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Volume 46, No. 7

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

September 2014

MO Cup Challenge



Old Kinderhook Golf Club



Lake Valley Golf Club

***October 6&7, 2014
Camdenton, Mo.***

- My Transformative Journey
- How Do We Grow the Game of Golf
- MO Cup Challenge
- Employee Tournament

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GCSAA
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President's Message

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and enjoying the summer weather of 2014. After the last couple of summers we were due to have some help from "Mother Nature" and it looks like so far she has delivered in a major way. I can't ever remember a summer like this!!

As we move into the month of September maintenance schedules on our golf courses start to ramp up once again with aerification and over seeding practices. Although after the weather pattern this summer there may be less seeding that needs to be done, but none the less the activity in the maintenance departments across the area are ramped up. The same is true for the HAGCSA schedule of events.

On September 10th we will once again have our annual "Nine and Dine" event at the Heart of America Golf Course with this year having a different twist to it. For the first time we will be offering foot golf along with regular golf for the participants. So make plans to attend this event honoring

our Past Presidents and enjoying some nice networking and fellowship with your peers all the while learning how to play a new game or continuing work on your golf game. The following week on September 15th our annual Employee event will be held at St. Andrew's golf course. I know Juan Barragan and his committee have put together a great event so hopefully everyone that has employees that like to play golf will come and enjoy a day away from work.



We moved the date later in the year in hopes that it would be easier to be able to send your staffs and the temperature is not 100+ degrees out. However this plan totally back fired this year as the weather is trending to be unbelievably good. I also wanted to mention the Missouri Cup golf outing down at the Lake of the Ozarks at Ole' Kinderhook on October

Continued on next page

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President's Message - cont.

6 – 7. I know that John O’Leary and John Dixon along with their committee have been working extremely hard on putting together a great event. This is my favorite event of the year because it is a great time of networking, playing golf, and meeting some of our counter parts from the Mississippi Valley GCSA that we share this event with. There are more details on this event along with a few new changes in this newsletter, so if you haven’t attended the event in the past my hope is that you will consider attending this awesome event I promise you that you won’t be disappointed!

Thank you to all of you that donated, purchased, and or promoted our Rounds 4 Research auctions that took place in June and August. This is a very important fund raiser for the philanthropic arm of GCSAA that allows them to give money for scholarships and allows the HEART to allocate funds for research at our local universities by raising money from the

end users the golfers. We had a tremendous turnout this year with donated rounds and had some great local publicity to help promote the program. Thank you to all involved and a special thanks to Steve Wilson and his committee for leading the charge.

Lastly I would also like to encourage everyone to start thinking about the upcoming HAGCSA Annual Meeting on November 5th at Meadowbrook Country Club. This is a very important evening for our association as we discuss the business of the past year and elect new leadership for 2015. I hope that you will consider coming and being a part of this important event. As always if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at todd@wolfcreekks.com or 913-592-3329 or any board member we would be glad to hear your comments.

Todd Bohn, President



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My Transformative Journey

By Adam Pedersen, Ewing Irrigation Products

For those who don't know me, I have gone through a transformation recently. I transitioned from the golf industry to the world of distribution, and more importantly, I'm transforming who I am and who I want to be.

I made my start in the golf industry 15 years ago. I was excited about the adventure and opportunities coming my way. I worked hard and felt like I had no cares in the world. Then I started a family. The added stresses and the time commitment required to raise a family began taking a toll.

I fell into a downward spiral. It began with negative thoughts: that I deserved more money, that I was better than my position and the people around me.

None of this true but I still convinced myself that it was. I chose to dwell on these thoughts instead of living life productively and being thankful for what I had. I became angry, bitter, and no fun to be around. We all know people like

this - energy vampires who suck the life right out of you and your job.

I had an epiphany. As easy as it was for me to make the decision to stop living well, it was just as easy to decide to start again.

Yes, the decision was easy but actually making the positive transformation was challenging. However, it led me to better understand something that I call the rule of **seed, time** and **harvest**.

You Reap What You Sow

If I plant seeds—that is, if I keep positive thoughts and make positive decisions and I water, nurture and protect my seedlings, then they will grow. In time, I will receive a harvest. You reap what you sow. I learned that when I expend my energy on negative thoughts or neglect my responsibilities or my

Continued on next page

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

My Transformative Journey - continued

personal growth, I still receive a harvest - but it's a punishing one rather than a nurturing one.

These days, I remind myself that I can always choose to foster positive and proactive decisions instead.

Water the Seeds of Your Future

Choosing the higher path becomes easier the more often we remind ourselves of who we want to be or what we want to complete. It won't happen all at once but before you know it, your good intentions will bring you a harvest. That's the kind of habit you should want to form.

We can all decide to do better. No matter how impossible it may seem in your mind, you can start making it happen just by choosing to do so. I encourage you to invest in poitive decisions and water the seeds of your future.

Plan to Attend
Employee Tournament



Sept. 15
St. Andrews Golf Course

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2014 MO Cup Challenge - Oct. 6 & 7

By John O'Leary, Special Director

The MO Cup Challenge is heading back to Lake Valley GC this year. As in the past this will be a 2-day scramble, combined score to determine the winners. Day one will take place at Lake Valley GC followed by the Erb Equipment Shootout and dinner. Day two will take place at Old Kinderhook.

Day one's golf will be followed up by the Erb Equipment Shootout. It will take place on the 18th hole at Lake Valley GC. This hole should provide great viewing from the clubhouse and some dramatic shots in to this raised sloping green. The shootout will be an alternate shot format and teams will be decided by a blind draw based on your handicap. Signup for the shootout is available on the registration form.

Day two will take place at Old Kinderhook. For those that need a little pick me up from the previous night's activities or to get the swing lube started early, we will have the Syngenta Bloody Mary Bar open at 8:00 AM followed by golf at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be available at the turn followed up by the presentation of prizes and the MO Cup Trophy. Make sure you stick around as there will be prizes given to teams other than first through third.

For those interested in coming down a day early we will be playing golf at Deer Chase GC Sunday October 5. We play a modified stableford scoring game based off handicap. Cost is \$20.00 per person for prize money. Contact John O'Leary if interested via email at olearyjohnnt@johndeere.com. The registration form is available through your local GCSA website. We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's MO Cup Challenge. Lodging is available through Old Kinderhook and reservations can be made by calling 573-346-4444 Ext. 3.

Note: The schedule of events is on the next page.



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MO Cup Challenge - Schedule of Events

October 5

12:00 PM Deer Chase GC – Modified Stapleford Game - \$20.00 pp.
Email John O’Leary if you wish to participate - olearyjohnt@johndeere.com

October 6

10:00 AM Day 1 Mo Cup Challenge - Lake Valley GC
3:30 PM 2014 Erb Equipment Shootout and Dinner
7:00 PM Reception at the Trophy Room

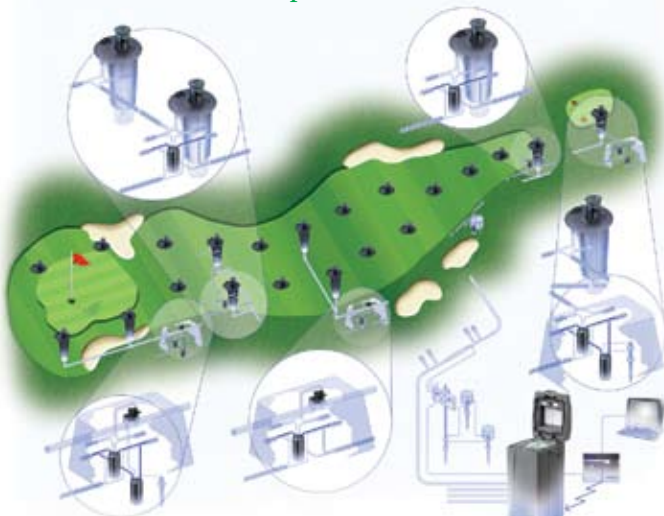
October 7

9:00 AM Day 2 Mo. Cup Challenge - Old Kinderhook
Prizes and Trophy Presentation Immediately Following

Cost - \$150.00 per person - Includes golf, shootout, Bloody Mary Bar, tee prize, dinner, lunch and drinks tickets.

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- 18-hole golf course boundaries and points - \$2,500

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www.Turfwerks.com/RainBird/

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Turfwerks

The Topeka Country Club's Golf Course Superintendent Celebrates 35 Years of Service

The Topeka Country Club (TCC) would like to congratulate Leo Pellant, Golf Course Superintendent, on 35 years of servive at the Club.



On August 12, 1979, Leo started his career at The Topeka Country Club as Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. He had recently graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Landscape Horticulture with an emphasis in Turf Grass Science. In 1997, Leo was promoted to Golf Course Superintenant and has been serving TCC at that capacity ever since.

In celebration of this accomplishment, TCC presented Leo and his wife, Keven, with an all expense paid trip to Italy to mark this special accomplishment.

When asked about this milestone inhis career, Leo recalled, "One of my favorite things in the job has been working with the different kids who've come through. I have worked with two generations of families and have seen many go to on to become doctors, lawyers and very successful in their endeavors... Time has flown by in the blink of an eye. Topeka has been a wonderful community for my wife and I. I'm happy to say I've had no regrets in those 35 years.

At TCC, we are honored to have been Leo's place of work for the past 35 years and would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the Club.

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Employee Tournament

St. Andrews Golf Course - September 15, 2014

By Juan Barragan, Special Director

The annual Employee Tournament is right around the corner. The tournament will be held Sept. 15th at St. Andrews Golf Club. We are hoping that the weather will cooperate and it will be a cool, nice day like it has so far this month. The tournament will allow vendors, Superintendents, Assistants and their employees to get away for the day, and reward themselves for making it through the heat of the summer. If you haven't signed up, I encourage you to do so. Put a team together or send your employees to enjoy a nice round of golf and be part of the Employee Tournament. Lunch/drinks will be provided before the noon start time. We were able to keep costs down and make it more affordable to attend due to the generosity and help of Sandy Queen and St. Andrews Golf Club.

If anyone is interested in helping sponsor the event, we still are looking for more support providing lunch/drinks. We will also have tournament contests and a raffle following the event and are still in need of more prizes to include and give away. Please contact me if you have any interest in helping by donating or have questions about the tournament. This event would not be possible without the help from all of our great members and vendors. I look forward to seeing you all at the tournament and wish you all well for the rest of the season.

A registration form is on page 19.



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How Do We Grow the Game of Golf

By Ethan Shamet, Director

Every morning when I read my emails, I'm sorting thru golfnow.com, golf18-network.com, tee quest golf link and many more I've never heard of. Seems like every course is lowering prices or making cheap deals all throughout the day to attract golfers. Rounds are down and lots of courses and clubs are hurting for members and for money. I recently read an article in the NY Times on how in the last decade golf has lost 5 million golfers and 20 percent will opt to quit in the next few years. We need to ask ourselves what we are doing to promote the game and what we need to do to help?

During the month of May we partnered with the CMAA and PGA to support SNAG golf and getting younger kids into the game. This tournament keeps growing each year and more and more schools are receiving the SNAG golf equipment. I recently sent my 6-year-old daughter to a clinic in Olathe. I was amazed that only 5 kids participated and 3 were brothers and sisters. This was the first time I got to see how they taught the kids to play. It was interesting as to how they explained where to put the hands, how to make a putting motion (painting a line on the floor), and where to stand and aim. This will be a great teaching opportunity and I would suggest if you have kids of your own to try one of these clinics. My daughter caught on very quickly and now wants to play more than just when she is helping daddy out on the course!

Some courses around the area are introducing the bigger cups to make golf easier and speed up the game. Lots of people complain it takes too long or they don't have enough time in the day. The bigger cups increase the fun for those who don't play much or are not very good. This is the case especially when you can actually make a putt instead of three putting every hole! Also, this helps with the pace of play and more parents and kids can get involved. Even just playing 9 holes will intrigue the common golfer into wanting to come back for more.

Another idea is Foot Golf! If you haven't heard of this or want to know more, make sure you attend the Past Presidents, Nine and Dine Sept 10th at Heart of America Golf Academy. Kevin Fateley will be speaking and Sam Bailey will have some insights on his course that just added the game this season. This is a great money generator and with the World Cup just finishing up it's a huge hit among soccer fans!

I like to have special tournaments that don't always follow the main rules of golf. This lets the common golfer have a chance to compete with the scratch golfer and to enjoy the round instead of getting frustrated. I have done the bigger cups and moved the tees up for an easy feel to the game of golf. Lots of members like to see how low they can shoot and if they can easily get on in 2 from a par 5, it's more enjoyable for them. The biggest tournament I put together is my Superintendent's Revenge tournament. All proceeds go into sod, seed or trees around the course. So members and golfers know exactly what the entry

Continued on page 15

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

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The Heart of America GCSA Legacy Scholarship Award offers educational aid to the *children and grandchildren of HAGCSA members*. Award of \$2,000 is funded by Professional Turf Products and the TORO Company. The award is administered by the Heart of America Board of Trustees. Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee consisting of three high school educators and three college administrators. All decision of the committee will be final. Applicants will be notified of their status by mail. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution. If you are interested you may obtain an application from the HAGCSA website: www.hagcsa.org/scholarships or by calling the Association Office at 816-561-5323. Deadline is November 3, 2014.



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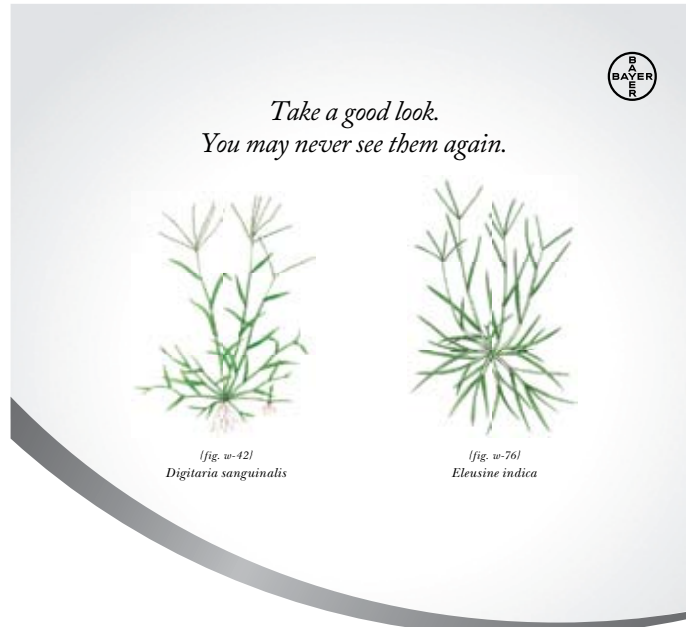
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How Do We Grow the Game of Golf - cont.

fee is going to and can see the results the next year. Most hole prizes are from vendors and include seed, fertilizers, hats and gift cards. The course is set up extra hard and most tee shots or pins are on slopes, in bunkers or out in the rough. It's common to make an 8-10 on certain holes when you are teeing off while sitting on a toilet, putting with a tennis ball or putting thru sand set up in a bunker that is a 250-yard par 3. This is a great way to get golfers involved and a great way to communicate about how to grow the game of golf. It shows a golfer that is doesn't have to be a serious game and people can have fun and enjoy themselves. If anyone would like to participate in my revenge tournament this year, it will be held October 11th and will have a 9 AM shotgun start at Deer Trace Golf Course. Email me at eshamet@yahoo.com if interested or have questions of how I try to grow the game of golf here at Deer Trace.



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FAMILY FUN DAY

DATE:

Sunday, September 28, 2014

LOCATION:

Twin Oaks Golf Complex
1326 E 1900th Rd, Eudora, KS 66025
(785) 542-2844; www.twinoaksgolf.us

TIME: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

COST: Free of Charge (Spouses and Kids Encouraged to Attend)

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Jeff Burey

INFORMATION: This is a free event where you can: hit the range, enjoy 9 holes of pitch and putt, test your putting skills at Mini Golf, understand and play SNAG Golf, or just come for drinks and good conversation. So please join your fellow heart members and their families for a fun afternoon at Twin Oaks Golf Complex. Drinks will be provided by HAGCSA.





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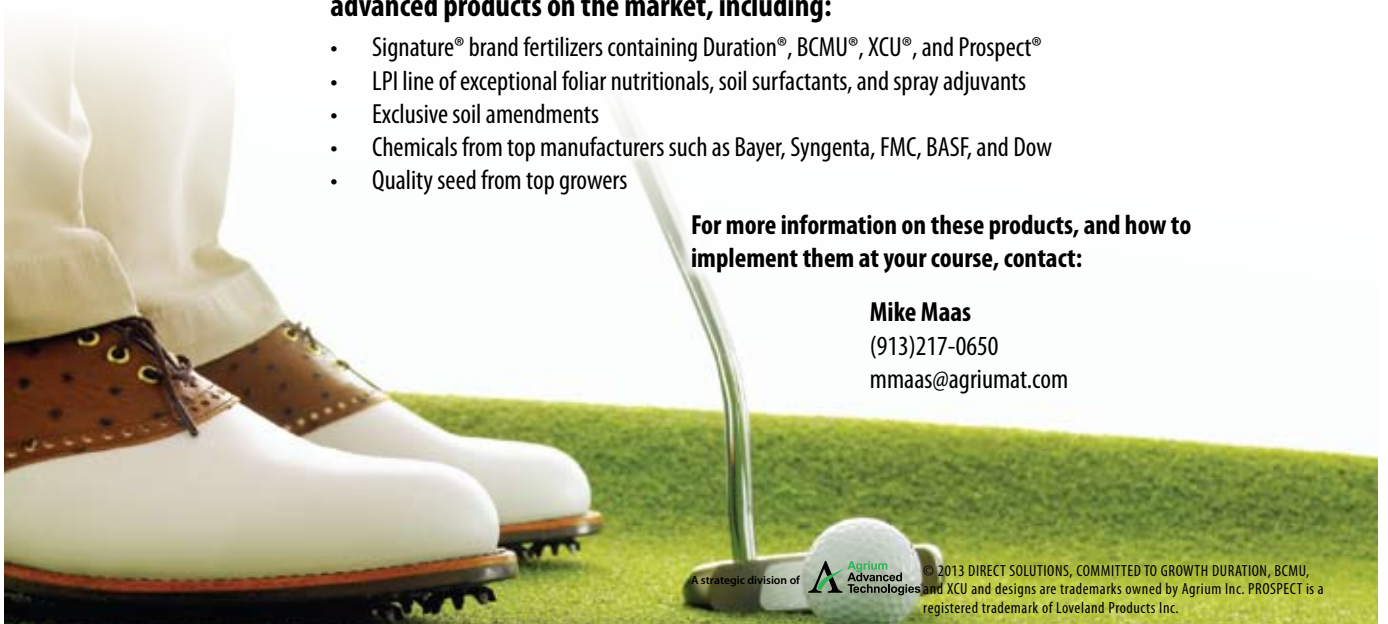
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mmaas@agriumat.com

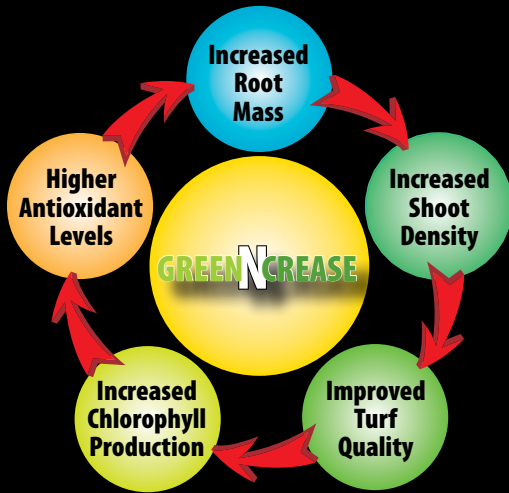


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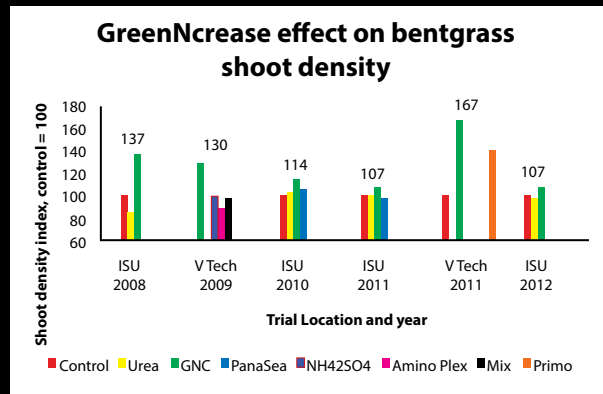
GREEN NCREASE

Got Ball Marks?



- GreenNcrease increases shoot density by 30-40% on bentgrass greens.
- Ball marks recover faster. Greens recover quicker from mechanical damage.
- Mechanical stress is greatly reduced with healthier cleanup laps on greens.

- Provides Heat and Drought Tolerance
- Rich in Amino Acid Content
- University Tested and Proven



**Ajinomoto Specialty Fertilizers
Ajinomoto North America, Inc.**

1 Ajinomoto Drive | Eddyville, Iowa 52553 | 563-260-1838

PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



EMPLOYEE TOURNAMENT



DATE: Monday, September 15, 2014

LOCATION: St. Andrews Golf Course
11099 W. 135th St.
Overland Park, KS 66221

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Terry Rodenberg

SCHEDULE: 10:30am – Registration & Lunch
12:00noon - Shotgun Start
Following Golf - Awards & Raffle

REDUCED COST: \$30.00 per player (Includes: green fees, cart rentals, lunch, two drink tickets, raffle prize opportunities and hole prizes.)
Lunch Only - \$15 per person

FORMAT: 4 person schamble

DRESS CODE: Collared shirt - no denim – soft spikes only



Yes, I/we plan to attend the Employee Tournament!

Player(s): _____ Company: _____

CONTACT: _____

COMPANY: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT:

Check Enclosed Invoice(*) Credit Card: No.: _____
Security Code: _____ Expiration: _____
Name on Card: _____

NOTE:

(*) By requesting to be invoiced; you agree to pay upon receipt.
All "No Shows" will be billed.
You may cancel without penalty 72 business hours prior to stated registration time.

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than **Wednesday, September 10** to:
HAGCSA, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO, 64141
816-561-5323/phone; 816-561-1991/fax; www.hagcsa.org

FAMILY FUN DAY



Promoting the welfare of the game of golf, the professional image and well-being of individual members, and to unite golf course superintendents in the Kansas City area.

DATE: Sunday, September 28, 2014

LOCATION: Twin Oaks Golf Complex
1326 E 1900th Rd, Eudora, KS 66025
(785) 542-2844; www.twinoaksgolf.us

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Jeff Burey

TIME: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

COST: Free of Charge (Spouses and Kids Encouraged to Attend)

INFORMATION: This is a free event where you can: hit the range, enjoy 9 holes of pitch and putt, test your putting skills at Mini Golf, understand and play SNAG Golf, or just come for drinks and good conversation. So please join your fellow heart members and their families for a fun afternoon at Twin Oaks Golf Complex. Drinks will be provided by HAGCSA.

RESERVATIONS: Mail, Fax or Email Reservation no later than Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

Yes, I/we plan to attend the Family Fun Day!

Attendee: _____

Spouse: _____

Children: _____ Age _____

CONTACT: _____

COMPANY: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT: Free of Charge

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than **Wednesday, September 24** to:
Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
P.O. Box 419264 . Kansas City . Missouri . 64141-6264; 816-561-5323 . 816-561-1991/fax . www.hagcsa.org

MISSOURI CUP CHALLENGE

HAGCSA / MVGCSA / OTA



DATE: October 6-7, 2014

LOCATION(S): **Lake Valley Golf Club** **Old Kinderhook Golf Club**
367 Lake Valley Highway 54-80
Camdenton, MO 65050 Camdenton, MO 65020

SCHEDULE: October 6 at Lake Valley Golf Club
9:00 a.m. - Registration
10:00 a.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)
4:00 p.m. - Shootout & Dinner

October 7 at Old Kinderhook Golf Club
8:00 a.m. - Registration & Syngenta Bloody Mary Bar
9:00 a.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)



COST: \$150.00 (includes golf/meals/drink tickets for both days, tee gift, prizes and Shootout on Monday)
\$25.00 Monday Dinner Fee for each "guest" of a player

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please contact Old Kinderhook Golf Club to make overnight accommodations at 573-346-4444 ext. 3. Room charges are not included in golf registration fee. A special rate of \$115 for a 1-bedroom, \$180 for a 2-bedroom and \$240 for a 3-bedroom cottage and \$280 for a 4-bedroom has been arranged.

DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL: Old Kinderhook is located two miles west of Camdenton on Highway 54. Once you've crossed the Niangua Bridge, take the second right, which is Lake Road 54-80, and proceed to the entrance of Old Kinderhook.

Yes, I/we plan to attend the MO CUP CHALLENGE! Yes, I/we plan to participate in the shootout!
(Enter Handicap if you are participating.)

Player(s): _____ Company: _____ HCP: _____

Guest(s) attending the reception ONLY at \$25.00 per person: _____

Contact: _____

Company: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PAYMENT (Payment MUST accompany registration - First-come, first-serve bases. Limited to 36 teams.)

Check Enclosed Credit Card: No.: _____ Exp: _____ Code: _____
Name on Card: _____

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than:
September 29, 2014
HAGCSA . P.O. Box 419264 . Kansas City . MO . 64141-6264
816-561-5323/phone . 816-561-1991/fax . kweitzel@swassn.com . www.hagcsa.org



MISSOURI CUP CHALLENGE
HAGCSA / MVGCSA / OTA
October 6 - 7, 2014

VENDOR SUPPORT

Company: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Title Sponsor - \$3,000 – John Deere Golf & Van Wall Equipment

- Recognized as presenting sponsor over the two-day event both verbally and with signage at registration table, reception and during lunch (on banner).
- Complementary foursome in the tournament
- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee
- Name or logo on the rules sheet that is in every participant's cart.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



Food Sponsor - \$2,000 – Bayer Environmental Science

- Company Name on individual banner, located at food site.
- Complementary foursome in the tournament
- Company name on banner located near registration area.
- Verbal recognized as food sponsor over the two-day event
- Name on the rules sheet that is in every participant's cart.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



Beverage Sponsors - \$350

- Company name will be recognized on main banner near the registration area.
- Verbally recognized as reception sponsor during the awards presentation during reception.
- Name recognition on table tent cards during dinner for reception
- Name on the rules sheet.
- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

Hole Sponsors - \$200

- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee.
- Company name will be recognized on main banner near the registration area.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

PAYMENT:

Check Invoice Credit Card No.: _____
Exp. ____ Security Code: ____ Name on Card: _____

GOLF: If you're interested in participating in this year's golf event, please fill out a registration form for your team. All donating vendors are guaranteed a spot in the tournament. Cost of the event is \$150.00 per player.

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than Monday, September 15 to:
Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141-6264; 816-561-5323/phone; 816-561-1991/fax; kweitzel@swassn.com



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
 P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, MO 64141-6264 • 816-561-5323 • Fax 816-561-1991 • www.hagcsa.org

OFFICE USE: Acknowledgment Email Board Approval Database Welcome Email/Website Password Mailing/Roster Process Payment

Editor's Column

By Tim Nielsen, Editor



At the age of 14, I started my golf course career at Colby Country Club in “The Oasis on the Plains”. A small nine-hole, the course had a smart, hard-working Golf Course Superintendent. He is a hall of fame wrestling coach, college professor, dad to my teenage best friend, and an all-around great guy.

He hired me the summer of 1995 for \$5 an hour. In three seasons I never earned a penny over that and I never earned a cent of overtime pay that I had earned. I’d work every day of the week throughout the summer, no breaks. I didn’t need them anyways, I was happy to be one of three employees working at “the country club”.

Because there were only three of us, there was a lot of work to do. I’d mow all the rough with a 72” out-front deck mower, cut cups and mow the tees. Of course there were other little jobs I did but those three were my primary responsibilities.

My boss’s son and I would occasionally be left to finish up our jobs after the boss left because he had something else to do. After all, being the Superintendent wasn’t his regular, full-time gig. If he’d have known what went when he was gone, we’d probably have been looking for employment elsewhere.

I distinctly remember a few of the crazy things we did. The time we decided it was time to kill some weeds comes to mind. We loaded up a handheld sprayer with diesel and initiated our weed removal program. Little did we know at the time, the areas we sprayed would stay vegetation-free for years to come.

We also got into the habit of getting the cups cut really fast because pushing the cup cutter into the rock hard, old, push-up greens was too hard for us weaklings to do. In order to be done so fast, we’d not cut all the cups, especially the cup on #3 which was the hardest green. This happened on a regular basis. It’s a good thing we weren’t given a pin sheet every day or cutting cups would be even more excruciating.

We had some interesting equipment as well. A five-wheeled Gator and a three-wheeled Cushman were our utility vehicles. The Cushman had the “three-on-a-tree” shifter. I swear we had that thing going 40 mph running though the native on numerous occasions. I consider myself lucky to still be here. The Gator was great for off-roading. It had a saddle seat so one of us would have to watch the other as we drove through the mountains of tree limbs and brush that had been piled up for years. How we never got a flat or got stuck was amazing.

In hindsight, there are many things I probably shouldn’t have done. However, if I didn’t have such a great time I’d currently be working behind a desk on a daily basis not loving what I do. So when you come across a young Tim Nielsen on your crew, keep an eye on him. He’ll probably be trying to get the sand pro air born from the high side of the bunker.

**HAGCSA Editor,
Tim Nielsen**

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FUNCTION FORECAST

DATE

September 15
October 6-7
November 5
December 15-16
January 10

EVENT

Employee Tournament (St. Andrews)
MO Cup Challenge (Old Kinderhook)
Annual Meeting (Meadowbrook Country Club)
Common Ground (Overland Park Convention Center)
New Year Party (Boulevard Brewery)

HEARTBEAT • Tim Nielsen, Editor

Heart of America GCSA • P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, MO 64141-6264