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Heart of America Chapter

GCSAA

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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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 44, No. 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

May 2012

S&R Tournament



**Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate
June 25, 2012**

- **Member Profile**
- **Benefits of Exercise**
- **Perfect Lies**

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GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Message..... 4

S&R Tournament - Profiles 6

Tournament Registration Form 8

S&R Tournament Report 11

Public Relations Report..... 12

Employee Tournament and Assistant Program Report 13

Exercise to Eliminate Unwanted Stress 15

Member Profile 17

MO Cup Challenge 20

Perfect Lies 21

Education Committee Report 24

GCSAA Honors Certified Golf Course Superintendents 25

Tournaments Committee Report..... 26

Membership Report 27

Tony’s Teasers 27

The Un-Comfort Zone..... 31

Membership Application..... 32

Editor’s Column..... 33



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President's Message

It seems every year we all say, "This kind of weather is not normal." I'm now of the belief that there will never again be a "normal" after the past two summers, last winter and the spring we've had. The zoysia changed colors earlier than I can remember and it seemed like weeds came out of nowhere in a matter of hours. I sure hope I got the pre-emergent down soon enough and that it lasts long enough. If not, I guess our vendor members selling chemicals will have a good year.



As for association business, I hope those who plan to attend the Joint Meeting have a great time. I would like to give a special thanks to our title sponsors: Van Wall/John Deere and Kansas Golf and Turf. I'm sure Bill Irving and his staff will exceed our expectations.

The May Classic is nearing and will be held at Dubs Dread. I'm sure Jimmy Angelotti is on the phone, sitting at his desk with his feet up, explaining to Scott Cummins what needs to be done to prepare. In return, Scott has already hung up the phone and prepared a few choice words to tell his boss the next time he sees him. It's a good thing Scott doesn't take any flack from that guy!

Finally, it may seem early but those of you who are eligible need to start to consider making a run for a position on the HAGCSA Board of Directors. Take some time to consider if your career, facility or personal life could benefit by serving. I, for one, can say there is not a better networking and friendship forming opportunity available to HAGCSA members. Numerous times the guys I've gotten to know while on the board have given me valuable help and advice. I couldn't be happier for making the decision to run for the board. I would hope you would consider doing the same. If you have questions about running for the board please call or email me.

Tim Neilsen,
HAGCSA President

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S&R Tournament

June 25 at Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate

Superintendent

Gary Sailer has been superintendent at Nicklaus Golf Club since 2010. Prior to that he was superintendent at Stone Canyon GC, Sycamore Ridge, Eagles Landing, and Alvarado which is where he started his career. Gary received his degree in Agronomy from Iowa State University in 1991. He is married with three children.



Assistant Superintendent

Brent Racer has been assistant superintendent at Nicklaus Golf Club since 2006. Prior to that he was at Glen Wild GC in Park City, UT and The Rim GC in Payson, AZ. He received his degree in Horticulture from Kansas State University in 1996. He is married with two children.

Assistant Superintendent

Nick Kray has been assistant superintendent at Nicklaus Golf Club since 2010. Prior to that he was at Indian Hills, Homewood GC in Ames, IA, and Hunters Ridge in Marion IA. Nick received his Masters degree in Horticulture from Iowa State University in 2007. He is married with a newborn son.



Course Profile

Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate opened for play in 2001 as a Jack Nicklaus signature design. This links designed course has been host to two Champions tour events and two Nationwide PGA tour events. It will be hosting its third Nationwide PGA tour event, The Midwest Classic, this August. It plays to 7251 yards from the back tees with a slope rating of 138.

Registration, sponsorship and auction donation forms are found on pages 8, 9 and 10 of this newsletter. See you June 25 at Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate.

2012 S&R TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 25, 2012

Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate

Overland Park, Kansas

Host Superintendent: Gary Sailer, CGCS



Start Forming Teams Now!

Registration & Sponsorship Opportunities within newsletter.



SCHEDULE

8:30am	Registration
10:00am	Shotgun (first nine holes)
12:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm	Live Auction
2:15pm	Shotgun (second nine holes)
5:00pm	Awards

**TITLE
SPONSOR**

SilicoTurf LLC



Scholarship & Research Tournament

~ S&R Mission Statement ~

"Organize and generate the financial means to enrich the game of golf through funding regionally based research and scholarship to qualified applicants."

Date: Monday, June 25, 2012

Location: Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate
14225 Dearborn Ave.
Overland Park, KS 66223
913-428-0548

Host Superintendent: Gary Sailer, CGCS

Schedule: 8:30am Registration
10:00am Shotgun (first nine holes)
12:30pm Lunch
1:15pm Live Auction
2:15pm Shotgun (second nine holes)
5:00pm Awards



Format: Five-person scramble

The golf professional's ball will be played as part of the team and not counted separately. Only one professional per team. You are not required to have a golf professional on your team. Please include all names on the entry form below, as it allows pre-printed score cards and cart assignments to be made.

Cost: \$150 per person or \$750 per team. Field is limited to 29 teams – singles will be placed by the S&R Committee.

Dress Code: Country Club Attire - Collared Shirts, No Jeans or Cargo Pants. Please clean your soft spikes.

Donation: Please help us reach our fund-raising goal by donating additional funds. Our long-term goal is to raise enough money to allow us to fund an entire research project relevant to golf courses in our region. Your generous help is key to attaining this goal.

Reservation Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2012.

YES! I/We plan to attend the 2012 S&R Tournament.

Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____

GAMES/CONTESTS (Encouraged to sign-up in advance to reduce your time in line. We can invoice separately if needed):

- Skins Game - \$20 per team (half the pot goes to the skins winner, the other half to the S&R Fund)
 - Tiger Woods Drive - \$25 per team. Your team is given a 350+ yard drive.
 - "Hole in One" Hole - \$25 per team. You receive a hole-in-one if anyone in your group lands on the green.
 - 50/50 Pot - \$1 per ticket (half the pot goes to the ticket winner; the other half to the S&R Fund): _____ # of tickets requested.
 - Additional Donation to S&R Fund: \$_____ (Thank You!)
- (Note: You will also have the opportunity to pay for these games/contests the day of the event.)

Submitted by: _____ Club/Company: _____

Full Address: _____

Cell #: _____ E-mail: _____

NOTE: If a cancellation occurs due to the weather, the "submitted by" contact will be notified. It will then be that person's responsibility to notify the remaining players on the team listed above. **Rain date: Monday, October 22, 2012**

PAYMENT:

Check Enclosed Invoice (By indicating you wish to be invoiced, you agree to pay total invoice upon receipt.)

All "No Shows" will be billed. You may cancel without penalty 72 business hours prior to event registration time.

HAGCSA, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, Missouri, 64141 or Fax to: 816-561-1991

S&R SPONSORSHIP FORM

June 25, 2012 at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate

"Organize and generate the financial means to enrich the game of golf through funding regionally based research and scholarship to qualified applicants."



The HAGCSA's Scholarship and Research Tournament is considered our most important function of the year. This tournament is the pinnacle of our fund raising endeavors and provides the optimum opportunity to have your company's name honored and recognized by our membership for your support of this well-attended event.

Title Sponsorship - \$3,500 (1 TAKEN; 0-AVAILABLE)

- Company name and logo recognition on main signage at the registration table.
- Prominently displaying of your firm's name and logo in all lunch and meeting areas.
- Name recognition on all tournament material (i.e. rules sheets, sign-up sheets, etc.)
- Complementary entry and lunch for a five some in the tournament.
- Verbal recognition as title sponsor by speakers during lunch and award presentations as a key component to the success of this event.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

The logo for SilicoTurf LLC, featuring the name "SilicoTurf" in a large, green, serif font with "LLC" in a smaller, sans-serif font to the right.

Food Sponsors - \$750 (1-TAKEN; 1-AVAILABLE)

- Verbal recognition as the benefactor of our meal and appetizers during lunch and the awards ceremony.
- Company name on signage at the buffet table and on table tents positioned around the room.
- Firm's name recognition on the main banner at registration table with other participating sponsors.
- Verbal recognition for your company.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



Beverage Stations - \$500 (3-TAKEN; 1-AVAILABLE)

- Sponsorship of one of the four on course beverage stations that are positioned around the golf course.
- Perfect opportunity to greet event participants on the golf course and get your name out there as an important contributor to the success of the event.
- Company name on signage at the beverage station you are assigned.
- Name recognition on the main banner at registration table with other participating sponsors.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



Tee/Green Sponsorships - \$300

- Affords your company to be recognized by each player with signage posted prominently on an assigned tee box.
- Company name will be displayed with other important affiliate partners on the main banner located at registration table.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

YES! Count us in to Support HAGCSA Scholarship & Research Efforts!

Company: _____

Contact Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PAYMENT:

- Check Enclosed Invoice (*)

(*)By indicating you wish to be invoiced, you agree to pay total invoice upon receipt. Invoices will be sent electronically when an email is provided.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY JUNE 1, 2012

HAGCSA • P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, Missouri 64141 • FAX to 816-561-1991

If you have questions, please contact Kim Weitzel at 816-561-5323.

S & R Auction Donation Form

Monday, June 25, 2012

Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate – Overland Park, KS



The S & R Golf Tournament and Auction was developed to fund scholarships for turfgrass students, assist members' employees with continuing education expenses and support turfgrass research. Please help us provide this assistance, and to make a greater impact on the lives of those who will be the future of our industry.

The HAGCSA S & R Committee will again sponsor our annual fund raising auction to be held during the S & R Tournament at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate. It's a fun opportunity to give something to your industry partners, or share a personal treasure with your friends in your industry. Donate an item that you think will draw some interest from among the HAGCSA members. Ideas include equipment, autographed memorabilia, artwork, vintage wines, golf clubs, electronics . . .you name it! The more unique, the more it could bring in for the S & R program. Last year we raised \$12,000 and we hope to beat that record in 2012. Please help us to accomplish that goal!

Please join the efforts to raise money for the S & R program by completing the form below and returning it to the Association office on or before **Friday, June 1, 2012**:

We **Thank You** in advance for your support!

Name _____

Company Name _____

Full Address _____

Contact Phone _____ E-mail _____

Your donation(s) will be listed to the membership prior to the event and listed on the auction program. Please provide the following information to help promote the live auction:

Item Donating _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

Description _____

Item Donating _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

Description _____

Item Donating _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

Description _____

****You will be responsible for bringing the item(s) to the Association Office by **Friday, June 1, 2012**, or providing a certificate and appropriate picture representing the donated item(s).*

If you have any questions regarding the auction process or event, please feel free to contact Kim Weitzel at the Association Office: 816-561-5323.

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S&R Tournament Report

By James Kennedy, Director

The S&R Tournament at Lionsgate will be here before we know it. Start getting your teams together and get signed up. Teams are already registering so don't hesitate. This year, we will be conducting the live auction and lunch following the first nine holes. The S&R Committee will begin reaching out to members seeking donations for the live auction in the near future. If you would like to donate please submit a donation form to Kim Weitzel at 816-561-5323. The committee is in search of research ideas from its members. We are in process of getting a survey together to put onto the website.

Feel free to contact me or any of the committee members if you would like to see more research on certain challenges you face at your property. Many times a large number of us have similar issues that we are looking for solutions to.

I would like to thank all the vendors that have signed up to sponsor this year's event. They are our biggest supporters and be sure and let them know that. I would also like to thank Gary Sailer and his staff for their help getting this year's tournament planned. I look forward to seeing everyone June 25th and hope you enjoy this year's event.



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Public Relations Report

By Brad Gray, Director

The golf season is among us and the lack of time is a hindrance for completing tasks. However, remember to make time for the Midwest Golf Talk Radio Hour on WHB 810 AM Sports Radio. If you remember from the last Public Relations update, the HAGCSA Board renewed a partnership with Midwest Sports Management to be a sponsor during the radio show. The show is hosted by Brian Wright and will air each Sunday from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. until Aug. 19. Additionally, the partnership enables the HAGCSA to provide a guest on the show to talk about the golf course superintendent profession. If you have any interest on being a guest please let me know. It is a wonderful chance to showcase the profession as well as attain great media experience.

Items on the agenda for the remainder of 2012 include: securing hosts for the Midwest Golf Talk Radio Hour on 810 Sports; assisting Gary Sailer, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate, with the PGA Nationwide Tour Midwest Classic, Aug. 16-19, and other potential opportunities to promote the golf course superintendent profession as well as the game of golf.

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Employee Tournament and Assistant Program Report

By Mitch Bradbury, Special Director

I hope everyone is surviving the busy start to the Spring and got at least some minor rest this Winter. Before grass started flying, our committee was able to meet and design a great game plan for the Employee Tournament and the Assistant Programs. We will try to present four Assistant Superintendent Development Sessions throughout the year, one per season. These sessions aid Assistant Superintendents in professional growth while networking with their peers and other Superintendents.

As we finish tying up some loose ends on the Employee Tournament to be held in early August, we are happy to announce the first event will be April 26 at 2 p.m. at the Overland Park Turf Care Center. Newly elected GCSAA President, Sandy Queen and Golf Course Management Editor-in-Chief, Scott Hollister will be on hand to discuss our industry and GCSAA as it pertains to the Assistant Superintendent. So spread the word, come out for this can't miss event, sponsored by Agrium Advanced Technologies.

Be on the lookout for information about these future sessions and the Employee Tournament. As always, please feel free to contact me for any suggestions or questions.

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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION



DATE: Thursday, April 26, 2012

TIME: 2:00pm

LOCATION: Overland Park Golf Course (Maintenance Facility)
12698 Nieman Rd., Overland Park, KS 66213

COST: FREE of Charge

SPEAKERS: Sandy Queen, CGCS, GCSAA President and Director of Golf Operations for the City of Overland Park.
Scott Hollister, Editor-in-Chief, Golf Course Management, GCSAA

COVERED TOPICS: Current issues with GCSAA; Governmental Relations Efforts; Membership Recruitment and Retention; State of Golf Economy and Job Opportunities; Professional Development using GCSAA Resources; Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) and GCSAA Communications.

PROVIDED: Snacks & Beverages provided our Title Sponsor.  (division of Agrium Advanced Technologies)



~ Assistant Superintendent Professional Development Sessions ~

Business, communication, and leadership are just a few of the qualities that golf course superintendents acquire through a college education. However, real-world knowledge is often not known and understood by many assistant superintendents. Instead, these skills are learned through on-the-job training, chapter involvement, and development. We are looking for a way for local assistant superintendents to better prepare themselves to make that next step toward becoming a superintendent. One way to accomplish this would be to absorb as much insight and expertise of the local superintendents as possible. We have a huge advantage of having some of the best superintendents in the country in the Kansas City area and beyond. We would be missing out on a huge opportunity if we did not tap into that resource.

Assistant Superintendent involvement has painted a great picture of what the future of our profession will look like. Experienced superintendents know and realize the many difficulties that face our industry as we move forward. By promoting assistant superintendents involvement we will be fostering a large group of dedicated individuals poised to face those challenges and contribute to the success of the golf course industry.

I hope by forming the "Assistant Superintendent Professional Development" discussion group we offer opportunities for assistant superintendents to grow and learn in all facets of their lives as they progress toward becoming golf course superintendents.

~ Format ~

I envision having a bi-monthly "Assistant Superintendent Professional Development" session. Upon choosing a topic to discuss we would ask for a superintendent or superintendents to volunteer their time and experiences. Before each meeting with the superintendents we would have a compiled list of questions and an agenda prepared in order to keep the discussions productive. We would have the meeting area and time established well in advance. I hope by having these "Assistant Superintendent Professional Development" session we can attract local assistant superintendent that may not be members of the GCSAA and HAGCSA to realize all the benefits of our organizations.

~ Goals ~

1. Providing opportunities for networking with fellow assistants, superintendents and other industry leaders.
2. Provide opportunities for professional development and growth of assistant superintendents.
3. Encourage assistant superintendent involvement within chapter and attendance of local events.
4. Increase the number of diversified assistant superintendents in the profession.

Yes, I/we plan to attend the Assistant Superintendent Professional Development Session:

Name _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

Name _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

Name _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

HOW TO REGISTER:
Contact Mitch Bradbury, Assistant Superintendent, Overland Park Golf Course
Email: mitch.bradbury@opkansas.org

Exercise to Eliminate Unwanted Stress and Live a Better Lifestyle

By Todd Bohn, Vice President

You know that exercise does your body good, but you're too busy and stressed to fit it into your routine. Hold on a second. There's good news when it comes to exercise and stress. Virtually any form of exercise, from aerobics to weightlifting, can act as a stress reliever. If you're not into working out or even if you're downright out of shape, you can still make a little exercise go a long way toward stress management and improving your health. I am in no way saying I am perfectly fit or have all the answers to good health. I would like to share some information that has really helped me improve how I feel as well as my overall general health so I can live a longer and more active lifestyle.

Exercise increases your overall health and your sense of well-being, which puts more pep in your step every day. But exercise also has some direct stress relieving benefits as well. It pumps up your brains activity and makes it produce a lot of natural hormones which are called endorphins. During this process you will actually feel like you are on "Cloud 9" which helps you get a natural boost of energy. Exercise has also shown that it helps you to relieve some stress and frustrations from your day at the office or course. After a nice little jog around your neighborhood or a bike ride around the park, or walking nine holes of golf (at someone else's golf course) you'll often find that you've forgotten the day's irritations. As you begin to regularly forget your daily tensions through movement and physical activity, you may find that this focus on a single task, and the resulting energy and optimism, can help you remain calm and clear in everything that you do. One of the areas I think regular exercise helps me the most is a

better mood at home with my family and at work with my fellow employees and members. The experts say regular exercise can increase self-confidence and lower the symptoms associated with mild depression and anxiety. Exercise can also improve your sleep, which is often disrupted by stress, depression and anxiety. A good night's sleep can help each one of us as we are early risers and hold demanding jobs with long hours that take a toll on our bodies throughout the year.

Now that I have shared with you a few of the many benefits of regular exercise, I hope you are asking yourself how to get started! This is one of the most intimidating parts of this whole process. My personal experience is once I commit to some sort of exercise for at least a couple of weeks it starts becoming habit. I actually look forward to it at the end of my day. Getting started is really pretty easy. If you haven't done much exercise for a while just simply start by going on 20-30 minute walks around your neighborhood or on the golf course. Attempt this activity three to four days a week gradually increasing your pace or length of time. If you are interested in weight training, combine the two and do some sort of cardio workout before or after your workout. There are several websites that offer good workout routines and provide guidance with dietary and time commitment needs. I would encourage you all to do some investigating on the web if you are interested. Some websites

Continued on next page
15 heartbeat magazine



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Exercise to Eliminate Unwanted Stress - Cont.

I use regularly are www.bodybuilding.com and www.muscleandstrength.com. Find a program that works for you and do what you love to do. Don't force yourself to do an activity you hate or you may ultimately lose the drive to do it and fall back into your old habits. Pick an exercise or activity that you will enjoy and you will be amazed at the positive results if you can stay committed.

Pick a time of the day to exercise that works best for you and stay dedicated to that time. I like to work out right after work on my way home. I try to do it before I get time to sit down on the couch or eat dinner. I have found that if I don't do it in this time slot I am less likely to do it because my body starts to shut down. I get tired and don't feel like doing anything but sitting on the couch. My ultimate wish is that I could get up early enough in the morning and complete my workouts prior to work. That is hard to do when we already are going into work at 5:30 or 6 a.m. Plus I need my sleep. Once you have got your time slot picked to exercise set some goals so that you can gauge your progress. I feel this is a critical part of a successful program for me. I am a person that likes to see progress and see results. Setting goals that are obtainable and realistic are also very important for me. Don't set unrealistic goals you will never be able to meet. That may kill your motivation and set you back to square one in no time. Just concentrate on dedicating the time and implementing your routine first and foremost. As your exercises become routine, expand your goals to whatever it is you are trying to achieve (i.e. weight loss, better moods, less stress, or all the above).

In closing I would reiterate I am clearly not an expert on this subject or claim to have all the perfect answers. But I have been able to dedicate some time and made a commitment to daily exercise and I feel it has helped me tremendously in my everyday life. It not only has made me feel better but it has given me a lot more energy and motivation to tackle the demanding challenges that we all face with our jobs. Whatever you do, don't think of exercise as just one more thing on your to-do list. Find an activity you enjoy whether its walking, jogging, riding a bike, playing golf, kayaking, or weight training and make it part of your regular routine. Any form of physical activity can help you unwind and become an important part of your approach to easing stress and becoming a more fit and healthy person.

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Up to the Challenge, Part I

By Tony Bertels, Editor

Editor's Note: The next few Member Profile sections are dedicated to the newest GC Superintendents in the KC market. Please help me welcome them all to our ranks.

I will never forget my first season as the guy in charge. Was I ready? Could I affect a positive change on my newly assigned facility! Could I exceed expectations and live up to my potential? Those and many other questions were constantly on my mind as I wrestled with all of the unknowns and challenges that most of us have had to deal with as a rookie calling the shots for real. I posed a few questions to a few newly promoted Superintendents who now find themselves at the helm of their own operations in a major market. I wish them all much success!

Matt Hemphill, GC Supt. Drumm Farm GC

After graduating from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture in 2007, Matt moved to Windsor, Colorado to work at Pelican Lakes Golf Course as an Assistant Superintendent.



“After spending one year there I took an Assistant position with The Broadlands Golf Course in Broomfield, Colorado which happened to be operated by Landscapes Unlimited, LLC. In 2010, I accepted the Assistant position at Drumm Farm Golf Club, under Tim Nielsen.” This gave Hemphill the opportunity to move his family back home to the Kansas City area. Once Tim moved on to Creekmoor, Matt was promoted to Superintendent.

“When away from the golf course I spend my free-time with my wife Holly and our two daughters, Elizabeth and Lucy.”

Q: What have you found most challenging about your position as Supt. at Drumm Farm?

MH: “The most challenging aspect for me has been adjusting to the amount of office work there is to be done. All those days as an assistant thinking the boss was just sitting in the office doing nothing while I was out there doing the work ... well that is not true!”

Q: What are your hopes and goals for the upcoming season?

MH: “Number 17 green at Drumm Farm has had issues with turf loss the past two seasons due to lack of airflow. Our goal this winter was to remove trees from around the green to create better air movement. We ended up cutting approximately fifty trees that will not only benefit #17 green, but also #2 and #3 greens as well. My main goal is to eliminate all turf loss on greens this year. I could also use some aid from Mother Nature since she has not been much help the last two seasons!”

Q: If you could boil it down to a sentence or two, what advice would you give your friends or Assistant peers to get to the next level?

MH: “Always be prepared because you never know when you will get your opportunity.”

Q: Who do you intend to lean on for advice and guidance in the coming season?

MH: “Fortunately, being involved with a great organization like the Heart, I have been able to meet a lot of great people that I feel comfortable with contacting for help. If I have to name just one it would be Tim Nielsen at Creekmoor. He spent 10 years here at Drumm Farm, so he can usually answer any question I have about the golf course or anything else for that matter.”

Continued on next page

Member Profile - cont.

**Andrew Jones, GC Supt.
Swope Memorial GC**



Andrew grew up just south of the city in Louisburg, Kansas. He graduated with a Golf Course Management degree from Kansas State University in December of 2007.

He has had the opportunity to work at a plethora of different venues including Metcalf Ridge Golf Club, Red Sky Golf Club, The Country Club in Brookline, Kansas City Country Club, and now Swope Memorial Golf Course.

“I had been the Assistant Superintendent at Swope Memorial for three and a half years before being promoted to Superintendent in June of 2011.” *(learning under the brilliant tutelage of me!)*

Andrew has a brother and two sisters who also reside in Kansas City. He has multiple nephews and a niece.

Q: *What have you found most challenging about your position as Supt. at Swope?*

AJ: “So far I think the most challenging part of being a Superintendent is trying to balance my duties as a manager and being out on the course. There are lots of times I would rather be out in the trenches then doing paperwork. It is an essential part of the job that is sometimes difficult to sit down and complete.”

Q: *What are your hopes and goals for the upcoming season?*

AJ: “My hope is that it’s not near as hot as the last two years! My goals are to make lasting improvements day to day that improve the golfer’s experience. If we can provide the same or better conditions as the last few years, then I feel I’ve done my job.”

Q: *If you could boil it down to a sentence or two, what advice would you give your friends or Assistant peers to get to the next level?*

AJ: “I would say always try to stay a step ahead of your superintendent. If you can show that you can plan ahead then they will know you are ready and willing to take the next step.”

Q: *Who do you intend to lean on for advice and guidance in the coming season?*

AJ: “The main person I would look to is Tony Bertels. (Smart kid!) He has taught me the most about the profession having worked for him the last four years. Also, fellow superintendents that are in the same boat that I am. Being able to bounce ideas off someone who may be going through the same growing pains will be helpful.”

Editor’s Note: *The next Member Profile will feature Sam Bailey, Heart of America Golf Academy, Matthew Delventhal, Minor Park and Andy Klein, Falcon Lakes GC.*

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MO CUP CHALLENGE

By Paul Carlson & John Sheehe, Special Directors

It's time to start thinking about the MO CUP CHALLENGE! It's only six months away. Not much has changed with this fun event that takes place every year at Lake Valley GC and The Club of Kinderhook in Camdenton, Mo. (Lake of the Ozarks).

This year the tournament will start on Monday, Oct. 1 at Lake Valley G.C. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at noon. Dinner and a reception will take place at 5:30 p.m. Following this we in the process of organizing a "team shootout." Each team that wants to enter (this will be done at registration that morning) will play a certain number of holes to be designated. Low score will win prizes at the pro shop.

On Tuesday we will be at The Club at Old Kinderhook. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Rooms (cabins) will again be available at Old Kinderhook. To reserve these, call 573-346-4444 ext. 3.

We anticipate another fun event this year. You can help enhance this event by getting sponsors for it. All the money raised goes back into prizes for you.

More information will be following in future newsletters.

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Perfect Lies


By Brad Gray, Director

The word perfect is at times synonymous with the task of maintaining/managing a golf course. Synonymous in the fact that perfect is used by the golfing clientele to describe the other course, television golf or expected home course conditions. Perfect is the benchmark to so many individuals. In order to truly understand the word better, perhaps a definition by Webster's Dictionary is necessary. The first definition states that perfect is being without fault or defect, flawless. The word is definitely more understandable with that definition; however, Webster continues to provide more definitions. The second definition states that perfect is satisfying all requirements, accurate. The third definition mentions that perfect is corresponding to an ideal standard or abstract concept. The point of the matter is that the word sums up the trials and tribulations of the superintendent profession.


Clearly the goal of each superintendent is defined in the first definition, providing perfect (without fault, flawless) playing conditions. One can debate what flawless actually means in terms of course conditioning but as a whole, superintendent's work hard to achieve that standard. More times than not the standard for perfection is self induced to a point of work overload or stress. In essence, superintendent's are their own worst enemy. Sure, the thought of achieving perfect conditions can still be on the mind, nonetheless, approaching the situation with a demeanor of exceeding expectations is perhaps better served.

The second definition mentions that perfect can also be interpreted as satisfying all requirements. Fittingly, the requirements could easily be interpreted as the client, the famed golfer. Superintendent's work anxiously to satisfy everyone which can have a countereffect. Let's face it, not everyone can be satisfied and that must be remembered in order to maintain a certain amount of sanity. Often too many times an exuberant amount of time is wasted





Continued on page 23



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Perfect Lies - cont.

focusing on the negative. Keeping pace with the positive aspects is much easier and enables the ability to stay on track. Although feedback can be helpful at times, it is important to discern what is valid. Running down a path of obscurity can be detrimental.

Lastly, the final definition for perfect stated in the introduction is corresponding to an ideal standard or abstract concept. The word ideal takes the meaning of perfect to another level and then the phrase abstract concept has to come into the picture. Both are very subjective which confuses the whole notion that perfect is a cut and dry notion. Certainly some superintendent's have weathered the storm in dealing with "ideal standard" and "abstract concepts." Several have entered the mind as this article was written. Thankfully, a majority of the decision makers within a golf facility are cognizant of the varying degrees of perfect. In addition, they are mindful of the obstacles (too many) that have to be overcome on a daily basis.

Striving for a perfect golf course is still at the forefront. On the other hand, realizing that it may never happen is essential. To think that turf loss will never happen or that every golf client is very satisfied is perchance a pipe dream. Conversely, realizing that achieving perfection can be a goal but keeping reality in perspective is paramount. Hope the best for everyone that this golfing season is successful. May we all perfect the art of managing a golf course?



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Education Committee Report

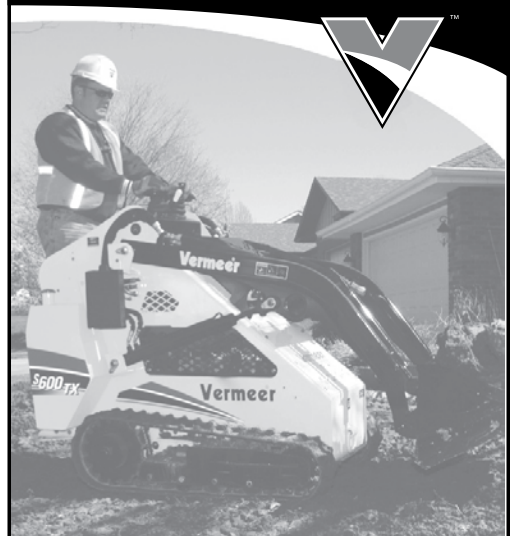
By Scott Johnson, CGCS, Director

Currently, the committee is searching for inspiring educational topics presented by dynamic speakers. Have you heard a great talk on subject matter pertinent to our profession or personal well being? If so, please pass on the name so we can contact that individual. Final decisions have not been made in regards to the conference format of combining educational sessions with a “trade show” comingling.

The committee is evaluating the importance of having a significant vendor presence and the return for the vendors. Times are changing with regards to how and when we collect information for making buying decisions. Information is at our finger tips 24 hours a day. Collectively, we have been scrutinizing our operation costs to the “enth” degree for the last three or four years and the vendors are no different. The committee has a lot of tough decisions to make over the next couple of years as we strive to provide beneficial educational opportunities for the membership and make the Common Ground Conference a “win win” for everyone.

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FUNCTION FORECAST

DATE

April 30
May 30
June 25
August
September
October 1 & 2
November
December 11 & 12
January 4, 2013

EVENT

Joint Meeting with KGCSA @ Lawrence CC
May Classic @ Dub's Dread GC
S&R Tournament @ Nicklaus Golf Club
Employee Tournament
Vendor Appreciation
MO Cup Challenge @ Old Kinderhook
Annual Meeting
Common Ground Conference & Trade Show
New Year Party

Forty-four superintendents reach membership milestone

GCSAA Honors Certified Golf Course Superintendents

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) recognizes 44 members who have celebrated 25 years as certified golf course superintendents (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.

GCSAA certified superintendents honored for 25 years of certification include:



- Robert U. Alonzi, CGCS, Greenwich, Conn.
- Fredrick S. Biggers, CGCS, Stoney Creek GC at Wintergreen Resort, Nellysford, Va.
- L. Randall Brehmer, CGCS, The Fort Golf Resort, Indianapolis, Ind.
- Peter D. Burnham, CGCS, Heritage Village Country Club, Southbury, Conn.
- Dale F. Conzelmann, CGCS, Tiburon Golf Club, Naples, Fla.
- Kevin D’Amico, CGCS, Westwoods Country Club, Farmington, Conn.
- Corey B. Eastwood, CGCS, Stockton, Calif.
- Jeff Elliott, CGCS, Agrium Advanced Technologies, Centennial, Colo.
- Roger H. Frazier, CGCS, Cattails at Meadowview, Kingsport, Tenn.
- Mark G. Fuller, CGCS, The Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, Conn.
- Lawrence E. Hergott, CGCS, City of Columbus Parks & Recreation, Columbus, Neb.
- Alan D. Hess, CGCS, Augusta Pines Golf Club, Spring, Texas
- **Mike Hulteen, CGCS, Salina Country Club, Salina, Kan.**
- Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, Country Club of Little Rock, Little Rock, Ark.
- Kenneth B. Ingram, CGCS, Silver Spring, Md.
- Joseph A. Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Vanderbilt Legends Club, Franklin, Tenn.
- Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Blind Brook Club, Purchase, N.Y.
- Michael J. Kosak, CGCS, Petaluma, Calif.
- George Kruzick, CGCS, City of Fort Worth Golf Division, Fort Worth, Texas
- Robert A. Langley, CGCS, Floratine Products Group, Inc., Collierville, Tenn.
- Harold J. Loke, CGCS, Bent Creek Country Club, Lititz, Pa.
- Howard H. Lott, CGCS, Stonewall Resort, Walkersville, W.Va.
- Douglas R. Mahal, CGCS, The Jewel Golf Club, Lake City, Minn.
- William Martin, CGCS, Diamond Valley Country Club, Hemet, Calif.
- Timothy M. McAvoy, CGCS, Hollow Golf Club, Branchburg, N.J.
- Barry W. Mueller, CGCS, San Geronimo Country Club, San Geronimo, Calif.
- Gary Myers, CGCS, Walt Disney World Golf Courses, Orlando, Fla.
- John M. Napier, CGCS, Stanley Municipal Golf Course, New Britain, Conn.
- Lawrence J. Pakkala, CGCS, Norwalk, Conn.
- Charles T. Passios, CGCS, Golf Club of Cape Cod, North Falmouth, Mass.
- Dan E. Rackliffe, CGCS, Longshore Club Park, Westport, Conn.
- Peter Rappoccio, Jr., CGCS, Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, Conn.
- Joel A. Ratcliff, CGCS, Floratine Products Group, Inc., Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Continued on page 29

Tournaments Committee Report

By Matt Hemphill, Director

The Joint Event at Lawrence Country Club is April 30. Plan to attend. I look forward to providing a full report on the event in next month's issue. On the 30th of May we will be holding the May Classic at Dub's Dread Golf Club. This will be a great event and I hope everyone will come and take part. The sign up form is available now. I would also like to

remind you all of other upcoming events starting with the S&R Tournament which will be held on June 25 at Nicklaus Golf Club. Our last tournament of the year will be the MO Cup Challenge in October.

Please feel free to contact me at mhemphill@drum-farmgolfclub.com with any questions. I hope to see you all at our events this upcoming season.



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Membership Report

By Brian Rutledge, Director

The absolute drop-dead deadline for dues was April 30. The membership committee is moving forward with the 2012 HAGCSA roster and we will be mailing them out soon. Also we have several new additions to this year's membership.

I would like to welcome:

- Mike Allmon, Complete Turf and Landscape
- Ben Augustine, Tomahawk Hills
- Eric Bond, The National Golf Club of KC
- Andy Jones, Midwest Pump and Fountain
- Dylan Senn, Flint Hills National Golf Club
- Fred Smith, Oakwood Country Club

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Tony's Teasers



Do you want to be "one of the four" big winners of a \$250 gift card (right before Christmas)!? Simply participate in the 2012 Tony's Teasers trivia game. Each answer will pertain to something related to our industry, terminology we would recognise, a golf course, or even a local member (or a play on their name). The answer can be a person, place or thing.

- April answer:** Gray's Anatomy
April entries: • Bill Maynard, CGCS
 • Tim Nielsen

Every month I will supply a clue. You must then come up with the correct response and submit your answer via the website only (www.hagcsa.org) prior to the answer being supplied in the next edition. Correct responses will entitle an entry (one entry per correct response) into the drawing. If you solve each month's riddle, your name gets put in the hat that many times; increasing your odds at this fabulous shopping spree. You must be present at the Holiday Party to win; so everyone better get in the spirit of the season! All members in good standing are eligible to enter.

May Teaser: Jeff's stickum

Answer: _____

Hint: Hold it together, it's not that tough

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GCSAA Honors Certified Golf Course Superintendents - cont.

- Mark A. Richard, CGCS, Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln, R.I.
- William D. Shrum, CGCS, Shooting Star, Wilson, Wyo.
- Michael Swing, CGCS, Visalia Country Club, Visalia, Calif.
- Donald J. Tolson, CGCS, Stock Farm Club, Hamilton, Mont.
- Craig J. Vigen, CGCS, Ferguson Waterworks, Fargo, N.D.
- Dale E. Walters, CGCS, Moorings Country Club, Naples, Fla.
- Jerry A. Webb, CGCS, Vintage Golf Course, Monticello, Minn.
- Timothy R. Willard, CGCS, Frankfort Country Club, Frankfort, Ky.
- Mark J. Woodward, CGCS, Mark Woodward & Assoc., Mesa, Ariz.
- Bruce J. Worzella, CGCS, West Bend Country Club, West Bend, Wis.
- John M. Yakubisin, CGCS, Rolling Rock Club, Ligonier, Pa.

Over “Twenty-five percent of GCSAA’s Class A members have achieved the highest level of recognition through the CGCS professional designation,” said GCSAA President Sandy G. Queen, who has also held the CGCS designation for 25-plus years. “This program requires their demonstration of a higher set of competencies in golf course management through testing and practical application. Employers can feel confident they employ a career professional who has made a strong commitment to professional development.”

To qualify for GCSAA’s competency-based certification program, a candidate must have at least three years of experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points. The candidate’s knowledge, skills and abilities are validated through the development of a portfolio consisting of their responses to skill statements, case-study scenarios and submission of work samples; an on-site inspection of their golf facility; and a rigorous six-hour examination covering competencies relating to agronomic, business, communication, environment and leadership domains.

Maintaining certified status requires renewal every five years after the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, a candidate must participate in 150 hours of continuing education and professional development. Two-hundred thirty-eight GCSAA certified superintendents renewed their certification in 2011.

Honorees were recognized at the Celebrate Certification! reception at the GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas last month. The reception is presented in partnership with Syngenta.



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How to Move Forward

By Robert Evans Wilson

When my wife of 22 years left me I became paralyzed. I was so depressed that I didn't even know I was depressed. I was relieved that the constant fighting was over, but I had no ambition for life. My usual creative energy was gone, and I was just going through the motions. I was no longer looking to the future; I was stuck in the past and barely functioning in the present. The only thing that kept me going was my children.

I found purpose in coaching their sports teams, and becoming the leader of their Cub Scout pack. Those were actions that gave me a sense of accomplishment; and the feeling that I was still important somewhere. Meanwhile my business was at a standstill.

There were innovations I wanted to bring into my business, but I couldn't seem to implement them. In particular, I wanted to give tele-seminars. They would serve two functions: make my services more affordable to a greater number of clients in a tightening economy; and reduce my travel now that I was a single father. But I couldn't seem to wrap my brain around the steps I needed to take.

I read several how-to articles, I talked with people who had produced their own tele-seminars, and I learned about the equipment necessary to put one on. None of this helped. I finally hired an expensive consultant. In retrospect, he really only showed me what I already knew. It seemed that the very act of spending a lot of money spurred me to action where nothing else could. Once again I was productive and moving forward. It wouldn't, however, last.

Three years later, I found myself in the same situation once again. Another relationship had crashed and burned; and in the fallout I found that I was paralyzed and unable to be the driving force my business needed to stay afloat.

It was then, that I realized I had failed to take a critical beginning step. It was something I should have known. It was a vital component of creative thinking that I'd been teaching others for years. I failed to identify the problem. Innovation is all about solving problems or satisfying needs; and before you can be creative, you need to know why you should be.

To move forward, whether it is in business or in a relationship, you have to identify what is holding you back. For me, my blocks were both professional and personal. My business and my relationship were so closely intertwined that I didn't realize I had a problem until I got stuck again.

The innovation technique I share with my clients is to accurately and succinctly state the problem; because the better you do this, the faster you will solve it. Unfortunately, I didn't know what the problem was - just that I had one. Nevertheless I was determined to find out what it was, so that I wouldn't have to repeat the cycle again.

I made inquiries, read self-help books, journaled, and attended therapy before I could identify it. Once done, however, the process of changing seemed easy by comparison. Even though I had only identified the problem (not solved it), my creative energy and ambition were back - which meant I knew I would.

I know many of you are feeling stuck because of our languid economy. Forget the economy for a moment, and ask yourself how you would tackle your problem if the economy were robust. Sure the economy is a problem, but it is one that is out of your hands. Identify the problem(s) that you do have control over.

Innovation and change - moving forward - involve risk. When you clearly identify the direction you need to go, it makes the risk seem less frightening because you can visualize the rewards. Slow economies are a great time to initiate change because most everyone else is paralyzed. They are hunkering down and waiting for times to get better. It's a perfect time for you to take the lead. Times will get better for you when you work to change the things within your control.



Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is an author, humorist and innovation consultant. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. Robert is also the author of the humorous children's book: *The Annoying Ghost Kid*. For more information on Robert, please visit <http://www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com>



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

~ If you are applying for membership as a Superintendent, you **must** also be a member of the national association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.
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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. Present your HAGCSA or GCSAA membership card 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 three peers and/or colleagues.

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application (Term: January to December):

- Superintendents - \$130
- Assistant Superintendents - \$70
- Suppliers - \$130
- Golf Course Employees - \$70
- Students - \$25

Nostrabickelus...not!



Cervezas hoy?...came the text over my phone on yet another unseasonably and unreasonably warm day in later March.

Muy bien!...I typed the reply.

Que hora y donde?...came the text in rapid-fire succession.

No se?...replied I, not caring so much when or where, as long as the opportunity to commiserate did not pass us by.

You just surpassed my Spanish vocabulary!...texted Steve Wilson, along with the time and place (Ugly Harry's at 3:00 pm). Like most days when a few of us get together for our regular bull sessions, we would be joined by other souls from our various staffs that also enjoy a cold beer and the eclectic gathering we have created over time. This time Wilson types a novella of a reply, taking more than one page, but makes me laugh in anticipation: *Bickel is in as well, but probably running late as he has some worm castings to drag on fairways that he plans to liquefy and then spray back on greens to enhance his biomass and feed his roots!* ... an ongoing joke at Eric's expense concerning previous sessions and the good-natured ribbing we give him as wanna-be's to his upper crust operation at Hallbrook!

We meet and the main topic is again the weather. It has been scary warm for March. Winter was spring and spring is now summer. Zoysia has greened up faster than I can ever recall, pre-emergent going down early, and fungicide programs already in full swing. We all swap notes and lies and advice. We laugh and cry simultaneously.

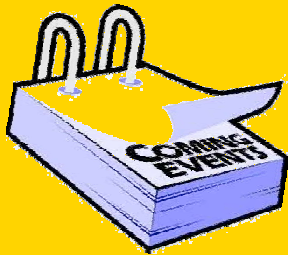
Bickel walks in and plants himself next to me at the bar. He too has weather on his mind. He tells me that the average high temperature over the last 12 months have not risen by mere fractions of a degree; as such ebbs and flows have done over the course of the last 100 years or so of record keeping, but is several degrees higher than it has ever been! I tell him it may be time for The Bickel Report III. He laughs and claims that he has extrapolated the data out and that by June 1st, the average high should be somewhere around 143° F! We will all be laying flat on our cool basement floors clinging for survival. By the time the Mayan calendar expires at the end of December, not a jug of Nemaclare, a bag of seed or case of chlorothalonil will matter! We all laugh nervously and hope to God that Eric is not Nostradamus, but rather the lunkhead we have grown to love.

By the time this column gets read by HAGCSA members another month will have passed. Are we destined to go through another meat grinder of a season or will the weather moderate and turn more seasonal? With temperatures in the 80's° in March, I am not optimistic. I hope this writing finds you well and better prepared for the upcoming season, whatever it may bring. If you find yourself in need of a laugh, cold beer and a hug, you are always welcome to our little Joy-Luck Club. We meet promptly at 3:00 or whenever Bickel gets done screwing with his worms.

Tony Bertels, Editor

INDEX of ADVERTISERS

BWI.....	15	PBI Gordon.....	13
Commerical Turf & Tractor/Wiedenmann.....	19, 27	Professional Turf Products.....	11
Direct Solutions.....	22	Reinders.....	20
Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects	3	Turfwerks.....	21
John Deere Golf/Van Wall Equip.....	5	Urban Tree Specialists.....	29
K.C. Arborist	16	Vermeer Great Plains.....	24
Kansas City Turf Supply.....	12, 23	Williams Lawn Seed.....	26
Kansas Golf & Turf.....	30		



FUNCTION FORECAST

DATE

April 30
May 30
June 25
August
September
October 1 & 2
November
December 11 & 12
January 4, 2013

EVENT

Joint Meeting with KGCSA @ Lawrence CC
May Classic @ Dub's Dread GC
S&R Tournament @ Nicklaus Golf Club
Employee Tournament
Vendor Appreciation
MO Cup Challenge @ Old Kinderhook
Annual Meeting
Common Ground Conference & Trade Show
New Year Party

HEARTBEAT • Tony Bertels, Editor

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