CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2020

Dec. 14-15 - Common Ground Conference - Virtual

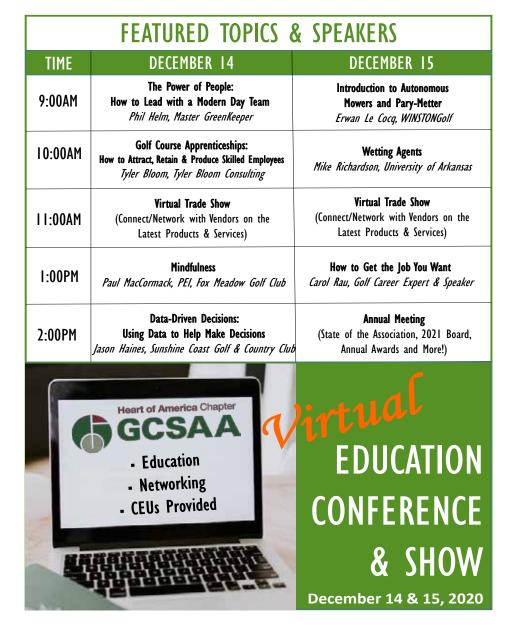
Dec. 15 - Annual Meeting - Zoom Meeting

We are very excited to host our events at many different venues. Please put all of these dates on your calendar and plan to attend all the great networking opportunities. We also have sponsorships opportunities still available as well.



Heart of America GCSA 10100 N Ambassador Dr Kansas City, MO 64153 816-561-5323 www.hagcsa.org

SAVE the DATE and JOIN US



President's Message

Dear Heart Members.

What a year. I am not sure any more needs to be said, 2020 will go down in the record books, and hopefully will never repeat itself. Throughout this year, even dealing with the global Covid-19 Pandemic there have been some major accomplishments and positives. For starters we saw in our local area a commitment from local officials that designated golf as an essential business, driving thousands of patrons to our facilities. We are seeing a huge resurgence in the game of golf for all levels, most every public and private facility alike have set records for rounds played; a trend that has brought on its own unique challenges; but the fact remains, people are playing golf in droves! I think we can all agree that golf has become a safe haven for our communities, a place that they can seek out to enjoy fresh air, Gods beautiful landscape and enjoy a game we all love. That is pretty neat if you ask me.



Mark Newton, CGCS Canyon Farms, Golf Club

Fall-Out Event Held

Even with this massive resurgence in the community there have been massive changes and downfalls in our industry. Most if not all social events, outings, and gatherings have been postponed, canceled or switched to a virtual format. Our Heart Chapter has seen all of these come to fruition, but in the end there are positives. Even with our Scholarship and Research golf outing canceling, rescheduling, then finally having to cancel again; amazing support from our vendors and yourself have continued to support this great endeavor, and raising funds for Universities and Students even through a pandemic. Additionally the Heart was able to host our very first golf outing of the year down at Osage National in early October for our annual Fall-Out event. Even though our numbers were down considerably from years past, those that were able to attend had a fantastic time even with a limited social aspect. I know I can speak for all, that the way most of us play golf we most definitely social distance. Pictured at right is Richard Shumate who along with Matt Delventhal helped put on the event, a great many thanks to them for all their hard work in making this event possible.

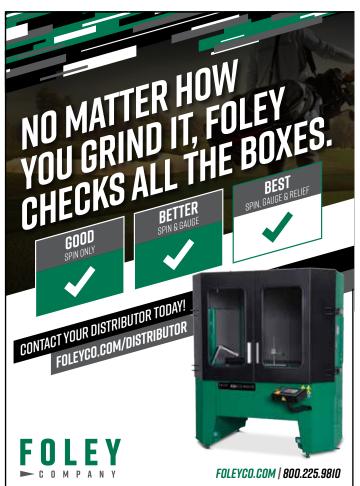


Virtual Education Conference

This fall and winter our events and conferences are continuing to change, in December we will be hosting our very first virtual Education Conference. During this virtual conference we will have our Annual Meeting. As a board it was unanimous to keep our current slate of officers extended into 2021, to keep continuity during this pandemic. With that I thank all involved both serving on the board and the countless individuals in our committees. I would like to extend a special thank you to the executive board, Ethan Shamet (Past President), Brent Stephenson (Vice President), Jonathan Bennett (Secretary Treasurer) and of course our Chapter Executive Kim Weitzel, for their continued support and their countless hours this year discussing the many changes we have had to make. Thank you.

I look forward to another year serving all of you again as the President of this great chapter. My only hope for 2021 is that things will get back to a more "normal" and that we all can once again be able to gather, share a few drinks, laughs, and play some golf together.

Your President, **Mark Newton, CGCS**, Class A Superintendent Canyon Farms Golf Club









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Member Profile/Between the Tees

Dan Ortiz, Assistant Superintendent, The Golf Club at Creekmoor

• Tell us about what you do and where.

I'm the Assistant Superintendent of The Golf Club at Creekmoor located in Raymore, MO. We have 35 acres of zoysia fairways, 4 acres of bentgrass tees, 3.5 acres of bentgrass greens, and a lot of fescue rough. We have a Superintendent (Tim Nielsen), me and a second assistant (Zach Novak), a mechanic, and 3-5 full time staff depending on the year. Not including management and mechanic, we typically have 12 employees for the summer.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up 5 miles NW of Adrian, MO and attended Adrian High School.

Did you go to college? Where else did you work before Creekmoor?

After graduation I chose to study Architectural Engineering at Kansas State University. Following my freshman year, I got a job working for Steve Griesinger at Lakewood Oaks Golf Club for the summer of 2010. I fell in love with golf course work and wanted to get on a course once I returned to Manhattan. After applying to Manhattan Country Club and Colbert Hills, Matt Gourlay and Derek Branting called me for an interview and offered me a job first, which I'm sure they regret to this day. I stuck around there for 5 seasons (still studying engineering) before leaving in early 2016 to get my first head assistant position at Salina Country Club with Chris Rice. I worked with him and gained a lot of experience in those 2 years before deciding to move back closer to family and accepting the second assistant position here at Creekmoor in 2018. Once Derek Banwart moved on, Tim bumped me up to first assistant.

What does a typical summer day at Creekmoor entail?

A typical day really just consists of forming a plan based on what we did the days prior. Making sure we have a proper setup crew, any mowing that needs to be done, any detailed work that needs to be addressed. Afternoons are used for checking greens in the summertime, but in the spring and fall we are able to focus on other projects. This year has been more difficult for getting the extra projects done, but we've done well.

What are your hobbies and things you like to do away from work?

My family and I are active in our local church and enjoy spending time and serving there. I also love hunting. I think about hunting, I watch hunting shows, I dream about hunting, I am a hunter.

· Why did you choose to get into the golf industry?

I was always good at math and science, so I decided to pursue engineering without really asking myself if that's what I wanted. After working on golf courses, I just loved everything about it. I fell in love with mowing grass. Making the course look pretty. For a kid that grew up in the country on dirt roads, spending all that time in the out of doors, I couldn't stand the thought of driving a desk for my whole working career. I knew that if I wanted to make a life out of all of this, I would have to either go to school longer to get a turf degree, or just do it the old fashioned way and work and learn my way into this position. I credit Matt Gourlay for being a teaching superintendent and helping establish many of my skills today.

What are your favorite and least favorite tasks to do at work?

I have always liked to spray. I get really into it and try to be as detailed as I can to make everything come out perfect. I enjoy using several different types of chemicals for all their specific purposes. I like spraying. My least favorite thing has always been bunkers. When I started at Colbert, we hand raked 106(?) bunkers. Hand raked. HAND. RAKED. Even when I went to Salina, where we had 43 small, brown, machine raked bunkers, I hated bunkers. I don't spend much time in the bunkers now, but I still hate the time and money used in all forms of maintenance of bunkers.

If you weren't in the golf industry, what other career would you choose and why?

I've asked myself what I would have chosen instead if I could go back before I started college. I would have probably studied wildlife biology. Being an avid outdoorsman, I really should have pursued something more in line with those interests, but maybe not being in that field has helped me to maintain my love for hunting and the outdoors.

Name something you wish you had more time to do.

Something that I've grown to dislike about this career is having to work every other weekend. I would really like to have weekends to spend time with my family. I have a wife, a 3 year old, 1 year old, and a newborn. We make the time we have together count, but more time would be that much better.

 If you had 2 weeks' vacation in the summer and a big vacation budget, where would you travel to and why?

I'm not much of a big vacation guy. If I had 2 weeks' vacation, I

Continued on page 7



ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:00pm . Zoom Meeting

Agenda:

State of the Association
Approval of Minutes
Financial Report
Committee Reports
GCSAA Remarks
Board of Directors to Resume Positions in 2021







Member Profile - cont.

would spend it on early season elk, mule deer, or antelope hunting in late August/early September. My wife would want to go to Disney and probably Dollywood on the way. They say opposites attract.

Favorite adult beverage or meal?

I don't drink alcohol so no adult beverages for me. I like most kinds of cola, but Pepsi is my favorite. I also really like Arnold Palmers. My favorite meal is barbecue. All kinds of barbecue. Annual meeting at the 180 Room?

Favorite sports teams (college and pro)?

I bleed purple. K-State will forever be my favorite team and I will indoctrinate my children to believe the same. I don't do much for professional sports anymore, but I enjoy watching the Royals and I favor the Raiders.

Any unique talents or interesting facts we should know about you?

I'm not too talented or interesting, but my grandpa on my dad's side was born in a cave in Mexico on May 1, 1921. He will be 100 next year and lives in Wichita. Let's hope I got those genes.

What would you tell a young high school student that's curious about getting into this industry?

As long as a person loves the core of this job, then they will enjoy what they do. I didn't fall in love with the management side of a golf course. I didn't fall in love with the details. I didn't fall in love with the people. I fell in love with being outside and mowing grass. From that, it grew to something that I truly enjoy waking up every day to come and do. I've enjoyed all the people I've worked with. I like making a management plan for every day. I enjoy learning about all the details in taking care of grass. That all came from a foundation set in loving waking up early and mowing grass. From there I wanted to grow in knowledge and skills that would put me on a path of success in this industry and that's what I would encourage any young kids to consider. Set a foundation in what they love to do and go for it.



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Meet Your Incoming President – Mark Newton, CGCS

Editor's Note: As with each November Issue, it is time to introduce the next HAGCSA President. Please take this opportunity to get to know **Mark Newton**, **CGCS** from Canyon Farms Golf Club and Great Life Golf.

It doesn't take long when talking to Mark Newton, CGCS, to figure out he's about as down to earth as you get. Perhaps being raised as an "lowa Boy" does that to a person. Growing up, Mark attended lowa State University following in the footprints of his father, John Newton, CGCS. John was the Superintendent at the lowa State Golf Course, Veenker Memorial, for 33 years until his retirement in the summer of 2018. Mark and his father have an incredible bond, a special friendship that lead them to talking almost every day about turfgrass, members, and lowa State Athletics. It was Mark's wishes growing up to follow in his is father's footsteps of becoming a serving golf course superintendent.

Like many current Golf Course Superintendents, once Mark started "volunteering" for his father at Veenker Memorial in Ames, lowa, his love and passion for this craft grew exponentially. He has been working in the field of turfgrass since the late 90's and has been a Golf Course Superintendent since 2008, where he started in Kansas City at Royal Meadows Golf Course. His position at Royal Meadows that spring was quite unique as for the first 3 months on the job he commuted back and forth as he was finishing



his Bachelor of Science Degree at Iowa State University.

Over the many years Mark has seen a lot of sides of the Turfgrass industry, from being in a duel role of General Manager and Superintendent at Royal Meadows, a field technician for Sygnenta Professional Products, an Assistant Superintendent at Honey Creek, a grounds crew member at lowa State Athletics, and a Regional Golf Course Superintendent at his current facility of Canyon Farms. Mark tributes his knowledge and experience for helping others from his extensive career within the turfgrass

Continued on next page





Meet You Incoming President - cont.

industry, seeing all sides from Sales, Management, Golf Operations and of course Maintenance. It is in his unique roll at Canyon Farms where he aids the Director of Agronomy in golf course items, budget work, corporate structure and finances for Great Life Golf.

When it comes to people who have helped Mark along the way. he credits many, but Brent Stephenson helped and gained his true passion for this industry. Brent worked at Veenker Memorial and Mark remembers as a very young kid cutting cups, filling tee divots and getting assigned the "awesome" task of CRT every morning by Brent. This of course meant, pulling out all golf carts for the pro-shop, setting up the range and finishing with handraking bunkers, this task was the most dreaded by the crew and thankfully Mark was a "Volunteer" that got this task. He still laughs about it today, but boy did he dread doing that job. In college Mark was hired by Brent to be his Assistant Superintendent in 2005 at Honey Creek and their bond only crew as they built the back 9 together. Throughout his career there have been many others that have influenced his walk over grass, mentioning Jeff White, CGCS, at Indian Hills, Steve Krantz with D&K Products, Jeff Raffelson with Arcis Golf, Brad Gray with Toro, who first got him onto the board with HAGCSA, Michael Mass with Reinders, Tim Neilson at Creekmoor and without a doubt his absolute loving mother Darla.

As for HAGCSA business, Mark is confident that the Heart will continue to spearhead government relations during the Global Covid-19 Pandemic, showcasing the greater Kansas City area the importance of the game of golf. This past year showcased the importance of GCSAA and our local chapters, never before has it been more noteworthy to be a member, the advocacy of the game of golf, our jobs were at the forefront. With Mr. Newton at the helm, along with GCSAA officials they were able to communicate to local officials the importance of the game, our business and giving our communities a welcomed escape from local lockdowns. Mark looks to make his second term as President transitioning to a more normal, getting back to having normal scheduled events, continued relationships with surrounding chapters, particularly MVTA, OTA, IGCSA and the KGCSA.

Overall the stage is set for Mark to continue to lead the HAGCSA onto bigger and better things in the coming year. Knowing Mark and his loving mother, the HAGCSA is in once again the best hands for 2021.

Meyers Turf Farm

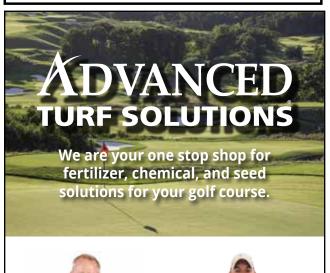
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Rolling Meadows Golf Course Zoysia Conversion

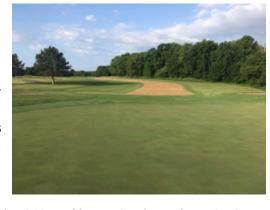
By Nic Youngers, Superintendent at Rolling Meadows GC, Junction City, KS

n 2016, just two years into my time as Superintendent at Rolling Meadows, I had grown tired and frustrated of constantly fighting disease and weeds on our cool season fairways, pouring money into them just to look average at best. We had a Heinz 57 look of ryegrass, bentgrass, and bluegrass that would convert to goosegrass and nutsedge starting in June of every year. Enough is enough. Time to change!

During that year, Austin Murphy of Indian Hill Golf Course in Chapman, KS, had begun seeding his fairways to Zenith Zoysia. My research of this zoysia was now just down the road. I would go to his course every 2 weeks to check progress and pick his brain.

This was the road we needed to go. Since it was October of 2016 when we made this decision, there was plenty of time. I went in front of our City Commission to get approval to go forward with the project. The idea of closing 9 holes at a time was a risk because of the potential loss of revenue. The idea that was pitched was to convert the left side of the fairways and half the tees in 2017, and the right side and remaining tees in 2018. An estimated

\$19,000 each year for seed was the same amount I was allotted to spray fungicide on our 28 acres of cool season fairways and tees. For all you turf guys and girls out there, you know



that \$19,000 for fungicide on 28 acres is a far cry from what is needed.

In 2017, we seeded the zoysia ourselves one direction on 1.5' spacing with a seeding date of June 19-20. Prior to seeding, we scalped the dead turf and blew clippings. When we scalped, we knew our road was going to be long and difficult with goosegrass already germinated within the dead turf canopy. After seeding was complete, water schedule was key. Heavy watering at night, followed by 4 head spins throughout the day. Seed began to germinate, and every disease possible was developing in the cool season sides of the fairways. The only application that was made that year to the cool season sides of the fairways was a preemergent.



Pictured left is 16 fairway after 33 days. At this point, my best friend Fusilade (herbicide) was applied to battle the crop of goosegrass that covered up the zoysia. Although there were times the conversion looked like a flop, the zoysia plants germinated under the goosegrass canopy. They became elongated reaching for sunlight, but once the

goosegrass was under control, the zoysia did its thing and began to spread.

Not all fairways were sunshine and rainbows. At right is #1 fairway 25 days after seeding. There is zoysia there, but very small. The goosegrass plants were also



there and growing much quicker than the zoysia. This is when I went crazy. It was the first week of August, and I sprayed Ronstar Flo on fairways (Wes Kleffner wanted to slap me, I think). Yes, you are reading that correctly. The zoysia did not have any negative effects, and an application of Fusilade after to take out the existing goosegrass saved the project.



12 Fairway 79 Days After Seeding Continued on next page

Rolling Meadows - continued

Fertility was a learning process. Zenith growing for a fill in does not react like other turf. It can have all the N in the world and still go at its own pace. 4lbs/1000 of N was applied from June to September in the first year. The next spring was when I saw the best benefit of the nitrogen when the zoysia came out of the gates running (literally).



Remember that picture of 1 fairway after 25 days? This is one year after that picture. 100% coverage. The right side in this picture is 2 months old. I learned a lot from year one to year two.



This is 14 fairway which was 100% bentgrass. This picture was taken in May of 2018. The zoysia and bentgrass have the exact same inputs. It was fun to show this picture to my bosses and City Commissioners to say "this is why we did this".



May of 2019. Project has a bow on it. In total, 18 months of distribution and a cost of \$48,000, and the course was available for play during the project. This is just a crash course of what was done. I would be happy to visit with anyone further on this conversion to get into more detail.

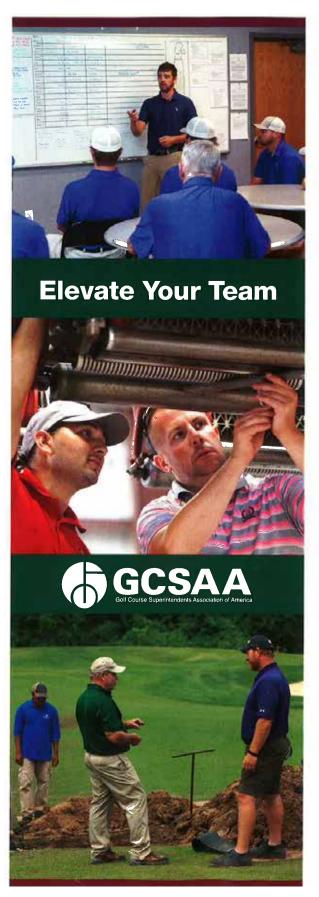
For more information on seeding zoysia, check out this comprehensive guide from Aaron Patton https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/MP476.pdf



14 Fairway - May 2019



12 Fairway - 1 Year Old



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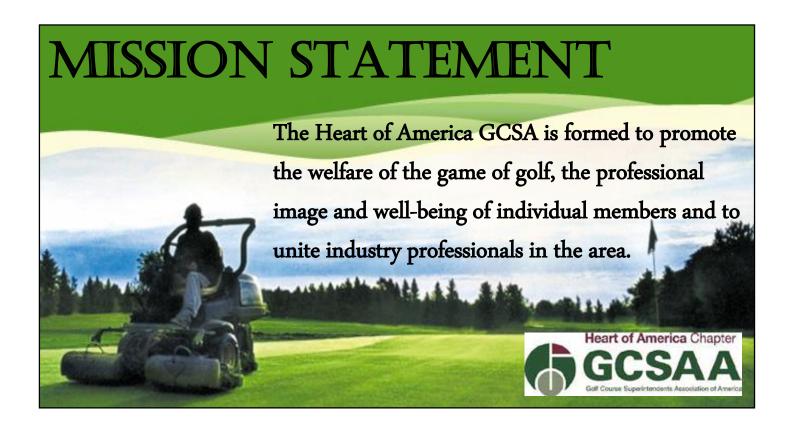




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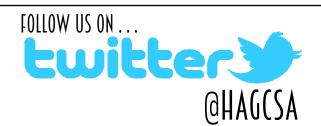
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Please include Annual Membership Due Superintendents/\$130 - Assistant Superintendents/\$70 - State of America Golf Code	Supplier/\$130 - Facility/\$50 - urse Superintendents	Equipment Manager/\$25 - Student/\$25

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Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association P.O. Box 419264 Kansas City, MO 64141

November 2020 Heartbeat