



## **John McDonald**

### ***Founder***

Boulevard Brewing Company founder John McDonald embodies the character and culture of the organization he created. From humble beginnings, his small Kansas City craft brewery grew to become the Midwest's largest.

Born the second of three children, little in John's early history suggested he would someday become a successful entrepreneur. Raised in a small farming community in north-central Kansas, John was an average student, more interested in quail hunting than books or formal learning. After graduating from the University of Kansas with a fine arts degree, he traveled widely throughout Central and South America.

Upon his return, he landed in Kansas City and started a construction business, making a living as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. A hard worker and consummate craftsman, he became well known for the quality of his work.

In the mid-1980s, John traveled extensively throughout the great beer making regions of Europe and fell in love with beer. Not just with the beer, but with the idea: small breweries making flavorful beers in a variety of styles for a local or regional market. He took up home brewing, and the same qualities that made him a sought-after carpenter made him a natural at brewing beer. In 1989, he put down his carpenter's tools to found Boulevard Brewing Company, instantly making it Missouri's second largest brewery, a title it retains to this day.

In 2009, John got tired of talking about the absence of glass recycling in Kansas City and set out to do something about it. With two other Boulevard colleagues he founded Ripple Glass, providing a comprehensive glass recycling solution for the entire region.

John still walks the brewery and production floors each morning, greeting employees and discussing issues of the day. The fierce loyalty and uncommon dedication he inspires remains a key ingredient in Boulevard's success.

