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GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Heart Beat

Volume 43, No. 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

Mar. 2011

HAGCSA & KGCSA Joint Meeting



Terradyne CC, Andover, Kan.
March 28, 2011

- Don't Be Afraid to Form and Utilize Your Network
- What the Experts Say

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GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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PRESIDENT'S Message

By: Doug Melchior



Greetings HAGCSA Members,

I hope that the off-season has given everyone the chance to regroup and enjoy some well deserved time off from the rigors of this past season. You, the membership, have elected a professional group of superintendents that have been working hard and have held three board meetings to date. I am looking forward to the monthly meetings, camaraderie, and the challenges that await all of us for 2011. Next time you see a board member "Thank" them for their service to your industry, ask them questions about the association, but more importantly seek information on what you can do to become more involved. The time commitment and the stereotype is misunderstood. The association needs all members to participate and become active even in a small capacity. While some did not escape the ugliness of the industry, our association remains solid with an outstanding group of superintendents, assistant superintendents, and affiliates. This is small fraternity that will rise to the occasion when asked, even in difficult times.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK all of vendors and sponsors who have signed up for the PRP for 2011. Your generosity and commitment to our association is what makes the HAGCSA a special place. Recognition goes to Greg King and Kansas City Turf Supply for their Title Sponsorship of the Hospitality Suite at the GIS in Orlando.

Plan on attending the joint meeting with the KGCSA on Monday, March 28, 2011, at Terradyne Country Club in Andover, Kansas. Please register with the KGCSA. Also, please renew your membership dues before February 28, 2011 so you can be included in the new roster .

Good Luck this spring and if you have any questions or comments I can be reached at 913.897.3805 or doug.melchior@opkansas.org.

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KGCSA & HAGCSA Joint Meeting

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Date: Monday, March 28, 2011

Location: Terradyne CC (1400 Terradyne, Andover)

Host: Ryan Bourne

Schedule: 10:30 a.m. Registration
 11:00 Lunch
 11:30 "Roots to Shoots & Turf to Trees: Horticulture Research in Southern Kansas" - Jason Griffin, KSU
(Approved for .10 GCSAA education points)
 12:30 p.m. Golf

Cost: \$60.00 per person \$15.00 (lunch only)

Reservations: Mail, Fax or Email reservations BY March 24.



Ryan Bourne has been the golf course superintendent at Terradyne CC since Oct. 2008, and a GCSAA member for 11 years. Prior to TCC, he was Superintendent at Dodge City CC for 3 years and an Assistant superintendent at Wichita CC for 3 years. He is a graduate of KSU, has served as a Board of Director for KGCSA, and is a member of KTF. He is married to Lindsey and has a son, Blaine (6), and a daughter, Hadley (4).



Bill Rodriguez has been an Assistant Superintendent at Terradyne since 1995 under the "Legendary" Mike Jordan. Prior to that, he was a UH60 Blackhawk helicopter mechanic/crew chief in the U.S. Army. He has a son, Daelyn (4).



Brian Anderson has been as Assistant Superintendent at Terradyne since 2009. He came to TCC after 2.5 years at Willowbend and 3 years at Sierra Hills both as an Assistant Superintendent under Superintendent Vince McAlister. He is married to Mandy, and has 2 sons Cole (4) and Carter (3).

Terradyne CC is a 21-hole private club. The course originally was built in 1985 by Don Sechrest as Terradyne Resort Hotel and CC. Through various owners, the club was purchased in 2006 and became Terradyne CC with local investors. **Greens:** Pennncross, Poa and the Practice Hole greens: Declaration Bentgrass; **Fairways:** Ryegrass-Bluegrass; **Tees:** Pennncross/Princeville bentgrass and the Practice Holes/DR: Zoysia and Rye; **Roughs:** Fescue, Bluegrass; **Natives:** Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Big and Little Bluestem, Side Oats, Fescues

Yes, I/we plan to attend the Joint Meeting on March 28!!

Player(s): _____ Company _____ Handicap: _____

CONTACT: _____

COMPANY: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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Check enclosed (Payable to KGCSA)

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Education Committee Report

By Paul Davids, CGCS

The 2010 Common Ground Conference was held at the Overland Park Convention Center in December with the attendance number being similar to last year. We had a great line-up of speakers and educational topics. If you were not there, be sure to plan to attend in December of this year. We will again be at the OPCC, on December 13 and 14. The trade show was smaller this year than in past years, we are working with the vendors to generate ideas on changes to strengthen the trade show and ensure its continued success.

The Education Committee for the 2011 conference will consist of Paul Davids, Loren Breedlove, Scott Johnson, Bill Irving, Tim Neilsen, David Fearis, and Gary Breshears. I want to thank everyone that helped with the 2010 conference, the time and effort required to put on the conference is invaluable to its success.

As we move forward with plans for the 2011 conference I want to invite everyone to share ideas for any changes or improvements to the conference and trade show. I am also looking for educational topics that would be relevant. Please communicate any suggestions to any of the listed committee members.



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Tournaments Committee Report

By James Kennedy, Director

As we emerge from another cold and snowy winter it is time again to dust off the clubs and join us in the upcoming Heart of America GCS tournament events. I would like to introduce the 2011 Tournament Committee:

- James Kennedy - Ironhorse Golf Club
- Ken Harding - John Deere
- Gary Sailer - Lionsgate Golf Club
- Scott Johnson - Shadow Glen, The Golf Club

We kicked off the year with our Bowling event and would like to thank all those that attended. Our first golf event will be the Joint Meeting with KGCSA at Terradyne Country Club on March 28th. Registration deadline for our first golf event is March 24. The next event will be scheduled for late April or early May. We will be removing the Media Day event from the schedule and combining the KS/MO Cup and Past Presidents. We are in the final stages of getting those tournaments planned. Please keep an eye on our website for upcoming details. The S&R Tournament will be held on June 27th at Shadow Glen Golf Club. Following the S&R Tournament, we will have a break in the schedule until Oct. 3-4 for the MO Cup Challenge. The vendor appreciation event will be held sometime in October. We are still looking for a volunteer to host and would greatly appreciate any suggestions regarding this event. We plan to have all events scheduled and details finalized in the next few weeks.

Please contact me at jamesk@ironhorsegolf.com with any questions or comments. Good luck with your spring transitions and I hope to see you all at our first event!

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

Public Relations Committee Report

By Brad Gray, Director

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone for your support at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Upon election I was appointed to chair the Communications/Public Relations Committee. The duties of the PR Committee include marketing the association and promoting the golf course turf management profession. This includes promoting all members of the HAGCSA, which are paramount to the success of the local association. Success is defined by the time and energy each of us contribute to the cause. The most beneficial is perhaps within each of our respective facilities. It is not an attempt at arrogance but rather to educate individuals that Superintendents and Assist. Superintendents are an integral part of the success at their respective facilities.

February 18-20 the HAGCSA hosted a booth at the KC Golf Show which was directed by the Communications/Public Relations Committee. The booth looked great and was well attended by many Kansas City area golfers. Thanks to all for taking time to volunteer for working in the booth. In addition, a BIG thanks to Kansas Golf & Turf, Professional Turf Products and Van Wall for providing equipment to display in the booth as well as donating a daily raffle item to give-away to booth visitors during the show.

Items on the agenda for the upcoming year include:

- Securing hosts for the Kansas City Golf Show on 810 Sports,
- Assisting Gary Sailer, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate, with the PGA Nationwide Tour Midwest Classic, Aug. 15-21, and
- Other marketing items.

In addition, I would like to thank the following members for volunteering to serve on the 2011 Communications/Public Relations Committee:

- Tony Bertels
- Bill Irving
- John Johnson
- Steve McMillen
- Jamie Schmitt
- Brent Stephenson
- Aaron Willing

Good luck with the upcoming season and if you have suggestions please let me know.

Has Something Changed?

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MO CUP Challenge Report

By Dave Fearis and John Sheehe, Special Directors

Please mark your calendar for the 2011 MO Cup Challenge on October 3-4 at Old Kinderhook and Lake Valley Golf Courses (at the Ozarks). More details will be sent to the members as the event approaches. Please help us welcome our 2011 committee:

- Brian Ruder - Helena Chemical Co.
- Ethan Shamet - Deer Trace GC
- Kevin Kiehnhoff - Moila CC
- Todd Veeman - Tomahawk Hills GC
- Bill Irving - Lawrence Country Club



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2010 AWARD WINNERS

President, Doug Melchior, congratulates the following award winners at the 2010 Holiday Party.

Assist. Superintendent of the Year



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Swope Memorial Golf Course

Superintendent of the Year



SCOTT CUMMINS
Dub's Dread Golf Course

Chester Mendenhall Award



Jeff White, CGCS
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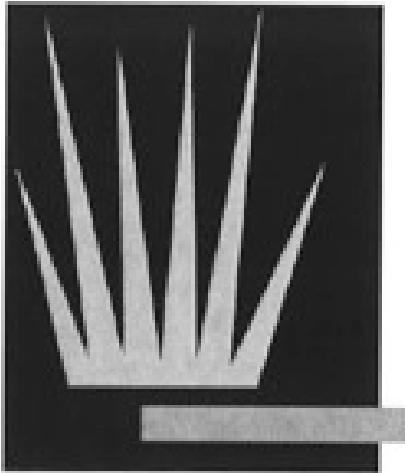
Tyrone Satterfield
913-541-1310

John Sheehy
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DON'T BE AFRAID TO FORM AND UTILIZE YOUR NETWORK

By Todd Bohn, Secretary/Treasurer

I know some of you are saying that you have already heard this issue a 100 times. Why do you want to keep beating a dead horse? You are probably also saying that you have especially heard it from me recently since I wrote an article on this subject for this very newsletter about three years ago. However, I feel like this might be more important and relevant now than it was three years ago, and it could be a tremendous tool for success in the future for a lot of fellow professionals now that things have changed significantly over the past three years with the economy and shrinking budgets. Now more than ever we need to have some support and allies during these tough economical and stressful times - like the summer of 2010 presented us with, that we can utilize as a resource for help or information to help make us better managers and better utilize our resources. I feel like for me this is one of the most important aspects of being a successful golf course superintendent. Establishing a network of fellow golf industry personnel should be a high priority for everyone in this business.

Being involved with your local association and your national association is a great place to start building and developing a strong network of fellow superintendents and vendors. I feel like we have the best superintendents and other golf industry personnel in the country right here in the Kansas City area that everyone should be getting to know and taking advantage of. Attending monthly meetings and getting to know other fellow superintendents is a great way to start to get to know others. Being visible and communicating with local and regional tournament officials and building a friendship is another way as well. I would like to talk about some of the most common ways one could utilize his or her network.

One of the more common times superintendents rely on their network is to borrow equipment when in the time of need. This has become more and more common due to mounting prices of the equipment, increasing labor cost, escalating fuel prices and the decrease in our budgets. Being able to call one of your connections in your network and borrow aerifiers, core harvesters, or labor power during aerification so that you can get it done faster and get the golf course open earlier for golfers is a huge advantage. How about the time that it decides to rain for four straight days in the spring and the grass is growing out of control and you have a tournament that you need to have the rough mowed down for. We all know what is coming next the dreaded message from your equipment technician telling you that the rough mower is broken down and you won't be able to use it. Man it sure would be nice to pick up the phone and see if someone in your network could help you out. Having people around you that you have built relationships with and can trust and rely on in times of need is a tremendous tool to use. There is only so much that you can learn in school or out of a text book. The fact of the matter is we all still have so much to learn once we are out in the real world. We have peers in the business that more than likely have had to deal with these issues or have found out the answer to the question a long time ago the hard way. I know for me about five years ago I had to utilize my network to its fullest. Being a first time superintendent and doing a grow-in there were things that I had no clue about or knew how to make some of the decisions I had to make.

Continued on next page

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Don't Be Afraid to Form and Utilize Your Network - Cont.

I was fortunate to have a network of friends and fellow superintendents to bounce ideas and questions off and get solid concrete advice that I know was right and would work under the circumstances. To those of you who I badgered all those years with questions at all times of the day thank you for your patience and willingness to help me out. I would not have been able to have any success without it. Another time I utilized my network of friends and colleagues was during the summer of 2010 when “Mother Nature” hit us with an unbelievable summer of prolonged wet weather and hot and humid temperatures that caused personal stress and turf stress unmatched during my lifetime (which for you old timers isn't that long I know but you get my point). At times I was pulling my hair out trying to figure out how the golf course, my staff, and I were going to pull through this without some major repercussions. However, I was able to seek and utilize my network of fellow superintendents, vendors, and fellow professionals and get valuable advice or recommendations that allowed our facility to have a successful summer in 2010. Without the advice and suggestions I know that the outcome would not have been as good.

Besides just using your network for advice and guidance on the golf course you might need to rely on them for other things as well. One of those most common is utilizing your network when you are looking at possibly moving on to another place of employment. Let's face it, anymore when you are applying for a job with so many other superintendents or assistant superintendents it's not what you know, but who you know. It pays to have some sort of contact in the area that can help get you that leg up on your competition and give you a few inside details that may help you during the interview process.

Another way I utilize my network is just with life decisions and problems outside of the job. I feel that a lot of my closest and dearest friends are fellow superintendents in the business. These are important people to me and are almost like family. I can pretty much tell them anything and everything that may be going on in my life and they will keep it private if it needs to be and do their best to either help me or give me their advice as to how they would handle the situation.

I hope by writing this article that I will encourage each and every one of you to at least think about either building a network or utilizing your established network more often. I also hope it encourages you to get involved with the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and attend our monthly meetings. This I feel will help you be a better superintendent along with developing closer relationships with people within the golf industry, which will all lead to building a stronger association and network.



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Membership and Awards Committee Report

By Danny Kaleikau, Director

First, renewal dues invoices were mailed in December-January-February to all unpaid members. The membership committee has been working hard to follow-up on those members that have not paid their dues by the drop-dead date of Feb. 28 to get them into the roster. We plan to mail the roster out early this year – in the Spring.

Next, I would like to introduce the members of my Membership Committee:

- Paul Gunderman, Superintendent at Falcon Ridge Golf Course
- Brad Lackey, Assistant Superintendent at Quivira Lake CC
- Ryan Markway, Superintendent at Royal Meadows

Lastly, I would like to welcome all of our new members for 2011. Your contributions to the association will definitely help make 2011 a successful year.

- Derek Branting - Colbert Hills Golf Course
- Ethan Shamet - Deer Trace Golf Course
- Steve McMillen - Kansas City Golf Association
- Eric Halinski - Rockwood Golf Club
- Austin Wright - Lawrence Country Club
- Chad Richman - Kirksville Country Club
- Daniel Cutler - Ironhorse Golf Club



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Scholarship & Research Committee Update

By Jeff White, CGCS, Director

The snow hasn't slowed the process and progress that is the S&R. Mark your calendars on June 27th for this year's event. Scott Johnson, CGCS, and the staff of Shadow Glen, The Golf Club, will play host to this extremely important annual event. A rain day of July 18th has been reserved as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank 2010's Chairman Duane Sander, CGCS, and his committee for their valuable commitment to the success of last year's event. The event raised \$22,500 in some pretty tough times. As most of you know an S&R endowment was created several years ago for two reasons: 1) Times like these that we are now in and 2) To bank funding for future "local based research." With these premises in place, the committee with Board of Directors approval distributed the following funds:

Research

GCSAA Governor's Club (formerly Platinum Tee Program)	\$5,000
First Tee of Greater KC (20 Youth Sponsorships)	\$2,400
University of Missouri (Bentgrass Research Project)	\$2,500
University of Missouri (Bermuda Control Project)	\$5,000
Kansas State University (Shade/Cold Zoysia Tolerance)	\$5,000
Kansas State University (Large Patch Trials)	\$5,000
Subtotal:	\$24,900

Scholarships

Jesse Brown KSU	Chester Mendenhall Award	\$2,500
Enzhan Song MU	Dave Ferris Award	\$1,500
Dustin Huber KSU	HAGCSA Award	\$1,000
Subtotal		\$5,000

Employee Awards (TBD – not to exceed) \$3,000

Total \$32,900

S&R Fund Balance YTD 2010 \$69,860

WORKING TOWARD GREENER PASTURES

By Tony Bertels, Editor

Back in the late 1980's the Metcalf corridor in southern Overland Park was booming. Office parks, commercial centers and residential neighborhoods were springing from the ground at a record pace. The rolling, tree-covered hills and meandering Tomahawk Creek on the NE corner of Metcalf and 133rd Street was the perfect site for a sprawling upscale residential community anchored by a new golf course. World-renowned architect, Robert Trent Jones Jr. was hired to design another masterpiece. In 1989 his vision opened to rave reviews. At the time Jones proclaimed the project, "One of the 10 best courses I have ever built." Deer Creek Golf Club has been an integral part of the community ever since.



Deer Creek Golf Club

Over the next 20 years Deer Creek gained a reputation. Its scenic layout and fast greens was a mainstay for several years. The advent of the daily fee era and the construction of many new courses in the metro began to slowly erode numbers. Competition was fierce. But there was an underlying problem at Deer Creek that festered as the years rolled by. The greens always seemed to be on edge.

"Mike Hulteen did a great job with those greens initially," explained Jeff Eldridge, CGCS, who took the reins as Supt. at Deer Creek in 1991 after Mike moved on. But Jeff would also be the first to admit that the greens did not perform as well as he would have liked. "We pumped water from Tomahawk creek into an irrigation lake. Our intake was located near the bottom and subsequently we were pumping a lot of silt." Eventually a floating intake was installed but not before a silt layer had developed on the greens. "We were constantly aerifying in an attempt to break the layer and keep the greens from sealing off." Jeff also concluded that the problem was compounded on several low-lying greens

subject to flooding from the creek where silt from the water precipitated out. Even the water from the hoses meant to wash off silt contained it. In 1996 Eldridge too would move on.

Over the next several years the bentgrass began to decline and the *Poa annua* encroached. As *Poa* populations reached critical mass, bacterial wilt set in and the real battle began. These seasonal struggles would continue for several years. Deer Creek became known for an awesome layout with marginal greens. Something would have to give.

In 2008, EAGLE Golf purchased the property from American Golf and began to plan for the eventual greens renovation needed at Deer Creek. Long time Supt. Doug Bice had made the decision to move home to Louisiana, but EAGLE already had their man. Brent Stephenson was named to get the greens back in line with the rest of the layout.

Retrospective



Brent Stephenson, GC Supt.

Growing up in the south central Iowa, Brent was no stranger to golf course maintenance. "My dad was the Supt. at Osceola CC." Admittedly, Stephenson looks to his father as a role model. "I always look up to my dad. He is a wise, hard-working, honorable man and I hope to be able to live up to the standards that he has set." Brent got the bug while working for his father at Osceola. "That is where I fell in love with the golf business!"

In 1997 Stephenson would graduate from the Indian Hills Community College Turf and Greenhouse Management program. Iowa State was his next stop. While enrolled in several horticulture classes, Brent had the opportunity to work for John Newton, CGCS, at

Continued on next page

MEMBER PROFILE - CONT.

Veenker Memorial GC as an Assistant. (*We have many local Cyclones who have worked there!*) Brent considers Newton his mentor and attributes those experiences at Veenker would helped shape his professional career. “John spent a great deal of his precious time as a superintendent molding my career and helping me advance in the business. I still call him to get a wise perspective on decisions I am facing as a Superintendent.”

Newton’s tutelage would pay off. Brent’s first head gig was actually that of grow-in Superintendent at Honey Creek Golf Club in Boone, IA. His experience there would prime him for what was to come. “I quickly learned that being a successful grow-in Supt. required working nearly around the clock. It was a very stressful, yet rewarding experience!”

In 2007, EAGLE Management came calling. Brent soon found himself in Kansas City tending to Royal Meadows, a newly acquired property fresh off of a bent-grass conversion. “Royal Meadows was a fun property for me. My GM and I were on the same page and we set out to do great things with the property.” Of course, the challenges were great. With a limited budget and bent-grass fairways, creativity was needed to insure enough labor resources were available when hot weather meant dragging hoses with a limited crew. It all turned out well enough! Royal Meadows would be named the Most Improved Golf Course in 2007, an award granted by EAGLE to only one of its many properties under their umbrella. “Along with that award, *Tee Times GG* also named Royal Meadows most improved golf course in KC. It was a fun accomplishment and I really enjoyed it!” Stephenson would be transferred to Deer Creek when the 2008 acquisition was complete.



#10 at Deer Creek

Getting It Right This Time

Brent knew from the history that the greens at Deer

Creek would be a challenge. With a 3-year window before any planned renovation could be implemented, Brent would have to do all he could to keep the greens in adequate condition. “I took a very aggressive approach and really concentrated on water management. We were faced with 90%+ *Poa annua* population on the greens infected with bacterial wilt. Those greens were very susceptible to anthracnose and the root zone physicals were a mess.” Stephenson and crew were blessed with very moderate weather conditions in 2008-09 and were able to keep the greens respectable. 2010 was a different story.

“Last year was tough, but we had an ace in our pocket. We knew we were rebuilding in the fall. That being said, it still was no fun watching turf die, but we had a definite master plan that everyone knew about. It helped us deal with treacherous conditions and sick greens!”

By the beginning of September, the wait was finally over after several seasons of forming and evaluation the renovation plan. “We left no stone unturned,” states Brent when asked about the decision to re-grass instead of rebuilding the greens at Deer Creek. We evaluated many years of data compiled by ISTRC on those greens. We came to the conclusion that we basically needed to improve the top 4” of the root zone to restore adequate physical properties in the greens cavity.” It was determined that the medium below 4” were excellent. “We gathered all of the agronomic team within EAGLE and invited Dave Doherty and the ISTRC team in to help us brainstorm to develop a plan that would yield the best results both agronomically as well as economically.”

The final plan involved removing the top inch of material from the greens with a sod cutter. This area was by far the worst of the



Stripping off the Poa

profile and removal was the only viable option. Once

MEMBER PROFILE - CONT.

removed, the remaining green's core was tilled in 5 directions at a depth of 8". This took any remaining marginal material and blended it with the unaffected material below, resulting in an excellent homogeneous root zone mix. Once the tilling process was complete, methyl bromide was used to fumigate and sterilize the root zone mix of any *Poa annua* seed inherent in the profile.

Prior to any of this, it was determined that A-4 would be the cultivar of choice. NTEP data was evaluated and A-4 not only performed well in this region but offered great heat and disease resistance as well as excellent putting and aesthetic qualities. "Our intention was to bring in sod grown on 1" of new sand," continues Brent. "We had the sand tested prior to contracting the grow-in to ensure the sod farm brought in sand that was compatible with our existing mix."

Brent also took the appropriate steps to inspect the drainage systems under each green utilizing a camera snake. This proved to be an enormous benefit as major repairs had to be made on 17 of the 19 greens being renovated as crushed tile was impacting water movement from beneath the green wells.



New A-4 going down

From start to finish, the greens portion of the renovation took just 63 days. Deer Creek again opened to play on November 4, 2010. "We finished the greens portion of the renovation on time and under budget," confides Stephenson. ISTRC came out after the greens were reopened and pulled new samples to get an evaluation after the rebuild. "We are optimistic that we will be happy with those results."

Brent and crew are now in the process of rebuilding greenside bunkers in-house. "We are completed with the sand and tile removal as well as the liner installation. New tile and sand placement is ongoing and weather dependent." They are currently on track to finish on

budget prior to the prime golfing season in the spring. Stephenson recognizes how fortunate he is to have a veteran Asst. Supt. in Duane Davied. "Duane started working at Deer Creek Golf Club in April of 1996. Duane is a dedicated assistant that has shown great loyalty and commitment to his club. He is the go to man at Deer Creek. His knowledge about the golf course was invaluable as we embarked on the rebuild last fall. Duane is a true asset to our operations team."

Introspective

EAGLE realizes they have a winner in Stephenson. Shortly after his move to Deer Creek, Brent was promoted to Regional Agronomist and oversees their properties in Kansas City and Wichita.

As a veteran Superintendent, Brent knows the value of his professional network. "I frequently rely on fellow Superintendents and other colleagues in our industry to bounce questions off of and to learn from their experiences. The nature of the profession seems to promote camaraderie and friendship." He is also proud to be a member of the HAGCSA and GCSAA. "I value the professional and positive image that our associations bring to our careers. They work hard to promote our profession and I feel that all Superintendents are in better positions today due to the success of the GCSAA and our local chapters.



Newly lined bunker

Brent reflects on what he considers to be the biggest obstacles with which we all contend. "I truly believe that one of the most difficult challenges that we face is the weather. We can have the best laid plans in place but the weather can change it all in an instant. We can attempt to control many details of our jobs as we manage our time and resources. The weather can drastically change that and have a positive or negative impact on our business that we sometimes struggle to overcome." Stephenson also

Continued on next page

MEMBER PROFILE - CONT.

admits that the challenge that the economy poses comes in a close second. "We are all feeling the impact of a weak economy that quickly trickles down to the financial resources that we rely upon to do our jobs. It may well be the most difficult thing our industry will face in my lifetime."

Even with such turmoil, Brent finds great satisfaction in doing his job. "I embrace those days when the golf course is in good condition. I appreciate the beauty of a well-maintained course. I like the positive impact it has on the customers and staff when the golf course is right!"

Brent's pastimes away from the course are simple. "I enjoy spending time with my family." He is married to Angela and together they are raising a daughter, Carman, 11-years old, and a son, Andrew, 8-years old. "We look forward to going home to the farm in Iowa to spend

time with my family. We hunt, farm, ride 4-wheelers, and just relax!" Brent also claims to like all sports. "I like to go to the ballpark with my family to watch the Royals."

Stephenson would also give this advice to anyone just beginning their foray into our business. "You have to love your job. If the golf business is not in your soul you will not be able to sustain the highs and lows of this profession. I don't remember where the words originated from, but this is a motto that I truly live by: Choose a profession that you love and you will never work a day in your life!"

Brent Stephenson has chosen his profession well. It is apparent anytime you speak with him that he truly loves the thing he does and he truly does it well.

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What the Experts Say

By Scott Johnson, CGCS

Regardless of how smart I might think I am, the golf course seems to humble me just when I believe that I am fully prepared to endure another summer in KC. Every winter season, I strive to develop a maintenance plan for my course that will keep the grass healthy while exceeding the expectations of my golfers over the upcoming golf season.

Last year, the golf course, according to my members, was in the best condition ever through Fourth of July weekend. One of my goals for last year was to prepare our greens to handle all the elements that stress bentgrass while hosting the annual member guest tournament at the end of June. Well, we did it! The methodical planning of cultural practices was right on. The staff was focused and performing at a high level. My assistants and I studied weather forecasts, implemented preventative fungicide applications, limited irrigation, and vented before and after rain events. Everything was right on cue. For the first time in eight years, the greens endured the play demands through the last week of June without one wilt spot the entire week while they rolled in the high 11's and beyond! Unfortunately, as the sultry weather of July progressed, the bentgrass spiraled downward and the cheers of June turned to jeers in August. So after the beating my greens and I took last year, I challenged myself to gain an even deeper understanding of how my greens function from the surface top to the bottom and below while gaining a deeper understanding of how cultural practices affect the growth processes of the grass plant through the hot times of the year.

In pursuit of greater knowledge, I purposely chose two specific seminars offered at the GCSAA Conference in Orlando. One seminar I enrolled in was Managing Bentgrass Golf Greens in Heat Stress Environments. Over the last thirty years, I'd taken a similar seminar a couple of times. The other class I took was called Plant Growth Regulators for Fine Turf, a new offering. Both of these seminars were exactly what I was looking for: classes taught by leading research scientists at universities within the transition zone and the data was very current. In two days' time, I learned a lot and had many "unknowns" answered. On the plane returning to KC, I reviewed all my notes and wished that I had some of this current research available last year in order to respond to all the questions and comments my members desired and deserved. Perhaps, you have some questions to solve at your facility? I would greatly recommend these two seminars for expanding your knowledge base and assisting your decision making process. Here's some of what I learned from the experts listed in bullet form.

Top Ten Criteria influencing Bentgrass Survival in Heat Stress Environment

1. Air Movement (highest priority)
2. Water Management
3. Thatch Management
4. Strategic Fungicide Programs
5. Excellent water quality, if not, excellent drainage + periodic flushing
6. Conservative Mowing & Grooming in summer
7. Sufficient fertility to replenish depleted reserves
8. Improved bentgrass varieties
9. Sufficient sunlight
10. Minimize physical turfgrass damage

- With air movement, you get more positive impact on soil temperatures with surface air movement versus subsurface air movement

Continued on next page

What the Experts Say - cont.

- Run fans 24/ 7 if possible
- If you have to choose a time to run fans, the greens will benefit the most from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am
- Misters on fans drop temperatures only in the first 30 feet of throw, how far is fan located from edge of green - promotes higher humidity, wetter soil and algae?
- Subsurface air movement adds beneficial oxygen to the root zone, dries out rootzone, removes harmful gases, enhances microbial activity, but does very little to modify soil temperatures
- For beneficial surface air movement, you need 3-9 mph movement at green's surface
- If using a growth regulator going into the summer, continue with Primo through the entire summer, regardless of high temperatures, don't stop
- Research shows increased carbohydrates and higher photosynthesis activity throughout the entire summer if you stay on Primo especially on shaded turf, also helps reduce puffiness and late season scalping
- As temperatures go up, the life of Primo is rapidly cut in half, adjust spray intervals accordingly to minimize rebound affect
- Bill Kreuser did Masters work on Primo, continuing Primo work for PhD, Univ. Wisconsin-Madison
- Dr. Erik Ervin, Ph.D. Virginia Polytec growth regulator guru
- Don't use Trimmit after mid-May, affects rooting
- Don't overspray Proxy on zoysia surrounds or fairways
- To properly manage organic material build-up, you must pull a core 3-4 times a year, good luck with that one.....
- To modify bulk density, you have to aerify and pull a core
- Organic material needs to be < 3.5% in top two inches of profile
- Of DMI fungicides, Tourney is best for Brown Patch due to least growth regulation
- Strobilurins all real good on Brown Patch
- Segway best curative fungicide for Pythium Blight, penetrant & lasts about two weeks
- Pythium volutum has not been seen in KC, main Pythium in Pythium Root Dysfunction
- If P. volutum is an issue, you must treat in Spring when soil temperatures at 4" reach 55 degrees, Insignia was best preventative fungicide and it had a longer residual
- Bacterial wilt on Bentgrass – plant pathologist at Colorado State- leading guru, not ready to make any bold statements yet
- Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson has some great fungicide programs
- Dr. Lane Tredway of NC State has some great fungicide programs

These bits of information could have helped me a little last year and they will definitely help me this year as I fine tune my management plan for 2011. It doesn't matter how long you've been in the business, current research continues to shed new light and better equip us to maintain on the edge. I hope you were able to glean some valuable info from the comments above. With today's technology, access to additional information is readily available at the schools represented by these turf experts. Best wishes for a great summer at your golf course!

FREE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

The Heart of America GCSA gave out three FREE 2011 memberships at the holiday party, held on Dec. 3, 2010, at the Sheraton of Overland Park. All holiday party attendees were entered into the drawing (by category). The following were the lucky winners:

Assistant Superintendent (\$70 value) - Merle Shultz, Sycamore Ridge

Superintendent (\$130 value) - Paul Davids, CGCS, Sycamore Ridge

Affiliate (\$130 value) - Gary Breshears, Kansas City Turf Supply

Congratulations to the winners. Try your luck next year by attending the 2011 holiday party.



Do you want to be “one of the four” big winners of a \$250 gift card (right before Christmas)!? Simply participate in the 2011 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.

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.

The following were the winners of the 2010 Tony’s Teaser raffle. Each received a \$250 gift card to Best Buy.

- Paul Davids, CGCS - Sycamore Ridge Golf Course
- Danny Kaleikau - Rockwood Golf Course
- Nick Kray - Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate
- Dylan Senn - Sycamore Ridge Golf Course

Tony Bertels,
Editor

March Teaser: Twice the slice

Answer: — — — — —

Hint: Okay, I’m starting you out with an easy one again, no hints required!

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Boca Rio superintendent to lead national golf association

Randquist Elected GCSAA President



Robert Randquist, CGCS, GCSAA President

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting Feb. 11.

The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 7-11) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 9-10) in Orlando.

A member dues increase of \$20 annually for Class A members and \$10 annually for Class C members also passed. Randquist will serve as president until the 2012 annual meeting and election.

Randquist is a 34-year GCSAA member, and has been at Boca Rio Golf Club since 1998. Previously, he was superintendent at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla., for 19 years, where he hosted the 1982 and 1994 PGA Championships, the inaugural 1987 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship and the 1995 and 1996 PGA Tour Championships. Randquist has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He serves on The Environmental Institute for Golf Board of Trustees, is a member Palm Beach GCSA, and a past president of the Oklahoma GCSA. Randquist is also a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association and the USGA Green Section committee.

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the city of Overland Park, Kan., was elected vice president. **Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS**, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, was elected secretary/treasurer.

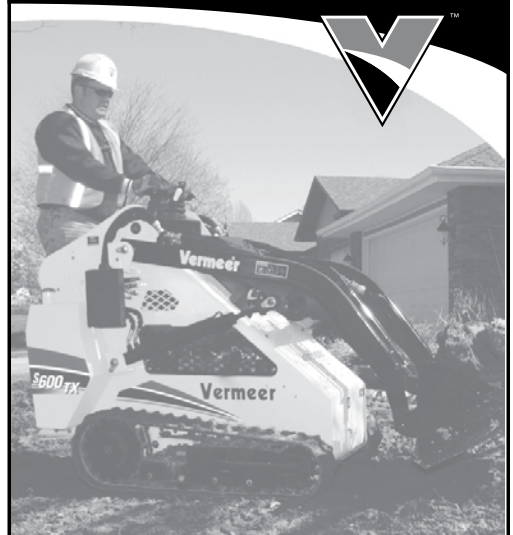
Peter J. Grass, CGCS at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, Mont., **Keith A. Ihms, CGCS** at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, Ark., and **John J. O'Keefe, CGCS**, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., were each re-elected to another two-year term. **Rafael Barajas, CGCS** at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, Calif., was appointed to the GCSAA Board of Directors, filling the remaining year of Finlen's term, created by his election to secretary/treasurer.

William H. Maynard, CGCS at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Overland Park, Kan., remains on the board with one year remaining in his two-year director term. **James R. Fitzroy, CGCS**, director/superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. **Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS**, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president.

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Fitzroy points to breadth of experience, wide ranging respect

Evans Named GCSAA Chief Executive Officer

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, announced today that J. Rhett Evans has been selected as the organization's chief executive officer.

Evans, who has served as interim CEO since late June of 2010, came to GCSAA in July 2009 as chief operating officer. Prior to joining GCSAA, he was the director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz., (population 490,000). He was elevated to that position in 2005, after serving as that city's convention center and amphitheatre director beginning in 2001.

"We are excited to have Rhett Evans as our CEO," Fitzroy said. "He has a track record of success everywhere he has been. He has experience in the golf industry, both on the facility level and from an organizational perspective. He has experience in managing a large staff and being accountable to a variety of constituents. And, he is a consensus builder. That will serve him well with GCSAA members and in the increasingly collaborative golf industry."

While in Mesa, Evans managed all program areas including the convention center and amphitheatre; spring training baseball complex (Chicago Cubs); cemetery; recreation and aquatic complexes; and 2,600 acres of park space. Also under his watch were the operations of Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses. He oversaw a budget of \$32.5 million and a \$28 million capital budget.

In his tenure at GCSAA, he exhibited solid leadership in implementing cost saving measures through more advantageous contracts in the areas of technology and convention and travel services; implementing headquarters building operational efficiencies; and staff reorganization. At the same time, GCSAA has improved member service through the creation of a member savings program; automated membership, registration and donation processes; new communications vehicles; an improved online job board; and the expansion of the field staff program.

"I am honored and humbled to be a part of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. It is a tremendous organization whose members play a vital role in the game. I have the utmost respect for their skill, dedication and integrity that goes into making the sport challenging, yet enjoyable," Evans said. "I appreciate the trust the board has in me and the support staff provided in this transition. "Success comes through dedication and teamwork. I am excited to work with a team that includes the members, industry partners, allied associations, staff and other constituents to make GCSAA the best it can be and to strengthen the golf industry so it can ensure the vitality of this great sport." Fitzroy said the CEO selection process was deliberate because of the changing environment of the golf industry that saw rapid growth until the mid-2000s. That process included a board strategic planning session and extensive environmental scan of the industry, the utilization of an executive search firm, consultation with industry leaders and feedback from members. He said the recurring theme was GCSAA's need to provide support for members and their facilities who were being asked to do more with less. "We had many outstanding candidates and great input and feedback," Fitzroy said. "When we applied our criteria, talked with references and looked at past performance, Rhett Evans' name consistently rose to the top."

As GCSAA CEO, Evans also assumes the duties of chief executive officer for its philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf. Fitzroy indicated GCSAA will conduct a search to fill the chief operating officer position created by Evans' promotion, although no timetable or job description has been established.

Evans earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with an emphasis in business, and a master's degree in recreation management and leadership with an emphasis in public administration from Brigham Young University. Evans, born Sept. 29, 1968, is a native of Prescott, Ariz. He and his wife Colleen, reside in Lawrence, Kan., with their daughter Caitlyn and son Seth.



**Rhett Evans,
GCSAA, CEO**

Keep Your Power

By Robert Evans Wilson

“Baby Bobby! Baby Bobby!” The words stung and Mike knew it - he could read it in my face.

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me!” I yelled back.

Mike just laughed; he knew I didn’t believe it. Bolstered by figuring out how to push my buttons, he continued to torment me as I walked home from school.

“Baby Bobby! Baby Bobby!”

The charge had an element of truth because I had cried several times in first grade, but I was now in fifth grade and had long outgrown my fear of school. I recalled the menacing teacher who pounded her paddle on our desks and threatened to spank us if we kept talking in class. She made several kids cry, but I was the one who got the reputation. It wasn’t fair, but four years later I was still ashamed of my crying and Mike knew it. He continued the harassment.

“Baby Bobby! Baby Bobby!”

He stuck his face right in mine and stated deliberately, “Baby...Bobby!”

I punched him in the nose, and suddenly he was the one crying. I had to fight several more boys that year before the name-calling stopped. It was not the solution I wanted, but it worked. It took me years to learn that the problem was mine; that I was giving away my power every time I reacted to taunting and teasing. And, it’s a problem that doesn’t go away with childhood.

Insecure adults wanting to feel superior will seek out your weaknesses and attempt to make you feel bad. Several years ago I was invited to speak on Creative Thinking in Business to a civic club luncheon. During the meal, a man at my table sneered, “Sooo, you’re a motivational speaker. Well, motivate me!” His tone of voice said it all – the difference between him and a school yard bully was the accompanying, “Na Na Na Nah.”

I was shocked by the un-professionalism, and thought, “I’m getting heckled, and I’m not even on stage yet.” So, I laughed and said, “Dude, nobody can motivate you, but you.”

He shocked me a second time by apologizing after my presentation. He explained that the club had a new speaker each week who tried to sell something, and that most of them were boring. To his surprise, he said he found my presentation entertaining and motivating.

If we give in to bullies, they can rob us of our confidence and our motivation. Lately, I’ve worked with my children on how to not give their power away when kids assault them verbally. “Laugh it off,” I tell them, “even if the words hurt. Fake it if you have to; the trick is to fool them into thinking it doesn’t bother you.”

My friend Rob Maxwell uses what he calls Verbal Judo to fend off words that hit like a fist. “In some martial arts,” he explains, “you don’t meet force with force. Instead, you take your opponent’s thrust and redirect it away from you. Often, their own energy works against them.”

As an example, he told me of a college friend who was teasing him about losing his hair. Rob replied, “It’s true John, I am losing my hair, but you were always the handsome one.”



Robert Evens Wilson, Jr., is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert’s programs 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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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. 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

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

PLATNIUM PARTNERS



JOHN DEERE
 GOLF



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



I Feel So Used!



The other day I was listening to the Bottle Rockets, one of my favorite bands. They were singing *1000 Dollar Car*, a catchy little lament about the perils of spending so little on something so important. It got me thinking about the parallels of buying used equipment in an attempt to cut deeper into one's operating budget's bottom line.

*"Thousand dollar car, it ain't worth nothin'
Thousand dollar car, it ain't worth sh___.
Might as well take your thousand dollars
And set fire to it."*

I have been there, upside down in somebody else's junk before the season was even in full swing. It's an awful feeling.

*"A thousand dollar car is gonna let you down
More than it's ever gonna get you around.
Replace your gaskets and paint over your rust
You'll still end up with something that you'll never trust!"*

Sure, slapping on a few bed knives and some paint may get you giddy, but those old hoses, wallered-out bushings, leaky gaskets and tired motors are surely going to cost you more than you bargained for!

*"A thousand dollar car ain't even gonna roll
Til you throw at least another thousand in the hole.
Sink your money in it, and there you are
The owner of a two thousand dollar ... thousand dollar car."*

There is a reason why that machine was traded in or sold off, especially front-line equipment. It got used...a lot!

*"A thousand dollar car's life was through
'Bought 50,000 miles before it got to you.
Oh why did I ever buy
A thousand dollar car?"*

There is much wisdom in the lyrics of this song. I would suggest that it be a mandatory listen for any owner or decision-maker who whimsically suggests that going used would be fiscally prudent way to go, especially on important pieces operated on a daily basis! I will leave you with one final question posed by the Bottle Rockets:

*"If a thousand dollar car was truly worth a damn,
Then why would anybody ever spend ten grand?
Oh why did I ever buy
A thousand dollar car?"*

**Tony Bertels,
Editor**

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FUNCTION FORECAST

DATE

February 24

March 28

June 27

November 8

December 13-14

EVENT

Bowling Event

Joint Meeting with KGCSA

S&R Tournament

Annual Meeting

Common Ground



HEARTBEAT • Tony Bertels, Editor

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