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OF THE MONTH

*It's All About Relationship.*

**The Greensman, Inc.**  
(816) 523-1516  
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"The Greensman's goal is to improve your quality of life by creating and maintaining environments to provide beauty, serenity and a connection to the natural world," says Kristopher Dabner, owner and creative director of The Greensman, Inc. The Greensman is a full-service landscape and garden design company offering planning, installation and maintenance of perennial borders, water gardens, fountains, and large-scale designs. Ranging from residential to commercial, projects include country farm estates, suburban landscapes, vegetable gardens, swimming pool and spa environments. Greensman gardens have been photographed and featured in *Better Homes & Gardens*, *SPACES*, *Kansas City Home Design*, *Country Gardens*, and the *Kansas City Star*.

Owner and Creative Director, Kristopher Dabner brings his creative thinking and design to everything he touches. A successful entrepreneur, community philanthropist and inspired designer, Kristopher juggles his busy life with an upbeat, can-do attitude.

Raised in St. Louis where he began working at an early age, Kristopher would "case" his neighborhood for work, approaching neighbors to hire him for the work he saw they needed! While earning his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Kansas, he worked for an architectural firm where he sharpened his eye for design. After completing his education, Kristopher began his career rehabbing homes and

designing sets for locally produced films and television shows. The latter took him to Dallas, Texas where he was art director on a national weekly television series for a time.

In 1994 Kristopher relocated to Kansas City, where he launched The Greensman, Inc. and soon made a name for himself. Now a well-respected expert in garden design, he is regularly asked to speak on



design, gardening and water features. He is a sought-after talk-show guest and has made several appearances on local radio and television shows.

Kristopher shares his time, talent and wealth with his community. His first venture into raising money to help others was in the 4th grade! His class made and sold valentines. Because he sold the most, he got to present the check to Jim Hart, then quarterback for the St. Louis Cardinals. Kristopher was hooked, and an impassioned interest in philanthropic pursuits began. He participated in Junior Achievement, 4H, and National Honor Society where he raised money and created awareness for many important causes. In college, he served as President of AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students) and participated on the selection committee for the program director for the KU School of Architecture.

In recent years, a favorite philanthropy has been Wayside Waifs, a local animal shelter and adoption facility where Kristopher has been a serial board member and fundraiser. The organization raises upward of \$750,000 with their annual "Fur Ball." Kristopher has played key roles in DIFFA KC (Design Industry Foundation Fighting Aids), co-chairing several events including the annual "Dining by Design" which annually generates \$400,000+. Other associations and participation include Kansas City's sesquicentennial celebration and the annual Alvin Ailey Gala Event. He also designed and installed, with donations he garnered from local nurseries, the gardens at Catherine's Place, a twelve-step transitional living facility for women with children, located in Hyde Park.

Kristopher encourages volunteerism among his staff members who are encouraged to give of their time, talent and treasure, with Greensman support, to the charities of their choice.

"It is all about relationship," Kristopher says. "The Greensman's success is based on the long-standing relationships we develop with our clients and vendors as we work together. Inside the Greensman, we cultivate a camaraderie among our managers and crew members alike. It is an attitude we share with our clients. Whether caring for your lawn, taking care of your landscape or designing and installing a pool, spa or garden, a friendship and bond is created by the delight we take in our mutual endeavor—a relationship that grows more valuable over time."

