

Local Heroes

Because of them, our industry is a better place.

Yamaha and *Golfdom* are partnering to pay tribute to superintendents around the nation who serve their profession as volunteer leaders of local chapter associations. Please join us in thanking these "local heroes."



YAMAHA

TOUGHER THAN GOLF.



Golfdom

SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & OPINIONS

Jeffrey Elmer

**Certified Superintendent, Oakwood Country Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Editor, Heart of America GCSA's *HeartBeat* newsletter**

He coaxes, he cajoles — and he collaborates. Month after month, 10 times per year for more than eight years now, Jeff Elmer has pounded the keyboard, rounded up feature stories and articles, and confounded any doubters who thought it improbable that one person could have such a profound effect on one publication.



Heart of America GCSA's *HeartBeat* newsletter could be in dire straits without the leadership of the chapter's former president. After serving through the officers' chairs, culminating in his presidency in 1992, Elmer took no breather in his aid to the chapter. His year as immediate past president in 1993 moved smoothly into the editorship post that he has held since 1994.

"He contributes to the cause every month," says Heart of America GCSA President Tony Bertels. "It's really important because, as superintendents, we are very busy trying to take care of a golf course, but Jeff somehow finds the time to do the editing and writing for the magazine."

Last year, Elmer was awarded the Chet Mendenhall Award from the chapter for his dedication, inspiration and volunteer work.

Ken Krausz

**Certified Superintendent, Paramus Golf & Country Club, Paramus, N.J.
Long-time editor of *The Greenside* for GCSA of New Jersey**

The "volunteer" gene runs strong in Ken Krausz's family. His 16-year-old daughter, Anna, is a fourth-generation volunteer firefighter, and Krausz's career in turfgrass maintenance actually stems from a contact he made while a young volunteer fireman in Old Tappin, N.J. Another volunteer was the head of the town's Department of Public Works and told Krausz he needed laborers for the municipal Old Tappin Golf Course. That was in 1978.



Since then, Krausz earned a degree from Rutgers University's 20-week winter turfgrass school, headed Old Tappin's maintenance department for a couple of years and has been superintendent at Paramus Golf & Country Club since 1988. Through it all, he has continued his strong bent toward volunteering — even to the point of continuing as a firefighter. In his turf life, Ken was first elected in 1990 as District One director for the GCSA of New Jersey. He served in all the offices, including a term as president in 1999-2000. In May 2003, Ken completed six years as editor of the chapter's magazine, *The Greenside* and turned its reins over to a successor. One of his highlights was chairing the 75th Anniversary Committee.

DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO IN YOUR CHAPTER?

Send us a note at pjones@advanstar.com and we may feature your hero in an upcoming tribute.

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