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Heart of America Chapter

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Our Mission is to promote the welfare of the game of golf, the science and art of golf course management, the organizational and business effectiveness of the profession, the professional image and well-being of individual members, and to unite golf course superintendents within the Greater Kansas City area.

Volume 47, No. 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

March 2015

Joint Meeting With Kansas GCSA



***Sand Creek Station Golf Course, Newton, Kansas
Tuesday, March 24, 2015***

- A Conversation of Necessity
- Committee Reports
- Root-to-Leaf Tip Supports Wee One Foundation

Heart of America Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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@HAGCSA

President's Message

It is almost the time of year when a winter of well-made plans transitions into a flurry of activity in the spring. As much as I look forward to late fall and winter each year with the slower pace that time of year brings in our business, I also have a major case of cabin fever by this time of year and am ready to get back to growing and mowing grass.

I hope you all have enjoyed our slower time of year to spend time with your family and friends and that you have also taken time to take in some education and camaraderie at HAGCSA events the last couple of months. We had another great Common Ground Conference in December with some excellent speakers and topics. A big thanks to Andrew Jones and his committee for all of their planning and time that goes into making that event happen. Thanks also to Kim Weitzel who puts in much time and effort on the conference every year. Work is already underway for the 2016 Common

Ground Conference. That starts with soliciting ideas for topics and speakers as well as looking at the location of the conference to make sure we are providing the best venue for our attendees and exhibitors. If you have any feedback from the recent Common Ground Conference or ideas for the next one please share them with Matt Delventhal who is chairing the Education Committee this year.



Most recently we have put the Heart New Year Party and Bowling Event in the books. I hope that all of you that attended the New Year Party had as much fun as I did! What a fantastic venue the Boulevard Brewery was. Fun was had by

Continued on next page

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President's Message - cont.

all watching the likes of Brent Stephenson, Ethan Shamet, Tim Nielsen and many others get hypnotized and doing all sorts of crazy things on command (I have plenty of video if anyone needs any leverage on those guys!). The Bowling Event was a lot of fun and a great chance to get together as usual before we all get really busy.

One thing I would like to solicit some feedback from you on is how the Heart shares information and stays connected with you, the members. One topic of discussion and a point of focus of the Public Relations Committee this year is to determine if there is interest among our members in using some other electronic means to communicate, share info, and network. Some early ideas include: creation of an app, social networking, constant contact, etc. This is just an idea to kick around at this point, but if any of you have any opinions or have seen great examples of how chapters or organizations share information and keep their members more connected please share your thoughts with Brent Stephenson, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the Shop Talk to be held at Tiffany Springs Golf Course on March 10th and the Joint Meeting with the Kansas GCSA to be held at Sand Creek Station in Newton on March 24th. Both should be great events. I hope you all have a great spring!

Steve Wilson, CGCS



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Tournaments and Programs Committee Report

By Mark Newton, CGCS, Director

I want to start out saying how much of an honor it is to serve all of you here on the Board of Directors for the HAGCSA. As your Tournaments and Program Director, I am extremely excited for my upcoming term. We have a lot of great events, fantastic speakers and a lot of fun ahead of us in 2015. We have assembled a great group of individuals with the T&P Committee that are all dedicated and passionate to make each one of our events special. Joining with me will be Brent Stephenson, Superintendent at Staley Farms Golf Club; Brad Gray, Superintendent at Mission Hills Country Club; Gary Sailer, Superintendent at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate; Matt Hemphill, Superintendent at Drumm Farm Golf Club; Tom Baier, Superintendent at Grand Summit Golf & Country Club, and last, but definitely not least, Chris Benisch, Superintendent at Deer Creek Golf Club. Our team reaches all across our Kansas City area and we are pleased to be serving you all!

One of our first events was held at College Lanes on February 10th, this was our annual 9-Pin Bowling outing. We had just fewer than 50 members come out to enjoy the slick lanes, cold beverages and great times together. The 2015 9-Pin Bowling Champions were from Shoal Creek. Their team had an amazing total score of 2514, averaging out to 209 per game! Major congrats to Dan, Frank, Rodger and Kevin for their domination! Additionally, I want to recognize Dan Hampton as he rolled a perfect series of 900, absolutely stunning effort! Well-done Shoal Creek.



A special thank you goes to our title sponsor for this year's event, FLORATINE MIDWEST! We appreciate the support of this year's bowling event and the support you show the association.



Our next scheduled event is our Shop Talk, this year hosted by Randy Cox at Tiffany Greens on March 10th. I hope to see you all there!

A few weeks later we will be having our Joint Meeting



with the KGCSA, this year they will be the hosts and we will be playing at Sand Creek Station in Newton, KS. I hope all of you will be able to make the event and support our neighbors to the west as we showcase our skills around the green and long bombs off the tee box!

Lastly, I just want to leave you with a thank you for your constant support of this great Association. Without your support we wouldn't be where we are today as a leader for GCSAA. May this spring bring you and your course good fortune and I hope to see you all at our local events!



A Conversation of Necessity

By Ethan Shamet, Director

When I first arrived at Deer Trace Golf Course in 2010, the fairways looked like dormant Zoysia in the winter. The mixture of Perennial Rye, Kentucky Blue, Poa Annua and every fescue you can think of (even K-31) all had summer patch, brown patch and eventually pythium to go along with it. As I learned throughout the summer, the missed applications, the wrong rates of fungicides, the over watering, and the non-existent aerification of the hard fairways all contributed to what had become my inheritance. After learning the fairways had not been aerified in over 10 years, I came to understand why they fairways were in such a poor state. Along with the problems in the fairways, the bentgrass collars were 90% Poa Annua and even more compacted. As we sodded some collar areas out, the Poa would die around the sod areas and eventually leave unsightly, unplayable areas. Without sodding the entire collar, we were just wasting time and money.

I knew something needed to be done despite operating within a low budget that is just over \$200,000. The savings with converting cool-season fairways to zoysia fairways is around \$1,000 an acre due to the fungicides, fertilizers, water and 3-4 months of less mowing. Heck, I was still mowing fairways in December this year!! With 22 acres of fairways and tees, I figured we could save around \$22,000 in one year. I started getting ideas and bids for Zoysia sod, sprigs and conversion prices. I also established an aerification program, better water management practices and more timely fungicide applications.

Once we decided to start the conversion, the first thing we did was sod out the bad collars with Zoysia. We started by sodding around each green two times with the big sod rolles. This would make the collars a seven foot wide strip and easier to spray with one boom on the spray rig. We cut out the edge along the green and then just sodded over the existing grass into the bank. I was skeptical without cutting all the sod off, but with less employees and the less time we decided to do it this way. The collars turned out perfect and we have six more to do this year.

We also decided to sprig in the driving range tee and just recently the entire landing area of the driving range. As of today we have around an acre of Zoysia that took 2 full seasons to grow in and now we are using this sod to strip in areas on

the cool season tees. While applying a half pound of urea every 2 weeks, the sprigs have filled in nicely. We started applying Tribute in the summer to knock down the weeds and Ronstar in the spring to keep the weeds out.



The process we use to strip in the tees is just an eighteen inch sod-cutting blade. We then skip two feet between each sod strip. The tees that were done in 2013 have spread nicely and should be 100% after the third summer. Without spraying fungicides and now spreading Urea every two weeks, the existing cool-season grass is letting the Zoysia spread nicely!! Each year we have done one third of the tees and will be complete this summer.

The next step is to start moving towards stripping in Zoysia on the fairways. This process will take more time and resources. We hope to start using the seven inch strips or even looking into sprigging Zoysia into the existing fairways. This has been a big discussion at the board meetings and how to finance this project. Since we are a low budget course it is hard decide where the extra money will come from. One way I have found to help is by hosting an annual Superintendent's Revenge tournament where all proceeds go towards the Zoysia conversion project. To date, we have raised just under \$10,000 in 3 years.

The hope is to start the fairways in house with the Zoysia we have, but this could be a long process due to the fact I only have about an acre of Zoysia to cut. The golfers and members have all been in favor and love having a very playable surface. They are just waiting for the cool season to warm season fairway conversion to start and so am I!

Here's a little ditty for all of you guys saddled with training new seasonal employees this spring. Patience is a virtue! - TB



"The 59th Time I Told You" Song

Lyrics by **Tony Bertels**
Music by Simon and Garfunkel

Slow down, you mow too fast
Raise your reel at the very last
You've frickin' found the wobble zone
Look straight ahead – get in the groovy!
Bad, da, da, da, da, da, da, - Find the groovy!

Don't be a lamp post, when you're mowin'
That scalp right there means nothings growin'!
Can't you glimpse a stripe to see?
Another boo-boo! – That's not groovy
Bad, da, da, da, da, da, da, Ain't too groovy!

I've got no need for you, no promises to keep
You're baffled and lousy and in way too deep
Let the mowing crimes stop and have mercy on me
Job's above you, - you're not groovy!
Bad, da, da, da, da, da, da
Bad, da, da, da, da, da, da
Bad, da, da, da, da, da, da

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Membership Committee Report

By Nick Kray, Director

The membership committee is assembled and ready to roll once again this year. We will be busy making phone calls and contacting members throughout the next couple of months. I would like to thank Marc Szablewski, Josh Linn, Bryan Neirman, and Kyle Black for their assistance. You have all been a great help already. The 2015 membership renewals are due no later than March 31st, so please turn them into the Association office as soon as possible. Also, we will be putting together our membership directory this year, so please contact the Association office or myself if you need to update your information.

Welcome New Members:

Mike Crist - Stonebridge Outdoor
 Steve Simpson - BWI Companies
 Bryan Neirman - Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate
 Steve Stout - Heritage Park Golf Course
 John Yuill - Blue Hills Country Club
 Clifton Willis - Blue Hills Country Club
 Josh Linn - Swope Memorial Golf Course

Oscar Morales - Shadow Glen
 George Hobbs - E-Z-Go
 Travis Ridge - The National Golf Club of Kansas City
 Keith Kohlasch - The Country Club of Loch Lloyd

Finally, I would like to ask each and every one of you to reach out to new members and make them feel welcome as well as encourage non-members to join the HEART!

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Beechtree Golf Club, Aberdeen, Maryland ~ Hole #2, Par 3

S&R Committee Report

By Andrew Jones, Director

We are happy to announce the Scholarship and Research Tournament will make a return to Alvamar Country Club on June 15, 2015. It has been 11 years since we have made the trip to Lawrence for the annual tournament and we are looking forward to playing the Members' Course. The committee will continue to make minor changes to the format to make this tournament as profitable as possible for the scholarships and research projects we will fund at the end of the year. A large part of the proceeds are from sponsors of this tournament. We ask anyone who would like to be a part of this great event to show your support by being a sponsor or forming a team.

I would also like to introduce this year's committee members:

Todd Bohn	Woody Moriarty
Duane Sander	Scott Johnson
Greg King	Jeff White
Gary Breshears	James Kennedy
Loren Breedlove	Mitch Bradbury
Brad Gray	Matt Delventhal

If you have questions about this year's tournament, or would like to find out more about being a sponsor, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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ANYTHING CHANGED?

- Have you changed jobs?
- Have you changed your phone number?
- Have you changed your email address?

Report all changes to your association office so we can keep in contact with you.

To Make Changes, Contact:
 Kim Weitzel, Executive Director
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Root-to-Leaf Tip Program Donation Helps Wee One Foundation Support Superintendents

As part of the turf industry, Syngenta has the opportunity to work with dedicated professionals that jump at the chance to network, learn together and support one another. Recently, as part of the 2014 Root-to-Leaf Tip program, Syngenta, with the help of program participants, was able to donate \$20,350 of the program proceeds to the Wee One Foundation, which was created to soften financial burdens of medical hardship and help golf course superintendents and their families pay for overwhelming medical expenses.

“Donations like this go directly to struggling families whose lives have been turned upside down by illness,” explains David Radaj, CGCS at Green Acres Country Club in Northbrook, Illinois, and a founding board member of the Wee One Foundation. “Financial burdens cause a lot of worry but we are privileged to be part of an industry that has each other’s back and can help alleviate some of that worry. The families that receive funding from the Wee One Foundation are so appreciative and we receive so many letters expressing what the generosity of the industry means to them.”



David Radaj, CGCS and board member of the Wee One Foundation and Stephanie Schwenke, golf market manager at Syngenta.

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Since being founded in 2004, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$830,000 to more than 50 families in 27 states. However, the need among superintendents is great and continues to grow every year.

“It is our privilege to continue finding ways to help the Wee One Foundation as one of the many initiatives Syngenta has to support superintendents,” shares Stephanie Schwenke, golf market manager at Syngenta. “We are honored to partner with so many turf professionals who participated in the program to share the joy of helping others in need.”

In the coming years, the Wee One Foundation is aiming to establish an endowment to ensure the stability of the organization for many years to come. If you would like to make a contribution, you may donate your GreenTrust™ Reward Points or visit WeeOne.org to learn more about donating or hosting a fundraising event in your area.

For more information about how we support the golf industry, go to GreenCastOnline.com/WeSupportYou.



The Membership has Spoken and Awarded the following distinguished gentleman the Honors of;

Chester Mendenhall Award
Sandy Queen, CGCS
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Superintendent of the Year
Duane Sander, CGCS
 Shoal Creek Golf Course

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Nick Kray
 Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate

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Winners were drawn at the New Year Party on
January 10, 2015

**Assistant Superintendent Winner: Brad Lackey,
Lake Quivira Country Club**

**Superintendent Winner: Tim Nielsen,
Creekmoor Golf Club**

**Affiliate Winner: Richard Shumate,
Van Wall Equipment**

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(fig. w-42)
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(fig. w-76)
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JOINT MEETING with Kansas GCSA



DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2015

LOCATION: Sand Creek Station Golf Course
920 Meadowbrook Dr., Newton, KS

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: James Houchen

SCHEDULE: 10:30am - Registration
11:00am - Lunch
11:30pm - Meeting/Program
12:30pm - Shotgun
Following - Awards

Send Registration Form and Payment to:
KANSAS GCSA
2021 Throckmorton, KSU,
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-5780/fax
(This Year's Host)



COST: \$65 per person

SPEAKER/TOPIC: GCSAA Update – “State of the Association” with Bill Maynard, CGCS, GCSAA Director

DRESS CODE: Country Club Attire (Collared Shirts, No Jeans or Cargo Pants). Please clean your soft spikes.

FORMAT: 2 man shamble; Two/HAGCSA vs Two/KGCSA

RESERVATIONS: Mail, Fax or Email Reservation no later than Thursday, March 19.

Yes, I/we plan to attend the Joint Meeting with Kansas GCSA!

Player(s): _____ Company: _____ Handicap: _____

CONTACT: _____

COMPANY: _____

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Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than **Thursday, March 19** to:
 Kansas GCSA: 2021 Throckmorton, KSU, Manhattan, KS 66506; 785-532-5780/fax
(This Year's Host)

Editor's Column

By *Tim Nielsen, Editor*



It was December 2001, and I was getting ready to graduate from college and start my career in the golf course maintenance industry. I had a couple options but ultimately choose to become the Assistant Superintendent at Drumm Farm for a measly \$27,000 per year. At the time it wasn't much but was sufficient for an Assistant who was single and just getting his first real job. Today, \$27,000 per year won't go far, especially if there is a family to support. What's sad is that the salaries paid to new Assistants in the Kansas City area today haven't gone up much (if at all) from what was offered 13 years ago. What's even sadder is that the low pay for Assistants has led to dwindling candidate pools that leave Superintendent's scrambling to fill such valuable roles.

Not only have the number of candidates dropped significantly. Quality Assistants are leaving the industry in droves searching for ways to support their families. I can name ten Assistants off the top of my head that have left this business because they couldn't afford to wait it out until they finally got their shot as a Superintendent. I don't blame them. I can almost guarantee none of them would say they were leaving because they didn't enjoy the job.

Do we not value the Assistant Superintendent enough to pay them a wage that attracts more qualified candidates and gives them a reason to stay in the business? I'm sure most of you would say you'd love to pay your Assistant more, as would I, but can we afford to do so? In many cases we can't but wouldn't it be in everyone's best interest to do so?

Finally, if it's not the low pay that can be increased to attract and retain qualified Assistant's what is it? I have a hard time believing working fewer hours would be that much more more attractive. We're all willing to work for fair compensation. There aren't many extra benefits that courses can offer above the standard vacation time, dues paid and insurance. Some can offer a retirement plan but I'm willing to guess not many companies match any personal contributions these days.

Ultimately, for the time being, it is what it is. Perhaps the lack of qualified candidates for Assistant jobs in the city will force salaries up to a point where an Assistant's salary becomes more representative of an Assistant's value.

**HAGCSA Editor,
Tim Nielsen**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ GCSAA Membership #: _____

Club or Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Spouse's Name _____

Check here if you wish to receive your mailings at home.

Home Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

JOB INFORMATION: LIST CURRENT EMPLOYMENT FIRST

DATES EMPLOYED		EMPLOYER NAME & CITY/STATE	TITLE
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____

I hereby make application for membership in the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and attach herewith my dues for the current year. If accepted, I agree to uphold the by-laws of this Association and subscribe to the following code of ethics. To the end that confidence and respect may be enjoyed by members of our Association, the code of ethics is promulgated and observation of its provisions required.

- Every member shall take pride in his/her work and regard it as a profession in which all members strive to maintain its good name.
- Realizing that the best asset that a member can have is thorough knowledge of his/her business, he/she shall constantly try to improve his/her knowledge and effectiveness by freely exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members and take advantage of all opportunities for improvement.
- He/she shall endeavor to maintain courteous relations with his/her employer and his/her associates and endeavor to have his/her employees take pride in doing their work well.
- In accomplishing his/her own and the Association's best interest, observance of the following suggestions are recommended.
 - **Seeking Employment:** 1. Seek counsel of local associations when applying for a position in a new district; 2. Recommend only qualified GCSAA members; 3. Ascertain the wage scale in the district in which you are seeking employment, then uphold that talk with the person who last held or now holds the position of Golf Course Superintendent.
 - **Visiting:** 1. Announce your HAGCSA or GCSAA membership when visiting; 2. Always contact the Superintendent of the course you are visiting; 3. Honor requests for technical help from golf courses only when channeled through the Superintendent of the course making the request.

Communication Consent: I agree to receive notices, advertisements, announcements, brochures, and other information from Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents of America via facsimile, telephone or e-mail. I further agree that my express permission to fax, telephone or e-mail me such notices and other information will continue and have no date of expiration, unless a written request is received indicating a change in permission.

ATTESTED: The applicant must be attested by two Heart of America GCSA members.

Attested _____ Date _____

Attested _____ Date _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application (Term: January to December):
 Superintendents/\$130 - Assistant Superintendents/\$70 - Supplier/\$130 - Golf Course Employees/\$70 - Student/\$25

Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 10	Shop Talk	Tiffany Greens Golf Course
March 24	Joint Meeting w/KGCSA	Sand Creek Golf Course (Newton, KS)
April 21	Wee One Tournament	Tiffany Greens GC
May 26	Footprints in Fairways	Ironhorse Golf Course
June 15	S&R Tournament	Alvamar Country Club
July 21	Nine & Dine (PP Event)	Heart of America Golf Academy
August 3	Employee Tournament	Minor Park Golf Course
September 15	Vendor Appreciation	Twin Peaks
October 5-6	MO Cup Challenge	Old Kinderhook Golf Course
November 4	Annual Meeting	
December 14-15	Common Ground	
January 8, 2016	New Year Party	

HEARTBEAT • Tim Nielsen, Editor

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