

*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.*

Since 1933

Heart of America Chapter

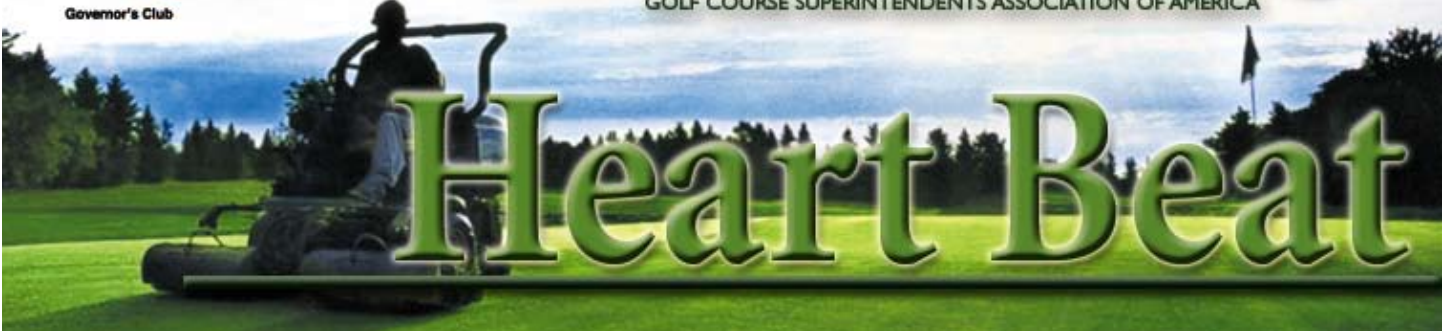
**GCSAA**

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Environmental  
Institute for Golf

Governor's Club



Volume 41, No. 10

December 2009

*Common  
ground*



## ***Heartland Green Industry Expo - Common Ground***

***Overland Park Convention Center  
Overland Park, KS***

***Tuesday - Wednesday, Dec. 15-16, 2009***

***See You There!  
(Registration Form Included on page 10)***

## Heart of America GCSA

### Officers and Board of Directors:

**President:** Doug Melchior - Overland Park Golf Club, 913.897.3805

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### National Director:

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### HeartBeat Editor:

Tony Bertels - Swope Memorial Golf Course, 816.513.8911

### Executive Director:

Kim Weitzel, 816.561.5323

## Support Your 2009 HeartBeat Advertisers

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BWI  
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Urban Tree Care  
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Van Wall Equipment  
913-397-6009

Vermeer Great Plains  
1-800-932-3655

Williams Lawn Seed, Inc.  
816-863-1372



December 4, 2009

6:00pm/Registration

7:00pm/Dinner

7:45pm/Program

8:30pm/Casino Night

\$60 per person  
(spouses & signification others are welcome)

**GCSAA Board of Directors  
will be attending.**

Take this opportunity to meet and  
mingle with your national board.

## Greetings Members,

To begin, I sincerely want to thank you for your support at the Annual Meeting. I look forward to serving as your President for the next year. It was a proud moment for me, with more than 70 of our members in attendance.

I would also like to say "Thanks" to Scott Johnson, CGCS, for serving as President of the association for the past two years. His guidance and dedication have been a benefit to us all. His leadership has provided stability and continuity in these very difficult economic times. Our association is stronger because of his commitment to service.

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, our professional image and well being of individual members and to unite golf course superintendents in the greater Kansas City area. So that we can accomplish this, I strongly encourage all of you to please act now and sign up for the 5th Annual "Common Ground" Conference. This is an excellent opportunity for you to add the "science and the art of golf course management" to your professional development. Tim Nielsen, and his committee have

developed an outstanding set of educational tracks. Your attendance will make the conference a greater success and help us maintain our strong association.

To conclude, please make your reservations to attend the Holiday Party. It is being held at The Overland Park Sheraton Hotel. This year the GCSAA Board of Directors will be attending. Use this opportunity to meet and mingle with your national board. It is an excellent opportunity for networking with your peers, vendors and associates. Come to the party and you'll be able to find out first hand the winners of our annual awards, The Assistant Superintendent of the Year, the Superintendent of the Year and the Chester Mendenhall Award. This is always a fun party and your attendance is very important to the success of the event.

Again, thanks for your vote of confidence and I look forward to the many opportunities to work with you and represent this outstanding association.

**Doug Melchior**  
**doug.melchior@opkansas.org**



Looks like we have more players with another entry into the \$250 drawing that can decipher my clues.

October's Clue: Vittles by Jeff  
**Answer: White Grub**

Here is a list of those that answered October's teaser correctly (as of October 9) and are another step closer with their first (or second correct entry) for that \$250 Best Buy shopping spree.

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Paul Davids, CGCS | Tim Nielsen |
| Brad Gray         | Dylan Senn  |
| Greg Jones        | John Sheehe |
| Brad Lackey       |             |

Remember, each answer will pertain to something related to our industry, terminology we would recognize, a golf course, or even a local member (or a play on their name). The answer can be a person, place or thing.

Well, here is your chance to solve the last riddle of 2009 and get your name in a drawing for a \$250.00 gift card from Best Buy to be awarded at the Holiday Party. Again, every month (that we have a HEARTBEAT issue) 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](http://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 (December 4) to win, so everyone better get in the spirit of the season! All members in good standing are eligible to enter.

December's Teaser: Slang for Santa's Suit

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint: If you spray for this, you have too much money in your chemical budget!*



# Common Ground Conference

By Tim Nielsen, Director

The 2009 Common Ground Conference and Trade Show is just around the corner and everyone should have received the registration and information mailing. If not, check out the conference link on our web page or give Kim Weitzel a call at the association headquarters.

The conference will be held Dec. 15-16 at the Overland Park Convention Center. Highlights of the conference include pesticide recertification for people in both Missouri and Kansas, a flash drive registration gift, great speakers and topics and, of course, a raffle that includes prizes of a plasma television, camera and gift card.

If you need more reasons to attend, how about visiting with the 50-plus vendors who will be eager to answer your questions, show you new products and place your orders? Not excited yet? There's always lunch. How could you go wrong?

If you are a vendor looking to increase business consider that the addition of the Missouri pesticide recertification will bring in even more potential clients than ever before. Get signed up for a booth before they're all spoken for!

Last but not least, take advantage of the "early bird" pricing! If you register before Dec. 1 you'll save yourself or your company \$25.

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



Heartland Green Industry Expo

## Common ground

December 15-16, 2009  
Overland Park Convention Center



### MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

The Heart of America GCSA is now accepting applications for the Employee Awards Program to help offset some of the cost of school for those who are full-time employees taking turfgrass classes.

Application and criteria can be downloaded from the website at:  
<http://www.hagcsa.org/employeeawards.htm>

Deadline is January 29, 2010.



## A WIFE

Because beer is heavy

DemotivateUs.com

### Winter Wonderland

By Tony Bertels

Door bell rings - are you listening?  
In my fridge - the bottles glistening  
A beautiful sight  
I'm happy tonight  
Drink the winter lager in my hand

Gone away - is the cheap brew  
Here to stay - is the good brew  
A real barley pop  
It's chalked full of hops  
Drink the winter lager in my hand

In the basement we can tap a brewsky  
Have a Guinness or a Nutty Brown  
You say: Are you thirsty?  
I'll say: Yes man  
Then we can pop a top  
And suck it down

Later on - we'll conspire  
To have one more - if we desire  
We'll drink unafraid  
The pours that we made  
Drink the winter lager in my hand

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



December 15	SPORTS TURF	RECERTIFICATION (LAWN & ORNAMENTAL)	GOLF
7:00am – 8:00am	Registration, Continental Breakfast & <b>TRADE SHOW</b>	Registration, Continental Breakfast & <b>TRADE SHOW</b>	Registration, Continental Breakfast & <b>TRADE SHOW</b>
8:00am – 9:00am	<b>Rootzone Air, Water &amp; Nutrient Management</b> Chuck Dixon, C.R. Dixon & Associates	<b>Kansas Core Hour</b> State of Kansas Representative & <b>Missouri Pesticide Laws &amp; Regulations</b> State of Missouri Representative	<b>Managing Golf Course Naturalized Areas</b> Kyle Miller, BASF
9:15am – 10:15am	<b>Soil Testing &amp; Results Analysis</b> Steve Frack, Harris Laboratories	<b>Safety, Waste Endangered Species</b> August Lietzen, John Deere Landscape	<b>New Turf Diseases</b> Kyle Miller, BASF
10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Sports Turf Fertilizer Workshop</b> Brad Jakubowski, Doane College	<b>Clean Water, Healthy Environment</b> Todd Phillips, EPA	<b>Spanish in a Pinch</b> Deby Jones, Second Language Success
11:30am – 1:00pm	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Lunch</b>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<b>Sports Turf Research Updates</b> Brad Fresenburg, University of Missouri & Dr. Rodney St. John, K-State University	<b>Pests &amp; Pest Control - Ornamental</b> Gary Custis, PBI Gordon	<b>Weather</b> Brett Anthony, Meteorologist, NBC Action News
2:15pm – 3:15pm	<b>How Fields and Weather Impact the Athletes</b> Kelly Quinlin, Northwest Missouri State, Nick Swartz, Kansas City Royals & Brad Jakubowski, Doane College	<b>Pests &amp; Pest Control - Turf</b> Gary Custis, PBI Gordon	<b>The Human Investor</b> Gary Smith, UBS Financial Services
3:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>Panel Discussion Synthetic Turf vs Natural Grass</b> Bill Sobbe, Park Hill High School, Brad Fresenburg, University of Missouri, Dr. Rodney St. John, K-State University	<b>Pesticides &amp; New Developments</b> Panel Discussion	
4:30pm – 4:45pm 4:45pm – 6:00pm	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Networking Reception</b>	<b>Annual Meeting &amp; Awards</b> <b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Networking Reception</b>	<b>Scholarship Presentation</b> <b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Networking Reception</b>
December 16	MANAGEMENT (BUSINESS, IRRIGATION, SPANISH)	RECERTIFICATION (LAWN & ORNAMENTAL)	GOLF
7:00am – 8:00am	Registration, Continental Breakfast & <b>TRADE SHOW</b>	Registration, Continental Breakfast & <b>TRADE SHOW</b>	Registration, Continental Breakfast & <b>TRADE SHOW</b>
8:00am – 9:00am	<b>FMCSA Requirements for Lawn Care Companies</b> Officer Lunchgren & Officer Jason Livengood, Department of Transportation	<b>Wilt, Canker and Scorch</b> Tim McDonnell, Community Forester	<b>Large Patch in Zoysia Research</b> Megan Kennelly, K-State University
9:15am – 10:15am	<b>Terrific Trees for Stressful Sites</b> Jason Griffin, Kansas State University	<b>Emerald Ash Borer</b> Tim McDonnell Community Forester	<b>Managing Zoysia Grass</b> David Stone, Honors Course
10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Best Management Practices for Turf and Landscape Irrigation:</b> Brent Mecham, Irrigation Association	<b>Ornamental Case Studies</b> Megan Kennelly, Kansas State University	
11:30am – 1:00pm	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>TRADE SHOW &amp; Lunch</b>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<b>Inside D.C.</b> Dennis Moore, U. S. Congressman	<b>The Dreaded Turf Fungus</b> Brad Fresenburg, University of MO	<b>Equipment Standards and Testing at the USGA Research and Test Center</b> John Spitzer, USGA
2:15pm – 3:15pm	<b>Irrigation Scheduling</b> Brent Mecham, Irrigation Association	<b>IPM Trends &amp; Techniques</b>	<b>“Who Picked that Hole Location: Have you been to your Optometrist Lately?”</b> Mark Passey, USGA
3:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>Spanish in a Pinch</b> Deby Jones, Second Language Success	<b>Growth Regulators</b> Rodney, St. John, Kansas State University	<b>USGA Year in Review</b> Ty McClellan, USGA

# REGISTRATION FORM

**Heartland Green Industry Expo: "Common Ground"**  
**December 15-16, 2009 • Overland Park Convention Center • Overland Park, KS**

**ASSOCIATION**

I belong to the following Association(s) or received my conference materials from (check the boxes that apply):

- Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association (HAGCSA)
- Mid-America Green Industry Council (MAGIC)
- MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association (MOKAN)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF BUSINESS** (please check one)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Courses       | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurseries              | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleges/Universities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Care Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Sod Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Schools        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Fields      | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscapers  | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing/Supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE** (one name per form – copy form if needed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION & FEE**

	Member	Non-Member	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference.....	\$ 190	\$ 240	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Only: <input type="checkbox"/> December 15 <input type="checkbox"/> December 16.....	\$ 110	\$ 160	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Day + Lunch: <b>December 15:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> AM+Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch+PM or <b>December 16</b> <input type="checkbox"/> AM+Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch+PM	\$ 80	\$ 130	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student - Full Conference.....	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student - One Day Only: <input type="checkbox"/> December 15 <input type="checkbox"/> December 16.....	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Fee (after December 1 = cost + fee): <i>Flash Drive &amp; Drawing Not Included</i> .....	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk-In Fee (Onsite Registration = cost + fee): <i>Flash Drive &amp; Drawing Not Included</i> ... ..	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ _____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ _____

**TRACK PREFERENCE** (please select one)

In order to accommodate seating for each session, we would like to know what "track" you plan to attend most:  Sports Turf  Recertification  Golf  Management

**PAYMENT** (Deferred Payment Option below)

- Check Enclosed (check made payable to: Heartland Green Industry Expo)
- Invoice my Organization (By invoicing; you agree to pay total amount due by December 7, 2009. Invoicing not permitted after December 1.)
- Credit Card Payment: (we accept Visa, MasterCard or American Express)  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cardholder (print) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY**

If cancellation is necessary, substitutions are permitted. A written request for a refund must be received on or before December 1, 2009. The amount refunded will be less a \$25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be made after this date. Mail your request to the Mgmt. Office: P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141.

**DEADLINE**

Mail or Fax Registration with Payment on or before **December 1, 2009**, to the:  
 Heartland Green Industry Expo, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141, Fax: 816-561-1991

TAKE  
ADVANTAGE

- Register three or more people *from the same company* and receive **10% OFF** your total registration fee!
- Pre-Register for the "Full Conference" or "Day-One; Full Day" (Dec. 15) by registration deadline (Dec. 1) and you'll receive a raffle ticket which will be entered into the drawing for a plasma TV, digital camera and gift card. (Raffle will be held December 15 at 5:30pm. *Must be present to win.*)
- Pre-Register by deadline (Dec. 1) and receive a **FREE Flash Drive!**



# Candidates for the GCSAA Board of Directors

## Dear Heart of America Members,

I want to take a few moments to thank each of you and the Heart of America Board of Directors for their support these past four years as I have served on the GCSAA BOD. My experience serving has been one that I have found to be very rewarding. It takes many hours to read, study and to be prepared for discussions at board meetings but I have found the experience very gratifying. As I have traveled around the country, one of my key observations has been how well the Heart of America GCSA is respected. My time serving with the Heart has served me very well in preparing me to help direct the future of GCSAA and the Golf Course Superintendent. Our current leadership with the Heart is carrying on a proud tradition of serving it's members.

This coming February I will face an election for the position of Secretary/Treasurer running against my good friend and former HOA past president, Pat Finlen. I am assuming I will be successful but it will be a close race. GCSAA faces many challenges along with the game of golf in

general. My experience in municipal golf and clubhouse operations has helped to prepare me and I think I will be able to contribute in a good way to help position the Golf Course Superintendent as a key to the economic vitality of each golf course. Times are tough but Superintendents are well prepared to lead in these challenging times. I am also excited about Bill Maynard's willingness to run for National Board service, he will be a great addition to our board.

I also want to congratulate Doug Melchior for his election as president of the HOA. I am sure he will do a great job leading our local chapter and most importantly, Doug has the kind of personal characteristics that our members can be proud of. I look forward to working with Doug and the HOA during my service with GCSAA and again thank all of you for your support.

**Sandy Queen, CGCS**



## Dear Heart of America Members,

I am honored to be nominated by my peers of the Heart of America Chapter for the position of Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GSCAA). Having the opportunity to serve our association is a humbling experience. If entrusted with this responsibility, I will do my part to lead this association into the next decade.

GCSAA has meant so many different things to me over the past twenty-six years. In the beginning, the desire simply to belong to the association was the goal. As an assistant, gaining knowledge and valuable educational information through GCSAA seminars was an incredible experience. Once a superintendent, the goal became to volunteer in the affiliated chapter. Through being a director in the Carolinas, and serving as president of Heart of America chapter, I gained leadership experience at the chapter level. Serving on various national committees, I gained a greater appreciation of association leadership and what it means to give back.

Just like in years past, the current staff and board of GCSAA have set a course to succeed. The executive leadership and board of directors will continue to position our association as vital to the game of golf. Our new print and media efforts will increase the perception of just how important Superintendents are in this complex industry. Plus, the recent involvement of assistants in task groups and committees is another way they are looking to the future and developing our membership to become involved and share solutions.

I support the chapter outreach program which continues to put a face on the national association for the local chapter to utilize. Our work in helping local chapters

become more effective is another important factor in our future success.

Doing business in these challenging economic times requires superintendents to perform better than ever before. I believe our association can continue to educate members to develop creative solutions and demonstrate ways to produce quality results while keeping facilities under budget. Local chapters can follow the association's example by critically reviewing, streamlining and eliminating, when necessary, select member programs and services. I support prudent business practices within the association's control to keep spending within the confines and boundaries that our dues support.

I am proud of GCSAA for developing the partner recognition program. We need the continued support of our industry professionals who serve us with a variety of products and services. We have built strong relationships and we must do the work necessary to maintain them. If elected, I would continue to develop these relationships to insure the priorities of both parties are met.

It is my desire to continue the work of positioning the golf course superintendent and our association as vital to the game and to the business of golf. One of the ways I will do this is to listen to members, work to understand your needs and represent you to the best of my ability. I look forward to contributing to our profession and our association. Thank you for your consideration.

**Bill Maynard, CGCS**





## MEET YOUR 2009-2010 BOARD of DIRECTORS



### **PRESIDENT**

Doug Melchior – Overland Park Golf Club

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Darin Pearson – Alvamar Country Club

### **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Tim Nielsen – Drumm Farm Golf Course

### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Scott Johnson, CGCS – Shadow Glen, The Golf Club

### **NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Sandy Queen, CGCS – City of Overland Park

### **DIRECTORS**

Todd Bohn – Creekmoor Golf Course  
Paul Davids, CGCS – Sycamore Ridge Golf Course  
Bill Irving – Lawrence Country Club  
Duane Sander – Shoal Creek/Hodge Park Golf Courses  
Jeff White, CGCS – Lake Quivira Country Club  
Aaron Willing – Indian Hills Country Club

### **SPECIAL DIRECTORS**

Gary Breshears – Kansas City Turf Supply  
Darrin Johnson – The Andersons  
Alex Tucker – Meadowbrook Country Club

### **EDITOR**

Tony Bertels – Swope Memorial Golf Course

### **CHAPTER DELEGATE LIAISON**

Jeff Eldridge, CGCS – Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate



## USGA Green Section Mid-Continent Region – Food for Thought This Fall

By Ty McClellan, Agronomist

The weather in 2009 for the upper Mid-Continent Region will be recorded as one of the coldest and remembered as one of the oddest. Other than a 12-day stretch of intense heat during mid-June, temperatures were well below normal. In fact, only a handful of days reached 90°F in the Chicago area and very few areas in the upper Mid-Continent Region hit 100°F. When elevated temperatures did develop, they were short-lived and/or quickly offset by cool nighttime temperatures. Rainfall was plentiful and often timely. All told, environmental conditions mimicked those of the Pacific Northwest rather than the Midwest.

Given these non-typical summer conditions, cool-season turfgrasses experienced much less stress while the warm-season turfgrasses lacked vigor, as their growth was slowed much of the year by cooler temperatures and frequent rainfall. For all turfgrasses, disease development was rather minor when compared to more typical summers. By all appearances, this was a relatively easy summer for turfgrasses and their managers; however, there were a number of shortfalls observed this year. Before falling victim to a false sense of security, areas needing special attention as we transition into fall are detailed below:

- **Completion of Earlier Projects** - One of the wettest springs on record for the upper Mid-Continent Region did not favor those in the midst of course projects earlier this year. Whether work was performed in-house or contracted out, projects were delayed, if not abandoned, as even two consecutive days of favorable weather proved elusive. On the other hand, growing conditions were quite favorable for cool-season turfgrass (especially in the rough) all year-long and, with frequent rainfall, additional labor was needed to keep up with mowing. This limited the availability of labor for course projects. More often than not, spring projects either did not get finished or they persisted into the primary golfing season, inconveniencing golfers and interfering with routine daily course maintenance.

Looking forward, projects that went uncompleted (particularly if critical) will need to be readdressed. To do so with the typical number of full-time employees may result in other delays, as the unfinished projects take precedence over those originally planned for this winter. In other words, without additional winter staff to get the schedule back on track, projects previously planned for this season may need to be postponed until the projects from last season are completed.

- **Adequate Budgeting for Fungicides** - Mild temperatures correlated to an overall reduction in disease out-

breaks in 2009 and the amount spent on fungicides followed suit. Superintendents generally reported anywhere between a 15% and 35% reduction in fungicide use this year when compared to previous years. While courses can count themselves lucky this year (and maybe even last year), this year's fungicide expense should not be used when establishing next year's budget, since it was not a true indication of typical disease pressure or the subsequent budget needed for control. It will be important to keep in mind typical use and needs.

- **Irrigation** - Cool temperatures and timely rains for most of the golfing season meant much less irrigation than normal. In fact, many superintendents in the Chicago area reported using their irrigation systems less than five times during the entire year for the purposes of replenishing soil moisture to appropriate levels. Rather, most used irrigation to simply water in chemical applications or lightly syringe 'hot' spots. As such, this year was very kind to those with inadequate or poor irrigation systems, who pay for water, or who have poor quality irrigation water. Unfortunately, this has caused some to lose sight of the need to improve the irrigation system, accurately budget for future water use, or support additional practices to manage problems associated with poor water quality, such as increased aeration, flushing and applications of gypsum, lime, calcium, etc.

- **Organic Matter Accumulation on Putting Greens** - Organic matter in putting green root zones increased this year, even for those with well-designed sand topdressing and aeration programs. Soil temperatures simply remained too cool for much of the year and putting green root zones were oftentimes waterlogged given regular, if not record-setting rainfall. Basically, cool soil temperatures caused soil microbial activity to slow and thus, limited its ability to decompose organic matter. A wet spring also meant the soils remained very saturated, thus limiting oxygen levels in the root zone that slowed oxidation, i.e. natural aerobic decomposition, of organic matter. To further complicate matters, routine topdressing applications throughout the growing season were difficult to administer given frequent inclement weather, so less sand was applied less often. To account for the increase in organic matter accumulation, an even greater emphasis should be placed this fall and next spring on core aeration and incorporating more sand into putting green root zones.

- **Poa annua Control** - Given that this summer was more like that of the Pacific Northwest, overcast skies

Continued on next page

## How Cool Are You?

My sons recently started talking about being cool, and I recalled my own teenage years and the need to be cool. That driving desire dictated the clothes I wore, the music I listened to, and what subjects I became conversant in. And, yet despite all my motivation and effort, it remained elusive.

When I look back, I can see that all I really wanted was to be accepted, liked and admired. But, whatever I tried, I never quite felt cool enough. The problem was that I didn't really understand the term until I'd spent a few years living and working in the real world.

So, I explained to my kids, "Cool is when there's a problem and you do not get upset by it. When everyone else is panicking, rushing around and over reacting, the cool person is the one who stays calm, assesses the situation, then makes a reasoned decision on what to do."

One day, I'll tell them about Frances Healan, my friend who completely owned this concept. Mrs. Healan walked with a limp, and I learned that she had a severe condition or injury that could deteriorate and prevent her from ever walking again. That diagnosis was simply unacceptable to her. She had three daughters and two sons, all less than two years apart, with whom she had to keep up. Instead she ignored the pain and struggled to maintain the ability to walk under her own power. I never once knew her to mention the pain she continued to endure.

I met her when my friend Tony started dating Becky, the wildest of her children, and I dated Becky's best friend. It was while Tony and I waited for our dates to get ready, that I learned what an amazing conversationalist Mrs. Healan was. She would talk of her family and friends, of movies and novels. Pleasant stories that had no impact on my life or the world, and yet they were irresistibly soothing and peaceful. Meanwhile, with five rambunctious kids and their friends, hers was the house on the street where everything happened. It was a tumultuous environment of laughter one moment and tears the next as young personalities came together then clashed. Nothing ever seemed to rattle Mrs. Healan, she was always calm and relaxed.

Tony and Becky didn't last very long, but I refused to give up those wonderful conversations and started showing up just to hang out. Over the years, I realized that whenever my own life got a little stressed, I was drawn to the Healan household. Once there I would just sit and listen to Mrs. Healan's stories and absorb her serene energy. I was rejuvenated by her presence.

I never planned any of those visits. I would just start to feel the need, and before I knew it, was in the car driving.

Those visits continued for years. Eventually the cumulative responsibilities of work, marriage and children made my life too busy for the simple pleasure of spending an afternoon with Mrs. Healan.

A few years ago she died of lung cancer. Frances was never a smoker, but a critical spot on her lung was missed on a routine chest xray. Her oncologist said that if he'd seen the xray when it was taken he could have saved her life. Despite that Frances Healan was never bitter.

Even though I had not seen her in years, her children called me to visit on her last day. When I arrived, her daughter Judy said, "Look Mama, it's Bobby Wilson." Mrs. Healan raised her head and said, "Bobby Wilson! Who's dying?" We all laughed. That moment sums up her life for me. Facing death she maintained her sense of humor. She was quite simply the coolest person I've ever known.

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### USGA Green Section - Update - Cont.

combined with cooler temperatures and frequent rains that created environmental conditions very favorable for *Poa annua*. As such, decreasing *Poa annua* populations found in creeping bentgrass putting greens and fairways was very difficult this year. A lack of mid-summer heat meant that the *Poa annua* did not decline, and selective herbicides, such as Velocity, or plant growth regulators with some known levels of *Poa annua* suppression, such as paclobutrazol (Trimmit) or flurprimidol (Cutless), were not as effective. Looking forward, greater success should be anticipated in the future with a return to more typical summer weather.

*If you would like more information about a Turf Advisory Service visit, do not hesitate to contact either of the Mid-Continent regional offices: Ty McClellan at [tmcclellan@usga.org](mailto:tmcclellan@usga.org) or (630) 340-5853 or Bud White at [budwhite@usga.org](mailto:budwhite@usga.org) or (972) 662-1138.*