

Blessings Collegiate Invitational (NCAA)

Blessings Golf Club • Fayetteville, Ark. • Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2024

Interim Director of Agronomy

Clifton Willis, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 3

Years at Blessings: 1st (9 months)

Years as a Superintendent: 2.5

Previous Courses: Prairie Highlands GC, Loch Loyd CC,
Blue Hills CC

Hometown: Liberty, Mo.

Education: Penn State University

For superintendent contact info, contact Mike Strauss,
GCSAA at mstrauss@gcsaa.org or 785-865-8444

Other Key Golf Personnel

Victor Najera, Assistant Superintendent

Reid Briney, Assistant Superintendent

Derrick Olsbo, Assistant Superintendent

George Perez, Assistant in Training

Dusty Thomas, Equipment Manager

Justin Sellin, PGA Professional

Eric Slack, PGA, General Manager/COO

Number of Employees: 13 full time, 12 seasonal

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 20

Course Architect

Architect (year): Robert Trent Jones Jr. (2004)

Renovation Architect (year): Kyle Phillips (2017)

X

Tournament - @BlessingsCl

GCSAA - @GCSAA

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA TOUR, LPGA, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry and Epson Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-36--72

Yardage: Women – 6,501 / Men 7,737

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,675 sq. ft.

Acres of Fairway: 60

Acres of Rough: 10

Number of Sand Bunkers: 65

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 12
(Clear Creek running through property)

Soil Conditions: Sand cap fairways /
USGA greens

Water Sources: Runoff, Clear Creek

Drainage Conditions: Very good

Turfgrass

Greens: A1/A4 creeping bentgrass .110"

Tees: Cavalier zoysiagrass .425"

Fairways: Cavalier zoysiagrass .425"

Rough: Fescue 3"

Additional Notes

- Area has had hot-dry conditions leading up to tournament week with cool weather forecasted for the tournament.
- New turf on No. 15 approach due to winterkill. No. 2 green was renovated.
- Course plays through the Clear Creek floodplain and rises 65 feet through ravines.
- The golf course is in a flood plain and during floods the bridges will be wiped out.
- Clifton Willis has been balancing role of interim director of agronomy and superintendent since June 1.
- Willis was his high school mascot (Liberty (Mo.) Bluejays).
- Two of the three assistants and the assistant in training are new dads.

Mike Strauss • Media Relations Manager • (O) 785-312-5164 • (C) 785-865-8444 • mstrauss@gcsaa.org • www.gcsaa.org

Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 20,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.