 ***Since 1971*** 

**Friend of Southern Illinois Golf**

* Locally support Turfgrass Research for So. IL
* Be recognized for your effort

Receive SIGCSA logo cap, personalized bag tag, listing on website and in Fundraiser program

* Opportunity to join GCSAA as a Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent and support the initiative on a national level as well

***Friend of Southern Illinois Golf*** idea originated roughly 1 ½ years ago at one of our board meetings as a way to increase hole sponsorships at the Annual Fundraiser.

Fundraising efforts have historically come from funds raised at the Annual SIGCSA Turfgrass Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Scramble held in September through team entries and hole sign sponsors that are usually comprised of industry vendors and suppliers.

This limited the # of Hole Sign Sponsorships that would be available and we thought we could encourage Superintendents to contact local players at their clubs to see if they wanted to be a hole sponsor for the event and thus increase the # of hole signs and revenue. The idea eventually evolved into the ***Friend of Southern Illinois Golf***initiative.

By the time we put this idea together the GCSAA introduced a new Member classification called **Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent.**

We are currently working with the GCSAA on marketing both initiatives together and are looking to launch the ***Friend of Southern Illinois Golf***

In the next month or so.

***Friend of Southern Illinois Golf*** would be an additional source of revenue to support Turfgrass Research at the local level that is beneficial to all golfers and industry workers.

A portion of the SIGCSA membership dues also are contributed to Turfgrass Research and Legacy Scholarships.

To become a ***Friend of Southern Illinois Golf*** or for further information on how you can become involved in preserving golf course management practices contact John Kueper SIGCSA Executive Director at jkueper50@gmail.com

**About the SIGCSA**

The ***Southern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association*** is the Southern Illinois Chapter of the ***[The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).](http://www.gcsaa.org/" \t "_blank)***

The purpose of the Southern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association:

* To advance the art and science of turfgrass management and recognize Southern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents as professionals.
* The SIGCSA is comprised of approximately 38 Member Clubs with a total membership of 82 including Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Affiliates (Vendors)

GCSAA

Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent

Talking Points

*From field staff representative Shane Conroy GCSAA Great Lakes region*

*(golf course superintendents and chapters in states of KY, IL, IN, MI, OH and WI. )*

**GCSAA recently unveiled the Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent membership to allow individuals and golfers to support their local superintendents, their teams and help preserve golf courses in the future**

Your support will go towards:

* Advocacy – promoting golf course management at all levels of government
* Environment- golf courses provide green spaces and wildlife habitats for animals
* Water – through best management practices, golf courses conserve water and improve water quality
* Turfgrass – healthy turfgrass provides enjoyable playing conditions for golfers

For your support, you will receive the following:

**Friend Membership Category Levels**

$50 (Basic Package) – Quarterly e-newsletter, GCSAA sticker, Ball mark repair tool and GCSAA bag tag

$100 – Same as Basic Package + GCSAA Logo Golf Towel

$200 – Same as Basic Package + GCSAA Logo Golf Towel + $25 GCSAA Gift Card

$400 – (Group Membership) Same as Basic Package + GCSAA Logo Golf Towel

If you are interested in joining, you can complete the application online at [www.gcsaa.org/friend](http://www.gcsaa.org/friend), or feel free to call the GCSAA offices at 785.841.2240 and anyone who answers can take care of you as well.

Now, golfers can join **GCSAA as a Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent**, which allows them to show their appreciation for your team and the hard work you put into managing the course and protecting the environment. Talk to your golfers about the Friend program today, and share why becoming a Friend helps protect the future of golf

• Advocacy — Providing a voice for golf course management at all levels of government by opposing harmful regulations that impact golf course management.

• Environment — Policy makers need to know how golf courses provide valuable green spaces and habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

• Water — Through best management practices, golf courses conserve water and improve water quality.

• Turfgrass — Healthy turfgrass provides enjoyable playing conditions for golfers. Use the resources in this kit to encourage golfers to get involved.