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Heart of America Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Heart Beat

May 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 14
S&R Tournament
at Canyon Farms

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



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

(CLICK HERE to REGISTER)



SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH TOURNAMENT



**Monday, June 14, 2021
Canyon Farms Golf Club**

7:30am – Check In
9:00am – Shotgun
At the Turn - Lunch
1:30pm – Hors d' oeuvres / Awards
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See You June 14 at Canyon Farms Golf Club

President's Message



Dear Heart Members,

Spring is off to a fast start, the Masters is back on schedule, and our tee sheets are full. We are excited to see Covid restrictions relaxing and things are slowly returning to normal. Please stay tuned to our event roster as we look forward to networking with you all soon.

We have rolled out our member text message program. We see this as an opportunity to communicate better with our membership and offer another way to stay in touch. If you haven't received a welcome message, please text HAGCSA to 71441 to enroll in the member text service.



Brent Stephenson,
Great Life Golf

The Rounds 4 Research auction was from April 26th to May 2nd. Thank you to everyone that donated rounds or made a contribution to this great program. This program helps us provide education and fund other important initiatives for our association.

We regret to hear of the passing of Dave Fearis, CGCS. He was very influential in the golf industry and had a passion for public service. Dave served as Past President of the GCSAA, Past President of the HAGCSA, Past President of The First Tee of Greater Kansas City, and served on the board of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. Dave holds a special place in our hearts and he will be greatly missed.

As I write this message, we are fast approaching the joint event with the Kansas GCSA at Eagle Bend Golf Course in Lawrence. Our hope is that many of you were able to attend and we thank Heath Bowman and Darin Pearson for hosting the event.

Brent Stephenson,
President HAGCSA

MISSION STATEMENT

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Member Profile

Between the Tees With Conrad Pannkuk

Senior Assistant Superintendent Hallbrook Country Club

• Tell us about your background. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school?

I grew up in Cedar Rapids, IA and attended Iowa State University. I started college as a cello performance major and quickly learned that this was not for me. I spent a summer working at Ellis Park Golf Course in Cedar Rapids and soon switched my major into the turfgrass program.

• What work experience do you have? Who has been most influential in your career?

I interned at the Kahkwa Club (Erie, PA), Medinah Country Club (Medinah, IL), and Whistling Straights (Kohler, WI). After graduation I moved to the suburbs of Chicago and worked at Biltmore Country Club as the 2nd Assistant Superintendent. I spent two seasons there and moved on to The Club at Wynstone as the 1st Assistant Superintendent. After two seasons my now wife and I moved to the Kansas City area to be closer to her family. I started as the Senior Assistant Superintendent at Hallbrook Country Club in March of 2020. It has been a lot of fun to learn the transition

zone and see what Kansas City has to offer. The most influential person in my career has been Ben McGargill, he is the superintendent at The Club at Wynstone. He gave me the responsibility and empowered me to make decisions about the operation and this has helped me grow to where I am today.

• What is the best part of your job? The worst?

I really enjoy being outside and seeing the day to day progress that is made on the golf course. I would say the worst part are the winters, I tend to get a little stir crazy and want the season to get started.

• What is in your cart and what's the one tool / thing you could not do without?

I will always have a soil probe in my cart. I think this is one of the most valuable tools we can have. I like pulling a core and physically see what is going on.

Continued on next page

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Between the Tees

Continued from page 4

- **What other job/career could you see yourself doing?**

At this time I could not see myself doing anything different.

- **Do you have any hobbies or other things outside of work that keep you busy?**

I enjoy spending time with my wife and walking our two dogs. On my weekends off in the summer you can find us at a local brewery or on a patio for happy hour. I am an avid Iowa Hawkeye sports fan and enjoy going back to Iowa to football games as my work schedule allows.

- **What's your favorite food and drink?**

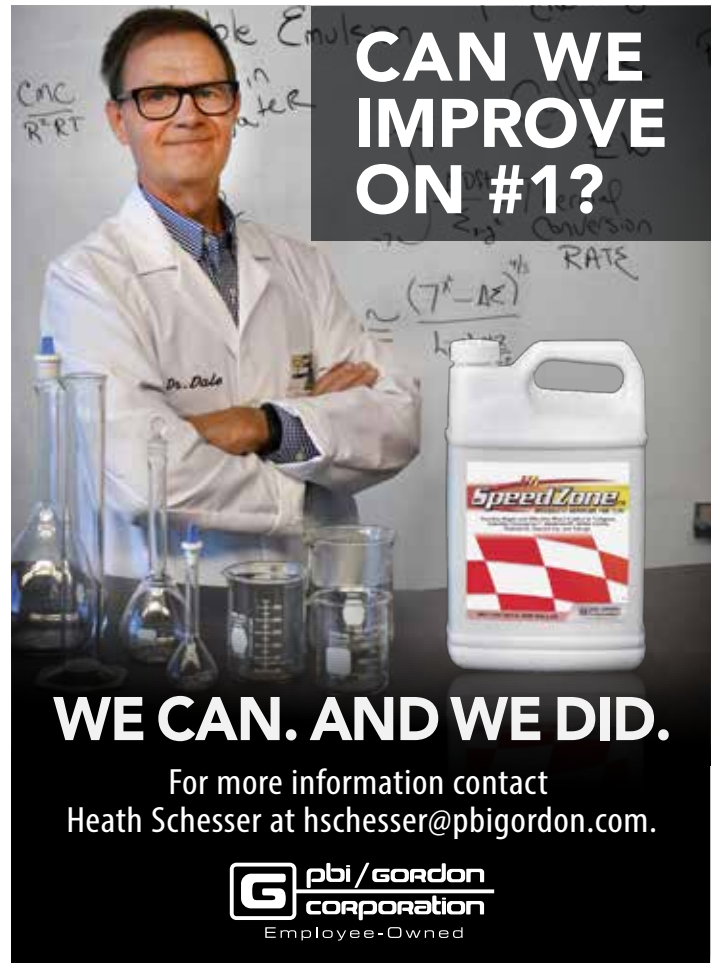
My favorite food is pizza and favorite drink is an old fashioned.

- **Which sports teams do you root for and why?**

I grew up an Iowa Hawkeye fan. My dad started taking me to Iowa football games when I was two years old. I try to get back for as many home games as I can. After moving to Kansas City it is really tough to not root for the Chiefs!

- **Describe the perfect night out.**


The perfect night out would be dinner at a steakhouse with my wife.



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Remembering Dave

As most of us know, we lost one of our great leaders and a friend this past March.

Dave Fearis was one of my favorites. A Boilermaker, an accomplished Superintendent, and an individual who put service first both locally and nationally, Dave's accomplishments in the industry read like a Who's



**Dave Fearis, CGCS,
1946-2021**

Who. He served on numerous HAGCSA Boards and was our President in 1989. He would ultimately go on to serve on Boards for the GCSAA which culminated in becoming National President in 1999. He served as President of the First Tee of Greater KC. In 1990 he was bestowed the Chester H. Mendenhall Award for his Outstanding Service. He got it again in 1998! Dave would receive the GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service award in 2016. He was inducted into the Kansas City Golf Hall of Fame in 2020. Now that is a list. Every trade magazine and the national publications in golf reported his passing. Dave Fearis was a pretty big deal!

Now, a lot of guys with that kind of pedigree might let it go to their heads. Not Dave. He was always kind. He would always seek you out. He would always engage and make you feel bigger than you deserved. I can recall several GIS shows where Dave, in his Past Presidents blazer, would see me and call me over to introduce me to some big shot VIP and all of the sudden, I belonged. That was just Dave. Inclusive, genuine, kind. I always admired that in him. But that is what true leaders do.



(L-R) Brad Gray, Rusty Hamman, Tony Bertels, Dave Fearis, Tom Watson, Jeff White, Todd Bohn. Pete Spratlin

One of my favorite memories with Dave happened on a warm, sunny day in May of 2003. Tom Watson was holding a Junior Golf clinic at Heart of America Golf Academy. Dave had asked me to come volunteer. You don't say no to Dave. He and Watson had become friends. The Watson Challenge had been held at Blue Hills for many years. Of course, I was a big fan of Tom. When it was time for a picture, Dave got all of us together. Seeing Dave in the back row, I immediately tried to trade places so he could sit next to his friend. Dave shook his head, introduced me to Tom and told him that I was President of the Heart that year. Watson graciously shook my hand and told me to sit down and smile. That picture sits on a shelf in my den. When I look at that image, I think of Dave, not Tom Watson.

It is how I will remember Dave Fearis. Like one of my mentors, Nels Lingren, Dave's final few years were sadly consumed by Alzheimer's. I feel very fortunate to have known these men in their prime. I will remember the kind, genuine, inclusive Dave who always made time and put me at ease in his circle.

Tony Bertels

Please send a memorial in Dave's honor to:

- Alzheimer's Association of KC
- The First Tee of Greater KC
- St. Michael of the Archangel of Overland Park

VENDORS – THANK YOU for the SUPPORT!

By Jonathan Bennett, HAGCSA Vice President

On behalf of all the members of the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Board of Directors we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of our contributing vendors that are participating in the PRP program for 2021. The PRP program is a huge success in helping supply the HAGCSA with strong financial assistance which allows us to continue to supply our members with incredible opportunities and value to grow their careers all the while being a financially strong association.



Without the vendors' commitment, the Heart of America would not be able to function as one of the leading GCSAA chapters. Thank you again for your commitment and we are looking for another successful year in 2021.

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JOINT MEETING RECAP

by Chris Benisch, Program Chairman

Seventy members from the Heart of America and Kansas chapters braved the cold (and very windy) day for the Joint Meeting and Tournament; graciously hosted by Eagle Bend Golf Course, Lawrence, Kansas. Heath Bowman, Host Superintendent, had the course in tip-top shape and members were eager to meet and play a round of golf.



Eagle Bend Golf Course,
Host Superintendent,
Heath Bowman



Lee Miller, PhD, University of Missouri, and Jack Fry, PhD, Kansas State University, updated our members on current research projects; and the program ended with Rhett Evans, CEO, GCSAA, Bob Randquist, COO, GCSAA, and many department heads from the GCSAA headquarter, in a rapid-fire presentation on benefits, updates, and current happenings. We appreciate everyone's time and wisdom they shared.



Lee Miller, PhD
University of Missouri



Jack Fry, PhD
Kansas State University



GCSAA Officers, Directors, and Department Heads



1st Place Team:
Adam Breitenfeldt
and Brennan Acree
(Shot 64)



2nd Place Team:
Barry Siems and
Maron Towse
(Shot 65)

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Enhancing Communications – “OPT IN”

As a way to enhance our communication with members, we are introducing an optional text messaging program.

Participants will receive key information about happenings at the association, deadline reminders, and possibly a survey or two. The program is completely optional and you may opt out at any time.

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Update from GCSAA

By Steve Randall, GCSAA Central Plains Regional Representative



We hope everyone is off to a successful Spring! If the enthusiasm for golf continues like it did in 2020, expect 2021 to bring more people to the course.

Updates from HQ

GCSAA is coming off a very successful Virtual Golf Industry Show. We hope you had the chance to attend and take advantage of the on-demand options. Participants enjoyed the education sessions, but the "Live from GCSAA" feature was well received also. As preparations for the 2022 show in San Diego proceed, we'd like your thoughts and input for future shows. As plans for the 2022 unfold we will provide the membership with the latest information.

Member App

GCSAA recently launched a new app to assist your daily efforts. It's GCSAA mobile at your fingertips! The membership directory, events, information and education opportunities are available on your mobile device. If you have any previous versions of the GCSAA App, they will not hold the latest data and info. Just visit your app store and download today!

First Green Events – Consider Hosting

GCSAA continues to promote First Green Field trips, which educate students through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at your golf course. You can also visit www.firstgreen.org for more info.

Thank A Golf Course Superintendent

Be on the lookout for the continuation of the "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent" campaign. Last year, it was a worldwide effort and plans are to continue to concept. We are looking to have the event in the late summer/early fall. Last year the campaign reached nearly 7 million comments/likes/shares on social media platform. On the Golf Channel there were over 4 million impressions. The Nebraska GCSA was active in promoting the event in 2020 and will continue to do so in 2021!

BMP's the Ongoing Process

Kudos to all states for completing the 50 states by 2020 BMP process. Now that BMPs are in place, we are working with various facilities on adopting those BMPs. We've made the process easy. Just visit GCSAA.org/BMPs and you will be routed to inputting and developing your own facility BMP, using your state BMP as a guide! This is a very important process. The more information we can provide to national, state, and local officials how our profession handles daily functions on the course, the better we will be to preserve those resources. GCSAA is also hosting BMP facility workshops. If there are any questions on the process, please contact me!

Member Needs

In late 2020, GCSAA sent out its annual member needs survey. We will continue the process in 2021. First off, please participate! It's your chance to be heard and have input on GCSAA programs. In 2020, we continued to see excellent satisfaction with GCSAA and chapter services. Please see your chapter as a key to success. The board/staff are working hard at the local level on your behalf. GCSAA continues to see chapters as a priority to serve members.



Golf Championships

Don't miss out! GCSAA will be hosting the 2021 Golf Championships in Palm Springs this October. Registration and more details will be released soon. We are planning to open registration in August. Please reach out if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. Have a great year!



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Dual Membership Requirement:

All Class A and Class B membership applicants must submit an application for membership or evidence of membership with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA Membership #) and must maintain that membership thereafter.

Name _____ GCSAA Membership #: _____

Club or Company _____

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

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application (Term: January to December):

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Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association

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- > Have you CHANGED your phone number?
- > Have you CHANGED your email address?

Report all changes to your association office so we can stay connected.

To Make Changes, Contact:
Kim Weitzel, Executive Director

CHANGE AHEAD



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

May 2021