

P.O. Box 419264
Kansas City, Missouri 64141
816-561-5323
816-561-1991 Fax
kweitzel@swassn.com

Since 1933

Heart of America Chapter

GCSAA

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Environmental
Institute for Golf

Presidential Club



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

Volume 44, No. 6

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

September 2012

MO Cup Challenge



Old Kinderhook Golf Club



Lake Valley Golf Club

***Oct. 1&2, 2012
Camdenton, Mo.***

- **My Rookie Season**
- **2012 US Open - Behind the Scenes**
- **Member Profile**



2012 HAGCSA Officers and Board of Directors

PRESIDENT:

Tim Nielsen..... 816.331.3306 (Creekmoor Golf Club, Raymore, MO))

VICE PRESIDENT:

Todd Bohn 913.592.3329 (Wolf Creek Golf Links, Olathe, KS)

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Steve Wilson, CGCS..... 913.642.2338 (Meadowbrook Country Club, Prairie Village, KS)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Doug Melchior..... 913.897.3805 (Overland Park Golf Course, Overland Park, KS)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:

Sandy Queen, CGCS..... 913.897.3805 (City of Overland Park, Overland Park, KS)

NATIONAL DIRECTOR:

Bill Maynard, CGCS..... 913.432.0333 (Milburn Country Club, Overland Park, KS)

DIRECTOR, TOURNAMENTS:

Matt Hemphill..... 816.350.9900 (Drumm Farm Golf Course, Independence, MO)

DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP, HISTORICAL, AWARDS:

Brian Rutledge 913.592.3329 (Wolf Creek Golf Links, Olathe, KS))

DIRECTOR, SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH:

James Kennedy..... 913.897.8181 (Ironhorse Golf Club, Leawood, KS)

DIRECTOR, MEETINGS & PROGRAMS:

Ryan Varns..... 913.294.2910 (Paola Country Club, Paola, KS)

DIRECTOR, EDUCATION:

Scott Johnson, CGCS..... 913.764.6572 (Shadow Glen, The Golf Club, Olathe, KS)

DIRECTOR, PR/COMMUNICATIONS:

Brad Gray..... 913.722.9432 (Mission Hills Country Club, Shawnee Mission, KS)

SPECIAL DIRECTORS:

Paul Carlson, Vendor Liaison..... 314.308.0330 (Syngenta, Olivette, MO)

Mitch Bradbury, Employee Tournament... 913.897.3805 (Overland Park Golf Course, Overland Park, KS)

John Sheehe, MO Cup Challenge..... 913.441.0676 (Helena Chemical Co., Shawnee, KS)

CHAPTER DELEGATE:

Jeff White, CGCS..... 913.631.8002 (Lake Quivira & Country Club, Lake Quivira, KS)

HEARTBEAT EDITOR:

Tony Bertels..... 816.513.8911 (Orion Management Solutions, Leawood, KS)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Kim Weitzel..... 816.561.5323

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Message..... 4
MO Cup Challenge Profiles 6
Event Registration Form..... 7
Public Relations Committee Report 9
Wayne Deel..... 12
Member Profile 14
Tournaments Committee Report..... 15
Employee Tournament Recap..... 16
Education Committee Report 17
Assistant Superintendent Development Program 18
2012 US Open..... 20
Below the Surface..... 21
Awards Nomination Form..... 25
My Rookie Season 26
S&R Tournament Recap 28
Tony’s Teasers 29
The Un-Comfort Zone..... 30
Editor’s Column..... 33



HERFORT □ NORBY
G o l f C o u r s e A r c h i t e c t s

Phone: 952.361.0644 Fax: 952.361.0645
e-mail: golfnorby@earthlink.net web: www.herfortnorby.com

President's Message

As the summer fades into the past, new understanding of the golf course is not only valuable for next season, but for many seasons to come. What has the summer of 2012 taught you that you can improve upon? No time is better than now to make plans in preparation for next season.

As for planning for next season, the HAGCSA has partnered with the GCSAA in an endeavor first started by the Carolina's GCSA. Called Round4Research, the initiative's premise is to secure rounds of golf to be auctioned off online to the golfing public. The proceeds are then sent directly to the HAGCSA where they will be used to support university research presented to the HAGCSA Scholarship and Research Committee and the HAGCSA Board of Directors.

In the next two to four months, HAGCSA member facilities will be asked to donate one twosome or one foursome a year for 2013 and 2014. Of course, you may donate more. Any stipulations your course puts on that round of golf will be up to you and/or your course.

Supporting Rounds4Research is by no means mandatory. The HAGCSA and the GCSAA simply want to extend the offer to help fund research at our local universities. Rounds4Research calls on the golfers to financially support turf research that ultimately provides the golf course conditions that they expect and desire.



If you would like more information, please go to www.rounds4research.com.

**HAGCSA President,
Tim Nielsen, Creekmoor Golf Club**

Turfwerks

The Rain Bird IC System is a revolutionary control platform that directly links your rotors or valves and central control. Rain Bird's innovative Integrated Control uses up to 90% less wire and up to 50% fewer splices



Components of the IC System



Central Control



Rotors & Valves



Maxi Wire



Integrated Control Module

Sales	Pump Stations	Service	Parts
Brian Freeman	Bill Barker	Jamie Chambers	Brian Flaherty
913-530-3903	515-745-0202	913-530-4729	877-544-8102
bfreeman@turfwerks.com	bbarker@turfwerks.com	jchambers@turfwerks.com	bflaherty@turfwerks.com
www.turfwerks.com			



See how equipment and agronomics can work together.

Only John Deere Golf offers both a full selection of golf maintenance equipment and soft goods from top name brands. Plus advice on how to pick the best of each for your course. Call us today.



Think Ahead.

Equipment Sales:
Van Wall Golf
Olathe, KS
800-444-TURF

Agronomic Sales:
Jeff Stoecklein,
816-719-2694
Ken Harding
913-208-6546

MO Cup Challenge

Oct. 1-2 at Old Kinderhook and Lake Valley Golf Clubs

Old Kinderhook Superintendent Profile: Rusty Fuller has a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in turf. He also has a Master of Science degree in horticulture from the University of Missouri at Columbia. After his college years he worked for Turf Diagnostic & Design in Olathe, Kan. He then went to work for Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis and on to Boone Valley Golf Club as an assistant superintendent. After Boone Valley he was superintendent at Dalhousie Golf Club in Cape Girardeau and later at Dismal River Club in Mullen, Nebraska. Rusty has been the superintendent of Old Kinderhook since early 2010.

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. He 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. He then ventured out and grew in Birch Creek Golf Club in Union, Mo. from 2000-2003 and has been at Lake Valley since March 2003.

Course History - Old Kinderhook: The Club at Old Kinderhook opened in May 1999 and is a Tom Weiskoph design. The course has zoysia fairways and tees and bent grass greens and plays to a yardage of 6,855 yard par 71. The course is renowned for its valleys, waterfalls, hills, trees and water hazards.

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.

A registration form is on the next page.

NEW WEBSITE
(Same Address – New Look)



www.hagcsa.org

GOT STRESS?

you need

Floratine.com



Floratine MIDWEST

Curt Gillette 816-510-3321 cjturf@juno.com	David Hunter 913-645-2764 dhunter74@sbcglobal.net
--	---

MISSOURI CUP CHALLENGE

HAGCSA / MVGCSA / OTA



DATE: October 1-2, 2012

LOCATION(S): **Lake Valley Golf Club** **Old Kinderhook Golf Club**
 367 Lake Valley Highway 54-80
 Camdenton, MO 65050 Camdenton, MO 65020

SCHEDULE: **October 1, 2012 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 2, 2012 at Old Kinderhook Golf Club
 8:00 a.m. - Registration
 9:00 a.m. - Shotgun (4 person scramble)



COST: \$135.00 (includes golf registration for both days and reception on Monday)
 \$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, \$160 for a 2-bedroom, \$230 for a 3 bedroom and \$260 for a 4 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 1 & 2!

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

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

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: _____ Security Code: _____
 Name on Card: _____
 Signature: _____

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than **Friday, September 21** to:
 HAGCSA . P.O. Box 419264 . Kansas City . MO . 64141-6264
 816-561-5323/phone . 816-561-1991/fax . kweitzel@swassn.com . www.hagcsa.org



MISSOURI CUP CHALLENGE
HAGCSA / MVGCSA / OTA
October 1-2, 2012 at Lake Valley & Old Kinderhook

VENDOR SUPPORT

Company: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Title Sponsor - \$2,500 (TAKEN) – John Deere/Van Wall Equipment

- Recognized as presenting sponsor over the two day event both verbally and with signage at registration table, reception, and during lunch
- Complementary foursome in the tournament
- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee
- Name and logo on the rules sheet that is in every participants cart prior to the start of the event.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



Food Sponsor (supply & cook) - \$1,500 (TAKEN) – Bayer Environmental Science

- Company Name on individual banner, located at food site.
- Company name on banner located near registration area.
- Verbal recognized as food sponsor over the two-day event
- Name on the rules sheet that is in every participant's cart.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



Breakfast Sponsor - \$500

- Company name on signage located at breakfast buffet
- Company name on banner located near registration area
- One complimentary registration in the tournament
- Verbally recognized as reception sponsor during the awards presentation during reception
- Name recognition on table tent cards during dinner for reception
- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

Reception/Beverage Sponsors - \$350

- Company name on banner located near registration area
- Verbally recognized as reception sponsor during the awards presentation during reception
- Name recognition on table tent cards during dinner for reception
- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

Hole Sponsors - \$200

- Tee sign with company name located on assigned tee.
- Company name will be recognized on main banner near the registration area.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

Associate Sponsors - \$100

- Name recognition on main banner near registration area
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

PAYMENT:

Check Invoice Credit Card No.: _____
Exp. ____ Security Code: ____ Name on Card: _____

GOLF: If you're interested in participating in this year's golf event, please fill out a registration form for your team. All donating vendors are guaranteed a spot in the tournament. Cost of the event is \$135.00 per player.

Complete Form and Mail, Fax or Email no later than Friday, September 14 to:
Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141-6264; 816-561-5323/phone; 816-561-1991/fax; kweitzel@swassn.com

PR Committee Report

By Brad Gray, Director

A summer to remember is definitely an accurate depiction for 2012. Hopefully, rain has reached each course with significant measurable amounts. Staying the course and keeping a watchful eye to prevent significant stress was paramount during the summer. As we all battled through the extreme heat the Public Relations Committee was wrapping up the coordination of guests for the Midwest Golf Talk Radio Hour hosted by Bryan Wright on WHB 810 sports radio. The show's last airing was on Sunday, Aug. 19th. Thanks to Brian Wright for the hospitality and making the HAGCSA a part of the golfing community.

In addition to the radio show, the committee helped recruit volunteers to assist Gary Sailer, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate with the PGA Nationwide Tour Midwest Classic Golf Tournament. Thank you to all who volunteered and sharing your valuable time. Gary and his team had the course in great condition. Furthermore, the committee thanks the following vendors for providing meals during the evening work shift at the Midwest Classic: John Deere Landscapes, Kansas Golf & Turf and BWI.

Promoting the golf course superintendent profession is the main mission of the public relations committee as well as the HAGCSA. We continually research viable options that provide the opportunity to showcase a talented and dedicated group of professionals. If you have any public relations ideas, please share or forward. Hope all is well and best of luck with the remainder of the season.



Williams Lawn Seed Inc.
 PO Box 112 * Maryville, MO 64468
1-800-457-9571

Distributor of Turfgrass Seed since 1930!

- ***REVOLUTION FESCUE BLEND**
- ***HIGHEST QUALITY** Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Turf-Type Fescue, Fine Fescue and Links Blend
- ***A-1 & A-4** Bentgrass and many more
- ***RIVIERA** Bermudagrass
- ***STARTER FERTILIZER**
- ***WILDFLOWERS**
- ***NATIVEGRASSES**

Call Bill Tritt Today!
816-863-1372



EnviroMax® Turf

Soil Conditioner

- *Reduces soil compaction
- *Helps eliminate poor drainage
- *Maximizes aeration performance
- *Allows soils to breathe

Designed to help restore soil to its best condition!

Email: bttritt@swbell.net

Use your greensmower also for...



Watch our Youtube videos

.. the innovative Maredo® heads e.g.



GT 410 Vibe-Seeder. The vibrating spikes plant the seed very accurately in the soil as from 0.7lb/1000. A rear brush and roller smoothen the surface for immediate play. Works at mowing speed.



GT 410 Vibe-Recip Corer. The most perfect way to control your thatch. Works up to 1" deep with 1/4" ID hollow tines. Removes a lot of material and leaves only a tiny hole. The rear scraper collects the cores. Works at mowing speed. Can also be equipped with needle, solid and cross tine.

Use the GT210 Vibe-Spiker for summer venting.

MaredoCommercial LLC
660-646-6207 / 877-627-3362
www.greensmowerertools.com
Bryan@greensmowerertools.com



For all your aeration,
seeding, and renovation
needs.

**LET US AERATE & SEED
YOUR COURSE!**

800-748-7497

Celebrating 25 Years Serving You! COMMERCIAL TURF & TRACTOR



www.commercialturfandtractor.com

SEED-A-VATOR

Available in 40, 60, and 80 inch

Excellent seed distribution
No "corn rows" like a slit seeder
Accurate calibration from Fescue to Bentgrass
Vibrating action gives total soil fracturing
Gives roots a place to grow after germination
Swing-hitch allows easy turning while in use
Can be used as just an excellent aerator
No cores means less cleanup
Available in a walk behind version too!



f First
Products
INNOVATIVE TURF EQUIPMENT



Wiedenmann
North America, LLC

COMMERCIAL TURF & TRACTOR

Sales Service Contracting

800-748-7497

Wayne Deel, 1928-2012

Wayne Deel, 84, died August 5, 2012 at Adrian Manor in Adrian, Missouri. Wayne was born January 17, 1928 in Miami County, Kansas, son of Carl Wilson and Vick Doris (Bodenhamer) Deel. Wayne was a longtime rural farmer along with his father. He could grow corn taller than anyone in the area. He helped build Linn Valley Golf Course, and was a green's keeper and mower until his retirement in 2010. Working at the golf course was just like being in a big back yard to him. People always said, what normal people got done in four days, Wayne got done in one. Wayne served in the U.S. Navy from 1945-1947. - Obituary.

For those of you who did not know Wayne Deel, one paragraph summing up his life's work can hardly do him justice. There probably isn't enough room in the area newspaper for his accomplishments to be adequately reviewed.

Wayne's golf course career happened by chance at Deer Trace Golf Course in Linn Valley, KS. Wayne was operating heavy equipment, moving dirt and forming the original 9 holes for a new gated community known as Linn Valley Lakes. When the earth moving and shaping was complete and the grow-in began, Wayne went to work at the course as a full-time helper. Only 2 years into the life of the young course, Wayne would become the superintendent. Thus began a 26-year span that saw the course go through many improvements including the construction of an additional 9 holes.

The majority of the time that Deel was at Deer Trace he had only 1 full-time employee and 2 summer helpers. He never complained and continued to get the job done. This was clearly a reflection of his upbringing and work ethic. In 1998, at the age of 70, Wayne decided he was ready to retire.

It wasn't long before he made the short drive to Louisburg, KS and asked Tony Bertels for a job at what was then The Club

Continued on next page

ADVANCED AMINO ACID TECHNOLOGY

- Backed by University Research
- Contains 18 Biologically Active L-Amino Acids
- True Foliar Absorption
- Enhances Efficacy of Nutrients and Chemicals
- Provides Maximum Protection from Stress
- Produced at a Pharmaceutical Facility—ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified
- Environmentally Safe



1-800-925-5187 macro-sorb.com

KANSAS CITY TURF SUPPLY, INC.,

13667 W. 129th Pl, Olathe, KS 66062 913-915-2994

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

Wayne Deel - Cont.

of The Country. Retirement for Wayne was spending 40 hours a week on a rough mower, or anything else we had, and going home at the end of the day and not having to worry about irrigation systems or daily stresses of managing a golf course. Wayne spent the next 12 years working at Metcalf Ridge, 10 of those for me, which made our connection come full circle.

I had known Wayne most of my life having grown up in Drexel and after my freshman year of college I went to work for him at Deer Trace. The first year I was there we prepared the ground where the new 9 holes were going to be built. During that process I learned that if you invested the time and labor yourself, you could save a lot of money by not having to contract anything out. He taught me that if you were willing to work hard and show your crew that you would do anything you were asking of them, you could earn their respect and get an honest day's work. Wayne also taught me to love the agronomic side of golf, and the fact that you did not need to be a golfer or have a degree to "know how to mow grass." He was speaking from experience having finished his education in the 8th grade and working a 38-year career in golf having never picked up a club. When I left Metcalf Ridge in 2010 Wayne fully retired from the golf course industry telling me, "I'm too old to break in a new guy." Wayne is one of the last of the old guard. He was a great man and superintendent. I am thankful that I was able to work with him as long as I did.

Ryan Varns, GC Supt.
Paola Country Club

***Editor's Note:** I had the extreme fortune to work with Wayne at the Club of the Country in the late 90's. I will never forget the day he walked into my shop and humbly asked if I might have any use for an old, retired GC Superintendent. He told me he missed being around a golf course and needed to stay busy. I hired him on the spot and soaked up any knowledge he cared to give over the next few seasons. As Ryan alluded to, Wayne was one of the last of the old school guys who grew up farming and was able to apply those principles to turf. I have never met a harder working, more honest, nicer individual in all my years in this business! Rest in peace, Wayne. We will miss you.*

Tony Bertels, Editor



Member Profile

Like Father, Like ... Daughter

What started off as a summer job for Rose York has blossomed into a career working for her father – and they both are enjoying every minute of it.

By Jeff Bollig, GCSAA Senior Director of Communications

That Jeffrey Elmer is a legacy in the golf industry is not all that unusual. There are numerous examples of families who have made their mark on the game.

That Elmer has a daughter who is an assistant golf course superintendent is not unheard of, either. There are currently 42 female GCSAA Class C members.

That Elmer’s daughter, Rose York, is his own assistant is a rarity. Though it’s not confirmed by exhaustive research, they are believed to be the only father-daughter, superintendent-assistant duo among current GCSAA members.

Just a job

Rose Elmer was like any other 16-year-old in need of a summer job. Her father was the superintendent at Oakwood Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., and needed the help, so he was able to kill two birds with one stone. The younger Elmer had spent plenty of time at the club, mostly in the swimming pool, but had not spent any appreciable time in the maintenance facility. She had no intentions of making it a career; this was just a way to make some money.

Fast forward to college, and Rose Elmer was having second thoughts about her pursuit of a teaching career at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. She had come to like the outdoors, and the university’s horticulture degree was of interest. She took the only turfgrass course that was offered, but that in itself did not create the spark for a career in golf course management.

Like many college graduates, Rose Elmer was in need of a job. Her father just happened to have an assistant position open. After some brief discussion, she took the job and eight years later remains her father’s right-hand woman for the club, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

“I like to say Rose was destined to work on the golf course,” her father says. “In my first full-time job at Eaton (Colo.) Golf Club, my wife would help mow fairways. She was pregnant with Rose at the time, so you could say she got an early start working on the golf course.”

No issues

There were plenty of reasons for Rose Elmer, who has been a GCSAA Class C member for eight years, to find the job a challenge beyond those that face her on the golf course. Would the membership accept her or would they see her appointment as overt nepotism? How would she be accepted in a male-dominated profession? How would she be accepted by the rest of the staff knowing the boss was her father?



Both shrug off those as the least of their concerns. They say there have never been any such issues. It helps that Oakwood is a family-oriented club and that Elmer manages his team in an even-keeled, respectful manner. Jokes and laughs are frequent. Voices are rarely raised. Complaining is nonexistent. The tight-knit staff (11.5 positions) are all for one and one for all. Fellow assistant and one-year GCSAA member Freddie Smith, and is on equal footing with Rose York: After all, he is a family friend from way back. There is no equipment, spray or irrigation technician, nor a horticulturist. Everyone is trained to do a little bit of everything. There is a job to do and everyone contributes to completing it. No favors are given based on gender or association with the boss.

Eyes wide open

Jeffrey Elmer grew up on golf. At the tender age of 12, he started helping his father, Bob, who was the locker room attendant at Indian Hills Country Club in Kansas City for 37 years. When Jeffrey Elmer turned 17, he moved to the maintenance staff. From that point on, every one of his jobs has been in some capacity on the golf course. Like many who grow up on a golf course, Elmer became quite a player, proudly noting he carried a 5-handicap as a young adult. Family gatherings frequently involved some discussion about golf course management, as his uncle Bud and cousin Gerald were

Continued on next page

Member Profile - cont.

also superintendents. His relatives even married into families of superintendents.

Elmer’s career has been quite a journey, taking him to Ohio, Arizona and Colorado. But the irony is that unless something unforeseen happens, it will end at a place less than 3 miles from where he grew up.

So, knowing what he did about the profession and the challenges it offers, did he or his wife Carol ever encourage their flesh and blood to find an “easier” career path?

“This is still a great profession,” he says. “It’s different now. Expectations have risen. But I would never discourage anyone who has a passion for it to do something else. Rose loves the outdoors and she enjoys what she does. And she’s good at it. Neither her mother nor I discouraged her from it.”

Carol Elmer speaks with great pride of the unusual working arrangement for her husband and daughter. She realizes the potential for conflict exists on many fronts, but still would not have it any other way. Maybe that feeling comes from her own experience in helping her husband or perhaps it is just intuition. “Jeff and Rose get along well,” she says. “I think it is great. The only drawback is there can be a lot of shop talk at our dinners.”

For her part, Rose York knew what she was getting into. She had seen the long hours put in by her father and the other members of her family. Her summer job experience gave her a taste of what golf course management offered. Now a newly-wed of seven months, she remains upbeat and committed to one day being a golf course superintendent.

That position might just be at Oakwood. Elmer is 58 and is in his 17th year at the club. He isn’t ready to retire, but as a 29-year GCSAA Class A member and certified since 1987, he does not expect to work “until he drops.” He has had informal discussions with club leaders about York assuming the superintendent position. He admits he would love for her to take the job if she wants it. York nervously smiles when talking about the possibility. She knows it would be an honor to follow him, but the shoes would be big to fill.

“I’ve written down a list of pros and cons,” she confides. “I would very much like to be seen as someone who can continue what my father has created. But it would be a challenge. He has created quite a standard.”

Jeff Bollig (jbollig@gcsaa.org) is GCSAA’s senior director of communications.

This story is reprinted courtesy of GCSAA and Golf Course Management magazine, and originally appeared in the July 2012 issue of GCM

Tournaments Committee Report

By Matt Hemphill, Director

Well, we have almost survived another brutal summer from Mother Nature and Fall cannot come soon enough. I am working on our Vender Appreciation event and hope to have that information out to everyone in the very near future. We also have the MO Cup Challenge coming up on Oct. 1-2 at Lake Valley and Old Kinderhook which we hope to see everybody there. It will be a good time to unwind and blow off steam from this relentless summer.

Please feel free to contact me at mhemphill@drummfarmgolf-club.com with any questions. I hope to see you all at our events this upcoming season.



2012 Employee Tournament Recap

By Mitch Bradbury, Special Director

The Annual Employee Tournament took place at Swope Memorial Golf Course on Monday, August 6th. Twenty-five teams representing golf courses from all over the metro came together to battle it out on A.W. Tillinghast's Kansas City gem. Superintendent Andrew Jones and his maintenance staff had the golf course in mint condition. This agronomic feat was not an easy task on a 95 degree day with humidity floating around the 20 percent mark.....during an unprecedented drought. Thanks again Andrew Jones, Nick Bishop, and all of the Swope Memorial staff. The day started off with a lunch sponsored by SYNGENTA, followed by a four man scramble won by the Adam's Point team of Austin Lynch, Shay Camper, Kyle Johnson, and Alec Brown. They shot 13 under, 59, edging out the Ironhorse and Overland Park Golf Course teams.



Winning team from Adams Point: Austin Lynch, Shay Camper, Kyle Johnson, and Alec Brown.

Thanks to Dave Ferris for commanding the tough 235 yard par 3 13th fundraising hole. After play finished up, the traditional prize raffle with a generous assortment of prizes donated by area golf courses, vendors, and sponsors concluded the proceedings. Thanks again to the Swope Memorial team, lunch sponsor SYNGENTA, as well as the following sponsors and prize donors.

Special Thanks to These Sponsors and Prize Donors

Lunch Sponsor:

Syngenta

Prize Donors

Addias

Bolle

Hole Sponsors:

BWI Companies

DuPont

Grass Pad

John Deere

Kansas Golf and Turf

Professional Turf Products

X-Green Turf

Williams Lawn and Seed

Calloway

Creekmoor Golf Course

GCM Magazine

GCSAA

Helena Chemical

Ironhorse Golf Club

Kansas City Country Club

Kansas Golf and Turf

Meadowbrook County Club

Ping

Reinders

Starbucks

Shadow Glen, The Golf Club

St. Andrews Golf Club

Swope Memorial Golf Course

Titleist

Urban TREE Specialists
Rooted in a Greener Future

Residential & Commercial Tree Care Solutions

Tree & Shrub Pruning • Tree & Stump Removal
Cabling & Bracing • Consultation
Tree Preservation • Plant Health Care
Insect/Disease Control • Tree/Shrub Fertilization

Call today for a Free Estimate!

(816) 214.8327

www.urbantreekc.com

Licensed & Fully Insured for Your Protection!

Education Committee Report

By Scott Johnson, Director

Mark your calendar for Dec. 17 and 18! The Common Ground Conference will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center on the lower level. The education topics will cover a broad range of subjects pertaining to our industry. Tips on becoming a better leader within your organization; the latest on the new poa herbicides for bentgrass greens; some of the new technology available to make our jobs easier; wetting agents; master planning; research updates from Miz-zou and K-State, a round table on irrigation upgrades culminating with Bud White, USGA regional agronomist discussing greens renovation ideas, bunkers and an irrigation system lifespan plus a short annual review of his travels throughout his territory. Of course, last minute pesticide recertification CEU opportunities will be available too. I believe you will absorb a lot of pertinent information in a very short time.

This year's conference will be a transition year for the vendors as the trade show area will be reduced to tabletop areas in the foyer of the meeting hall. A variety of opportunities exist to sponsor an educational session: have a tabletop display, sponsor coffee breaks, breakfast or lunch periods with multiple forms of advertising along with opportunities to address your captive audience following an educational session of your choice. Change is not an easy endeavor. I appreciate your patience as we adjust to your voiced needs and desires. Our common goal is education for the membership. We need and greatly value vendor support in order to provide the quality education we all have come to expect from the HAGCSA. Thanks in advance!

BWI PROUDLY DISTRIBUTES THE LARGEST SELECTION OF GROWER, TURF & LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES IN YOUR AREA




Andersons • Aquatrols • Barenbrug • BASF • Bayer Environmental
 Becker Underwood • Cleary • Dow AgroSciences • Drexel • FMC
 Gowan • Howard Johnsons • Lebanon • Monsanto • Nufarm • OHP
 PBI Gordon • Pickseed • PROKoZ • Quali-Pro
 Sanco • Seymour • Syngenta



bwi
 BWI Springfield 800-247-4954
 BWI Kansas City 800-662-5320
 www.bwicompanies.com

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

funded by



The Heart of America GCSA Legacy Scholarship Award offers educational aid to the *children and grandchildren of HAGCSA members*. Award of \$1,000 is funded by Professional Turf Products and the TORO Company. The award is administered by the Heart of America Board of Trustees. Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee consisting of three high school educators and three college administrators. All decision of the committee will be final. Applicants will be notified of their status by mail. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution. If you are interested you may obtain an application from the HAGCSA website: www.hagcsa.org/scholarships or by calling the Association Office at 816-561-5323. Deadline is November 1, 2012.

2011 Legacy Scholarship Recipient

ABIGAIL NAUDET
 (daughter of Paul Naudet, Superintendent, The Club at Porto Cima, Sunrise Beach, MO)

Assistant Superintendent Development Program

By Mitch Bradbury, Special Director

Our committee rallied together throughout July to plan and organize the Employee Tournament at Swope Memorial on Aug. 6th. With the leadership of the Swope Memorial management team, this event became a huge success along with the support of the many vendors and golf courses that helped to sponsor the event. (please see the tournament recap on page 13). The following week on Aug. 15th Lionsgate Golf and Country Club, in conjunction with the Web.com Tour Midwest Classic, hosted the second Assistant Superintendent Developmental Session of 2012. Tom Brown, web.com tour agronomist, and host superintendent, Gary Sailer CGCS, did the speaking and Q and A session. This event gave local Assistant Superintendents an insider view of what it takes to produce a PGA tournament. Afterwards, the participants helped the Lionsgate maintenance staff prepare the golf course as needed for the four day PGA tournament. Be on the lookout for the next Assistant Superintendent Development Session/Mixer as cooler weather prevails. Again, thanks to all those who attended these events, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Unique Solutions For Every Need!



**Broadleaf
Weed Control
- FAST!**



**Tough
Weed Control**



**Economical
Poa Control**



**Sedge
& Broadleaf
Control**

For your local PBI/Gordon Distributor
visit: pbigordon.com or call
Allen Baumstark: 636.432.3350
or
Jeremy Buhl: 402.920.2249



Checkered Flag/ Label Design®, Gordon's®, ProForm®, and SpeedZone® are registered trademarks of PBI-Gordon Corporation. Bensumec™ and Tzone™ are trademarks of PBI-Gordon Corporation. Katana® is a registered trademark of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd. Always Read and Follow Label Directions. 8/12 01633

JACOBSEN - EZGO - CLUB CAR - SMITHCO



**KANSAS CITY
AREA
BRANCH
NOW OPEN**

KANSAS GOLF AND TURF

GOLF CARS AND TURF EQUIPMENT

1-800-260-6095

LENEXA BRANCH

**14380 W. 96TH TERRACE LENEXA, KS
913-495-5527**

KC AREA SALES

KENTON MANGAN 913- 220-5287

The 2012 US Open: Behind the Scenes

By Jeff White, CGCS

The Olympic Club, San Francisco, CA

I was fortunate once upon a time to be mentored by the now famous Pat Finlen, CGCS (VP of GCSAA, 2012 host of the biggest major golf tourney in the world, future GCSAA President). He is a true testament to our industry affording the “little guy” a chance. An industry that will give what you put into it. Someone who: “pays their dues,” “puts in their time,” “further their education,” “has a strong work ethic,” “expands their network,” etc. That is Pat. A guy who grew up in a hurry in this business without today’s “formal education.” A guy whose members stated “this guy can’t grow grass!” Well, I guess he proved them all wrong when he got a chance to be on one of Golf’s biggest stages. Enough about Pat though.

Myself, along with 150 other volunteers and staff (representing 15 countries), were able to enjoy helping one of our own be on the big stage. The HAGCSA was well represented at this year’s US Open. Several current and past members of our local chapter got to experience the “organized chaos” of preparing the course each day.

It was truly amazing to be a part of such a well-oiled machine. One hundred and sixty people rolled out on the course at 4 or 5 a.m., taking a break during the day and then starting it all back up in the evening. We have all prepared for that “big event” at our courses over the years, but it was mind boggling how much extra effort and detailed logistics it takes to prepare for a major. Course set-up and conditions are expected to be immaculate and they were.

But behind the scenes was even more interesting to grasp. Vendors, staff, club members and volunteers all coming and going like clockwork. Everyone who helped out in one way, shape or form seemed to always know exactly: where to go, what to do, and how to do it.

Daily course set-up was quite different from the way we are all used to performing the tasks. Everything was mowed and/or rolled at least one or two times per day (except for the roughs of course). Thirteen fairway mowers rolled out twice a day. Numerous bunker rakes, hand blowers, walk behind tee/

green/collar/approach mowers. I never got a good count on how many walk mowers were actually out there, but I would estimate 30-40. Two sets of cups and detail teams, two sets of greens care teams, and several hand watering hoses were out in full force daily as well. I’m sure I’m forgetting some tasks in here somewhere.

I was lucky enough to spend a lot of time with Pat just viewing the course and daily set up. I also got to work with one of my former employees daily. Miles Lilja, a lifetime Lake Quivira resident and Kansas State University graduate is interning for Pat this season. Miles, an assistant, and I were in charge of the back nine water regime for greens care. We had a set of parameters to go by set up by the USGA, of course. It was my first experience with using a moisture meter to balance greens. I now have one of my own! It is quite possibly one of the best tools I’ve purchased in the past 10 years.

Each morning during set up and again in the evening; soil moisture, stimp-meter, and firmness readings we took throughout the greens. Once all data was collected and analyzed, the appropriate water cycle and areas of need were watered.

I don’t know how much if at all everyone watched The Open on TV, but the cameras sure make a place look a lot worse than it does in person. The greens would look like they were lit up on television during the day. We’d go out in the evenings and couldn’t believe how little water actually needed to be applied. Splashes here and there were all that the greens got for the most part. One night the fairways got seven or eight minutes of water. That was it for the week! Not sure any of us could do that back here in the desert climate and still have a golf course.

Just thought I would share a bit of my experiences hanging out with an old pal at the US Open.

Below the Surface

By Matt Hemphill, Director

Being that it is only my second season as a superintendent, I am still in the process of learning things that I never gave thought to as an assistant. Thanks to Mother Nature for giving us a scorching hot summer here in the Heartland, it brought one of these things to light, the bottom of our irrigation lake. For those of us that have irrigation lakes or ponds we probably saw them at their lowest levels in years if not ever. It brought the question of “I wonder what the condition of our lakes intake and floor is in?” It was time to bring in a golf course experienced diver to check it out.

I did know that some time ago before I was here a certain golf ball retrieval company came in to dredge the lake for golf balls. In the process of dredging the lake they had knocked off the intake screen and had damaged it. To make a long story short they were not able to put the original screen back on so they had to fashion something else to do the job. I also know that after this fix a turtle was able to find his way into the intake and made it all the way to the pumps, causing the previous superintendent many headaches of taking pumps apart and removing turtle bones. This story is why I thought it was a good idea to get the diver out and into the water to find out how this band aid was holding up.

So back in the first week of August a diver came to make an assessment for us. What he had found was the screen was still attached but it was fashioned from galvanized steel and it was beginning to rust through. He figured we needed to do something about this sooner then later. He also reported that the silt layer on the bottom of the lake was approximately three inches from the bottom of the intake screen but felt silt has not started to make its way into our irrigation system. This was quite alarming to me so I contacted someone with knowledge of what level of the intake was when the lake was built and come to find out it was originally three feet from the floor of the lake. So in eleven years we have gained almost three feet of silt.

Continued on page 23

Keep Healthy Turf in Your Grasp



Proactin EX - Strengthen Plants, Maintain Better Turf Color

- A blend of select amino acids, vitamins and biostimulants
- Enables customization of supplemental nutritional programs
- Increases efficiency of post-emergent herbicides



Terreplex - Reduce Salts, Release Nutrients, Enhance Growth

- A carbon-rich acidifier that reduces bicarbonates and/or unwanted salts
- Maintains a more neutral soil pH
- Converts locked nutrients into forms available to plants



TriCure AD - Prevent Drought Stress

- A soil surfactant that helps prevent dry, hydrophobic soil conditions
- Reduces hand watering
- Increases root mass and length

MITCHELL PRODUCTS

Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

Soft Goods Sales

Dennis Whiteford 913.238.0869 | Scott Wilcox 816.977.9853 | Mike McMillin 816.225.7235

19942 W. 162nd St., Suite D | Olathe, KS | 913.397.0080 | www.reinders.com



Are your greens ready for summer?

Protect your turf from the elements with our Summer Stress Reduction Program.

Guard your turf from the threats of summer stress by strengthening your turf with our exclusive Signature® brand fertilizers. These advanced foliar nutrients and plant health products keep turf resistant and resilient by growing better roots, stronger shoots and triggering plant defense mechanisms.

Contact your local Direct Solutions representative today, and see for yourself the benefits of our exclusive program.

Mike Maas
(913)217-0650
mmaas@agriumat.com

DIRECT SOLUTIONS™
Committed to Growth™

www.aatdirectsolutions.com



Beat Summer Stress
With These Proven Signature
Brand Fertilizers

**ALPHA
NOVA™**

Provides energy boost and activates plant triggers to fight turf stress

**Feature.
Professional**

Made for best turf color possible, with 1:1 iron to magnesium ratio and a balanced micro pack



8% Calcium

Stabilized Silica Technology (SST) provides increased cell strength to help turf withstand traffic and a defensive shell to protect against stress factors

**Silstar.
0-0-26**

Unique potassium phosphite fertilizer with SST to protect and improve plant health

**Sirius.
17-0-11**

Premium foliar feed with 60% slowly available nitrogen, and fortified with potassium phosphite, potassium acetate and SST

 Agrium Advanced Technologies™ A strategic division of Agrium Advanced Technologies

© 2012 Agrium Advanced Technologies (U.S.) Inc. DIRECT SOLUTIONS is a trademark owned by Agrium Advanced Technologies (U.S.) Alpha Nova, Feature Professional, Signature, SilStar, Sirius and SST are registered trademarks of Loveland Products, Inc. Always read and follow label directions.

Below the Surface - cont.

Armed with this information I was able to report back to the powers that be at our facility the condition of our lakes intake and floor. I was able to let them know that if we don't do something there could be some costly consequences in the very near future with our entire irrigation system. If we had not had such a hot and dry summer this season I may have not thought about our lakes intake until something drastic had happened and put me in a reactionary mode. So it is my hope that somebody else may be reading this and asks themselves the question, "I wonder what the condition of our intake is?"

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: October 19, 2012

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 2012.

Complete the enclosed form and submit nominations no later than October 19, 2012. Recipients will be awarded at the New Year Party in January, 2013.

2011 Superintendent of the Year



STEVE WILSON, CGCS
Meadowbrook Country Club

PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

Call us today at 817-785-1900 or 888-PRO-TURF

Conversion Assemblies!
The new Toro® R Series Conversion Assemblies allow you to upgrade your Rain Bird® Eagle 900 & 1100 Series sprinklers by replacing only the sprinkler internals while keeping the existing body and piping system intact. Three models available.

Please call us for any new or refurbished product, or your parts and service needs.

WWW.PROTURF.COM
Houston • Euless • Kansas City • San Antonio • Tulsa
Otterbine Fountains — Club Car® — Flowtronex®

Toro® Groundsmaster 360



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 New Year Party in January, 2013. 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 greens-keeping 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



AWARD WINNERS

Assistant Superintendent of the Year

- 2005 Greg Milligan
- 2006 John Sheehe
- 2007 Jeff Stoecklein
- 2008 Johnny Brockus
- 2009 Matthew Delventhal
- 2010 Andrew Jones
- 2011 Andy Klein

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
- 2009 Daryl Pearson
- 2010 Scott Cummins
- 2011 Steve Wilson, CGCS

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 Sheilds
- 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
- 2009 Woody Moriarty
- 2010 Jeff White, CGCS
- 2011 Scott Johnson, 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 19, 2012.***

P.O Box 419264 . Kansas City . MO . 64141

816-561-5323 . 816-561-1991 (fax) . kweitzel@swassn.com

My Rookie Season

By Steve Wilson, CGCS

I have truly enjoyed reading Tony Bertels' "Member Profiles" in the last couple issues of the Heartbeat. In case you have not yet found the time to read these issues, Tony focused on Superintendents in our area that are in their first year as the "top dog" of their respective golf courses. The articles highlighted how these young men had reached their goal of becoming superintendents and what they had learned so far in their first year "in the big chair".

Reading Tony's feature on these 1st year Superintendents brought back fond, though fading, memories of my first Superintendent position. To say that it was a learning experience would be an understatement!

The story begins with me as an Assistant Superintendent to Jeff White at Falcon Ridge Golf Course in Lenexa. It was a Friday afternoon in April and I had worked for Jeff for a little less than a year. We were on the course working on some project and about to call it a day when Jeff got a call on his cell phone from one of the Kemper Sports Management (who own Falcon Ridge) higher-ups. Apparently they had just gotten a management contract at a public course in San Antonio, Texas and were inquiring if Jeff had any assistants ready for a shot at a superintendent position. Jeff handed me the phone. I spoke to this company VP for the first time ever and shortly after our phone conversation, I found myself on a plane headed for Texas and my first head job.

I borrowed Jeff's Turfgrass Science and Culture textbook (I still need to return that!) and read everything I could about bermudagrass and how to maintain it during my flight to San Antonio. Luckily I had a layover so I was afforded 6 hours to read about growing Bermuda. Up to this point in my young career I had managed this species as nothing more than a weed. I arrived at my new Superintendent position on Monday morning and introduced myself to the General Manager at my new course. He told me to have a seat in the bar and that he would be with me in a few minutes. After sitting there for nearly 2 hours, the bartender informed me that the General Manager had been let go the previous Friday as well and was merely serving out a couple of weeks until they brought in his replacement.

I gave him a couple of more minutes and then figured that he probably no intention of speaking with me. I grabbed a golf cart and asked a cart boy for directions to the maintenance facility. I walked into the shop and met my new crew. At 25 years of age, it was immediately apparent that I was the youngest person in the room by a wide margin. My crew of 10 guys was entirely composed of retired military personnel (there are 5 military bases in San Antonio). I learned later that the Superintendent who had just been let go was 72 years-old, also retired military, and a good friend to all these guys. Needless to say, I faced an uphill battle to win their respect and make the necessary changes needed to improve the operation and the golf course.

The golf course was another matter. There were two greens closed at the time of my arrival due to significant turf loss. I was faced with the challenge of quickly figuring out the issues with the Floradwarf bermuda greens which I had just inherited. As if that weren't enough, a large storm drainage project on a creek through the property was scheduled to begin on my 3rd day on the job. This was a quarter-million dollar project that was being handled by a contractor. I was assured on the morning of my second day by my new Assistant that all of our irrigation lines had been capped and prepped for the dozers that were going to roll that next day. Unfortunately, I discovered my new (and only) Assistant's keys along with a short note on my desk at lunch that day stating that he had accepted another position and moved on. Great! Of course, the dozers rolled on the drainage project the next morning followed very shortly by geysers of water from our irrigation lines which had not been prepared and capped off as my former assistant had assured me. As we all know, bermudagrass rough has been known to swallow small children and golfers alike, or in my dire case, had covered and obscured every isolation valve box I desperately needed to locate



My Rookie Season - cont.

in order to stop the flow of water. I got yelled at by the dozer operator and the general contractor at length for not being prepared for their project. I finally pulled the plug by heading off to find the pump station and shutting the entire system down.

Some of my most vivid memories of that first superintendent position were of the numerous and incredibly stupid mistakes that I made. My most memorable of these was born of my ignorant belief that I had a better idea how to grow bermuda than other superintendents in the area who had been doing so successfully for quite some time. Specifically I made the decision to “spray-off” my non-overseeded bermudagrass rough with Roundup. Though obviously a common practice here in our area, it does not extend quite so far south as San Antonio, Texas. I found out that turf that looks mostly dormant for such a short period of time isn’t nearly as fast enough a sleep for an all out glyphosate application. I was sure that the bermuda was going to be fine and that I was going to have the cleanest rough in town. It turned out that I was only half right. Although I did have the cleanest rough in town, the semi-dormant turf also drank a bit of the Kool-aid! Fortunately bermuda is an aggressive grass. While I did have to put my communication skills to the ultimate test by explaining this major gaff to my superiors, it was nothing that a few trucks of sod (for the worst areas) and a barge full of ammonium sulfate (for the not quite dead, but severely “regulated” areas) couldn’t fix!

Ultimately, I sold some major tree removal around the two closed greens, re-sprigged them, and had them both open for play in less than 10 weeks. I also gained the trust and friendship of my veteran staff, hired a great new Assistant Superintendent (who went on to take over as Superintendent at this facility when I accepted my current position at Meadowbrook), and learned enough about growing bermuda and being a superintendent to greatly improve course conditions, rounds and golf revenue in my two years at the facility.

This story of my first “gig” is mostly for entertainment value, but without a doubt the greatest lesson that I learned was to never be afraid to call anyone and ask a question if you don’t know the answer. I made some great Superintendent and vendor friends in Texas that I keep in touch with to this day. Enjoy the cooler weather.

QUALITY S600TX COMPACT SKID STEER LOADERS – FROM A SOURCE YOU TRUST

A proven leader in innovative, high-performance lines of construction equipment, Vermeer brings the industry the S600TX compact skid steer loaders.



VERMEER GREAT PLAINS

Olathe, KS
1-800-932-3655

Goddard, KS
1-800-835-2301

Brookline, MO
1-800-845-7833

Catoosa, OK
1-866-416-3300

Oklahoma City, OK
1-800-201-4778

www.vermeer.com

S&R Tournament Recap

By James Kennedy, Director

The S&R Committee appreciates all that attended this year's event at the Nicklaus Golf Club. Gary Sailer and his staff had the course in great shape on tournament day. I appreciate their time and efforts preparing for this year's event. I would like to thank all our sponsors that supported this year's fundraiser. We could not do this without them. Be sure to look over the list below and thank them personally. The winner's are as follows:

Winners:

- 1st Place - Grass Pad Skins Game - Nicklaus Golf Club
- 2nd Place - Wolf Creek 50/50 Pot - Matt Hemphill
- 3rd Place - Leawood South



Tom Kohout presents the "Kohout Trophy" to the Grass Pad Team



Gary Sailer, CGCS, Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate (Host Superintendent)



Matt Hemphill, Drumm Farm Golf Course wins the 50/50 Pot!

Special Thanks to our Sponsors

TITLE SPONSOR



LUNCH SPONSORS



BEVERAGE SPONSORS



MONITARY DONATIONS

Leawood South Country Club
 X-Green Turf & Landscape

CART SPONSORS

M&M Golf Cars
 Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate
 R.M.I. Golf Carts

TEE / GREEN SPONSORS

AMS Turf, Inc.
 BWI Companies
 EC Design Group
 Floratine Midwest
 Grass Pad
 Helena Chemical
 K.C. Arborist Tree Care
 Kansas City Golf Guide Radio Hour
 Nutramax Laboratories
 Professional Turf Products
 R.M.I. Golf Carts
 Select Turf
 Shadow Glen, The Golf Club
 Supreme Turf Products
 Syngenta Professional Products
 TurfWerks
 Urban Tree Specialists
 Vermeer Great Plains
 Williams Lawn Seed

AUCTION DONORS

Grass Pad
 Holliday Sand
 Ironhorse Golf Club
 ISTRC
 Labor Pros
 Prairie Dunes Country Club
 Professional Turf Products
 Shadow Glen, The Golf Club
 Supreme Turf Products
 TurfWerks
 Urban Tree Specialists
 USGA
 VanWall Equipment
 Vermeer Great Plains

Thank You
 To Our Host!



Tony's Teasers



Do you want to be “one of the four” big winners of a \$250 gift card (right before Christmas)!? Simply participate in the 2012 Tony’s Teasers trivia game. Each answer will pertain to something related to our industry, terminology we would recognise, a golf course, or even a local member (or

a play on their name). The answer can be a person, place or thing.

June answer: Billbugs


July answer: Bedknife

August answer: Sedgehammer

June, July & correct August entries:

- Dylan Senn
- Paul Davids, CGCS
- Bill Irving

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.



K.C. Arborist
Tree Care Specialists

913-390-0033

www.KCArborist.com

Certified Arborists


Licensed & Insured

Our Services Include:


- ▶ Tree Trimming
- ▶ Tree Removal
- ▶ Debris Hauling
- ▶ Tree Preservation
- ▶ Stump Grinding

Proud Supporter

Heart of America Chapter
GCSAA



FREE ESTIMATES



September Teaser: Percussionist Plantation

Answer: _____

Hint: *There! I lobbed you an easy pitch!*

I Dare You to Read This

By Robert Evans Wilson, Jr.

Recently, a reader wrote me to suggest that rather than trying to encourage someone, a better way to motivate them is to issue a challenge. So, I felt challenged to write about it.

Whenever I think of laying down a challenge, I think of a classic story about Charles Schwab, the magnate of Bethlehem Steel. One day, he was visiting his least productive mill to discover why it was underperforming. During his inspection, he discovered that everything seemed to be in order: the workers all knew their jobs, the equipment was top-notch, and the manager highly educated. Despite all of that, it was producing far behind all his others.

He ended his tour of the facility a few minutes before shift change. Stopping in front of one of the furnaces, he asked a worker, "How many heats has your shift made today?" "Six," the man replied. Schwab then asked for a piece of chalk. He took it, wrote a large number "6" on the floor, then left the building.

When the second shift arrived, they saw the chalked "6" on the floor, and inquired about it. "The big boss was in here today," said one of the men. "He asked us how many heats we made, and we told him six. He chalked it down."

The next morning Schwab visited the same mill. He saw that the "6" had been erased by the second shift and a large number "7" written in its place. He returned to the mill again at the end of the first shift, where he saw that the "7" had been replaced with a "10." With a piece of chalk, Schwab started a lively competition that continued until that mill was producing more than any other.

This particular challenge worked because it pitted the esprit de corps of two teams against each other. I'm not sure that particular challenge would work today with the added burden of government regulations and union rules.

I also believe that a challenge does not stand alone as a motivator. There has to be something behind it, it may be pride, prestige, or fear that drives the need to overcome the obstacle.

Challenges are always obstacles whether it is an athletic, academic, intellectual, work-related, health-related, a personal goal or a personal tragedy. Sometimes the challenge is given by a boss, a team mate, a spouse, or simply the zeitgeist.

Many times a challenge will be issued with the following words: "I'll bet you can't ..." or "I dare you to..."

A challenger draws a line in the sand and defies us to cross it. Hmm, isn't that what the game of American football is all about?

The advertising industry loves to use a challenge to get us to try their product or service. We frequently see words such as "Take the Taste Test," or "Give Us 30 Days and You'll Become a Believer." I remember this one from Gillette: "Take the SensorExcel Challenge: One shave and we bet you'll get rid of your disposable razor for good." Perhaps the most famous challenge ad is this one: "Be All That You Can Be: In The Army."

We love fun challenges such as problems that stimulate our ingenuity: crossword puzzles and sudoku for example. We enjoy the challenge of improving our skill at games and sports. OK, the love/hate challenge of golf notwithstanding.

Ultimately, all our challenges are self-given because it is human nature to want to improve. Pablo Picasso said it best, "I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it."

The personal challenge we give ourselves create the journey known as life. Enjoy the pitfalls and peaks as they come because as Leo Buscaglia, author and professor, put it most bluntly, "Death is a challenge. It tells us not to waste time."

I challenge you to heed his advice and get on with the important things in your life.



Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is an author, humorist and innovation consultant. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. Robert is also the author of the humorous children's book: *The Annoying Ghost Kid*. For more information on Robert, please visit <http://www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com>.

PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



Bayer Environmental Science



SILVER PARTNERS





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 _____ GCSAA Membership #: _____
 Club or Company _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-mail _____
 Home Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 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.

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

Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____
 Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____
 Print Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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

- Superintendents - \$130
- Assistant Superintendents - \$70
- Suppliers - \$130
- Golf Course Employees - \$70
- Students - \$25

Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association

P.O. Box 419264 . Kansas City . MO . 64141-6264 . 816-561-5323 . Fax/816-561-1991 . www.hagcsa.org

drought

A long period of abnormally low rainfall, lasting up to several years.

Writing witty, amusing columns is not easy when our weather has been so brutal for so long. Attempting to put a humorous slant on this drought it is a tough assignment. Try as I might, finding entertainment value in our current plight is a non-starter. Addressing our reality is no fun either. Dwindling water supplies, withering turf and ornamentals and trees losing leaves far too early is not good. Who needs to be reminded?



Instead, let's talk about:

- Bigfoot** I will be the first to admit that I find this subject fascinating. Referred to as Sasquatch, yeti, swamp ape and a plethora of other names, I can't believe all of the theories and television airtime surrounding this legendary creature. Ever since that fuzzy 8 mm clip came out in the mid-1960's capturing Mrs. Foot (she flashed her ta-tas) striding through the northern California timber, sightings have skyrocketed. Last night I actually watched intelligent, thoughtful PhDs' arguing the point/counterpoint of if they truly exist! Can someone please answer me this one obvious question; if Bigfoot really does exist, what happens to their mortal remains? Until someone drags in a carcass off the forest floor, I'm not buying!
- Curiosity** This is the name of NASA's new Mars rover that just arrived on the red planet last month. How mind blowing was that landing? There are some really smart people out there doing amazing things. I'm sure that some of you would disagree about the importance of such exploration and that the money could be better spent on other things (defense, paying down the debt or god forbid, social programs, etc.). I disagree. We all still need some thing to marvel at.
- Moderate**
- GOPs** And you thought the Sasquatch was hard to find! Last month's Kansas primary said much. Just exactly what, I'm not sure.
- Upside-down**
- Catsup** Why couldn't I have thought up this absolute correct way of packaging condiments? It just feels so right and no more watery crap soaking your bun with the 1st squeeze. I'd take my royalties and back a Moderate from both parties!
- Summer**
- Olympics** Okay, I knew that the London games had gone on a wee too long when somewhere toward the end of Week II, I observed Rhythmic Gymnastics, Baton Twirling and Women's Boxing. I have also decided that judged events suck. Give me a timed race or an actual score that decide the contest. If I want an opinion, I'll ask for it!

Tony Bertels, Editor

INDEX of ADVERTISERS

BWI.....	17	Kansas City Turf Supply.....	12, 13
Commerical Turf & Tractor/Wiedenmann.....	10, 11	PBI Gordon.....	18
Direct Solutions.....	22	Professional Turf Products.....	23
Floratine Miwest	4	Reinders.....	21
Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects	3	Turfwerks.....	4
John Deere Golf/Van Wall Equip.....	16	Urban Tree Specialists.....	16
K.C. Arborist	29	Vermeer Great Plains.....	27
Kansas Golf & Turf.....	19	Williams Lawn Seed.....	9



FUNCTION FORECAST

DATE

October 1 & 2

November 7

December 17 & 18

January 4, 2013

EVENT

MO Cup Challenge @ Old Kinderhook Golf Course

Annual Meeting @ Quivira Lake Country Club

Common Ground Conference

New Year Party

HEARTBEAT • Tony Bertels, Editor

Heart of America GCSA • P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, MO 64141-6264