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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Heart Beat

Volume 41, No. 7

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

Sept. 2009

MO CUP CHALLENGE



Lake Valley CC



Old Kinderhook GC

Lake Valley CC and Old Kinderhook GC

October 5-6, 2009

- Member Profile
- The Zac Livingston Story

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Published by the:

HEART OF AMERICA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141-6264 • Phone: 816.561.5323, Fax: 816.561.1991, www.hagcsa.org or email: kweitzel@swassn.com

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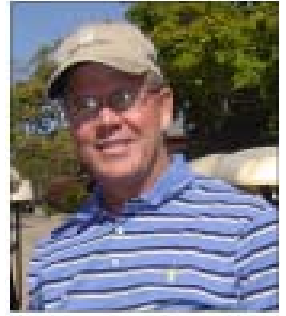
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PRESIDENT'S Message

By: Scott Johnson, CGCS



As summer slips over the horizon a little quicker with each passing day, our focus switches from maintain and endure to recovery and prepare. September requires a juggling act due to the co-existence of a busy golf calendar and the need to perform restorative cultural practices like green's aerification and spot seeding roughs. In another thirty days, we should be able to exhale pain free and let our guard down just a little. In anticipation of a busy month on our courses, September is free of any organized chapter activities.

For the last several years, the Board has reviewed the need for a membership dues increase. The directors have focused on understanding where our money is being spent and what benefits or services does the membership receive. Basically, our monthly educational and golf

meetings break even. Our administrative/management expenses, public relations effort, web site, holiday party and hospitality event at the GIS have costs that are paid for in part with our three main revenue streams: membership dues, advertising and the Common Ground Conference. Each committee on the board has carefully examined their activities while pursuing all revenue opportunities. At the July board meeting, the board determined that a dues increase was necessary and we voted in favor of a \$30 dues increase for Superintendents and Affiliates along with a \$20 increase for class C memberships effective January 2010. In order to be a little more proactive, the board established a policy to review the need for membership dues increases every odd year in

Continued on page 8

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MO CUP CHALLENGE 2009

By Darrin Johnson, Special Director

The planning is mostly complete for the 2009 Mo. Cup Challenge set for October 5-6. The event will be held again this year at Lake Valley Country Club and Old Kinderhook Golf Club.

The committee is busy getting sponsors for the tournament and finalizing all the details. If you have not been contacted yet about sponsorship and are interested in getting involved please call a HAGCSA board member. This is one of the best events of the year and an awesome chance to spend some quality time with our peers.

As in the past the two day event will kick off with golf at Lake Valley Country Club on Monday followed by a BBQ dinner and reception. Once again this year Rick Robb with Bayer will sponsor and cook our BBQ for Monday night. There is a pretty strong "rumor" that Jimmy Johnson will be making a trip back to help out as well. So, be sure to catch up with Jimmy while he is in the area.

Day two will start off bright and early with golf at Old Kinderhook Golf Club followed by a short awards presentation.

Please watch the Heartbeat newsletter for more information and sign-up materials.

I am looking forward to the event as it is always one of the best trips I make each year. Hope to see you all on the course in October.

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MO CUP CHALLENGE

Date: October 5-6, 2009

Locations: **Lake Valley Golf Club**
367 Lake Valley
Camdenton, MO 65050

Old Kinderhook Golf Club
Highway 54-80
Camdenton, MO 65020

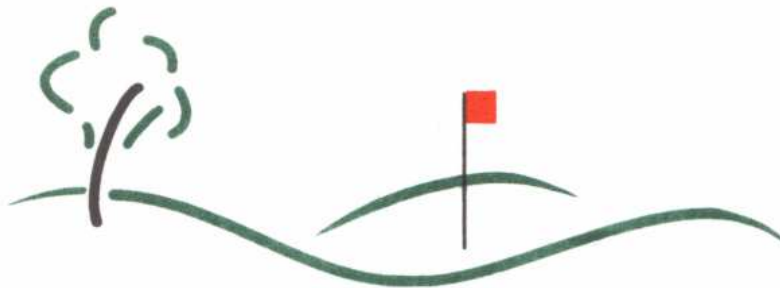
Schedule: **October 5, 2009 at Lake Valley Golf Club**
11:00 a.m. - Registration
12:00 p.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)
5:30 p.m. - Dinner & Reception

October 6, 2009 at Old Kinderhook Golf Club
8:00 a.m. - Registration
9:00 a.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)

Lake Valley Superintendent Profile: Alex Hultz has a B.S. in management from Quincy University, Quincy IL 1993 and a B.S. in agronomy from SMS (now MO State) 1998. I worked in Quincy IL at Westview Golf Club 1985-1986, Fremont Hills Country Club, Springfield, Mo. 1994-1998, Far Oaks Golf Club in Casseyville, IL 1998-2000. I then ventured out and grew in Birch Creek Golf Club in Union, Mo. from 2000-2003 and have been at Lake Valley since March 2003. *Continued on page 13*

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MISSOURI CUP CHALLENGE

HAGCSA / MVGCSA



DATE: October 5-6, 2009

LOCATION(S): Lake Valley Golf Club
 367 Lake Valley
 Camdenton, MO 65050

Old Kinderhook Golf Club
 Highway 54-80
 Camdenton, MO 65020

SCHEDULE: October 5, 2009 Lake Valley Golf Club
 11:00 a.m. - Registration
 12:00 p.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)
 5:30 p.m. - Dinner & Reception
October 6, 2009 at Old Kinderhook Golf Club
 8:00 a.m. - Registration
 9:00 a.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)

COST: \$130.00 (includes golf registration for both days and reception on Monday) / (\$140.00 after September 18th)
 \$25.00 Monday Reception Fee for each "guest" of a player

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please contact Old Kinderhook Golf Club to make overnight accommodations at 573-346-4444 ext. 3. Room charges are not included in golf registration fee. A special rate of \$115 for a 1 bedroom cottage, \$150 for a 2-bedroom, and \$190 for a 3 bedroom cottage has been arranged.

DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL: Old Kinderhook is located two miles west of Camdenton on Highway 54. Once you've crossed the Niangua Bridge, take the second right, which is Lake Road 54-80, and proceed to the entrance of Old Kinderhook.

Yes, I/we plan to attend the MO CUP CHALLENGE on October 5 & 6!

Player(s): _____ Company: _____
 _____ Company: _____
 _____ Company: _____
 _____ Company: _____

Guest(s) attending Reception at \$25.00 per person: _____

Yes, I/we plan to attend Monday's events. (We need this information for the reception headcount.)

Contact: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

PAYMENT (Payment must accompany registration - First-come, first-serve bases. Limited to 36 teams.)

Check Enclosed Credit Card: No.: _____ Exp. _____
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Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than **Friday, September 30th** to:
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President's Message

Continued from page 4

an effort to keep any future increases as small as possible. Hopefully, some of the current efforts underway to identify and increase revenue potential in the near future will bear fruit.

As we move into the Fall, the nominating committee will be looking for individuals to run for director positions on the Board. If you have the time and desire to help direct the future of our association in behalf of the entire membership, please contact Brad Gray, our current Past President at Mission Hills Country Club.

I wish you the best of luck in accomplishing all the tasks on your maintenance agenda for September. Hopefully, the weather will be great and allow for a prosperous month of golf at each of our facilities. Your professionalism and determination promote in large part the successes realized at your facility. As each day unfolds, take a moment to enjoy the sunrise and absorb the beauty of your efforts. Congratulations to each of you for a job well done!

Have a great September,
Scott Johnson, CGCS

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TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Steve Wilson, CGCS, Director

Fall is fast approaching...a time when hopefully we can all take a little time to get away and recover from the grind of working in our business in the summertime. A great way to do this is to attend some of the Heart's fall functions. One event that we have done the last few years is a "Vendor Appreciation" event. This event gives all of us on the "grass growing" side of the business a chance to thank our vendors for all they do throughout the year. Thanking our vendors for sharing their time and knowledge to help us be successful in our jobs is something we should probably all do more often!!

In the past this event has been a clay target shoot held in Mid-September when many of us are still pretty busy on our golf courses. We are going to make a couple of changes to the Vendor Appreciation event this year. First, we are going to move the date of the event to late October when hopefully we all have a little more time on our hands. Second, we are going to go to a golf event this year. I know the clay shoot was a fun event and something different than our usual golf outings, but the cost involved in the shoot was getting expensive which made it difficult to draw good participation, thank our vendors by comp'ing their participation, and at the same time not lose a significant amount of money on the event.

Also, we would like to try to "turn the tables" at this year's event and actually have the superintendents provide lunch and cook for the vendors. If you are a Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent and would like to donate a few bucks for the meal and/or are handy with a BBQ grill please let me know. We are still working on finalizing a host site and date for this event, so stay tuned for more information and please plan on taking the time to come out and thank our vendors for all they do for us throughout the year.

Aside from the Vendor Appreciation event, the Tournament Committee has also been starting to get next year's meeting/tournament schedule put together. I think we have a site secured for March's Joint Meeting with the KGCSA, but are still searching for sites for the April and May meetings. If you are interested in hosting a Heart event next year please give me a call. See you all soon.

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DON'T FORGET TO HAVE A GREAT "END OF SUMMER"

By Darrin Johnson, Special Director

As we get into August one of the many thing that we forget to do is take time for ourselves and families. Here is a possible "top ten list" to consider.

- Go fishing.
- Go to the park.
- Go to an outdoor concert.
- Go on a long walk or bike ride and enjoy nature.
- Go get a large ice cream cone and for once forget about the calories.
- Go to a local fair or festival in your area.
- Host a "guess what" cookout.
- Go to a sporting event.
- Go to the pool or lake and swim.
- Go play golf at another course in the area.

Each thing on this list is easy to do and will provide hours of fun and a lifetime of memories. Every one of us deserves some time away to relax and recharge the batteries. Have fun with the list, don't be afraid to get outside your comfort zone and be a kid again. Enjoy the rest of summer and I look forward to seeing you at the next HAGCSA event.



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SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH TOURNAMENT

By Todd Bohn, Director

I hope everyone has been enjoying this mild summer as much as I have. It has been a very welcoming site for me as my golf calendar here at Creekmoor is stocked full of events towards the end of August and on in to the beginning of September. The Scholarship and Research Committee has been rather quiet over the last couple of months since our scholarship and research tournament. However this is getting ready to change as we are going to be gearing up and making a push for scholarship applications and employee awards. Speaking of the Scholarship and Research Tournament I would like to once again thank all our vendors, players, and tournament staff for a very successful S&R Tournament. We were able to raise a little over \$20,000. This is great news for this year considering all the tough economic times that businesses, golf facilities, and individuals have had to endure. The deadline for the scholarship application is October 30, 2009. Please, if you know of any students that will qualify for the scholarship awards pass this information on so we can have a good selection of individuals to choose from. If you want to know who qualifies or what qualifications they need to have please visit our website at www.hagcsa.org.

We will once again be working with our surrounding universities in hopes that we get a good turnout of applications. Those employees that don't qualify for the scholarships will have an opportunity to apply for the employee awards. The deadline for the employee awards is January 29, 2010. I know this is a ways off, but I wanted to let everyone know about these dates in plenty of time in hopes that we can have a good number of employees apply. So if you have someone working for you at least 40 hours a week and taking some turf classes let them know about this opportunity to win some free money. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these awards or anything with the scholarship and research please feel free to contact me at 816-331-3306 or at toddbohn@hotmail.com.



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MO Cup Challenge

Continued from page 6

Old Kinderhook Superintendent Profile: Tom Addington, CGCS, holds a BS degree in Turfgrass Management and Landscape Design from Kansas State University, as well as a Penn State Turf Degree. He served as assistant superintendent at Brookridge in 1987, and at Hallbrook from 1998-1990. He was superintendent at The Pinnacle from 1990-1996, and is now with The Club at Old Kinderhook.

Course History - Lake Valley Golf Club: Lake Valley is a semi-private, 18 hole championship golf course located near Camdenton, Mo. in the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks region. Designed in 1967 by Floyd Farley, the golf course offers a unique combination of six par threes, six par fours, and six par fives with a cumulative par of 36-36-72. Lake Valley features zoysia tees, lush Bermuda fairways and bent grass greens.

Course History - Old Kinderhook: The Club at Old Kinderhook opened in May 1999, and is a Tom Weiskoph design.

Lake Valley Assistant Superintendent Profile: Roger Jones has over 18 years of golf course maintenance experience, five of which he was the superintendent at Lebanon Country Club in Lebanon, Mo. Roger has completed several college courses and is in pursuit of his B.S. degree.

Old Kinderhook Assistant Superintendent Profile: Derek Wilkerson has a two-year degree from the Mundus Institute. Before joining the crew at Old Kinderhook, he worked for Alvamar and TPC of Scottsdale.

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THE ZAC LIVINGSTON STORY

By Jon Bakalar, Overland Park Golf Club, Assistant Superintendent

For 39 years the Everett Vinzant/John Cosnotti Memorial Junior Golf Tournament has been one of the largest junior golf tournaments in the entire Midwest. Hosted at Overland Park Golf Club, this year's tournament took place on August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2009. Over 500 junior golfers participated in this annual event. Doug Melchior, Golf Course Superintendent at the Overland Park course, believes that this tournament and the junior golf leagues associated with it, play a vital role in the development of future golfing generations, "Today's junior player is tomorrow's Patron."

Since 2006, the Overland Park Golf Course has been a programming site for The First Tee of Greater Kansas City. Tim Eleeson, Director of Golf at the course and his staff, use our Par 3 golf course and nine holes of the regulation course as a teaching facility for golfing juniors age 6 and older. Monday through Wednesday, three daily sessions are conducted, two on the Par 3 and one on the North. These young golfers are exposed to the nine core values of The First Tee, courtesy, respect, judgment, integrity, honesty, perseverance, sportsmanship, confidence and responsibility as well as golf etiquette, golf instruction and camaraderie.

One example we witnessed at the awards ceremony was when we awarded the trophies. All the 9 year old boys in one of the divisions, removed their hats as they shook the presenter's hand and accepted their trophies. This is one of the first lessons that The First Tee teaches.

Continued on page 39



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PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bill Irving, Director

With August finally over, it is time to get down to the nitty-gritty and fix all of the things that went wrong this summer and baby the golf course back into shape. Some of us had it worse than others as far as damage and wear-out from daily play or tournament after tournament.

With that said, Congratulations to Jeff Eldridge, CGCS at Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate for a job well done hosting the Nationwide Tour's Christmas in October event. It was nice to see all of the support from area Superintendents, Assistants and Vendors volunteering to help Jeff, Brent and staff get the course ready for a 7-day event. The support is greatly appreciated and goes to show why the HAGCSA is one of the top Superintendent Associations in the country.

Also with the end of the season rapidly approaching, Brian Wright and 610 Radio have done another fantastic job promoting our profession and working hard to get our message out there to our avid golfers. All of the interviews have been great and have provided us an excellent opportunity to discuss many of the nuances of what we do. If anyone has a great story to tell or a big project coming up, let us know and we can get you on the air to talk about it!

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

Taking a *Longview* at Arbanas

by **Tony Bertels**

Managing older greens in desperate need of rebuilding is no fun. Try as you might, keeping up with the Jones' with their new, improved bent-grass cultivars that love lower mowing heights grown on surfaces with high percolations rates and efficient irrigation can be enough to make a grown agronomist cry with envy and frustration. Many of you are living it. Many of you have been there but are now reaping the benefits of a renovation. Russell Bonneville, Superintendent at Fred Arbanas GC, knows the agony of the former and the ecstasy of the later. It was a long time coming.

With the grand reopening of Fred Arbanas GC just a few months old, Bonneville is still in the process of tweaking things to get them just right. But one thing is for certain, the A-4 greens at Fred Arbanas are pure, and for the first time in many years, a typical Kansas City summer is not going to wreck that!



Russell Bonneville, Supt. Fred Arbanas GC

Retrospective

Russell Bonneville and his brother, Randal have been involved in the nuts and bolts of golf maintenance most

Continued on page 17



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of their lives. They became interested because of the influence of their uncle and benefactor, Leon Andrews, the wily old golf pro who plied his trade for many years at Indian Hills and Brookridge. Leon also went on to design a few area courses like Rabbit Creek in Louisburg and the 2nd nine holes at Osawatomie GC.

While at Brookridge in 1969, Uncle Leon enticed Russell to go to work for Paul Mitchell. He was 14 years old at the time. That small shove was all it took. Russell was hooked. After graduating high school in 1974, he got fortunate and landed a position at Alvamar, under the tutelage of Mel Anderson. "If I could call one person my mentor, it would be Mel," states Bonneville. "He was such an innovator, working toward development of the triplex greens mower. He also was a great teacher. And of course, he was one, if not the very first, to implement zoysia this far north."

Continued on page 18



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Member Profile
Continued from page 17

Russell relates a story that speaks to Mel's humor and personality, "While sitting in Mel's office one day with his son, Gary, Mel was adamant about keeping golfers away from a freshly redone area out on hole #6 on Hidden Valley (the original 9 holes of the private side at Alvamar). *I don't care if you have to string barbed wire!*" he told us. Unbeknownst to Mel, Gary must have taken him a little too literally. I thought Mel was going to have a cow when told that the barbed wire had been installed!"

In early 1977, Russell got a tip about an opening for the Superintendent at McPherson CC from his brother Randall, who had landed in the area as the head man at Hesston GC. Russell seized the opportunity and for the next 8 years he honed his skills there. By the mid-80's, Bonneville found himself back in the area, this time under Sandy Queen, CGCS at Overland Park. "I became the Superintendent of the new West Links course, and then eventually all 36 holes." Nine years later, Russell did the unexpected.

"I decided to take a year off and pursue a career in song writing!" confessed Bonneville, who has a penchant for progressive country music and a desire to write lyrics as well as music. Like many a frustrated writer (*this scribe can certainly attest!*), Russell found getting published an extremely difficult feat. "It didn't pan out, so I went back to work!"

Russell jumped back into the business where he had had so much success by signing on with Nels Lindgren, CGCS at Loch Lloyd CC. Just over a year later, the Arbanas job came open and Bonneville was selected to take the reins. Twelve years have passed and he still drives the train!

A Rebirth on the Lake

Fred Arbanas GC (*formerly Longview Lake*), was built by Jackson County Parks and opened for play in 1986. It boasted not only a championship 18 holes, but also a 9-hole executive course. Nestled in the heart of the old Longview Farms on the east side of Longview Lake, it has long been a favorite golf destination for south Kansas City and Lee's Summit. Its picturesque limestone clubhouse, view of the lake and the ensuing rolling valleys, as well as its generous zoysia fairways make for an enjoyable golf outing. Over the years it has matured gracefully...well, almost!

Arbanas Clubhouse, Original Ranch Homestead

20-year old greens rarely have redeeming qualities. Over time, percolation rates dwindle, *Poa annua* encroaches, and warts become apparent. Arbanas' greens were no different. It was becoming more obvious with each passing season and with every new competing course that came on line, that a greens renovation was needed if the course was going to compete for patronage.

"The biggest challenge with the old greens was trying to get reasonable ball speed to keep up with other area golf courses," admits Russell. "Need-

Continued on next page

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Member Profile

Continued from page 18

less to say that only led to other problems in the heat of the summer.” Bonneville had sympathetic and influential allies when the subject of a greens renovation was finally breached.

Enter county legislators and frequent patrons to the course, Dan Tarwater and course namesake, Fred Arbanas. “These two individuals were instrumental in selling the notion that a greens renovation was in order. The County stepped up, and the wheels were put into motion.”

Craig Schreiner, ASGCA, formerly from KC, now in Myrtle Beach, SC was awarded the redesign. He worked closely with Bonneville, insuring their insights and goals for Arbanas were reached. “Working with Craig was inspiring. He has a high energy level, positive attitude and great communication skills. He knows how to get his point across,” states Bonneville. Schreiner made several site visits during the renovation, even climbing aboard Mid-America Golf and Landscape dozers to do a little shaping from time-to-time.

Schreiner had high praise for Bonneville. “Russell broke the mold of what one might expect from a municipal Superintendent. He was one of the hardest working Supers I have ever met. That grow-in was the best I have ever seen for greens that were just 8-months old at opening. He was very receptive to our methods, got things done and never missed a beat!” Craig went on to say that working with Bonneville on the West Links project many years prior to Arbanas only cemented their working relationship.

Though the emphasis of the project’s scope was to the greens complexes, Russell was also able to enlarge back tees on the par 3’s. “We now have enough variance to the length of these holes to force different clubs into patron’s hands on each one.”

After much research and touring other facilities, A-4 was the cultivar Russell chose for the new greens. He claims that the grow-in at Arbanas went relatively smoothly due to the fact that with the exception of the green surfaces, everything else was sodded. As with any well-made plan, Mother Nature put a few hitches in the giddy-up. “If you recall 2008,” Russell recounts, “3 major hurricanes affected the area during construction causing long delays. We did not get the final two greens seeded until well into October.” It was decided that the purchase of two geo-textile greens covers was in order to protect the late bloomers. “It made a big difference in how those two greens over-wintered,” claimed Bonneville. “By late March they were in the best condition of all of them!”

Russell also fondly recalls not having to deal with golfers for 12 months. “It is the best thing that a Superintendent can experience! The very best day was the first closed day. Job assignments were simple; bring EVERYTHING in! Flags, cups, benches, trash cans, rakes, hazard stakes, everything!”

In addition to his full-time staff of nine (himself included), Russell was only allowed four seasonal employees during the renovation. “Having a veteran staff during this time cer-

Continued on next page



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Member Profile

Continued from page 19

tainly helped in the success of the project,” says Russell. He adds, “My Assistant, Robert Matthews and Lead Park Person, Bill Sparks have been in place at Arbanas even longer than myself. Staff members Clayton White and Olin Gaines have been on board for nine and seven years respectively.” Bonneville readily admits that with such strong team members, anything is possible. “Their knowledge of the course and course history are a huge asset!”

Of course, not all goals during the renovation were attained. “We didn’t accomplish all that we had hoped for,” admits Russell. “It would have been nice to get a few more drainage issues in the fairways rectified. We just ran out of time.” *Hey, you got to save a few odds and ends to keep you busy this winter!*

Introspective

Fred Arbanas has opened to rave reviews. Though there is no way to quantify it, Russell thinks that 95% of his patrons have looked favorably on the changes that have been made. “There are always going to be that small percentage who ask, *why did you do this or why didn’t you do that?* Of course, they turn right around and make a tee time for the next day!”

In addition to Russell’s brother, Randall, who is still a Superintendent, now residing for the last 20 years in Ft. Collins, CO, his nephew, Jason is the next generation of Bonneville’ to go into the business as a Superintendent in Tuscaloosa, AL. Russell also has a son, Russell Jr. (27) and a daughter, Adley (25), whose families live here in the metro and Inman, KS. He is blessed with six grand kids, all of whom keep him busy when away from work.



Russell at Hole #12 Playing Down to Longview Lake.

menu of his hard drive. But one never knows! Time is on his side. That one big hit may yet be written or discovered. But Bonneville’s success as a GC Superintendent has already been assured. His volume of work has and is still being written. Jackson County not only has a classic, re-mixed *golden oldie* in Arbanas, their #1 hit truly lies with their Superintendent.



A-4 Bentgrass, as Pure as Driven Snow!

“When I am away from work, I prefer to do anything *in-doors!*” And, of course, there is Russell’s song writing. He admits that he still dabbles in it. *Once you have the bug, there is no turning back!* He utilizes home studio software that makes his forays into music even more enjoyable. “I found a program named *Cakewalk* that really makes creating music fun and easy.”

Like all of my subjects who have appeared in this section, I asked Russell to impart some advice to those of us just starting out. “Get a degree, don’t plan on any time off from May through September and remember; no one ever became a millionaire working on a golf course!” *At least not from our end of the golf club!*

Russell Bonneville may be an obscure, wanna-be songwriter, destined to pen ballads never to be heard anywhere but from the

EMPLOYEE TOURNAMENT REPORT

By Chad Hinderliter, Special Director

The Employee Tournament was a great success this year and I hope everyone had a good time. Paradise Pointe did an excellent job of hosting. A big thank you to their staff for all the food, golf and making sure we had a great time. Also, Marvin Davidson, the host superintendent, and his crew are very much appreciated for providing us with a great golf course.

I would also like to thank all the participants for making the trip Paradise Pointe and making this event happen. In addition, thanks to all the vendors for their donations to make the raffle a hit and for their time to help us with the beverage carts and running the game. A special thanks goes out to our drink sponsors for the event, Kansas Golf and Turf and ISTRC donated all the cans, water, and Gatorade and to Kansas City Turf Supply for donating the keg. Thank you again and we hope to see you all next year.

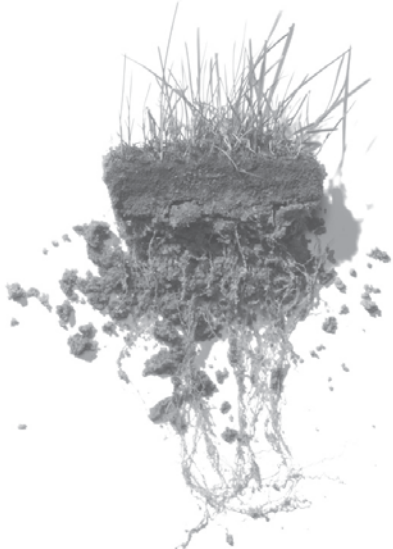
Congratulations to all the flight winners:

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- 2nd – Milburn Country Club – Team 1
- 3rd – Grass Pad

B Flight

- 1st – Paradise Pointe – Team 1
- 2nd – Drumm Farm Golf Course
- 3rd – Aerating & Consulting / Macon CC




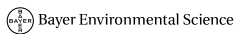
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EMPLOYEE TOURNAMENT

August 10, 2009 at Paradise Pointe Golf Complex

2009

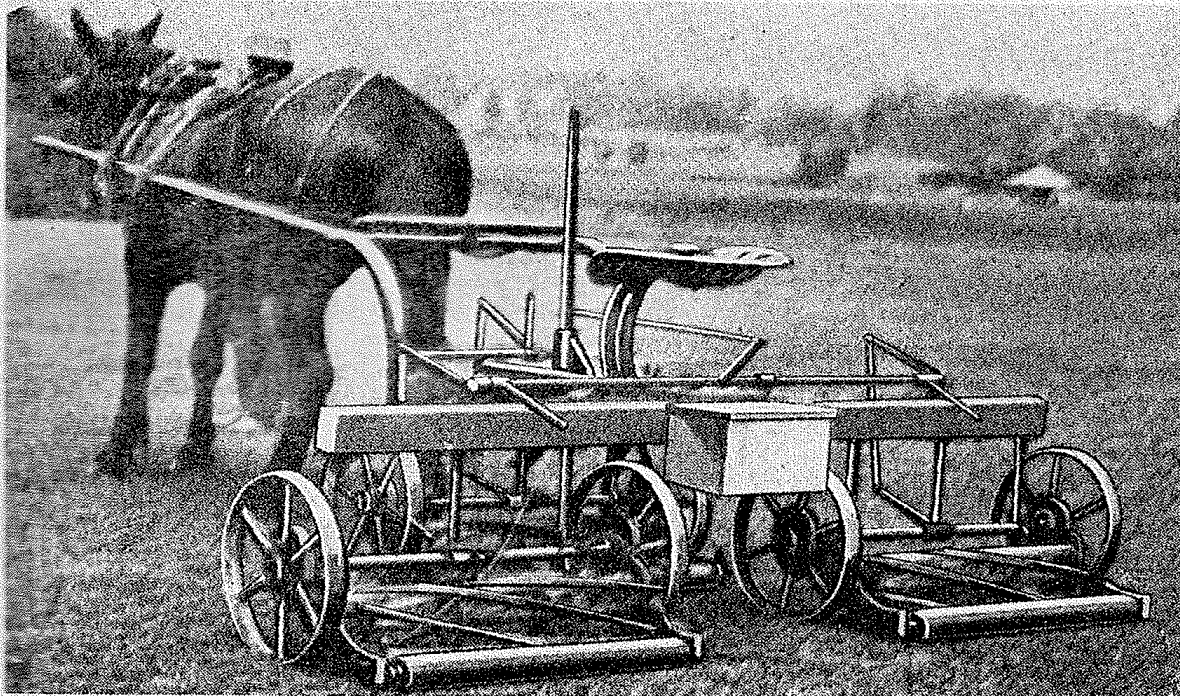


The Archives

Editor's Note: This little gem by Chet Mendenhall was first published in June 1983.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN . . .

We used Old Dobbin to pull our fairway mowers?



My first experience with horse drawn mowers, was with five units drawn with two horses. The job in the morning was to feed and groom the horses. If it had been raining and the fairways were soft, you put big leather boots on all four feet of each horse to keep from leaving hoof marks in the fairway. You filled a feed bag for each horse to take with you. At noon time you watered, and put the feed bags on the horse, before you had your lunch. It took too much time to take the horses into the barn at lunch time. At the end of the day the horses were taken back to the barn, watered, fed and bedded down for the night. You did not do all this in eight hours.

The mowers were a far cry from the mowers of today. No oil tight gear boxes, no sealed bearings. The gear cases were rather open. You had to stop every hour, get out the old oil can and oil all the moving parts. The gears were made of soft cast iron, so you spent considerable time repairing the mowers.

It took the better part of a week to cut eighteen fairways. The rough outside the fairways was cut with a cycle bar mower, cutting three or four widths of the cycle bar on each side of the fairway. The area beyond that was left until time to put up hay, then it was cut and the hay put up for feed.

—By Chet Mendenhall

USCIS ACCEPTING NEW H-2B PETITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced Aug. 6 it is reopening the FY2009 (Oct. 1, 2008-Sept. 30, 2009) H-2B petition filing period and will immediately accept petitions from employers to bring foreign workers to the U.S. to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs for which there is a shortage of available U.S. workers.

Even though the visa cap for the second half of FY2009 was met back on Jan. 7, 2009, the Department of State received fewer than expected requests for H-2B visas, and as a result, has issued only 40,640 H-2B visas for FY2009 to date. USCIS is now making 25,000 visas available.

The normal (non-premium processing) time frame for H-2B petitions is 60 days. USCIS will make visa numbers available to petitions in the order in which the petitions are filed. However, because H-2B petitions (Form I-129) for FY2009 visas must be received, evaluated, and adjudicated on or before the FY2009 deadline of Sept. 30, 2009, USCIS cannot guarantee approval of any H-2B petition on or before the Sept. 30, 2009 deadline. Employers are encouraged to file as soon as possible and to request premium processing by filing a Form I-907 and submitting the \$1000 premium processing fee, which will allow for expedited processing.

Continued on page 24

MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Paul Gunderman, Director

The HAGCSA Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 2. Scott Johnson, CGCS and Shadow Glen Golf Club are hosting this event. This is a good chance to get more involved and to learn more about each candidate for the 2010 Board of Directors. Optional golf has been scheduled prior to the meeting once again, offering another great chance to play at a top-rated course.

The Holiday Party is scheduled to be on Friday, December 4. The committee is still focusing on the best cost effective location. Options being considered are another site at Arrowhead Stadium, the Ritz Charles, The Sheraton of Overland Park and Shadow Glen Country Club. This is another good opportunity to meet with your peers and relax during the Holiday season.



ANNUAL MEETING

November 2, 2009
Shadow Glen Country Club

5:00 p.m. – Registration / Cash Bar
6:00 p.m. – Dinner
6:45 p.m. – Annual Meeting & Elections





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USCIS ACCEPTING NEW H-2B PETITIONS

Continued from page 22

To qualify for a FY2009 H-2B cap number, employers must: submit the Form I-129 Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker to USCIS with all required documents, including an approved Alien Employment Certification from the U.S. Department of Labor that is valid for the entire employment period stated on the petition. The petitioner must also indicate an employment start date before Oct. 1, 2009.

Petitions received on or after Oct. 1, 2009, and/or requesting a starting date on or after Oct. 1, 2009, will be considered towards the FY2010 H-2B cap and are subject to all eligibility requirements for FY2010 H-2B filings.

Visit the USCIS Web site for more information and a Q&A document. You may also contact Chava McKeel, GCSAA senior manager of information and public policy, at 800-472-7878 or cmmckeel@gcsaa.org for more information.

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COMMON GROUND CONFERENCE

By Tim Nielsen, Director

I believe the fall is the best season of the year. With the fall comes falling temperatures, college football, new television shows and the end of the dreaded Royal's season. I just can't stand to watch them lose so regularly! It's also great because it seems like things kind of "slow down" at the golf course. Like all of these things, the 2009 Heartland Green Industry Expo: "Common Ground" is just around the corner. This year the conference will be held December 15th and 16th at the Overland Park Convention Center.

At this time we are finalizing all speakers and details. This year the Common Ground Conference will once again offer you a wide variety of educational opportunities that rival any education conference of its kind. Topics in the golf track include managing naturalized areas, new turf diseases, zoysia patch research and management, personal finance, weather, Spanish and of course the ever-so popular USGA portion. A big change for this year's conference is that you also have the choice of completing pesticide recertification if you are a Kansas or Missouri employee.

We are continuously seeking sponsors who want to be more visible than just their booth space. Many options are available so please see the "Sponsorship and Advertising" insert. If sponsorship isn't your thing please secure your booth space before all the "good spots" are gone.

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Common ground

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PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$2,500

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- Your company literature on the tables at the Tuesday lunch, reception, or Wednesday lunch. (You may provide 200 copies by December 1)
- One-fourth page ad in conference program. - \$300 (3 1/2" x 5", camera ready artwork, sent electronically)
- Three Full Conference Registrations. - \$255 (indicate on exhibit form)
- **One 10x10 Exhibit Booth = \$750 or \$750 off mini-island / island** (complete exhibit form)
- Logo & Link on conference website
- Recognition Signage at sponsored event
- Black & White Logo in conference program
- Recognition on Conference Signage
- Introduction and recognition during Conference Reception

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- Logo & Link on conference website
- Recognition Signage at sponsored event
- Black & White Logo in conference program
- Recognition on Conference Signage
- Introduction and recognition during Conference Reception

SILVER SPONSOR - \$1,500

- One *Continental Breakfast* recognition with company literature available. - \$665 (You may provide 200 copies by December 1)
- One Full Conference Registration. - \$85 (indicate on exhibit form)
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- Logo & Link on conference website
- Recognition Signage at sponsored event
- Black & White Logo in conference program
- Recognition on Conference Signage
- Introduction and recognition during Conference Reception

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$750

- One *Coffee Break* recognition with company literature available. - \$750 (You may provide 200 copies by December 1)
- Logo on conference website
- Recognition Signage at sponsored event
- Black & White Logo in conference program
- Recognition on Conference Signage
- Introduction and recognition during Conference Reception

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- Introduction and recognition during Conference Reception

ADVERTISING INSERTION

Each convention registrant will receive a program booklet providing the convention schedule and conference highlights. This will be their guide to what's happening at the Heartland Green Industry Expo: Common Ground Conference, December 16-17, 2008. Now YOU have the opportunity to place an ad in this booklet. Use your space to focus attention on a new products or services, or to express support for the Association.

There is limited spacing, so reserve your ad today (first come, first served). Camera-ready ad with correct dimensions must be sent "electronically" to the Association Office by November 30. Email to: kswank@swassn.com

- Business Card Ad (3 1/2" x 2") - \$150
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Paul Davids, CGCS, Director

The 2009 Roster was mailed to the membership at the end of July. Please take the time to review it and let us know if you have any changes to your job location, title, phone number, email, etc. We strive to keep the database and roster current but can only do so with your help. If for any reason you did not receive your roster, please contact Kim Weitzel at the association office at 816-561-5323.

We again have started to accept nominations for outstanding members for Assistant Superintendent of the Year, Superintendent of the Year, and the Chester H. Mendenhall Award. Do you know someone that deserves one of these awards? If so, this is a great way to express your appreciation for what they've done. Do not hesitate – get your nomination in TODAY. If you have any questions please contact Paul Davids, CGCS, at 913-592-2085.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: October 2, 2009

Who will take home this year's awards? Now is the time to submit your nominations for Assistant Superintendent of the Year, Superintendent of the Year and the Chester Mendenhall Award for 2009.

Complete the enclosed form and submit nominations no later than October 2, 2009. Recipients will be awarded at the Holiday Party on December 4, 2009.

2008

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RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

Each and every Heart member deserves credit for surviving a hectic spring and summer, but there are ones among us who deserve special recognition for the job they have done this year or over their careers.

As a member, you know who these individuals are. **Now is the time** to send your nominations for The Assistance Superintendent of the Year, The Superintendent of the Year and The Chester H. Mendenhall Award. These prestigious awards will be given out at the Annual **Holiday Party on December 4**. Please submit your nominations by completing the reverse side and forwarding to the HAGCSA office.

Eligibility and Qualifications

Assistant Superintendent of the Year

This award will be presented annually to the assistant who has demonstrated dedication and excellence at their job over the past year.

The guidelines are as follows:

1. Must be a member of the Heart of America.
2. Must be an assistant that represents their profession to the highest degree.
3. Must be at their present course for no less than two seasons.
4. This award shall be governed by the assistant's achievements in any of the following.
 - Competency in agronomic skills
 - Ability to efficiently run the daily operations of the course
 - Effectively running course projects
 - Assisting in the preparation of their course for regional or national events
 - Involvement with local, regional, or national turf related associations
 - Strong involvement in course renovations and new course construction
 - Goal oriented and striving to become a superintendent
 - Exceptional contributions to this association through involvement
5. These accomplishments must have occurred in the current year.

Superintendent of the Year

This award, established in 1970, has been presented annually to the golf course superintendent who has demonstrated dedication and outstanding service to his or her profession.

The guidelines are as follows:

1. Must be a "Class A or Superintendent Member" in good standing.
2. Must be a superintendent that represents the organization and himself to the highest degree.
3. This award shall be governed by the superintendents achievements in either:
 - Excellence in golf course management
 - Preparation of his or her course for regional or national golf tournaments
 - Achievements for renovation or new golf course construction
 - Involvement with local, regional, or national turf related associations
 - Exceptional contributions to this association through involvement
4. These accomplishments must have occurred in the current year.

Chester H. Mendenhall Award

This award has been established to honor an individual who has devoted extensive time and effort to the promotion of golf, the art of greenskeeping and other related fields. Begun in 1983, this award is named after a golf course superintendent who dedicated his life to his profession.

The guidelines are as follows:

1. Must be a HAGCSA member in good standing.
2. Must be an individual that represents the organization and him or herself to the highest degree.
3. This award shall be governed by the individual's achievements over an extended period of time:
 - Outstanding service to this organization
 - Involvement with local, regional, or national turf related organizations
 - Continued support and service to the golf industry or his/her community

HAGCSA AWARD NOMINATION FORM

HEART OF AMERICA GCSA AWARD WINNERS



Assistant Superintendent of the Year

- 2005 Greg Milligan
- 2006 John Sheehe
- 2007 Jeff Stoecklein
- 2008 Johnny Brockus

Superintendent of the Year

- 1982 Carl Beer
- 1983 Chet Mendenhall
- 1984 Jack and Bill Robison
- 1985 Del King
- 1987 Duane Patton, CGCS
- 1988 Nels Lindgren, CGCS
- 1989 Cary Tegtmeyer, CGCS
- 1990 Ed Huggins
- 1992 Loren Breedlove
- 1993 Jeff Eldridge, CGCS
- 1994 Pat Finlen, CGCS
- 1995 Jon Francis
- 1996 Chuck Hybl, CGCS
- 1997 Jeff Elmer, CGCS
- 1998 Jim Naudet
- 1999 Mark Pierce
- 2000 Paul Tormanen
- 2001 Tony Bertels
- 2002 Duane Sander, CGCS
- 2003 Brian Ruder
- 2004 Rusty Hamman
- 2005 Jimmy Angelotti
- 2006 Doug Melchior
- 2007 Brad Minnick, CGCS
- 2008 Terry Rodenberg

Chester Mendenhall Award

- 1987 Gil Collins
- 1988 Sandy Queen, CGCS
- 1989 Tom Kohout
- 1990 Dave Fearis, CGCS
- 1991 Duane Patton, CGCS
- 1992 Dick Stuntz, CGCS
- 1994 Meril Vanderpool
- 1995 Jud Coester
- 1996 Jim Shields
- 1997 Pat Finlen, CGCS
- 1998 Dave Fearis, CGCS
- 1999 Gene Eldridge
- 2000 Nels Lindgren, CGCS
- 2001 Dick Stuntz, CGCS
- 2002 Jeff Elmer, CGCS
- 2003 Melvin W. Anderson
- 2004 Loren Breedlove, CGCS
- 2005 Gary Higbie
- 2006 Tony Bertels
- 2007 Bill Maynard, CGCS
- 2008 Jeff Eldridge, CGCS

Please use this form to nominate individuals for the Assistant Superintendent of Year, Superintendent of the Year and the Chester H. Mendenhall Award. Qualifications and criteria for each award are listed on the back of this form. Please feel free to add sheets if additional room is needed.

Assistant Superintendent of the Year Award

Individual Nominated: _____

Reasons for Nominating: _____

Superintendent of the Year Award

Individual Nominated: _____

Reasons for Nominating: _____

Chester H. Mendenhall Award

Individual Nominated: _____

Reasons for Nominating: _____

Please submit your nomination to HAGCSA by OCTOBER 2, 2009.

**P.O Box 419264 . Kansas City . MO . 64141
816-561-5323 . 816-561-1991 (fax) . kswank@swassn.com**



Are you good at crossword puzzles? Can you look at a clue and fill in the correct response? Well, here is your chance to solve my monthly riddle and get your name in a drawing for a **\$250.00 gift card from Best Buy** to be awarded at the Holiday Party this December. All you have to do is put on your warped thinking cap and solve the riddle dredged from deep inside my sick noggin!

Here is how it works: 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 and I expect to see some great responses! Each answer will pertain to something related to our industry, terminology we would recognize, a golf course, or even a local member.

The answer can be a person, place or thing. It will require a little imagination to come up with the correct answer, especially when considering the clues I give!

Examples

Clue: Feline forest

Answer: Tiger Wood

Clue: An Idiot @ Alvarado

Answer: A Stuntz Duntz

Being a good sport and wanting everyone to have a chance at this inaugural conundrum, the clue pertains to a person who has 5 letters in both their first and last name!

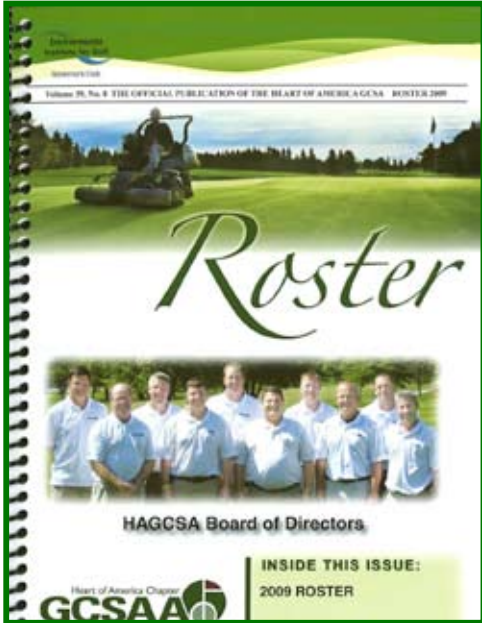
SEPTEMBER CLUE: *Empress on the Beach*
ANSWER: _____

REMEMBER! Once you feel you have arrived at the correct answer, go to the HAGCSA website (www.hagcsa.org) and submit your online response under "Tony's Teasers". One submission per person.

Good luck puzzle masters!

Tony Bertels,
Editor

2009 ROSTER HAS ARRIVED



The 2009 roster was mailed to the membership at the end of July. This roster is a great resource for member and vendor contacts. Networking and supporting our local vendors are important components to the success of our association and to each of us as superintendents and assistant superintendents. We hope you use the roster often.

Please take the time to review and let us know if you have any changes to your job location, title, phone number, email, etc.. We strive to keep the database and roster current but can only do so with your help.

If for any reason you did not receive your roster, please contact Kim at the association office at 816-561-5323.

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The Un-Comfort Zone

MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU KNOW

By Robert Evans Wilson



“Writing is not a job; it’s a hobby!” thundered my father when I told him my plans for college. “You need to get a profession: medicine, law, engineering or accounting.”

I cheerlessly acquiesced and enrolled in a Pre-Med program, but at the end of my first year, after struggling through Chemistry, I changed my major to Philosophy. When I told Dad, he grunted, “That and a dime will get you a cup of coffee.” He passed away shortly after that but his words echoed in the back of my mind for years.

After graduation I searched for a job in writing. At the same time, I wrote short stories like crazy, and sent them off to dozens of magazines. Years passed and I failed to find a job in writing, so I supported myself by waiting tables and bartending. Meanwhile, rejection letters from the magazines began piling up, and I was beginning to get discouraged.

Then one day, I met a friend for a beer in a bar near the campus of my alma mater. When I visited the restroom, some graffiti written on the wall with an arrow pointing to the toilet paper dispenser caught my eye. It read: “Bachelor of Arts Degrees – take only one, please!” Rather than laugh, I grimaced and thought, “Boy, does that sound like my Dad.”

Five years had gone by, and other than a few freelance jobs writing advertising copy, I had not made a penny from writing. I was beginning to re-think my life, when I recalled the encouraging words from my ninth grade English teacher.

She had assigned my class with several essays to write. I remembered the glowing paragraphs of praise she wrote in bright red ink at the top of all my papers. There must have been a dozen of those compositions, and just recalling them gave me hope. I thought, “At least one person in the world believes in my writing.”

It was just the encouragement I needed, and I doubled my efforts to find work. Soon I was getting a great deal more freelance work. Enough that I was able to quit working in restaurants. Enough to make a down payment on a house. Then whenever I needed a boost in confidence, I would think again of those dozen glowing paragraphs of praise written in bright red ink at the top of my essay papers.

Suddenly everything seemed to gel. I sold my first book; I won several very important advertising awards; and three colleges were asking me to teach a class in copywriting. I was feeling very grateful and once again thought of my ninth grade English teacher and those glowing paragraphs of praise written in bright red ink. I decided to look her up and give her a call.

When I got her on the phone my first shock was that she did not remember me. I was certain I had been one of her

Continued on next page

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The Un-Comfort Zone

Continued from page 30

favorites. My second was when she told me that she never wrote paragraphs of praise. “There were simply too many papers to grade to write more than a word or two,” She said. “I would write ‘Nice Work’ or ‘Good Job,’ but never anything more.”

Unconvinced, when I got off the phone, I went up to the attic and dug out the box that held my old school work (yes, it’s true – I’m a total pack rat – especially when it comes to things I’ve written!). It took a while, but I finally found those old papers. She was right; there were no paragraphs. And, there was far less than a dozen – only two. About the only thing I remembered correctly was the bright red ink. I did, however, rate more than one or two words. On the first one she wrote, “Nicely written – well thought out.” On the other, “Good Sense of Humor!”

Nine words. Nine little words that were so heartening that over the next 15 years they grew into hundreds in my mind. Nine words that motivated me to stick to my dreams. My point? Even the least bit of praise can be powerfully motivating. So, don’t keep it in – use your power!

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 www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.


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ON THE FAIRWAY, NEW LESSONS IN SAVING WATER

Note: The following article that appeared in the August 6, 2009 edition of the New York Times provides a look at how golf courses manage water and the expertise of the golf course superintendent. It is the second time the New York Times has referenced GCSAA, its members and/or the Environmental Institute for Golf in the past four months. The article is the result of a collaborative effort of GCSAA, the Institute, GCSAA members and industry officials. The impetus came from a news release regarding the GCSAA Golf Course Environmental Profile water survey.

Six years ago, when Georgia's state government rewrote its rules for water use during droughts, it cut no slack for an obvious culprit: golf courses.

With emerald fairways that glistened even in the most blistering conditions, they were a tempting target.

Yet golf course managers were indignant. They argued that they were reining in water use in dozens of ways, like planting native grasses and auditing sprinkler spray patterns. Instead of being penalized, they said, they should be emulated.

It took a while, but from the South to the arid West, their wish is coming true. Mindful that global warming could provoke more and longer dry spells, state governments are increasingly consulting golf courses on water strategies.

In Georgia, golf course managers have emerged as go-to gurus on water conservation for both industries and nonprofit groups.

Marriott International is applying lessons learned at its golf course here to its resort properties in other states. Habitat for Humanity is landscaping front yards with drought-tolerant plants recommended by golf superintendents.

"Look, if you want to learn how to irrigate, these are the guys to ask," said Garith Grinnell, who recently retired from the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Such accolades are a turnabout for a business that is often faulted for harming the environment through excess use of water and pesticides.

In Georgia, the shift in perspective came about largely because of a crippling drought that peaked in 2007. By that year, 97 percent of the clubs that belonged to the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association had voluntarily adopted what are viewed as best-management practices for water use, reducing consumption, they estimated, by 25 percent in just three years.

Lake Lanier, Atlanta's main source of water, had meanwhile dropped to record low levels, exposing muddy bottom not seen in half a century. It dawned on state and local water managers that golf courses might have some useful know-how.

Golfing grounds managers "are great technical assistance to me," said Kathy Nguyen, president of the Georgia Water Wise Council, a state association of water professionals that encourages conservation. "I can call them up and talk to them about different technologies." (Georgia's drought eased significantly this year.)

Ms. Nguyen has relied on golf superintendents in drafting guidelines for homeowners like letting grass grow longer, fixing leaks in hoses as promptly as possible and keeping lawn mower blades razor sharp. (Grass cut by duller blades is more frayed and requires more water to stay healthy.)

The golf industry still draws strong criticism from environmentalists. Turf is, after all, the thirstiest of plants. The average American golf course drinks up some 50 million gallons of water a year — comparable to the yearly usage of 1,400 people. In the West, the figures are higher.

Yet that reality, coupled with rising water prices, is what led to strides like irrigating golf courses with "gray water," or nonindustrial wastewater that is recycled for other purposes.

On the Fairway, New Lessons in Saving Water

Continued from page 36

Tom Bancroft, chief scientist with the National Audubon Society, says that for all the progress golf has made, it remains a deeply problematic industry. Many courses “use fertilizers that can run off into fresh water, and many use pesticides in lawn and grass,” Mr. Bancroft said. (Audubon International, a separate group, works with golf courses to encourage wildlife preservation.)

Mark Esoda, superintendent of the Atlanta Country Club in suburban Marietta, where initiation fees are \$85,000, acknowledges that practices among the nation’s courses range from indifferent to conscientious. But Mr. Esoda maintains that he and other superintendents have a lot to teach municipalities about watering their ball fields and homeowners about tending to their yards.

Zippering around the course on pine-shaded paths, Mr. Esoda stopped abruptly near the seventh hole. He gestured toward a patch of newly laid turf of zoysia, a warm-weather shade grass native to Southeast Asia and Australia. On shady parts of the course it is replacing fescue, a genus of cold-weather shade grass that can live through the winter and thus requires five months’ more watering and mowing.

Mr. Esoda said he had also installed affordable monitors that prevent automatic sprinklers from activating during or right after a rain.

And when isolated dry spots appear on the greens, he said, he sends staff members out with watering cans rather than turning on the sprinkler system.

Finally, Mr. Esoda has made an aesthetic adjustment after years of savoring the green glow of a perfect lawn. “Crispy around the edges is O.K.,” he confided.

Water is just one area where golf courses and environmentalists may find a rapprochement, said Anthony L. Williams, director of grounds at Marriott’s Stone Mountain public courses just outside Atlanta.

As metropolitan areas sprawl outward, golf courses may be the only large-scale green space for miles around, offering crucial potential habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife.

Mr. Williams, who has a degree in local horticulture, has been letting native grasses take over his lawns. Off the fairways he does not even bother to mow, and on the greens he is maintaining grass at one-sixteenth of an inch higher than typical courses. It makes playing slow, he allows, but “consistent.” He has also replaced all the flowering annuals with perennials, which generally require less water, choosing those that are attractive to native wildlife.

Since he took charge of the two courses in 2005, Mr. Williams has cut water consumption by 45 percent, he said, and witnessed the return of some wildlife species like the red-tailed hawk.

The changes have come with a price, like the occasional large brown spot on the fairway. But Mr. Williams says the golfers do not mind.

“I just stand out there on the greens and explain, ‘We are doing this so your grandchildren can come out here and play,’ ” he said. “People understand that.”

Reprinted from New York Times, August 6, 2009.

The Zac Livingston Story

Continued from page 14

Here is a story that came our way via an employee of the golf shop.

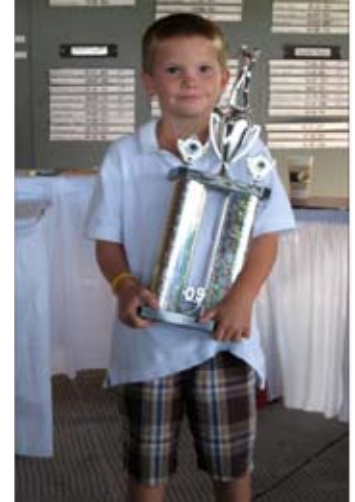
This is Zac Livingston.

Last spring, Zac decided he wanted to play in a Junior League at Overland Park Golf Club. His mother signed him up and Zac began playing golf. His mother told us that this is one of the few activities Zac actually truly looked forward to. Every single morning of league day, he was the first to rise in his household. He got himself dressed and ate breakfast and then woke his mom up to take him to golf!

In July, one of the league organizers asked Zac if he was going to play in the junior tournament. He told her no, probably not. His mother called the next day explaining that she was concerned that if Zac were in such a large tournament, he might not do well, and lose interest in the game. She was reassured that not only would he do fine, but also that all players, aged 6-11 of the Par 3 division receive trophies. So she went ahead and signed him up to play in the tournament.

Well, little Zac did just fine. He finished first in his flight. He was so excited and proud, that when he got in the car to go home, he quickly sat his trophy (which as you can tell by the picture, is almost as big as he) right beside him and buckled the seat belt around it.

His mother said you couldn't wipe the smile from his face for days. One of the neighbors, who also volunteered



Continued on next page



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The Zac Livingston Story
Continued from page 39

for the tournament saved his score postings from the big score board to his house and as she walked in the front door, the first thing she saw was his trophy sitting on the mantle over the fireplace, in a place of honor.

The next time you are out on your golf course and you see a junior golfer taking fifteen practice swings and hacking up your teeing ground, walk up and say hi, introduce yourself, tell them that you are glad they are learning the game. In one way or another, these junior golfers are our future. That child might grow up to be a superintendent. Or maybe they'll become a doctor, a teacher, an electrician, the next Tiger Woods or a member of your club. These juniors playing golf and their learning the game are our life blood. The most important part for parents and mentors of junior golfers is to make sure they stay interested and continue to have fun. We need to do our part to make sure they have the same outlook on the game that little Zac Livingston does.



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February 8-12, 2009

San Diego , CA

Information: <http://www.gcsaa.org/conference/default.aspx>



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Rate: \$219 (plus tax/fee)

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February 10, 2009

8:00pm – 11:00pm

Hilton San Diego Bayfront (GCSAA Headquarters)

Room: Sapphire 400



GCSAA HOUSING FORM

► All housing reservations must be completed by Nov. 16, 2009, to be included in the room block.

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How to Make a Reservation

To avoid duplicate reservations, use only one of the following methods to secure your hotel room(s).

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111 Water Street
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Hotel Preference: (please indicate four choices) **Arrival Date/Departure Date**
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

~ If you are applying for membership as a Superintendent, you **must** also be a member of the national association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.
 Download an application at: www.gcsaa.org ~

Name _____
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 E-mail _____
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 Phone _____ Spouse _____
 Check here if you wish to receive your mailings at home.

JOB INFORMATION: LIST CURRENT EMPLOYMENT FIRST

DATES EMPLOYED	EMPLOYER NAME AND ADDRESS	TITLE
From _____ To _____	_____	_____
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. 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.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Attested _____ Date _____
 Attested _____ Date _____

**Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application:
 \$100 for Superintendents and Suppliers
 \$50 for Assistant Superintendents, Golf Course Employees and Students.**

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It's Worth It to Me!



Well, we knew it was inevitable. The HAGCSA Board of Directors has been studying our association's cash flow and has determined that a dues increase is necessary if we are to maintain our current level of operation. No one is really sure when we last had to make an adjustment. It has been at least 10 years.

In that time we have grown and modernized as an effective chapter. We have hired a professional association management company (SWA) to handle all of our back office responsibilities. They do the invoicing, collect the money and spearhead much of the coordination of our many functions. They keep the books. They publish the *Heartbeat*. They maintain and update our website. They take the minutes at every meeting. They insure that we don't make too many boneheaded errors. In other words, they have taken much of the time consuming responsibilities that used to be placed on those few, gallant members of old, who somehow cobbled things together for the betterment of the organization. Those guys ought to be sainted! Today's Superintendent can barely spare the time to spend with his family - or sleep. Job expectations are demanding. Service to the chapter is important, but we all know that the countless tasks that Kim and SWA do for us would be impossible for most of us from a time stand point. There isn't enough of it in a day or saints within our ranks to handle it all.

In my opinion, the modest dues increase being deliberated is essential and vital if we are to continue to be a strong chapter within the GCSAA and an asset to our membership. The Heart has become so much more efficient and organized since our last dues increase. We hold a valuable educational conference annually, we continue to raise money for S&R, and we host a hospitality suite at the National Conference and place our members in position to lead within the GCSAA. Our chapter, though small in numbers, is highly regarded nationally. We have updated and improved our communication media for the membership. Most importantly, we have strengthened the network and professional bonds between us all. My membership to the HAGCSA is worth every penny to me and my Assistant.

I did a little research. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$100.00 in 1999 has the same buying power as \$129.47 now. The dues increase equates to a 2.5% inflation rate per every year since the last change. In essence, our membership is getting much more bang for their buck now than it did 10-years ago. Our proposed dues line, with no decline in membership, simply gets us to break even with our association management contract. As a metropolitan chapter with a finite number of golf courses and support industries, our membership numbers remain relatively the same. We can not look to increase our operating funds by growing it larger. This long overdue increase is fiscally responsible and will insure that the Heart retains its position as a leader and a winner.

Sincerely,

Tony Bertels, Editor

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FUNCATION FORECAST

DATE

October 5-6
October, 2009
November 2
December 4
December 15-16
February 8-12
February 10

EVENT

MO Cup Challenge
Vendor Appreciation
Annual Meeting
Holiday Party
Common Ground Conference
GCSAA National Conference
HAGCSA Hospitality Suite



HEARTBEAT • Tony Bertels, Editor

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