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The clubhouse provides the backdrop from the fairway on the 9th South Course.

FRONT COVER

Arrowhead Golf Club, host of the 2009 MAGCS College Scramble fall colors are starting to show on the 13th hole of the East Course. Cover and above photo: Luke Cella

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance. We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Luke Cella, *Publisher*



Midwest Turf Clinic and More

You are cordially invited to attend the 2009 Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah Country Club on November 4, 2009. At press time, the Turf Clinic is relying on MAGCS most valuable asset, its members, to provide the majority of the education. Superintendents and Assistants are slated to share their experience and knowledge with all the attendees. Just as important is the Annual Meeting that is held in conjunction with the Turf Clinic. Join your current Board of Directors as they review the year, discuss Association business and talk about the future of MAGCS. It is important to show these generous individuals your support and offer them a thank you for serving the Association.

Things Even Out

As this season draws to a close, many can't remember an easier one (as far growing goes), but this year has had and continues for all to have its share of challenges. We are all tired of talking about the economy and the impact it has on our golf courses, clientele and our own personal lives. It looms over and around us everyday but we continue on and make the best of it.

The buzzword this year is busy. All that I speak with respond in this manner. "To do" lists grow as help continues to lessen. Efficient, streamlined and tight are the foci moving forward. It won't end when the snow flies; however, the courses will be put to rest.

A Path for the Future

MAGCS continues to work on its outreach to the media, golfing audience and general public. The board will focus this winter on achievable goals creating a strategy that will benefit all of our members and the profession. Internally, our message is clear. We are golf course superintendents. Our education is based upon science. Our impact on our environment is positive. We produce more oxygen than carbon- we don't make footprints in carbon -we bale oxygen and give it away free. We create and manage many different ecosystems, all supporting a wide array of plants and wildlife. And we provide incredible playing surfaces for perhaps the only game left on this planet that promotes all that is good in man.

I look forward to this winter and developing our communication efforts. The main goal of our outreach is to educate those that don't know who we are and what we do. Our marketplace consists of minds, of thoughts and appearances. We know it is not an easy task but new outlets and ideas will help us to accomplish our goals.

Howie Shuck Update

Most all of you know by now what has happened to Howie Shuck. Having suffered a heart aneurism and amputation of both of his legs, many have talked about helping him. Plans are underway as representatives of each of our associations met to help Howie. In the near future, an accessible shower will be installed and transportation will be arranged so he can get to rehab and make it back home. More support is underway and will occur through the Wee One Foundation. Be on the lookout.

Friendly Reminder

Remember, dues renewal gets underway after our Annual Meeting. Please take a look at your contact information, paying special attention to your email address. Please make sure it is current. See you at the Midwest Turf Clinic. **-OC**

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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

(continued on next page)



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**





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Budgeting Tools

It seems like these days everything you read and hear is about budget cuts. It does not matter what your field or how big your corporation; everyone is reducing expenses in some way.

So how do you get what you need to get the job done?

I've spoken with a few Superintendents over the years, and it seems that everyone produces a budget in a different way. I thought I would describe some tools that Superintendents have told me they use to get what they need for their budget. These tools can vary from documentation, to bid proposals, to photos, to videos, to Power Point presentations, to portfolios. They can be applied to labor needs, equipment purchases, and even daily supplies. It doesn't matter how large or small your budget. Everyone has needs. These are some of the ways that other Superintendents go about getting their budgets met.

Documentation has been my strongest asset in getting what I need. I started my budgeting career within the TPC network. We budgeted for everything and documented everything. I have carried a lot of these practices to Rich Harvest Farms, where I am today.

For me, spreadsheets are the most critical part of the process. Document what your staff does on a day-to-day basis. A simple spreadsheet with a list of employees down the side and tasks across the top is the easiest way I've found to track labor. It takes me, or my assistants, five minutes to record this information. At the end of the month you can total what it costs to perform each task. You can add a column with each employee's wage and, with a simple formula, automatically compute the cost of each task for any time frame you choose.

This practice gives you hard evidence of the real cost of what you have been asked to cut. You can send this information to your supervisors. It will give them a much better idea of what it takes to get the job done. When you have been asked to reduce staff, you can leave it to them what they would want to cut. For example, you have documentation that it takes X hours a week to rake bunkers, if it's done every day of the week. If we cut one staff member, we can rake bunkers every other day and it will save Y dollars. This information can be used to budget for equipment also. For example, it takes X hours to spray fairways. I want to purchase a GPS spray unit. The unit will allow me to spray faster, reduce acreage from overlap, and reduce chemical. The new unit will cost Y dollars, but will save

This practice gives you hard evidence of the real cost of what you have been asked to cut....

When you have been asked to reduce staff, you can leave it to them what they would want to cut.

Z dollars over this period of time. The spreadsheet takes out the fluff in your budget.

Bid proposals are another great tool that I have used to get projects done. For example, a driving range tee has been out of level; complaints from the club have irritated you for years. The club wants it fixed, but they would like you to do it in-house to save some money. Get a few itemized bid proposals for the project from contractors. Then, use those proposals to generate your own proposal for doing the work in-house. You already have every hour of the day documented in your spreadsheets. An in-house project will have to be done on overtime. You will have to rent equipment that you do not have. You will need to allocate extra time, above what it would take a contractor to do the project, because your staff will not be as efficient as a contractor who does that kind of work every day. This bid proposal will allow you to show that a contractor might actually save the club money. Or, it will give your employees some overtime and a new experience. Either way, the project that's been irritating you for years gets done and the golfers will have a better experience.

Photos, videos, portfolios and power point presentations are also valuable tools. Everyone learns better with visuals. It is easier to go into a budget meeting with images than to try to explain with just paper and a bunch of numbers what it is we actually do. Be proactive. Develop these tools now, so that at

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