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Environmental
Institute for Golf

Presidential Club

Heart of America Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume 47, No. 6

August 2015

Employee Tournament



Minor Park Golf Course, August 3, 2015

- **Prepping the Digital Ally Open**
- **Governmental Relations Update**
- **Welcome New Members**
- **Committee Reports**

Heart of America Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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913.236.9951

Vice President: Duane Sander, CGCS
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816.781.8975

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Executive Director:

Kim Weitzel
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this President's Message on an early July day when it is raining (again!), temps are in the mid-60s and the staff just went home for the day before 10 a.m. because the course is too wet to do much of anything...strange! There doesn't ever seem to be a "normal" weather year in Kansas City anymore. All of us undoubtedly hope this excessively wet spring and early summer hasn't turned into a sweltering steam bath by the time you read this that threatens our compromised cool-season root systems as a result of all the early summer rain.



We are entering the time in our Heart calendar when things slow down a bit as we all try to get through the last gasp of summer. With that in mind, I figured now would be a good time to reflect back a bit on our association's year so far and thank the current Board of Directors for all their efforts to keep our chapter one of the best in the country.

We have had a great year so far with some of our more notable achievements being:

- **Tim Nielsen** volunteered to go above and beyond by doing the design on our all-new Heart website on top of his Editor duties of this publication. Tim has spent something like 9 or 10 straight years now serving as part of the Heart leadership!
- **Brent Stephenson** and his committee have taken over management and updates of the website as well as putting a lot of effort into pushing our association forward through the use of Twitter and other social media outlets.
- **Ethan Shamet** and his committee put forth a lot of effort to solicit rounds and advertising toward another successful Rounds4Research effort.
- **Matt Delventhal** and his Education Committee doing much research and due diligence involved in moving our annual Common Ground Conference to an all new location this year and securing a very good lineup of speakers and topics.
- **Andrew Jones** and his committee put on another excellent and successful Scholarship and Research Tournament with Alvamar as a great host site.
- **Nick Kray** has done the behind-the-scenes work of helping Kim get the roster ready and continuing to recruit new members to our association.
- **Mark Newton, CGCS**, and his committee have planned and orchestrated several great monthly events by securing host sites and arranging for exciting and informative speakers.
- **Jon Bennett** has been hard at work making all the arrangements for the Employee Tournament which is right around the corner.
- **Jeff White, CGCS**, as our GCSAA Delegate has made sure HAGCSA's interests are well represented on the national stage and has contributed as a member of several national committees.
- **Richard Shumate** and **Wes Kleffner** have been planning for another awesome fall golf outing that we are all counting the days until.

Continued on next page

President's Message - cont.

- **Andy Klein, CGCS**, has really done a great job wrapping his head around Heart financials and keeping our receivables under control to make sure we are fiscally responsible.
- **Todd Bohn** has been limping his way to the finish line (literally with his broken foot) of his Heart Board service by always keeping an eye on the future and what is best for our association and members. His advice and passion for the association is always invaluable.
- **Duane Sander, CGCS**, and his committee put on another great WeeOne tournament in memory of Mark Pierce that raised more than \$10,000 for the WeeOne Foundation. In addition, Duane has been resting up for his run at President next year and picking up the pieces from everything I have put off or screwed up this year!

Many thanks to all of these guys for their continued service to the Heart BOD and all who have previously served our association. I will use this as a segue to get on my soap box for a moment and call for anyone who can spare a little bit of their time and knowledge to consider serving on the HAGCSA Board of Directors in 2016. It is a great experience for those that serve and our association is only made better by fresh ideas brought by those who have never served on the Board before or even those who have served previously but are willing to give it another go round. If you have interest in running for the 2016 Board please reach out to Todd Bohn (todd@wolfcreekks.com) as soon as possible.

I hope to see you at the Employee Tournament next week..have a great end of summer!

Steve Wilson, CGCS



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
August 3	Employee Tournament	Minor Park Golf Course
September 15	Vendor Appreciation	Twin Peaks
October 5-6	MO Cup Challenge	Old Kinderhook Golf Course
November 4	Annual Meeting	Indian Hills Country Club
December 14-15	Common Ground	Olathe Convention Center
January 8, 2016	New Year Party	Boulevard Brewery

Employee Tournament at Minor Park

By Jon Bennett, Special Director

Minor Park Golf Course is classic 18-hole municipal course known throughout Kansas City for its playability. The layout is fun and easy to walk for players of all ages and skill levels. Established in 1966, many local golfers remember it as the "the first golf course they ever played".

Located in the heart of south Kansas City, it is easy to access and affordable to play any day of the week. At 5700 yards it is a reasonable length for all players to manage, yet the greens are small and challenging offering enough difficulty for seasoned players as well.

Minor Park is managed by Orion Management Solutions and the grounds maintenance is under the direction of Matt Delventhal. Matt Delventhal has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Minor Park Golf Course for the past 3 ½ years. He received his Bachelors degree in Golf Course Management from Kansas State University. Matt has a wonderful wife, Kym, and 2 kids: Kyra (7) and Mason (4).

David Carlson is the Assistant Superintendent and he has been at Minor Park Golf Course for 3 ½ years. He started working at Stagg Hill Golf Course while attending Kansas State University. After leaving Manhattan, he worked at Loch Lloyd until he became the Assistant Superintendent at Minor Park.



The Employee Tournament is rapidly approaching. Superintendents, please sign up your hard working employees today to hold their spot. Lunch, beverages, and registration will be at 11:30 and the shotgun will be at 1:00. The format is a 4-man scramble. Hole prizes and awards will be given after the tournament.

Assistant Program

By Jon Bennett, Special Director

The Assistant Program will be hosting a happy hour/site-visit at Sporting Park very soon. More information will be given once the specific date and time are set. Doing a site visit with a sports turf manager allows the golf course managers to see a different side of turf maintenance.

Sports turf managers deal with a lot of the same issues that golf courses do, but they also deal with issues that a golf course will never have to deal with including outside events on top of their playing field. Networking with a sports turf team might just give you a new idea to bring back to your course!

ANYTHING CHANGED?

- Have you changed jobs?
- Have you changed your phone number?
- Have you changed your email address?

Report all changes to your association office so we can keep in contact with you.

To Make Changes, Contact:
Kim Weitzel, Executive Director
816-561-5323; kweitzel@swassn.com

Support Your 2015 HeartBeat Advertisers

Bayer	913-951-3435	Midwest Pump & Fountain	816-863-7335
BWI	800-247-4954	Milorganite	800-287-9645
Helena Chemical	913-441-0676	Professional Turf Products	913-449-8238
Herfort Norby Golf Course Architect	952-361-0644	Reinders, Inc.	913-238-0869
Kansas City Turf Supply	913-915-2994		816-977-9853
PBI Gordon	913-626-5463		913-217-0650
Macro-Sorb Technologies	913-915-2994	Supreme Turf	913-829-3611
Mid America Sand	816-257-0903	Turf Werks	913-530-3903
		Vermeer Great Plains	1-800-932-3655

Prepping the Digital-Ally Open

By Nick Kray, Director

It's that time of year again when the PGA Web.com Tour comes to Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate. We are proud to say we now have a title sponsor and the Midwest Classic will now be called the Digital-Ally Open. The tournament will be held August 3rd -9th. This will be our fifth year hosting the event. Hosting the tournament has provided some unique experiences along with the occasional frustration, but it is always a great experience to get the golf course conditioned to the standards we want for the professional golfers. The following is my personal account of what it is like as the first assistant superintendent; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

I am lucky that I am able to be involved in most all aspects of hosting the tournament. I attend meetings with the PGA staff each morning during advance week and tournament week to stay apprised of what is happening with the other departments, which helps us plan our schedule of maintenance around the activities of the week. We are assigned a PGA agronomist who makes a site visit before the event and then spends advanced week on property. During that time, the Superintendent, myself, and our agronomist discuss all aspects of course conditioning as well as make sure we are close to where we would like to be on things such as green speeds, green firmness, and moisture levels. There is no "required" green speed to host a tournament, but the tour would like to see them in the 11-12 foot range. Other aspects they are looking for are proper fertilization and plant protectant usage, topdressing applications, moisture management, proper sand depths, well defined hazards, and clean line of sight from tee boxes. The daily meetings have given me a great opportunity to pick the brain of the agronomist and try to learn all I can from him as he sees a lot of courses and ways of conditioning through his travels. Another great tool the tour brings along is a meteorologist. We have access to extremely accurate weather data and I am amazed at how accurate they get when predicting what is going to happen.

During the tournament we operate a little differently. We run split shifts because we are not allowed to alter the course once the first group has played the hole. Our mornings start earlier than usual and we prep both sides of the course simultaneously. The routine is to mow greens, collars, and tees that are in use, rake bunkers, drag dew from fairways and walking areas, set tee markers, and change cups. It is my responsibility to organize and direct the flow of maintenance each day as well as touch up any slight hand watering that may be needed. We try and avoid watering during play as much as we can, but have had to touch up a few spots in years past. The officials are

understanding and will accompany us as we water. Evening shifts will start with a dinner, followed with mowing and rolling greens, mowing fairways, mowing tees that are not used, filling divots, changing practice green cups, and any hand watering needed.

One thing that I like about working with the PGA is that they recognize the need for us to give the course back to our membership after they leave the property. They are not asking us to dry down the greens to something that we cannot recover from; they would just prefer to have consistent, quality turf that will provide a challenge for the professionals. From my perspective the membership seems to embrace hosting the tournament. While they give up the use of the course for nearly two weeks, it is great to seem many of them as spectators and helping out as tournament volunteers.

It is tough to host such a big ordeal without having a few hiccups here and there and we are no exception. Over the years we have had quite a bit of infrastructure damage due to tournament build up and removal. Cart paths are usually the first thing to go while bringing in large generators and grandstand materials, not to mention the irrigation head that accidentally gets driven over. Heavy equipment also causes ruts and turf damage that will need repair after the tour leaves, along with residual spectator damage. On the bright side, most of this damage is covered under the contract agreement. Some repairs are taken care of in-house, others are contracted out, but most importantly we have always been able to give the course back to our members in great shape. Another tough aspect of the tournament is staffing. Since we are hosting the tournament in August we will be losing some of our summer help because they will be going back to school, which makes the volunteer help extremely important and appreciated.

When I look back to all of the tournaments we have hosted, I feel that the good always outweighs the bad, and all the experience gained has increased my knowledge of all aspects of golf course management. It always turns out to be a lot of fun, hard work, and a challenging experience. It is a great time to showcase our course and spend time with other HAGCSA members and friends who come to lend a hand. We could not do any of this without the help and support of our great vendors and members of the HAGCSA who volunteer their time and talent to make the tournament a success. We hope to see you again this year August 3rd -9th and be sure to come out and see some great golf by the future generation of the PGA Tour.

GCSAA Government Relations Update

By Andy Klein, CGCS, Director, Secretary/Treasurer

There are many issues that impact the golf course management industry every day, but did you know that GCSAA has a task force that monitors and helps us take action on these issues? Every year the GCSAA Government Relations Committee along with GCSAA Board of Directors obtains feedback from various outlets to define the priority issues most affecting our industry. While the Government Relations Committee takes action on many issues daily the defined priority issues for the year are those that will demand the most resources and time.

The priority issues for 2015 are:

- Americans with Disability Act
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Labor and Immigration
- Value of Golf
- Water Management

The majority of the talk lately has been regarding the Clean Water Act. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers finalized their revised definition of "Waters of the U.S." within the Clean Water Act. This revision would expand federal jurisdiction over any amount or area of water, including those on a golf course. This would require golf courses to obtain federal permits for any water and land activities or any water and land use decisions that are near these bodies of water. This change could increase liability for golf properties and could be charged large penalties for permit violations

In 2014, GCSAA Government Relations increased its efforts by creating a "Grassroots Ambassador Program". I was

fortunate enough to be selected in 2014 to serve a two year term in the Grassroots program and would encourage others to do the same. The program's initiative is to team up a member from GCSAA with each member of the United States Congress and to establish a strong relation with them. The ambassador would serve law makers and their staffs as a "go-to" person for golf course management issues.

The overall goal is to have every member of congress represented by a GCSAA member. Currently there are 174 Grassroots Ambassadors, which represents 32.55% of the total members of Congress. By 2020 the plan is to have a total of 535 Ambassadors to represent all members of Congress. This will give us the best opportunity to inform Congress what GCSAA's position is in regards to certain issues. Serving as Grassroots Ambassador is easy to do, with a time commitment on average of a couple hours a month. One hour a month is spent attending a one hour educational webinar and the other time is spent reaching out and communicating with your representative. One extremely helpful thing about this is that GCSAA gives you all the information and support you need to educate your representatives. They do all the leg work and allow you to be an advocate for your industry.

If you want to learn more or get involved go to GCSAA Government Relations homepage to find a detailed agenda for each priority issue and how to become a Grassroots Ambassador.



The HAGCSA and the Board of Directors are proud to welcome our newest members:

***Zach Greenlee, Falcon Ridge Golf Course
Jordan Hills, Milburn Country Club
Austin Lynch, Adams Pointe Golf Club***

PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



Communications/Public Relations Committee Report

By Brent Stephenson, Director

Gary Sailer, CGCS, and his team are in need of volunteers for the upcoming **Digital-Ally Open** at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate (14225 Dearborn Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223). At this time they'd greatly appreciate assistance for the following days and times to prepare the course:

They need more volunteers for AM/PM shifts for both Friday August 7, Saturday August 8.

August 5 through August 9

Morning Shifts Aug 5,6,7,8,9: 5:30am – 9:30am

Evening Shifts Aug 5,6,7,8: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

We are also looking for vendors to provide meals for the evening shifts.

If you could spare time to **help some of your fellow members**, please contact: Gary Sailer, CGCS, host Superintendent: 913-402-1576; gary.sailer@ourclub.com or Brent Stephenson, Public Relations Chairman: 816-500-5421; brent.stephenson@greatlifegolf.com.


TWITTER: We are continuing to gain traction with our Twitter account. We have 146 followers now. We are continuing to explore the ways that Twitter helps us connect with our members. Follow us @HAGCSA.

FACEBOOK: We have launched our Facebook page. Please "Like" our page and help us spread our social media connection with our members.


WEBSITE: www.hagcsa.org We strive to keep our website up to date so our members can use it as a one stop shop to keep up to date with the HAGCSA. Surf our website to utilize our calendar, Heartbeat archives, and many other great features. Don't forget to send us classified items that we can post on the website. Send classified items to brent.stephenson@greatlifegolf.com.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP


funded by



&



The Heart of America GCSA Legacy Scholarship Award offers educational aid to the children and grandchildren of HAGCSA members. **Award of \$2,500 is funded by Professional Turf Products and the TORO Company.** The award is administered by the Heart of America Board of Trustees. Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee consisting of three high school educators and three college administrators. All decision of the committee will be final. Applicants will be notified of their status by mail. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution. If you are interested you may obtain an application from the HAGCSA website: www.hagcsa.org/scholarships or by calling the Association Office at 816-561-5323. Deadline is October 30, 2015.



**2014 Legacy Scholarship
Recipient**

TESSA DAVIDS

daughter of
Paul Davids, CGCS, Superintendent,
Sycamore Ridge Golf Course


Rounds4Research

By Ethan Shamet, Director

First I would like to thank all the golf courses that donated rounds for Rounds4Research this year. I'm guessing some of you were tired of my committee making many calls to get you on-board. We will give you until the first of the year before you will hear from us about next year's auction! Every donated round has greatly helped raise money towards research for our profession. I hope most of you got to hear our radio spot on 810 WHB. It was broadcasted during the morning drive hours and also during WHB's premier radio sports talk show, "Between the Lines." I want to again thank Andy Klein for helping us get a great spot on 810 WHB.

Of the 44 rounds donated, all but four were bid on. In years past there have been two auctions and this year it was decided by the EIFG to only have one. The bidding was down tremendously across all of the GCSAA affiliated chapters. If anyone has ideas or comments on how to get the general public more involved in the bidding process please contact me at eshamet@yahoo.com.

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EMPLOYEE TOURNAMENT



DATE: Monday, August 3, 2015

LOCATION: Minor Park Golf Course
11215 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Matt Delventhal

SCHEDULE: 11:30am – Registration & Lunch
1:00pm - Shotgun Start
Following Golf - Awards & Raffle

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

FORMAT: 4 person scramble

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

RESERVATIONS: Mail, Fax or Email Reservation no later than Thursday, July 30, 2015.

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

Player(s): _____ Company: _____

CONTACT: _____

COMPANY: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT:

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

NOTE:

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

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than **Thursday, July 30** to:
HAGCSA, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO, 64141
816-561-5323/phone; 816-561-1991/fax; www.hagcsa.org; kweitzel@westerneda.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ GCSAA Membership #: _____
 Club or Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-mail _____ Spouse's Name _____

Check here if you wish to receive your mailings at home.
 Home Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

JOB INFORMATION: LIST CURRENT EMPLOYMENT FIRST

DATES EMPLOYED		EMPLOYER NAME & CITY/STATE	TITLE
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____

- I hereby make application for membership in the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and attach herewith my dues for the current year. If accepted, I agree to uphold the by-laws of this Association and subscribe to the following code of ethics. To the end that confidence and respect may be enjoyed by members of our Association, the code of ethics is promulgated and observation of its provisions required.
- Every member shall take pride in his/her work and regard it as a profession in which all members strive to maintain its good name.
 - Realizing that the best asset that a member can have is thorough knowledge of his/her business, he/she shall constantly try to improve his/her knowledge and effectiveness by freely exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members and take advantage of all opportunities for improvement.
 - He/she shall endeavor to maintain courteous relations with his/her employer and his/her associates and endeavor to have his/her employees take pride in doing their work well.
 - In accomplishing his/her own and the Association's best interest, observance of the following suggestions are recommended.
 - **Seeking Employment:** 1. Seek counsel of local associations when applying for a position in a new district; 2. Recommend only qualified GCSAA members; 3. Ascertain the wage scale in the district in which you are seeking employment, then uphold that talk with the person who last held or now holds the position of Golf Course Superintendent.
 - **Visiting:** 1. Announce your HAGCSA or GCSAA membership when visiting; 2. Always contact the Superintendent of the course you are visiting; 3. Honor requests for technical help from golf courses only when channeled through the Superintendent of the course making the request.

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

ATTESTED: The applicant must be attested by two Heart of America GCSA members.

Attested _____ Date _____

Attested _____ Date _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application (Term: January to December):
 Superintendents/\$130 - Assistant Superintendents/\$70 - Supplier/\$130 - Golf Course Employees/\$70 - Student/\$25

Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
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