



Now this is after the Monday night game, and they all know Fridge is going to get the ball. But this was the one where they faked the run to Fridge, and he went into the end zone and caught the pass for a touchdown. Just to hear Lambeau Field being so loud and McMahon being difficult, and then hearing the quiet after Fridge caught a touchdown pass, we were just laughing so hard out there.

Walter was the greatest. I remember the first play I was ever in on. We were going against a 3-4 defense. The nose guard threw me off, and Walter was running through the right tackle hole. I started getting back up on my feet, and I looked behind me. Remember watching as a kid the high step that Walter would do? It was just like I was a little kid watching him high-step right at me. I tried to get out of his way, but I just caught his knee with my shoulder, and he goes down. I thought, Man, my first play in the NFL, and I tackle Walter Payton. Walter says to me, "Next time, just lay on the ground."

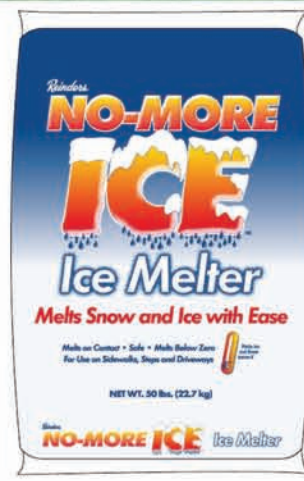
Many of the former and current Bears players and coaches have played the Creek. We even got some to join instead of mooching rounds. I have had the privilege of meeting and getting to know many of them. And, yes, Jim McMahon is as crazy as the stories that you hear about him. He does golf barefoot and drinks plenty of cold beers during his multiple times around the course.

Some of the other former and current players that have tested the links of Strawberry Creek are Dan Hampton, Richard Dent, Otis Wilson, Tom Thayer, Keith Van Horne, Ron Rivera, Emery Moorehead, Mike Tomczak, Jim 'Robo' Thorton, Roberto Garza, Olin Kreutz, Robbie Gould, Patrick Mannelly, Chris Williams, Frank Omiyale, Coach Lovie Smith, Special Teams Coach Dave Toub, many position coaches, trainers, and scouts.

Jay is a very active owner. Most days you can find him on the grounds of the club. He enjoys inspecting the turf conditions as well as inspecting the numerous ponds on the course – golfing and fishing, in other words. Ed, a bull terrier dog, is Jay's longtime companion. Ed may very well know the property better than Jay. He is as much of a face of the club as good ol' #63. **-OC**



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Michael Mumper -N- Arrowhead Golf Club

Mike Mumper is known as MUMPS or maybe just as the big guy with the happy grin on his face. Either way, golf course superintendents and assistants want to be around his contagious enthusiasm, happiness, and passion for the golf industry. Most superintendents know his background but some of us younger guys don't. We might not realize the dedication and eagerness it takes to become a golf course superintendent. Mike Mumper has these attributes a hundredfold.

Mike started his career on the other side of the ball as an operations manager at Links of Monarch Beach, in California. He found himself hanging out with the golf course superintendent, Brian Sullivan, and in his free time helping out the grounds crew. Mike thought that Brian had his life figured out as they were sailing on his boat, drinking margaritas, and listening to Jimmy Buffet. Mike said, "Brian, I want to do what you do." Brian thought about it for a minute then responded, "If you're serious, then you need to get a degree and work in Chicago, because if you can grow grass there you can grow grass anywhere."

Mike didn't hesitate. He sold everything that didn't fit in his car and drove to Chicago in hopes of finding a golf course grounds position to get him started. Brian had suggested that he talk to Dave Ward, Bruce Williams, Brian Bossert, and Danny Quast to steer him in the right direction. Their advice, along with their crystal ball, pointed him north.

He focused on Skokie Country Club and demanded the tutelage of Don Cross. Come to find out, maybe Don wasn't interested in some kid from California. Mike continued to pursue a grounds crew position with Don. Eventually Don took the inexperienced soul in and gave him the test of filling divots and edging drainage covers. Mike fell in love with the detail of the task, and still claims he was the best divot filler Skokie CC has ever had.

Don, in his first year as superintendent at Skokie, valued Mike's passion and allowed him to stay in the dorms at Skokie



Mike and Lilly

CC during the winter. Once he became a grounds crew member it was too late to register for the turf program at Michigan State University. Mike only made \$5.50 at Skokie, and winter was approaching. He had to find other work to make it through the winter. His dedication would be tested again when he found himself loading UPS trucks to keep food on the table.

Finally arriving at MSU, Mike met his partner in crime, Dave Radaj. Dave and Mike ruled the campus of MSU as kings in their own world. They even figured out how to manipulate the MSU housing system. They were granted married housing together to save money for "Labatt Blue." In their short time spent at MSU, they built a friendship that would last forever.

Mike graduated from MSU with the highest honors that Crunches and Roadhouse Pub could offer. Then he headed back to be the Assistant Superintendent at Skokie CC. While the assistant at Skokie, Mike focused on gaining all the knowledge he could get from Don. Don figured a good learning experience would be for the crew to gang up on Mike and throw him in the pond. When asking Mike if this story was true, he chuckled and said, "I remember that day, and I also remember taking Don down into the pond as well."

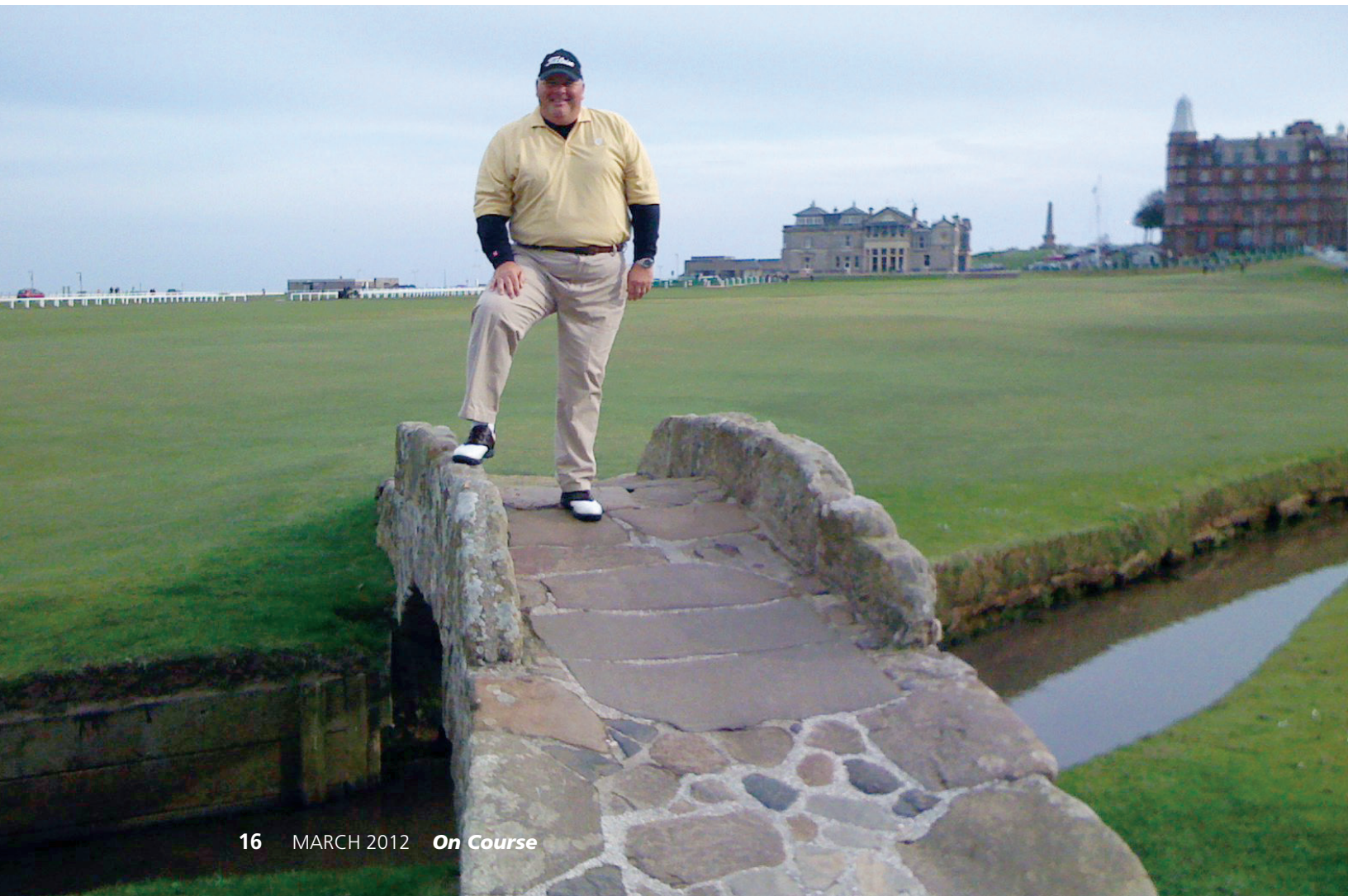
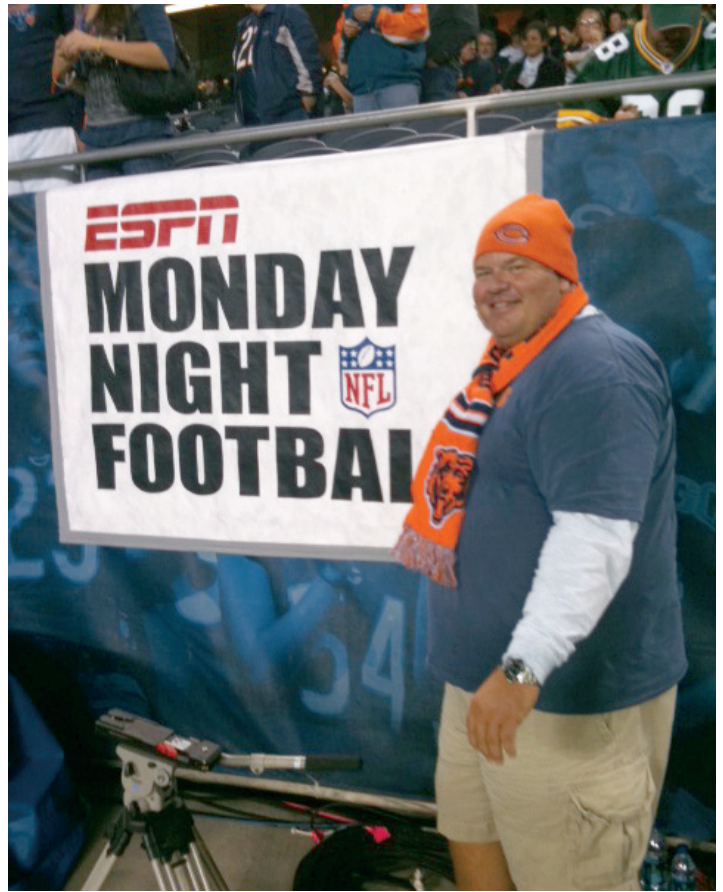
Mike quickly found himself in a position to become a golf course superintendent. He accepted his first superintendent position at Ravisloe Country Club, which then led him to Park Ridge Country Club, Lake Shore Country Club, and now Arrowhead Golf Club. Mike's golf course superintendent career has been an adventure. With his knowledge and personable

(continued on page 16)



attitude, he has become the mentor that he sought out years ago and has been influential in many lives.

Along with all the dedication and passion that Mike has put into the golf industry, he has received some of the highest honors. None is higher than the friendship of so many superintendents, members, owners, salespeople and staff. He is an accomplished superintendent. Any assistant superintendent that crosses paths with him sees that we work hard to be part of this Family, the golf industry. It's the people within it that make it great. **-OC**



MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*



Telling the Story

One of the challenges of our position as Golf Course Superintendents is to be able to communicate effectively with our players, members, committees, boards and supervisors. Being located “down in the barn”, maintenance shop, or turf care facility, presents a big challenge to be part of the golfer culture that is based and located in the Clubhouse. As the saying goes, “out of sight, out of mind”.

The ITF Winter Workshops addressed many of the “high tech” communication tools available such as blogs, social networking, websites, twitter, and texting. These presentations were made mostly by Superintendents for Superintendents and were very good. The members came away with a better awareness of just how these new tools work and how others are using them effectively.

Of course, many of the “old” forms of communication still work. Newsletters and signs posted in the locker room or on 1st tee bulletin board are still effective forms of communication. Sometimes an old-fashioned “sit down” meeting with a person works very well. This interaction may still be the most personal and direct form of communication we know. My friends in the high school teaching business tell me this form of communication is becoming a “lost art” as more and more of the younger generation prefer to communicate via text. People still need to communicate with other people. By nature (in most cases) we are social creatures and seek out other people to communicate and bond with as part of life. We have so many more methods now, sometimes it is difficult to choose how to do it.

Every little bit of reaching out helps tell the story.

People are busy in their daily lives. People are busy at work and home, always multi-tasking, always plugged in. Who isn't these days? The danger of not effectively communicating for yourself or your department is that people will

extrapolate their own conclusions, based on their perceptions, no matter their level of accuracy. Rumors, false statements, miscommunication and lack of communication can totally undermine all of the positive things that are going on.

We live in the Age of Communication. People want to/ need to know what's going on. Be pro-active. Get the message out with your “spin”. If you don't, you will have nobody to blame but yourself. Think about it, why do relationships fail? I always think of the movie “Cool Hand Luke” starring Paul Newman. As he is captured escaping from prison for the umpteenth time the Warden says, “What we have here, is a failure to communicate”. It did not end well for Luke.

Whatever your communication format, keep it short and simple. Avoid technical or scientific jargon. Be accurate, be transparent. “Reaching out” demonstrates a strong commitment. Know your audience. Does the person you are telling the story to prefer texts or like to sit down over a cup of coffee? What is most comfortable for them? What is the age, gender, profession of the person you want to receive the message? In most cases a multi-pronged approach will connect with the most people. Try to maximize your number of “hits”.

At one of the MAGCS meetings I overheard a “rookie” Superintendent complain that he was tired of repeating the same message to the same people over and over. I thought to myself, get used to it, this is what we do, and this is what teachers do. Telling the same or similar story is a big part of the nature of our jobs. Just do it and do it well. “Be the ball Danny.” **-OC**

THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



March 2012

Welcome to the new members of MAGCS, who are:

Stephen Hope, Class C, Ivanhoe Club
Mike Mausolf, Class SM, Oakland Hills Country Club
Ryan Ochs, Class C, Wysntone Golf Club
Patrick Holubetz, Class E, Profile Products
Brent Miles, Class A, Nettle Creek Country Club
Brian Milam, Class E, Calcium Products

First off I would like to right a couple of wrongs from the January issue. In my article about MAGCS' 85 year history, I TOTALLY dropped the ball when I failed to mention one of our very own being President of GCSAA in 1981. That person was **Mike Bavier, CGCS**, whose year at the helm of our national association featured the first Old Tom Morris Award as well as the hiring of Jim McLoughlin as Executive Director (who brought the first computer to the GCSAA offices).



Mike Bavier

(continued on next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 17 – CDGA Club Leadership Conference (formerly the Officers and Directors Workshop) at Medinah Country Club, **Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS** host.

March 21 – MAGCS monthly meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, IL, **Mike Mumper, Justin Kirtland, Josh Therrien**, and **Tim Johnson** hosts.

March 26 – Deadline for nominations for *Golf Course Management's* (GCM's) Most Valuable Technician Award (MVT). Details will follow.

April 1 – Deadline for nominations for TurfNet's Technician of the Year Award.

April 19 – Northwest Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association (NWIGCSA) monthly meeting at Swan Hills Golf Club in Belvedere, IL.

April 23 – Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association (WGCSA) monthly meeting at Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva, WI.

April 25 – MAGCS monthly meeting and Annual Spring Scramble at Naperville Country Club, **Tim Anderson, CGCS, MG**, and **Steven Biehl** hosts.

May 6 – J.W. Turf's Annual Equipment Auction in beautiful Hampshire.

May 14 – WGCSA monthly meeting at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

May 15 – NWIGCSA monthly meeting at Mendota Golf Club in Mendota, IL.

May 21 – ITF Golf Day at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, IL, **Kyle Jacobsen** host.

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Also, in Bull Sheet I inadvertently ran an incorrect photo of **Keith Copersmet** alongside an item about his new employment. For that I apologize and offer this more recent and much more becoming photo of Keith for you.



Keith Copersmet

Oops, wrong one again—THIS is the right one...



Keith Copermet

Congratulations to **Jeff Leuzinger** who is the General Manager of Pearl Valley Organix.

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This must be Technician Month—nominations for both the GCM magazine MVT Award (most valuable technician) AND the TurfNet Technician of the Year Award are due at month's end (more specifically the 26th for the MVT Award and April 1st for Technician of the Year Award). If your guy is Golden Wrench-worthy, get on the ball quick and nominate him. You can find the forms online at gcsaa.org and turfnet.com.
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MAGCS Scholarship Applications are online. College kid home for Spring Break? Get them to download and fill out an application. High school seniors with a letter of intent are eligible too. Completed applications are due in May, but it is never too early to start reminding them.
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Speaking of TurfNet, if you are a member and missed any of their TurfNet University Webinars from the past year, you can find recordings of all 2011 webinars for free at turfnet.com. And even if you're NOT a member, you can gain access to all 2008, 2009, and 2010 webinars for free at the same address.
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We had a couple of our more famous MAGCS members get even famouser last month. In February's GCM magazine, page 97 had this ad featuring **Dr. Bruce Branham** from the University of Crappy Basketball,



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