

Mike Mumper -N- Arrowhead

Visit michaelmumper.com for the minutia of his life, details and in case you want to design your own website.

Yes, Michael Mumper, Mike, or "Mumps" has his own website. As far as websites go, I like it. It is professional, clean and simple. It has a lot of information about Mike and makes writing a Super-n-Site very difficult because most of the information that is the meat of these columns can be found there. Though I did receive permission to "cut and paste", I'm going to do my best to come up with some original text.

Mike Mumper hosted our January meeting earlier this year and will host our October event, the MAGCS College Scramble at Arrowhead Golf Club. I would have to look into the annals of the Midwest to see how many two timers we have in the same year, I'll bet it is not too many.

Mike has been the Super of Arrowhead since 2006. He has Superintendent experience at Lake Shore CC in Glencoe, Park Ridge CC in Park Ridge and Ravsilo CC in Homewood. He has stints as the Assistant at Skokie CC in Glencoe and has served as an intern at Butler National in Oak Brook. He made his way into the golf industry through a friend in California who placed him on track to complete a two-year degree at Michigan State University, while hiring him on at The Links St. Monarch Beach in Laguna Beach.

Mike also holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Political Science from Radford University in Virginia. Mike is fun to talk to, has a quick wit and makes me laugh easily. However, I did have to explain to him that you can't say "off the record" after you already spilled the beans. You have to say "this is off the record" first, for that disclaimer to have a possibility of working. The poor interviewer that I am, I got so caught up in explaining this to him, I failed to write down what was "off the record" and can't remember for the life of me. As most Superintendents,

Mike enjoys what he does. His true satisfaction from the job comes from making golfers happy (65,000 each year on the 27 holes at Arrowhead!), mentoring those who work with him and seeing them succeed in their own right.

Arrowhead Golf Club is located in Wheaton, Illinois. Unique to the golf course (at least where land values are so high) is that it is surrounded by a Forest Preserve on three sides and RTE 56 on the fourth. There are no houses on the property. Run by the Wheaton Park District, the Ken Killian designed Arrowhead Golf Club has been in existence since 1927.

The 27-hole layout underwent a remodel that started in 1996 with the first nine, 1998 the second nine and saw all 27 complete in 2001. Mike said the Park District is exploring the possibility of updating the course again, this time starting with the driving range and practice facility. The idea is to create a short course within the practice/range area that will foster and grow the game for the youth of the area. While the renovation will not be as great as those in the late 90's, substantial work will take place. Conceptually, bunkering and sand will be renovated, a few green complexes reworked, and a complete regressing of key playing areas including greens throughout are being discussed.

One of the challenges that Mike deals with on the public side of golf are the layers of people that he has to deal with each time a key decision is made. Mike explained to me, during his tenure at the private clubs, "you learned who was influential very quickly in the decision making process. You easily had access to them, whether on a tee in the morning, or a practice green in the afternoon. You could talk to them about their course. Beyond

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Mike Mumper will be playing for his alma mater Michigan State when he hosts the College Scramble this October.

that, they had a vested interest in the game and the greatest asset of the club, the golf course."

Mike explained on the public side, access to the key decision makers is not direct. "There are supervisors and administrators between oneself and the park board, and often times, no one on the board actively plays golf. Furthermore, the golf course is only one small aspect to their responsibilities to the public they represent. They are concerned, and rightfully so, with many more issues than green committee. The golf course can get lost in the shuffle."

I asked Mike to tell me a funny thing that happened to him on the golf course, and what he told me, had to do with a ground hog, a golf cart, and Ed Esgar at Ravisloe CC. It really wasn't that funny. I encourage you to ask Mike about it when you see him next to see if it was just me. I'm going to ask Ed, maybe he can tell the story better.

Mike is an asset not only to Arrowhead Golf Club, but to the Midwest as well. He attends many meetings throughout the year, always has positive things to say and is willing to help make things better. If you have not met Mike, approach him and say hello. You won't be disappointed and you will walk away knowing a good person who cares about others and our industry.



Coco, Mike's 8-year old chocolate lab.

While Mike didn't disclose his age to me, he was born in Detroit sometime in the last century. He and his wife Peggy live in Western Springs with his dog Coco, an 8-year old chocolate lab. Mike enjoys spending time with his nieces, Mia and Nina (Dan Marco's daughters, Peggy and Dan's wife Bridget are sisters.) Mike also enjoys sitting on his brother-in-law's (again Dan Marco's) patio, drinking his (again Dan Marco's) beer and watching the Chicago Bears. Mike loves to play golf, his favorite place to play is in Scotland where he hopes to be teeing it up later this month. **-OC**



