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Heart of America Chapter

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Presidential Club



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

Volume 43, No. 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

May 2011

S&R Tournament



Shadow Glen, The Golf Club, Olathe, Kan.

Monday, June 27, 2011

- S&R Tournament Details and Registration Forms
- Member Profile
- A Resourceful & Helpful Membership
- Committee Reports

Heart of America Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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2011 S&R TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 27, 2011

Shadow Glen, The Golf Club
Olathe, Kansas



Host Superintendent
Scott Johnson, CGCS

Start Forming Teams Now!
Registration & Sponsorship Opportunities within newsletter.

Schedule:

10:00am – 11:30am	Registration & Lunch (Closed at 11:30am)
11:30am – 12:45pm	LIVE Auction & Auction Check Out
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Golf
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Trophy & Contest Winners Announced

TITLE SPONSOR





Scholarship & Research Tournament

~ S&R Mission Statement ~

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

Date: Monday, June 27, 2011

Location: Shadow Glen, The Golf Club
26000 Shadow Glen Dr.
Olathe, KS 66061

Host Superintendent: Scott Johnson, CGCS

Schedule: 10:00am – 11:30am Registration & Lunch (**Closed at 11:30am**)
11:30am – 12:45pm LIVE Auction & Auction Check Out
1:00pm – 5:00pm Golf
5:00pm – 6:00pm Trophy Presentation & Contest Winners Announced



Format: Five-person scramble

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

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

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

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

Reservation Deadline: Friday, June 17, 2011.

YES! I/We plan to attend the 2011 S&R Tournament.

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

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

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

Submitted by: _____ Club/Company: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone/Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

NOTE: If a cancellation occurs due to the weather, the "submitted by" contact will be notified. It will then be that person's responsibility to notify the remaining players on the team listed above. A rain date has been set for Monday, July 18.

PAYMENT:

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

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

Entry forms with payments must be received by **Friday, June 17, 2011.**
HAGCSA, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, Missouri, 64141 or Fax to: 816-561-1991

S&R SPONSORSHIP FORM

June 27, 2011 at Shadow Glen, The Golf Club

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



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

Title Sponsorship - \$3,500 (TAKEN)

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



Food Sponsors - \$750 (1 TAKEN; 3 AVAILABLE)

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



Beverage Stations - \$500 (2-TAKEN; 2-AVAILABLE)

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



Tee/Green Sponsorships - \$300

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

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

Company: _____

Contact Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PAYMENT:

- Check Enclosed Invoice (*)

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

RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY JUNE 3, 2011

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

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

S & R Auction Donation Form

Monday, June 27, 2011

Shadow Glen, The Golf Club – Olathe, KS



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

The HAGCSA S & R Committee will again sponsor our annual fund raising auction to be held during the S & R Tournament at Shadow Glen, The Golf Club. It's a fun opportunity to give something to your industry partners, or share a personal treasure with your friends in your industry. Donate an item that you think will draw some interest from among the HAGCSA members. Ideas include equipment, autographed memorabilia, artwork, vintage wines, golf clubs, electronics . . .you name it! The more unique, the more it could bring in for the S & R program. In the past, we've raised more than \$12,000! We hope to beat that record in 2011. Please help us to accomplish that goal!

Please join the efforts to raise money for the S & R program by completing the form below and returning it to the Association office on or before **Friday, June 3, 2011**:

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

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Contact Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Item Donating _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

Description _____

Item Donating _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

Description _____

Item Donating _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

Description _____

****You will be responsible for bringing the item(s) to the Association Office by **Friday, June 3, 2011**, or providing a certificate and appropriate picture representing the donated item(s).*

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

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Program Committee Report

By Duane Sander, Director

Our second meeting of the year is the Border Battle and Past Presidents' event which will be held Tuesday, May 3 at Ironhorse Golf Club. Dr. Lee Miller from the University of Missouri will be showing the correct procedures for collecting samples for accurate diagnosis of turfgrass problems. He will also have his mobile lab available for a hands-on demonstration. Dan Lloyd, Turfgrass Research Specialist, from the University of Missouri, will give a presentation on fine tuning your Primo program to maintain consistent suppression, color and quality. We would like to thank VanWall and John Deere Golf for being our Title Sponsor for this event. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Our Annual Meeting is set for Nov. 8 at Lake Quivira Country Club followed by the Holiday Party which will be held on December 2 at the Argosy Casino Hotel. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Good luck this summer.



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Employee Tournament Report

By Spencer Roberts, Special Director

I hope everyone is off to a great start and enjoying the beautiful weather. The committee has confirmed Drumm Farm Golf Course as the site for the 2011 Employee Tournament. The event will be held on Monday, August 8. The committee is working on the tournament format and gathering different ideas for prizes. We really look forward to the Employee Golf Tournament and hope that we have a great turnout. If anyone has ideas, please feel free to contact me at sbr4747@gmail.com. Any suggestions or ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Tournament Report

By James Kennedy, Director

Our next upcoming event will be the Border Battle/Past Presidents event May 3rd at Ironhorse Golf Club. I hope everyone is able to break free and attend this event. Duane Sanders and his committee have lined up some quality education opportunities for us. We will have Dan Lloyd and Lee Miller from the University of Missouri there discussing Primo programs and proper sample taking for accurate diagnosis of turfgrass problems. We hope to see some great attendance on May 3rd and all upcoming events.

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MO CUP CHALLENGE

By Dave Fearis, Special Director & John Sheehe, Special Director

Mark your calendars! The annual MO CUP CHALLENGE will once again take place on Oct. 3 & 4 at The Club at Old Kinderhook and Lake Valley Golf & Country Club. These are the same courses that we played last year, and as many of you that have attended the event in the past will agree, they are challenging and fun to play. The format will be a 4-person scramble.

Thanks go out to Bayer Environmental Science as they have already committed to furnish and cook the food for the dinner on Monday night and the lunch on Tuesday.

As with any of the HAGCSA's events, they require funding. So, we are asking you and your club and other vendors (if they haven't already done so thru the PRP program) to help sponsor a hole or be a beverage sponsor. Please contact John Sheehe at 913-424-6143 or Dave Fearis at 913-424-3626 if you would like to do this.

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David Fearis: 913-424-3626 dfearis@agriumat.com

Membership Committee Report

By Danny Kaleikau, Director

We have been inching ever closer to the finalized copy of the 2011 HAGCSA roster. We only need one more round of approvals from the membership regarding the accuracy of the spouse section of the roster. Also, a huge thanks needs to go to Kim Weitzel and her staff whose great work on this project needs to be recognized.

Lastly, I would like to welcome the newest members of the HAGCSA. I hope you will benefit from the association as much as we will from your membership:

- Jonathan Pintado** - Benchmark Financials Group
- Ben Augustine** - Falcon Lakes Golf Course
- Jeff Burey** - Twin Oaks Golf Complex
- Matthew Gourlay** - Colbert Hills Golf Complex
- Virgil Range III** - Maryville Country Club
- Reg Robertson** - Custom Lawn & Landscape, Inc.

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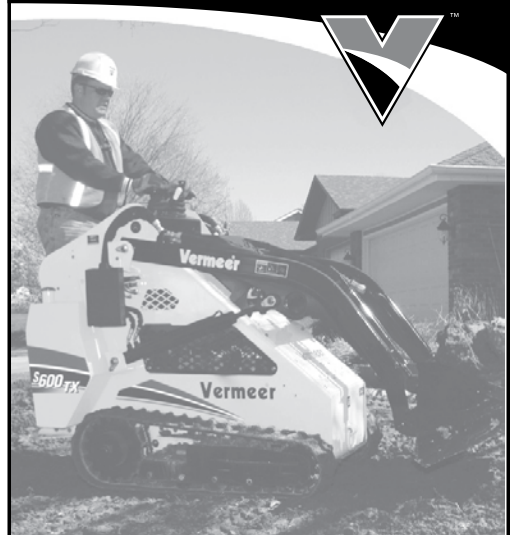
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Education Committee Report

By Paul Davids, CGCS

Representatives from the HAGCSA recently met with MAGIC to begin making plans for the 2011 Common Ground Conference to be held December 13 and 14 at the Overland Park Convention Center. It seems that the conference is forever and a day away, but if we do not begin planning now, the conference will not happen. We are working to strengthen the trade show this year, so be sure to attend to catch up with all of your vendors and see the latest and greatest they have to offer. With the HAGCSA PRP booth sales have started the year off well.

On the education side of the conference, I want to see about bringing in some GCSAA seminars to really strengthen the golf education track. If you have attended an outstanding seminar or were unable to attend one that you wanted to, and you think that I should bring to the Common Ground Conference, please let me know. I will definitely be looking for suggestions of seminars to focus on. The sooner you make your suggestions the more likely we can get that specific seminar here.

★ **RECERTIFICATION HOURS for KANSAS & MISSOURI** plus **GCSAA CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS** will be offered at this year's conference.



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Public Relations Committee Report

By Brad Gray, Director

Early in the year the Board approved the allocation of funds for sponsorship of the Midwest Golf Talk Radio Hour hosted by Bryan Wright in WHB 810 Sports Radio. As a sponsor, the HAGCSA receives acknowledgment on the air during the show as well as the opportunity to have an in-studio guest. Studio guests will consist of Board members and other HAGCSA members hosting media recognized tournaments. The show airs Sunday mornings through Aug. 21, from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. This is a great opportunity to promote the golf course management profession while showcasing a few members of the Heart. Set a reminder and tune in 810 AM to hear a peer on the radio. Spread the news about the show to patrons at your respective golf facility.

The next scheduled item for the Public Relations Committee is assisting Gary Sailer, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate, with the PGA Nationwide Tour Midwest Classic, Aug. 15-21. Please mark your calendars as volunteers will be needed to help prepare the golf course. In addition, the Public Relations Committee is brainstorming ideas to continually promote the profession. Good luck this summer and remember nobody is better than ourselves at promoting the golf course superintendent.

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Assistant Superintendent Report

By Spencer Roberts, Special Director

Assistant Superintendents are the future leaders of our profession. We all need to keep growing and learning continuously, so that we prepare ourselves personally and professionally to reach our ultimate goal of being a Superintendent. After a successful 2010, this year we are going to continue the Assistant Superintendent Professional Development Sessions. Our goals are to:

- Provide networking opportunities
- Provide professional development and growth
- Encourage chapter involvement
- Increase the number of diverse assistant superintendents in the profession.

Our committee plans to have four to five meetings throughout 2011 and is very excited to continue the growth of our assistant superintendent chapter members. If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to contact me at sbr4747@gmail.com. Any suggestions or ideas would be greatly appreciated.

A photograph of a golfer's feet in white shoes on a green, with a golf club head on the grass in the foreground. The background is a blurred golf course under a bright sky.

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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION



DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2011

TIME: 4:30pm

LOCATION: Overland Park Golf Course Maintenance Facility
12698 Nieman Rd., Overland Park, Kansas 66213

COST: FREE of Charge

TOPIC/SPEAKER: *“Taking The Next Step” with Todd Bohn, Wolf Creek Golf Links and Tim Nielsen, Creekmoor Golf Club.*
Todd and Tim will discuss how they developed into their superintendent role for the first time and also how they’ve taking over as superintendent at a different facility by outlining their successes and challenges they faced.

PROVIDED: Pizza & Beverages

DIRECTIONS: From I-435 (Lenexa); go South on Quivira Road (toward JCCC). Take a left on 127th Street;
Take a left on Nieman; Immediate Left (do not go into neighborhood). Building at the bottom of the hill.

~ Assistant Superintendent Professional Development Sessions ~

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

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

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

~ Format ~

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

~ Goals ~

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

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

Name _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

Name _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

Name _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

HOW TO REGISTER:

Contact Spencer Roberts, Shadow Glen The Golf Club by:
Phone: 913-963-7430; Fax: 913-764-0647; Email: sbr4747@gmail.com

CREATING THE TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

By Tony Bertels, Editor

As a metropolitan chapter straddling a state line with members on both sides, the Heart is unique. We are blessed with many fine golf facilities, two land grant universities who represent their respective states (but gladly help all of our members!), as well as active, involved Affiliate Members servicing both sides of the state line. We are also fortunate to have a world-class Certified Golf Course Builder right here in our own back yard, which is pretty handy when a new project or renovation becomes warranted!



Mid-America Golf and Landscape has lent their expertise to many local projects in our area. Their hand print is on many renovations. Their stamp is on several new golf courses. Their generosity has sponsored many HAGCSA events and endeavors. They are an important partner, not only to the HAGCSA, but to our local golf industry as a whole. They have built or renovated courses and sports fields in over 13 states as well as Cuba. Their projects have won national awards, have been recognized on several "Best" lists and most importantly, have been constructed with integrity and quality.

So Who Are These Guys?

In 1993, three individuals with loads of talent and experience in construction came together to create Mid-America Golf and Landscape. Rick Boylan, President, had started his career with Wadsworth Golf Construction Company several years prior. Kirk Grego, Vice President and his brother, Mike Cordell, Secretary-Treasurer, had worked for Ties Unlimited, their family's construction business. These founding partners are still the backbone of the business today. As president, Boylan has become the face of Mid-America.

"Rick Boylan has a great feel for golf course design as well as construction. Because of these attributes and his attention to details, he makes many Golf Course Architects look better than they really are!" – Jay Morrish, Past President of ASGCA and President of Morrish Design.



Rick Boylan, President MAGL

You could go online and find many owners, decision makers, Superintendents and architects who have given the same sort of testimonials for Boylan and the work completed by Mid-America. Hell, just talk to any local Supt. who has done business with him! Rick would be the first to tell you that it is a team effort and the foundation of the business that he and his partners have striven to achieve. Boylan doesn't like to talk about himself and finds it hard to believe that his story is all that interesting. It is.

Retrospective

Rick grew up in Caro, Michigan, the 2nd son of an Irish immigrant. "My father moved to America at the age of 12 and immediately went to work at trying to make a better life for himself." Rick recalls his dad always working 2 jobs in order to support his family and help Rick's mother raise their 6 sons and daughters. "My dad earned his GED when he was in his 20's. He even took college level coursework when time and money would allow. But he worked all the time when we were growing up! I might see him early in the morning but would only occasionally hear him come home well after I went

Continued on next page

MEMBER PROFILE - CONT.

to bed.” His dad would eventually go on to work over 45 years for Detroit Edison.

As a boy, Boylan felt most at home on the baseball diamond where he excelled at the sport. So much so that the Cincinnati Reds had Rick on their pre-draft board while playing in High School. An accident during Rick’s adolescence, left him needing extensive corrective surgery which unfortunately meant his senior year would be all but lost after doctors had determined his body had finally stopped growing and the time for those surgeries were at hand. Rick’s pro stock dropped somewhat with this hiatus from the game during his crucial last year of school. After graduating from high school in 1977 and fully recovered, Rick saw the opportunity to increase his stock once more by playing a year in Junior College. “I was fortunate to have had an opportunity to play baseball at the college level.” Boylan’s dream of playing professional baseball was soon dashed when an arm injury in that season sidelined and eventually killed his chances of retaining his scholarship or making the jump to the pros. Without it, school was out of the question. Rick would have to go to work.



Boylan w/ son, Jacob
2010 USA Stars Team, Dom. Republic

Like many young men from the Rust Belt, Boylan found work in an iron pouring factory. “I was miserable,” confessed Rick at the thought of wasting away inside a foundry like so many souls before him. In 1979 he quit his job, pulled up stakes and went out to find more

meaningful employment and most importantly, find himself! He migrated south to Texas and soon found work in Dallas with a golf course construction company. Like anyone, Boylan learned that he had to pay his dues. “My first job was on a grassing crew picking rocks and raking around sprinklers!” He would spend the next 14 years learning and perfecting his skills in the business.

In 1986, Wadsworth would move Boylan to Kansas City to help built 3 golf courses that are still very much on the map of the local golf landscape; Hallbrook, Shadow Glen and Loch Lloyd Country Clubs. Rick would spend the next 4 years of his life building these three jewels, but more importantly, falling in love with the city that he would come to call home. In 1990, Boylan reluctantly moved to Columbus, OH to help construct Double Eagle GC. in 1991 is was on to Bend, OR to build Broken Top. But in 1992, he would return to the Metro!

“I decided that I wanted to make Kansas City my home. I realized that I had grown to appreciate the town, the people and the atmosphere here. In 1993 I was asked to become a partner and formed Mid-America Golf and Landscape.”

Rick never imagined that those early years learning and working construction for Wadsworth would turn into owning and operating his own company. “In fact, I was planning on settling down and going back to college to finish my degree in education.” Boylan’s dream of becoming a teacher and coaching baseball had never really left him and the gypsy life of a traveling construction crew made his primary goal all the more palatable! “When the opportunity came to start Mid-America Golf and Landscape (MAGL), I thought I would give it 6 months. That was 18 years, 6 months ago!”

Continued on next page

MEMBER PROFILE - CONT.**Setting Sails**

There's an old cowboy proverb that goes, "Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance." In 1993, golf was on the cusp of an unprecedented growth spurt that would go on for the next decade and beyond. Mid-America began their dance and set sail at the absolute perfect time. All tallied, MAGL has built 24 new courses, renovated another 34 as well as constructed or rehabbed 42 major athletic field projects covering a 13 state swath across the U.S. This is not to say that any of these projects simply fell into their laps. Such a portfolio is a testament to their quality of work, dedication and drive. Their timing just happened to be impeccable!

Boylan has been involved with some pretty amazing projects. He considers one of the local builds his most satisfying from a personal standpoint. "With Winterstone in Independence, MO came a real opportunity to work with a special piece of ground that has an active mine operation below it." The property and topography was very unique to the KC area. Anyone who has ever played Winterstone gets that "Ozark" feel from the trees and elevation changes. And if you happened to be playing when an underground blast rattles your putt...well that too is unique!

**Winterstone GC, Independence, MO**

"Winterstone sits on 160 acres," continues Rick. "We were able to work from property line to property line and transform all of it into golf! The owner, Mr. Harlan Limpus, recognized the potential of the property. He allowed Craig Schreiner and Todd Clark and MAGL

the opportunity to bring out that potential." Boylan relished the "All Golf" concept and the way ownership, architect, contractor and superintendent worked so well together. "It was personally satisfying because it happened in our hometown and the project clicked right from the start!"

In 2006, Mid-America won the GCN Affinity Award for Excellence for the construction of Lambert Point GC in Norfolk, VA. This prestigious award recognizes the best environmental project of the year. Located on the Chesapeake sound directly behind the Old Dominion University, Lambert Point was a model for land reclamation. What was once home to a 53 acre dump containing a mountainous pile of unregulated trash accumulated through the years is now home to the university's golf team!

**Lambert Point GC, Norfolk, VA**

"This award was extremely satisfying for us! We have been in the running on several other projects through the years. Every year it is our goal to have projects worthy of consideration. To be recognized nationally was a positive sign and solidified our reputation in the Golf Course Builders Association. We were especially happy for all of our employees and their families, our suppliers and subcontracting partners. Their effort and hard work helped realize this goal and we share our success with all of them"

The last half of this decade has seen some other impres-

Continued on next page

MEMBER PROFILE - CONT.

sive projects roll off of the Mid-America line including Heritage Hills, Cottonwood Hills, St. Andrews, Fred Arbanas, Stone Canyon and the Golf Club of Kansas. With the golf industry now in free-fall, even renovation projects are becoming scarce. Of the 15 or so projects Mid-America currently has under contract, there is only one golf course renovation among them.



Cottonwood Hills GC, Hutchinson, KS

Introspective

Boylan is no stranger to the peaks and valleys associated with golf course construction. But he admits that the current downturn certainly feels different. “In the past, during a downturn there would be some area of the country that would at least hold steady if not show growth. Of course the downside to that scenario meant moving to the hotspot while you waited for the economy to change. There was always work out there, you just had to look harder to find enough for everyone to get by. You knew it would only be a matter of time because there were always potential projects being discussed or on the board. Today is much different. Lenders are not lending and potential projects are rarely discussed because of the housing markets.” Rick also feels that the economy has caused a dramatic change in the behavior patterns of society. “People are not as helpful or forthright as they should be. It is a good time to be an attorney!”

Through it all, Boylan tries to remain optimistic about the future. We all do! He is not exactly sitting on his hands. Rick knows how important his professional

network is to his firm’s success and has endeavored to expand it wherever possible. He also realizes it is important to give back to the industry and has become active in the Golf Course Builders Association. “My decision to run for the Board of the GCBAA was easy. It represented to me that Mid-America had reached a level of consistency and quality. We had built a solid foundation and a good reputation in the golf industry.”

Now in his 4th term on the Board, Boylan serves as Treasurer on the Executive Committee. “During my years in the business I had grown to know and work with some very helpful and influential people. By serving on the GCBAA’s BOD it gives me an opportunity to give something back to our industry and to help promote and keep a set of standards for quality work in the golf industry.”

His service at the Board level has afforded Rick many opportunities to expand his network and keep his fingers on the pulse of the business. “Mid-America and I personally benefit by my involvement.” Relevancy is an important thing in today’s market and exposure paramount. Boylan’s presence allows him contact with different architects and clients that may not have been possible otherwise.

Rick talks of his role models and mentors. His biggest influence was his dad. “My father taught me to live by the rule that: *If you want it, go earn it!* I remember him telling me, *If it is not your dime, don’t worry about it. However, if it is your dime, go get it!* My father was very generous in his efforts toward the community and the church. He really liked to be with and help people. Even though he lived in the States most of his life and even fought in Korea, he never took the time to become an American citizen. He died a very proud Irish immigrant who worked hard all his life for his family, friends and community!”

Continued on next page

Rick also reflected on the help and inspiration given to him by John Cotter, president of Wadsworth Company. “John was a true leader by example. He would challenge you to be better and to feel and appreciate the accomplishments of getting a job done right. John always found a way of helping you see the light at the end of the tunnel. If you would forget or have doubts, he was always there to organize you to get back on task!”

As mentioned earlier, Boylan and MAGL has been a great supporter of our chapter. Rick has worked with many local Superintendents as well as those across the country. He has a real perspective of our profession. “I have a great deal of respect for all GC Superintendents... period! The amount of time that goes into their jobs cannot be measured in hours; it has to be measured in days.” He also sees the parallels and similarities between our two professions. “We both have to take our work home with us daily. Hopefully we somehow find balance in the rest of what we have in our lives!”

Boylan is pragmatic in his view of the Superintendent/ Builder relationship. “I personally feel that the role of the Superintendent is the starting and ending point for a successful golf course. We can build it, however if our work does not get taken care of properly it is not a good project for either of us.”

The summer of 2010 did not go unnoticed on Rick. “I witnessed our members being stretched to the limit in arguably the toughest summer we may ever have for growing grass. But I also witnessed how we all came together as a group to support and help each other in so many ways!” It is that fellowship and willingness to help each other that Boylan finds appealing about our group.



Rick Boylan & Dinner!

Boylan also expressed his sincere desire to become a bigger part of each and every HAGCSA member’s network. “We would like to remind our members that we are here! If we can be of any assistance, even if it is simply to be a sounding board for another point of view, we are happy to help. We accept our role as a Golf Course Builder and wish Heart members would use us as another valuable form of networking. We have been and will continue to be good members and friends of the HAGCSA!” Mid-America is a valuable asset and an untapped resource that anyone contemplating change to the physical structure of a course feature should take advantage of prior to jumping into, even if it is determined that it must be accomplished in-house. Chances are, Boylan can save you some heartache before you even get started!

Rick has many stories that he could share concerning his relationships with us knuckleheads, but like so many before him, chose discretion. “As far as personal stories; I have been building golf courses for 32 years. I have a lot of great memories and stories, but we would run out of paper. Buy me an adult beverage sometime and I am sure we would find something to talk about!”

On a personal note, when Boylan is not working he enjoys spending time with his family, especially his 17-year old son, Jacob who Rick also considers his best friend!

Continued on page 25

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“He is growing up to be a very good baseball player!” Jacob and Rick work on his game practically year round. “I am still very active and throw 400-500 baseballs a week to him and 3-4 other young players who are all intent on playing baseball at the next level.”

Boylan is also an outdoorsman. “I am an avid hunter and love to fish if I can find the time from baseball, hunting, and of course, work! I have 2 bird dogs that love to run and I like the early morning walks with them to get me ready for my day.” Rick also enjoys traveling to various places to work or hunt. “I was fortunate to have traveled to Africa on safari and hope one day to return with my son and see it again through his eyes.”

Rick also reflects upon the future when things can slow down enough to actually fish a little more and perhaps work on improving his golf game. “It would be fun to travel around the country and play all the courses that we have had a hand in!”

Boylan summed up his lifelong love affair with our profession in these terms, “The game of golf is an interesting game of sorts. It is made up of an assortment of casts and characters. However, at the end of the day, what we do as a profession is so rewarding. We have allowed someone to enjoy themselves by our efforts. We have also been part of something that will be around a very long time! We only get one chance to make an impact, so let’s choose to do it right, and do it right together!”

For those of us who have worked with Mid-America, Rick and his partners, we know how lucky we are to have them in our little corner of the golf world. Even though they may be known and do work from Colorado to Virginia, this is the place that they call home.

Has Something Changed?
Be Sure to Report Job Changes and Other Moves to the Heart of America GCSA

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LINDSEY NEIBLING
(daughter of Tony Bertels, Swope Memorial Golf Course)



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.

March’s Clue: Twice the slice

Answer: Double Cut

Members with correct responses to March’s Teaser:

- Paul Davids
- Matt Delventhal
- Graham Edelman
- Jay Fitch
- Brian Freeman
- Bill Irving
- Kevin Kiehnhoff
- Brad Lackey
- Tim Nielsen
- Dylan Senn
- Austin Wright

April’s Clue: Out of practice actor/comedian

Answer: Rusty Hamman

Members with correct responses to April’s Teaser:

- Paul Davids
- Graham Edelman
- Bill Irving
- Brad Lackey
- Tim Nielsen
- Dylan Senn

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

May Teaser: Secretly follow Close

Answer: _____

Hint: It’s a place!

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A Resourceful & Helpful Membership

By Brad Gray, Director

The busy season is upon us and the long winter is nothing but a distant memory. Although, the winter was a great opportunity to reflect on the dismal summer of 2010 and to perhaps tweak the turf management program for 2011. Furthermore, it was most advantageous to enjoy time with family and friends. The one item that keeps playing over and over about 2010 is the fact that Mother Nature will do what she wants and nobody can change the outcome. However, what can be controlled is managing expectations and calling on a peer.

Looking back to the days of working as an irrigation technician to an assistant superintendent, impressions of the HAGCSA were trivial. The following questions kept recurring: Why join the Heart. What is the benefit and how will it help the job. In the initial phase of a young career, no option was granted due to the fact that a mentor, Pat Finlen, CGCS, instilled the importance of joining the Heart and becoming involved. Thanks to Pat's guidance and persistence, it soon became clear what the Heart could provide. The old adage, "You only get out of it what you put into it," is definitely the case when putting the HAGCSA into perspective. The point of the matter is that the Heart is at the disposal of the member. The introduction to this article mentioned calling on a peer/fellow Heart member when dealing with adversity. On several occasions a call has been made to a fellow member, familiar or unfamiliar, who has helped in some form or fashion. A stereotype of one's golf facility has no impact on the knowledge base. The degree of separation amongst golf facilities is obviously the golf course, but other items include the maintenance budget and expectations. However, the job of managing a golf course remains the same. As to how an individual approaches a situation and implements the appropriate action is where the true separation lies.

Repeatedly striving for excellence is perhaps everyone's goal. Pushing the envelope so to speak is how most operate in this industry. Always looking to stay one step ahead or tweaking inputs in order to take the golf course to another level. All of which can be shared with others. The most enjoyable is gathering at a turf facility, turf care center or golf maintenance building to discuss any topic related to the industry. This was definitely the case last fall when Bill Maynard, CGCS of Milburn Country Club, submitted an invitation to gather at Milburn to discuss the summer of 2010. The emphasis was to provide an open forum for the discussion of what and what not worked for managing cool season turfgrass. The information gathered was then disseminated to the membership for all to evaluate. The most recent was an invitation extended by Scott Johnson, CGCS of Shadow Glen Golf Club, to

Continued on next page
28 heartbeat magazine

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A Resourceful & Helpful Membership - cont.

view a Drill & Fill aerification procedure. Thanks to both for opening their facilities so that ideas could be shared and learned.

Attending seminars and listening to speakers is a great way to expand the knowledge base. On the other hand, utilizing the resources listed in the HAGCSA roster is perhaps the most advantageous. The Heart has an array of individuals with a talent for maintaining golf courses or providing resources. Nevertheless, if not used accordingly nothing is gained. The goal is to merely point out that there are ample opportunities within the association to gather information. Best of luck this season and don't hesitate to reach out to a fellow member.



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Be True To Yourself

By Robert Evans Wilson

One afternoon, back in 8th grade, I was hanging out with my pal Charlie, when I noticed copies of Sports Illustrated and Car & Driver magazines on his desk.

“Hey, I didn’t know you were into cars and sports,” I said.

“I’m not,” he replied.

“But these magazines are addressed to you.”

“I read them, because that’s what the guys at school are talking about, and I want to join in. I want them to like me.”

“Why don’t you talk about what you like?” Charlie just shrugged.

I couldn’t believe Charlie would waste his time doing something he didn’t like or care about, but a year later I was guilty of the same thing - only worse. I was looking wistfully at pictures of cute girls in my highschool yearbook when I said to my friend Tony, “I sure wish I knew how to talk to girls.”

Tony replied, “The girls always talk to guys on the football team, you should go out for football.”

It was all the motivation I needed. So, without ever having played the game before, without even knowing the rules, I joined the football team. I immediately found that I hated it. I had to run, in full pads, two or more miles every day in the hot sun. I had to lift weights, do sit ups and push ups, but the roughest part was tackling. I was six feet, two inches tall and weighed 150 pounds; I was a skinny bag of bones with no cushion and getting my body slammed to the ground really hurt. And, I was getting bruised for nothing; the girls still weren’t talking to me. I wanted to quit, but that would’ve meant losing face, so I stuck it out. Then one day, because of my height, I was asked to scrimmage on the defensive line with the Varsity team.

“Ten, twenty-two, seventeen, hut!” The quarterback yelled. I burst through the line and lunged forward to tackle him. I was inches from grabbing him, when suddenly I was hit so hard it lifted me in the air. I crashed to the ground face first, and when I tried to stand, I felt an explosion of pain that made me black out. Seconds later, I came to, but my leg would not move. When I looked down, it was bent in the wrong place, and I could see the bone pushing against my skin.

My decision to pursue a sport, not for the joy of it, but instead to impress someone that I did not even know, put me in the hospital for two weeks. I had two surgeries, screws put into my bone, and a cast on my leg for six months. Adding insult to injury, walking on crutches didn’t get the girls’ attention either! It was a Lose/Lose situation.

You would think that I might have learned a lesson from that experience, but for years afterward, I repeated it again and again. I would pursue jobs, relationships, even leisure activities for the wrong reasons. In short, I was not true to myself. Sometimes when others are persuading us, we find ourselves doing things that make us feel uncomfortable. We ignore those feelings because we want to be accepted. Peer pressure doesn’t end at age 18, it continues until we learn to listen to our feelings.

When we are motivated by something that makes us feel anxious, nervous or ill at ease, we need to pay attention to that feeling, and find its root. When we do, we will most likely find that we are uncomfortable because we are living a lie. I have learned that pursuing interests that bring me joy, also give me confidence. My confidence then attracts people who want to be with me for who I am; and situations that generate greater satisfaction. I have finally found the formula for a Win/Win situation!



Robert Evans 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

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Download an application at: www.gcsaa.org ~

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

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

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

ATTESTED: The applicant must be attested by three peers and/or colleagues.

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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- Suppliers - \$130
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“You can never have too much of a good thing!” So went up the cry by Developer Dan, intent on making more and more of a good thing. “People need more places to play. If we build it they will come.” So build they did. Soon the Land of Golf had many, many new courses for the Patrons to play. Funny thing though. With only so many Patrons to go around, courses new and old found themselves struggling to survive, all balance and harmony void in the land. All was not right with the world. It was a bad thing.

Okay, so maybe I will never give the Brothers Grimm or Aesop a run for their money with my story telling, but this preceding fable should ring true with everyone reading it. We are living in an environment where the golf market is saturated, patrons disposable incomes are fading, and we all face the challenge of making limited ends meet while our clubs endeavor to weather the storm. The old adage, “Something’s got to give” is on everyone’s lips. We just hope it is something other than our own! The correction is ongoing. It is painful, disheartening, and many a great plan and good intention will perish in its wake. Somewhere along the line short-sighted greed prevailed and we simply shot ourselves in the foot!

Yet even with all of this going on around us, there is one segment of our local golf industry not afraid of the challenges, hardly swayed by the naysayers and have thrown caution to the wind. I am of course talking about the blossoming of the chemical and fertilizer businesses in this down economy! If I am counting correctly, I now have no fewer than 8 to 9 companies all vying for my local business. Now that is capitalism, competition and free enterprising savvy unparalleled in my time in the industry. It is the advent of the Daily Fee Age...chem/fert style!

Now for a reality check. If I made time for every sales call from every rep out there, I would never get anything done! If I were to start playing the game and beating up my suppliers over a dime a bag or a dollar a case all in the name of fair competition you would all hate me. If I tried to support each and every company the pie portions would be very small and no one would survive. I am being forced to choose and it is not how I would wish to treat any HAGCSA partner.

Like the golf industry as a whole, something’s got to give. Too much of a good thing really is a bad thing. Survival of the fittest is painful, disheartening, and many a great plan and good intention will perish in its wake. Though it pains me to say it, that shot to the foot can’t come soon enough for me!

**Tony Bertels,
Editor**

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FUNCTION FORECAST

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October
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EVENT

Border Battle / Past Presidents' Event
S&R Tournament
Employee Tournament
MO Cup Challenge
Vendor Appreciation
Annual Meeting
Holiday Party
Common Ground Conference



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