

The Heart of America GCSA is formed to promote the welfare of the game of golf, the professional image and well-being of individual members and to unite industry professionals in the area.

Since 1933

Heart of America Chapter



GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Environmental Institute for Golf

Governor's Club

Heart Beat

November 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 3
Annual Meeting
at 180 Room

December 13-14
Common Ground
at Olathe Conference Center

ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, November 3, 2021

LOCATION: The 180 Room (Next to Oklahoma Joes in Olathe, KS)
11944 S. Strang Line Road
Olathe, KS 66062

SCHEDULE: 12:00noon - Registration/Cash Bar (Drink Tickets Provided)
12:30pm - Lunch
1:15pm - Meeting & Election of Officers

COST: \$35 per person

GCSAA SERVICE POINTS: .10

DRESS CODE: Casual Attire (No Jackets or Ties)

POLICY:

- > Cancellation refunds will not be provided within 72 business hours of event.
- > Substitutes are allowed.
- > Invoicing not permitted.
- > Payments onsite will assess a \$5.00 processing fee (on top of the cost).



Promoting the welfare of the game of golf, the professional image and well-being of individual members, and to unite golf course superintendents in this area.

EVENT SPONSORS



THE 180 ROOM



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

REGISTER:

<https://web.hagcsa.org/events/Annual-Meeting-4055/details>



AGENDA

- State of the Association
- Approval of Minutes
- Financial Report
- Annual Awards
- Committee Reports
- GCSAA Remarks
- Election of Officers

Registration Deadline: **Friday, October 29 at NOON.**

HAGCSA . P.O. Box 419264 . Kansas City . MO . 64141-6264
816-561-5323/phone . kweitzel@westerneda.com . www.hagcsa.org . kweitzel@westerneda.com

President's Message



Dear Heart Members,

The 2021 golf season is slowing down and the fall air is closing in. Many of us in the golf business enjoy the fall, as it gives us the opportunity to reflect on another season and make plans for the next. I have been doing the same thing as I prepare to hand the presidency over to the next HAGCSA President. I reflect on the past two years and how much the pandemic effected our members, facilities, and staff members. Brighter days are ahead and we have worked hard to try to bring back our events, networking opportunities, and all services that Heart Members have come to expect.



Brent Stephenson,
Great Life Golf

A heartfelt thank you is in order for all of the board members, staff members at our clubs that help us find time to serve the HAGCSA, WEDA, countless other committee volunteers, past presidents and more that have given their time and talent that makes our association great. I also have tremendous gratitude for all of the vendors that contribute to our association, without them we would not be able to provide the services we do. I continue to hear from our members that staffing is the biggest challenge they face and that also means more time commitment from our HAGCSA members at their facilities. This makes volunteering time and participating in events even more challenging. We are lucky to have such a giving profession that is always finding ways to better themselves and others around them.

Please consider attending the Annual Meeting at the 180 room in Olathe on November 3rd. This is a great opportunity to participate in the recap of 2021 and the vision for 2022. You will have the opportunity to meet the candidates for the next year and vote for your representatives. We also are able to recognize the shining stars for our association with awards presented to HAGCSA members for outstanding accomplishments. I think it is the most important meeting of the year and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

We have another great slate of officers for the year ahead. I do not take this for granted. Our association is only as good as the

Continued on next page

Enhancing Communications – “OPT IN”

As a way to enhance our communication with members, we are introducing an optional text messaging program. Participants will receive key information about happenings at the association, deadline reminders, and possibly a survey or two. The program is completely optional and you may opt out at any time.

**TEXT
HAGCSA
to 71441**

to sign up for Heart of America
GCSA mobile alerts.



President's Message - cont.

members and volunteers. We appreciate each of you that have served in the past and plan to serve in the future.


Those of you that want to get involved, now is a great time to reach out to the Board of Directors and express your interest to serve. There are many committee spots available that will give you the opportunity to dip your toe in the water to see how volunteering can enrich your career.

Brent Stephenson,
President

Common Ground 2021

We are quickly approaching the 2021 Common Ground Conference scheduled for Dec. 13th and 14th at the Olathe Convention Center. The Heart of America Association, in conjunction with the MAGIC Council, look forward to holding the conference in-person this year. We have a great line-up of speakers, that will cover an array of topics that we believe you all will find very informative and applicable for your own operation. We will also be conducting our HAGCSA Happy Hour December 13th to honor our past Presidents. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing everyone come together in the next couple months.

Spencer Roberts, CGCS






ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 3, 2021
12:00pm . 180 Room at Joe's BBQ

AGENDA:

- State of the Association
- Approval of Minutes
- Financial Report
- Annual Awards
- Committee Reports
- GCSAA Remarks
- Election of Officers




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

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

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




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Heart Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 3
180 Room at Joe's BBQ
12 p.m.

See You There!

Register at:

<https://web.magicouncil.org/events/COMMON-GROUND-EDUCATION-CONFERENCE-HGIE-3057/details>

Don't Miss Out...

SIGN UP



Golf Track



Recertification for 3A & 3B



Latest Products & Services

This education conference will be the only place in Kansas and Missouri to hear about the latest products and services from sponsored vendors; receive continuing education credits, obtain recertification offerings for both KS & MO; and hear renown speakers on green industry turf, lawn and ornamental and golf course topics.

Common ground
Education Conference
December 13-14, 2021

Common Ground Conference Schedule

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13	RECERTIFICATION (Salon D&E)	GOLF (Salon F)
7:00am – 8:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00am – 9:00am	Tips, Tricks, and Other Odds and Ends when Dealing with Weeds in the Lawn and Landscape Dr. Rodney St. John, Ryan Lawn & Tree Hours: 1 (KS: 3A, 3B) <i>Sponsored by: PBI-Gordon.</i>	Turf Issues in 2021 Dr. Zac Reicher, Bayer <i>Sponsored by: Reinders, Inc.</i>
9:15am – 10:15am	Mighty Mites: Mite Pests of Ornamental Plants Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State University Hours: 1 (KS: 3A) <i>Sponsored by: Grass Pad, Inc.</i>	Factors Affecting Herbicide Persistence, Thatch Accumulation, and Zoysiagrass Quality Dani McFadden, K-State University <i>Sponsored by: Midwest Turf, Inc.</i>
10:15am – 10:30am	BREAK	BREAK
10:30am – 11:30am	Non-Grub Turfgrass Pests Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State University Hours: 1 (KS: 3B) <i>Sponsored by: BASF</i>	Work Culture & Agronomy Nick White, Bellerive Country Club <i>Sponsored by: Bayer Environmental Science</i>
11:30am – 1:00pm	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Calibration Dr. Jared Hoyle, Corteva Hours: 1 (KS: 3A, 3B) <i>Sponsored by: Van Diest Supply Company</i>	Renovations Brent Racer, Oakwood Country Club <i>Sponsored by: Professional Turf Products</i>
2:00pm – 2:15pm	BREAK	BREAK
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Kansas Core Hour State of Kansas Hours: 1 (KS Core)	Panel: GCSAA Best Management Practices Matt Gourlay, CGCS, Colbert Hills Country Club; Mark Johnson, GCSAA; Brent Stephenson, Great Life Golf <i>Sponsored by: Norby Golf Design</i>
3:30pm – 4:30pm		Sand Selection for Bunkers and Topdressing Tony Kalina, Kalina Turf Consulting <i>Sponsored by: SiteOne Landscape Supply</i>
4:45pm		HAGCSA Happy Hour: Honoring Past Presidents at Johnny's Tavern (across the street) *** Sign up on the Registration Form ***
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14	RECERTIFICATION (Salon D&E)	GOLF (Salon F)
7:00am – 8:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00am – 9:00am	Pesticide and Pesticide Waste Matt Giese, Syngenta Hours: 1 (KS: 3A, 3B; MO: Required) <i>Sponsored by: Oil By Easy / AMSOIL</i>	Year in Review & Research Update & Myers Zoysiagrass Suspension Dr. Jack Fry, Kansas State University; Manoj Chhetri, Kansas State University <i>Sponsored by: Winfield United</i>
9:15am – 10:15am	Panel Discussion: Labels and New Product Development Matt Giese, Syngenta, Dr. Jared Hoyle, Corteva; Dr. Zac Reicher, Bayer Hours: 1 (KS: 3A, 3B; MO: Required)	
10:15am – 10:30am	BREAK	BREAK
10:30am – 11:30am	(10:30am – 11:00am) Worker Safety Dr. Zac Reicher, Bayer Hours: 1 (KS: 3A, 3B; MO: Required) (11:00am – 11:30am) 2 Videos: Groundwater and Endangered Species (KS and MO Required)	Year in Review & Research Update Daniel Earlywine, University of Missouri <i>Sponsored by: Kansas Golf & Turf</i>
11:30am – 1:00pm	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Ornamental Pests Disease ID and Control Hours: 1 (KS: 3A; MO: Required)	Panel Discussion: Poa Cure Gary Sailer, The National Golf Club of Kansas City; Ethan Shamet, Heritage Golf Course; Jeff White, Indian Hills Country Club <i>Sponsored by: Syngenta</i>
2:00pm – 2:15pm	BREAK	BREAK
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Turf Pest and Disease ID and Control Dr. Jack Fry, Kansas State University Hours: 1 (KS: 3B; MO: Required) <i>Sponsored by: Corteva Agriscience</i>	USGA Section: Latest Trends in the Turf Industry Paul Jacobs, USGA; Zach Nicoludis, USGA <i>Sponsored by: GCSAA</i>
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Missouri Core Hour State of Missouri (MO Required)	

REGISTRATION FORM

Heartland Green Industry Expo: "Common Ground"

December 13-14, 2021 • Embassy Suites/Olathe Hotel & Convention Center, Olathe, Kansas

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

ASSOCIATION

- Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Mid-America Green Industry Council
- N/A

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://web.magicouncil.org/events/COMMON-GROUND-EDUCATION-CONFERENCE-HGIE--3057/details>

TRACK PREFERENCE (select one)

In order to accommodate seating for each session, we would like to know what "track" you plan to attend **the most**:

- Golf Recertification (License No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____)

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

Name _____ Organization _____

Organization's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

REGISTRATION & FEE

	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON-MEMBER</u>	
	<small>(Early-Bird / After Nov. 22)</small>	<small>(Early-Bird / After Nov. 22)</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference (December 13 & 14).....	\$200 / \$225	\$275 / \$300	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Only: <input type="checkbox"/> December 13 <input type="checkbox"/> December 14.....	\$120 / \$145	\$200 / \$225	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Happy Hour - Honoring Past Presidents (December 13) – HAGCSA ...	\$20 / Free for P.P.	N/A	\$ _____
<i>NOTE: Additional fees apply for late sign-ups (noted) and onsite walk-ins (add \$50). No Exceptions.</i>			TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT

- Check Enclosed (check made payable to: Heartland Green Industry Expo).
Payment must accompany registration form.
- Register Online: <https://web.magicouncil.org/events/COMMON-GROUND-EDUCATION-CONFERENCE-HGIE--3057/details>

***Invoicing not available.

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY

If cancellation is necessary, substitutions are permitted. A written request for a refund must be received on or before **December 3, 2021**. The amount refunded will be less a \$25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be made after this date. Mail your request to the Mgmt. Office (P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141).

DEADLINE

Mail or Register online with Payment on or before **December 3**, to the: Heartland Green Industry Expo, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141

LOCATION

Embassy Suites/Olathe Hotel & Convention Center: 10401 S. Ridgeview Road, Olathe, Kansas 66051

MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Heartland Green Industry Expo: P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, MO 64141, 816-561-5323; Fax: 816-561-1991; kweitzel@westerneda.com

TAKE ADVANTAGE
(Deduct from above total or use Online Registration Codes Listed)

- Register three or more people *from the same company* and receive **10% OFF** your total registration fee!
PROMO CODE: Bring3
- Members can sign-up their **staff at the member pricing.**
- HAGCSA Happy Hour (Past Presidents Only)
PROMO CODE: Free

Everyone Needs Education to Grow in their Field and Position.
Use this Opportunity to Sign-Up your Staff, your Boss or Spread the Word to your Colleagues.

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Candidates for Board of Directors

Running For (Position): President

Candidate's Name: Jonathan Bennett

Present Title and Golf Course: Superintendent at Sunflower Hills Golf Course

Tenure:

12 years as a HAGCSA Member

6 years at my present Facility

17 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

I grew up in Seneca, Kansas where I graduated from Nemaha Valley High School. One week after I graduated high school, I moved to Kansas City to work at Shadow Glen under Scott Johnson, who greatly influenced my career choice into the golf course industry. I attended JCCC for one year and finished my degree at Kansas State University. I graduated in December 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Golf Course Management. With the help of Scott Johnson, I interviewed and was hired by Loren Breedlove at KCCC the same month I graduated from KSU. My time at Kansas City Country Club was very challenging and rewarding. I went through several tournaments including the Kansas Amateur, To Watson Challenge, AJGA Tour, and the Trans-Mississippi Championship. I have also gone through extensive renovations including installing a wall to wall irrigation system; rebuilding greens, bunkers and tees; installing multiple fans on greens; and installing XGD drainage in push up greens.

In January 2016, I was hired as the Superintendent at Sunflower Hills Golf Course in Kansas City, Kansas. My transition from a high-end private club to a government operated golf course has been interesting and challenging. After four years at Sunflower Hills,

Continued on page 10

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LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

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GCSAA

The Heart of America GCSA Legacy Scholarship Award offers educational aid to the *children and grandchildren of HAGCSA members*. **An Award of \$2,000 is sponsored by the Scholarship & Research funds of the Heart of America GCSA.** 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 or three college administrators. All decision of the committee will be final. Applicants will be notified of their status by mail. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution. If you are interested, you may obtain an application from the HAGCSA website: www.hagcsa.org/scholarships or by calling the Association Office at 816-561-5323. **Deadline is October 31, 2021.**



Previous Scholarship Recipients

YEAR	RECIPIENT	SON/DAUGHTER OF:
2020	CARTER MELCHIOR	Doug Melchior, City of Overland Park
2019	CAYLEE IRVING	Bill Irving, Wolf Creek Golf Link
2018	CARMAN STEPHENSON	Brent Stephenson, GreatLife Golf
2017	GRANT NAUDET	Paul Naudet, The Club of Porto Cima
2016	SEAN NAUDET	Paul Naudet, The Club of Porto Cima
2015	EMILY JOHNSON	Scott Johnson, CGCS, Shadow Glen, The Golf Club
2014	TESSA DAVIDS	Paul Davids, CGCS, Sycamore Ridge Golf Course
2013	BENJAMIN NAUDET	Paul Naudet, Club of Porto Cima
2012	CODY SANDER	Duane Sander, CGCS, Shoal Creek Golf Course
2011	ABIGAIL NAUDET	Paul Naudet, Club of Porto Cima
2010	LINDSEY NEIBLING	Tony Bertels, Swope Memorial Golf Course
2009	ARDEN DARNELL	Ron Darnell, Mozingo Lake Golf Course

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Candidates

Continued from page 8

I have brought new ideas and management strategies to the golf course. Recently, I have completed a master bunker and forward tee plan. Along with new bunkers and tees, I have provided the course a tree management program and labor reduction strategies to help attract and retain golfers.

I have served as Special Director for the Heart of America Board in 2014. My duties included running the Employee Tournament in August and putting together Assistant Programs throughout the year. I have also been a Director the past three years in which I served as the Chairman for the Public Relations in 2017, Scholarship and Research in 2018 and Education in 2019. I have served as an Executive Director the past two years and look forward to serving as your 2022 President. I reside in Kansas City, Kansas with my 10-year-old son, Hudson. He loves to come out to the golf course and help out, as long as he gets to drive the gator. I volunteer as a soccer coach for his team.

Statement of Candidacy:

the past five years serving on the board has given me many great insights on how to continue to improve our chapter and industry. Getting elected President would be a great opportunity to continue to bring my knowledge and experience to Heart of America Chapter. I have enjoyed serving on the Heart of America Board in the past and would love to continue my commitment to serving on the board.

Continued on next page



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Heart of America GCSA is formed to promote the welfare of the game of golf, the professional image and well-being of individual members and to unite industry professionals in the area.



Candidates - Continued

Running For (Position): Vice President

Candidate's Name: Thomas Storey

Present Title and Golf Course: Superintendent at Sykes/Lady Overland Park Golf Course

Tenure:

11 years as a HAGCSA Member
5 years at my present Facility
26 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

During my 26 years in the golf industry I have had the opportunity to work on many different courses. I have been a Superintendent for the past 15 years with three different clubs, two of them have been here in the metro area at Metcalf Ridge Golf Course and at Sykes/Lady Overland Park Golf Course. During those past 15 years, I have also served on the Board of Directors for the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Heart of America Superintendents Association.

Statement of Candidacy:

For this upcoming year I would like to run for the position of Vice President. I have spent the past four years serving on the Board of Directors in various capacities and this past year as Secretary/Treasurer. I feel that it is my responsibility as a Superintendent to serve on the Board of Directors for the Heart of America Superintendents Association. With your support, I hope that you as members of this great association will elect me to be your next Vice President. Thanks for your support!

Running For (Position): Secretary/Treasurer

Candidate's Name: Spencer Roberts, CGCS

Present Title and Golf Course: Superintendent at Shadow Glen Golf Club

Tenure:

11 years as a HAGCSA Member
1 years at my present Facility
18 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

I am originally from Manhattan, Kansas where I attended Kansas State University and focused my studies toward a degree in agronomy specializing in golf course management. I have been in the golf business for almost the past 20 years and thoroughly enjoy our profession. I am currently the golf course superintendent at Shadow Glen Golf Club and serve on the Heart of America board of directors.

Statement of Candidacy:

I have enjoyed my time on the board this past year and want to continue to help our Chapter and members moving forward. Running for Secretary/Treasurer is the first step for hopefully a long-term path to be a part of the Heart of America Association board of directors for a few more years. I am excited for this potential opportunity. I want to continue to help our association grow and be sustainable for many years to come.

Continued on next page

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Nick White
Golf Course Superintendent

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Candidates - Continued

Running For (Position): Director

Candidate's Name: James Kennedy

Present Title and Golf Course: Superintendent at Ironhorse Golf Club

Tenure:

11 years as a HAGCSA Member
11 years at my present Facility
23 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

James Kennedy has been the Golf Course Superintendent of Ironhorse Golf Club since January, 2010. He graduated from Missouri State University in 1999. He began his career as Assistant Superintendent at Deer Lake in Springfield, MO before becoming the Assistant Superintendent at Branson Creek Golf Club in Branson, MO. After 5 years in Branson, James moved to Arizona and began employment at Whirlwind Golf Club in Chandler, AZ. James has been employed by Troon Golf, LLC for 21 years and has been a GCSAA member for 23 years.

Statement of Candidacy:

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the HAGCSA board. I served a few years ago when arriving to Kansas City at the request of Scott Johnson. At that time, it certainly gave me the opportunity to get to know many of you and build good relationships with my

Running For (Position): Director

Candidate's Name: Taylor Olson

Present Title and Golf Course: Superintendent at Canyon Farms Golf Club

Tenure:

6 years as a HAGCSA Member
1 year at my present Facility
10 years in the Golf Industry

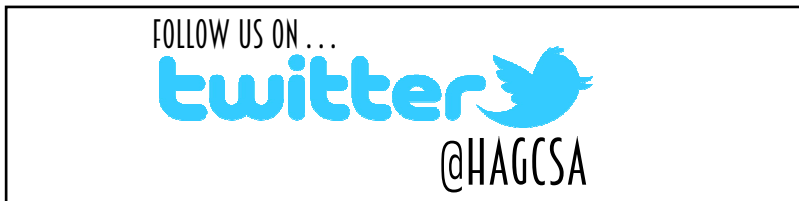
Candidate Summary:

I have worked in the golf industry for 10 years starting on the maintenance crew in college where I earned my B.S. in Horticulture with a minor in business. I was an assistant superintendent at Creekmoor and at Hallbrook for 5 years before becoming the superintendent at Stone Canyon Golf Club for just under 2 years. I have been at Canyon Farms for 2 months and look forward to hopefully serving on the HAGCSA Board of Directors.

Statement of Candidacy:

I am honored to be considered a candidate for the HAGCSA Board of Directors. I have been a member of the Heart for 6 years and I feel our local GCSAA chapter is very important to help with networking, education, and camaraderie with fellow professionals. I have served for the Heart before as chairman of the Battle of the Heart and hope to use my prior experience on the board to benefit the entire membership in other ways. I hope to use my creativity and insight to come up with new ideas to help improve our membership involvement. I hope you will consider my qualifications and support my election to the board of directors position.

Continued on next page



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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Deadline: October 29, 2021

The Heart of America GCSA Scholarship Program offers educational aid to deserving students in the turfgrass program at an accredited college or university in Kansas or Missouri.

Applicants will compete based on the overall qualifications determined by the Scholarship and Research Committee. Please help us get the word out by directing students to our website (www.hagcsa.org) to download an application and the criteria.

All applications must be received by October 29, 2021.



Candidates - Continued

Running For (Position): Director

Candidate's Name: Jacob Rockhold

Present Title and Golf Course: Superintendent at Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate

Tenure:

- 2 years as a HAGCSA Member
- 2 years at my present Facility
- 8 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

I graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2012. I began as an assistant superintendent at Shadow Glen right after graduating. I have been a superintendent since 2015 at Stone Canyon Golf Club in Blue Springs for 5 years and I'm currently at the Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate. I have been in Kansas City since graduation and look forward to assisting the Heart of America GCSA in any way I can for the foreseeable future.

Statement of Candidacy:

I have always looked forward to getting more involved with the Heart. Since becoming a Superintendent, I can confidently say that I have grown and learned how to become a better leader. I love to embrace challenges head on and I am not afraid to get my hands dirty. I enjoy bringing new energy to the table and thinking outside the box. I have attended several Heart events and got to know many of the people that have helped keep the Heart running all these years that I have been in KC. I look forward to now doing my part to help this chapter continue to thrive and represent it to the best of my ability.

Continued on next page

Candidates - Continued

Running For (Position): Director - Assistant Superintendent

Candidate's Name: Garrett Clark

Present Title and Golf Course: Assistant Superintendent at Blue Hills Country Club

Tenure:

2 years as a HAGCSA Member

2 years at my present Facility

10 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

Assistant Superintendent with 10+ years of experience in the golf course industry. I grew up in Kansas City and began my career interning at multiple golf courses including Country Club of Missouri, Blue Hills Country Club and Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club. After graduating from Kansas State University in 2015, I began my career in management building and growing in Payne's Valley and Mountain Top golf courses at Big Cedar Lodge. After four years at Big Cedar Lodge, my wife, Shelby, and I moved back to Kansas City after accepting an Assistant Superintendent position at Blue Hills Country Club, where I have been for the past two years. During my six years as an Assistant Superintendent, I have had extensive experience with renovation, construction, and working PGA Tour events including Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge and the Advent Health Championship at Blue Hills Country Club. Before moving back to Kansas City, I was part of Ozark Turf Association while at Big Cedar Lodge and now as a member of HAGCSA, I am wanting to be more involved with our local chapter and help move our organization further into the future.

Statement of Candidacy:

Please accept my candidacy for Director – Assistant Superintendent for Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association. It is an honor to be nominated for the position. My extensive experience in the golf course industry and initiative to excel makes me perfect for the position. Furthermore, if voted on for the position, I will be a strong representative for the Assistant Superintendents of HAGCSA and a positive addition to the HAGCSA Board of Directors. Thank you!

Running For (Position): Director - Assistant Superintendent

Candidate's Name: Josh Douglas

Present Title and Golf Course: First Assistant Superintendent at Milburn Country Club

Tenure:

5 years as a HAGCSA Member

5 years at my present Facility

13 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

In my 13 years in the industry, I have had stops at Meadowbrook Country Club, Manhattan Country Club, Brookridge Country Club, and Milburn Country Club. I have been an Assistant of the past eight years between Brookridge and Milburn. I have been married for six years to my wife, Krista, and father of an 18-month old, Benjamin.

Statement of Candidacy:

In my last five years at Milburn Country Club I have had ample help to grow in this career whether it be networking or learning from all that HAGCSA has to offer. I feel that this is an opportunity to not just continue to grow my career, but also to extend help to others who have the same goals.

Continued on next page

Candidates - Continued

Running For (Position): Director - Assistant Superintendent

Candidate's Name: Aaron Stansbury

Present Title and Golf Course: Assistant Superintendent at Falcon Lakes Golf Club

Tenure:

5 years as a HAGCSA Member

4 years at my present Facility

10 years in the Golf Industry

Candidate Summary:

Like most of the people in this organization, I grew up working at my local golf club as a teenager. With a great leader there, the passion for golf course maintenance grew on me. It didn't stop at the passion of physically doing the job, it went all the way to having the desire to be an extremely knowledgeable individual in the field and wanting to have the best results and success that I could possibly create whatever course or job I was doing. And that's the passion, knowledge and hard work I would bring to the table when tackling the tasks and situations given to the assistant superintendent board director position. I'm currently working as an assistant golf course superintendent at Falcon Lakes Golf Club in Basehor, Kansas. I'm confident I have the dedication and willingness to assume the roles of this position.

Statement of Candidacy:

I have been a part of the HAGCSA for five years and I've seen all the time, commitment and hard work that the past board members have put into this great organization. I realized the importance of this organization to them and their desire to build it and leave behind greater. These are traits that I would continue to bring the club. I'm also extremely interested in becoming more involved as my career develops.



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ANNUAL MEETING
November 3, 2021 at 11:30am
The 180 Room – Olathe, Kansas

~ SAMPLE BALLOT ~

President:

(Elect 1)

- Jonathan Bennett – Sunflower Hills Golf Course
- _____ (from the floor)

Vice President:

(Elect 1)

- Tom Storey – Overland Park Golf Course
- _____ (from the floor)

Secretary/Treasurer:

(Elect 1)

- Spencer Roberts, CGCS – Shadow Glen The Country Club
- _____ (from the floor)

Director – Superintendent (Class A or Class B / 2 year term):

(Elect 3)

- James Kennedy – Ironhorse Golf Course
- Taylor Olsen – Canyon Farms Golf Club
- Jacob Rockhold – Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate
- _____ (from the floor)

Director – Assistant Superintendent (Class C / 1 year term):

(Elect 1)

- Garrett Clark – Blue Hills Country Club
- Josh Douglas – Milburn Country Club
- Aaron Stansbury – Falcon Lakes Golf Course
- _____ (from the floor)

**As in accordance with our by-laws, there may be nominations from the floor by any voting member for any of the above offices.*

***Brent Stephenson will serve at Past President



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A Different Approach to Turf Research and Education

Bill Kreuser, PhD

GreenKeeper App and Jim Ager Memorial Jr Golf Course Superintendent

I've wanted to be a golf course superintendent since I was 16 years old. I installed a Penn A4 putting green at my parent's home in the Milwaukee suburbs and fell in love with the challenge of managing that surface. Friends initial named the green my "Putting Brown," but I was able to turn it around over the next few years. The green became the site of many backyard games of including putting P.I.G., H.O.R.S.E. and Around the World – adaptations of those classic basketball shooting games. I was obsessed with golf course management and decided to attend to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study Turf and Grounds Management.

At UW-Madison, I became involved in different research projects with Dr. Wayne Kussow and then Dr. Doug Soldat. The research was exciting, and it was fulfilling to share our results with the turf industry. Still, I wanted to get back to the golf course. As a sophomore, I even asked Dr. Kussow if getting a PhD would help me land a top superintendent job. He explained that a vast majority of turf PhDs held academic or industry jobs. He only knew of one PhD golf course superintendent in the Southwestern US. I had to make a choice: pursue graduate school and abandon the dream of being a superintendent or stop the new PGR growing degree day model studies to become an assistant superintendent. Ultimately, my PGR curiosity and love of science won, and I enrolled in graduate school at UW-Madison.



Bill Kreuser

If I wasn't going to be a superintendent, then I wanted to find a career in turf research and education. There seemed to be many unanswered questions consider, concepts to test and prove, and observations to share with the turfgrass industry. A career as a faculty member at prominent university appeared to be the obvious occupation to fulfill my career goals. I'd get to conduct research at dedicated turf research facilities, teach undergraduate students, and visit golf courses to observe real-world management programs of all types. Sure, there would be a lot of writing, something I honestly loathed in high school and college, but I was sure I could improve as a writer.

After obtaining a MS in Soil Science from UW-Madison and PhD in Horticulture from Cornell University, I started an academic career as an Assistant Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2014. I enjoyed the position. Our lab continued to conduct research in PGR & growth modeling plus new projects in remote sensing & precision turf management, winter desiccation causes & prevention, and even iron-layer formation in sand-based root zones. I utilized many of the standard tools to share our research findings including social media, lectures to undergraduates, speaking at industry conferences, and the production of videos and different turf articles for various publications.

I knew I could do more to expand the reach of our research findings. These traditional forms of outreach/extension seemed to be very passive. Growers would stumble across a topic or research finding and then need to figure out how to implement it at their facility. Inevitably there would be follow-up questions or missing information that could limit immediate adoption without one-on-one support from the researcher or a hired consultant. It was frustrating to see good turfgrass science sitting largely unused because it was too difficult or complex to be easily used by turfgrass managers.

During my interview at Nebraska, I pitched the idea of a turf industry-specific decision-support tool. If hired, I'd build a web-app that integrated turfgrass research results from around the world into an easy-to-use web-application. My proposed solution would provide that one-on-one support without the need to contact the researcher or hire a consultant. It was also highly scalable with the ability to help managers around the globe and therefore accelerate research adoption. This app would help schedule product and PGR applications, warn of pest outbreaks, interpret & soil test trends, and ultimately improve the management efficacy for golf course superintendents and field managers. Rapidly improving technology made the dream of an intelligent software program to aid turfgrass managers very feasible.



Continued on next page

A Different Approach

Continued from page 18



After two years of design and development, we launched the first version of GreenKeeper App (<https://greenkeeperapp.com>) via Twitter. The initial app was pretty ugly, lacked many features beyond product tracking and was sometimes cumbersome to use. Still, this first version automatically calculated how PGRs were influencing growth rate with the GDD models we had been creating since 2008. This feature and subsequent features including integrated soil testing, other agronomic models, product selection guidance, and hardware integrations have let to rapid growth over the past five years. The active user-base grew from a few dozen in 2016 to over 2,000 in 2020 with over 180,000 products, fertilizers, and PGRs being tracked by GreenKeeper's proprietary models.

Growth came at a cost. We needed to hire developers and an executive to fix bugs, manage finances, support customers, and grow the application as a University of Nebraska start-up company. It also became increasingly difficult to balance expanding responsibilities at UNL while I continued to lead GreenKeeper into the future. Something had to give, and it was usually my time on the research plots or availability for site visits with superintendents. I was moving further away from the grass as office and ZOOM-based responsibilities dominated my day. Something needed to change.

In July 2021, I started a new career as an independent turfgrass researcher, educator, and became the golf course superintendent at Ager Jr Golf Course in Lincoln, NE. It was a surprising news to many, but it was a breath of fresh air for me. I was back on the golf course, caring for a small par-3 course designed to expose the game golf to golfers of all skill level. The 40-acre property sports six acres of creeping bentgrass greens, tees and fairways with a small equipment fleet and new irrigation system.



Fairway Wetting Agent

Ager GC was the perfect location for me to reconnect with the industry and continue my research interests. It also provided a different form of research as we discovered ways to implement research BMPs in the "real-world." Some of the 2021 research projects include different putting green PGR programs split across the 10 greens, fairway wetting agent evaluations, and creation of DMI growth models for creeping bentgrass fairways. I share these findings the same way I did as an assistant professor including Twitter (@PGRBill) a blog (<https://greenkeeper.blog>) and even a summer open house. Our findings also help the Lincoln Parks and Rec decide on practices and products to use at their four additional courses.



The experience at Ager GC has also helped improve GreenKeeper App. Daily use of the app showed the dead ends & bugs, annoying aspects of the user experience and poor design of the original application. In 2021, our team of three full-time software developers and I worked with a design firm to redesign the GreenKeeper interface. This new version is more intuitive and efficient to navigate, and many of those changes were the result of our personal experiences at Ager GC and from helpful user feedback. Look for a Program Builder to be released next February at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. The design is based on past experience helping supers craft their program, giving talks about fertilizer & PGR scheduling, and now from creating my own 2022 agronomic program for Jim Ager GC.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Dual Membership Requirement:

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

Name _____ GCSAA Membership #: _____

Club or Company _____

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From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____

I hereby make application for membership in the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and attach herewith my dues for the current year. If accepted, I agree to uphold the by-laws of this Association and subscribe to the following code of ethics. To the end that confidence and respect may be enjoyed by members of our Association, the code of ethics is promulgated and observation of its provisions required.

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

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

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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

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Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association
P.O. Box 419264
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November 2021