morning to find out someone has vandalized the course. A superintendent can only wish that they could catch the vandals. Well, at the age of 14, myself and two friends were caught driving carts all over course after hours at Settindown Creek Golf Club in Roswell, GA. (Yes, we drove all over the greens too.)

Instead of involving the authorities, the Superintendent (Courtney Young -now Director of Agronomy) and our parents decided that my friends and I needed to work at the course for 120 hours. (Yes, I know now that this is a superintendent's dream!) Without going into detail, I did my time at the course. Afterwards, I was asked to work on the maintenance staff (getting paid) at Settindown Creek. The rest is history. Now, 17 years later I'm superintendent praying that I don't run into some punk kid like I once was.

Apart from Courtney Young there have been a few people who helped me along my career path. Rick Franke (Owner-Fore Front Golf Construction), and Todd Lime (Supt.-Crooked Creek Golf Club) are two. "The best advice I can offer to those who want to go into the superintendents profession is the advice someone gave me. "To do what you say and say what you do." Follow through with whatever you do and listen along the way. "Always keep an open mind and be able to shift on the fly."

Jason was the First Assistant Superintendent at Crooked Creek Golf Club in Alpharetta, GA. The superintendent he worked for at the time was Todd Lime.

"Todd and I had talked and decided that it was time for me to make the next step in my career. I interviewed at courses in Texas, Georgia, and Alabama. I was a little picky and cautious about the jobs I was offered, especially since I had never really moved far from where I grew up in Georgia. The only thing I was sure of was that I wanted to manage bentgrass greens (Crazy huh!) After talking with my wife, we decided the position at Cider Ridge was the best fit for me."

"At Cider Ridge I love having the opportunity to create a masterpiece of a course. I enjoy watching golfers enjoy themselves on the course. The interaction with people that play at Cider Ridge gives me a sense of satisfaction for the work I've done. I even like the bumps, hurtles and challenges. That's the fun part of the job. I hope to maintain a successful career, become certified, and maybe get involved with associations in the industry on a national level."

Jason enjoys spending time with his family. They are his wife of 13 years, Rose, a real estate agent. Jason and Rose have 2 children; a daughter Ariel, who is 12, and a son, Gavin, who is 10 months old.

To relax Jason fishes, golfs, and works around the house. He says he "attempts" to play golf and hopes to become a better golfer in oncoming years. As for a favorite course..."While I haven't had



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the opportunity to play many courses, I believe Kapulua Bay in Maui, Hawaii would be my first choice." (That would probably be my favorite too, Jason. If I could just get to Hawaii!)

Jason has been named a "Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor." He is working on certification through GCSAA. We very much appreciate Jason's support of the Association and wish him the best of luck in the future.