

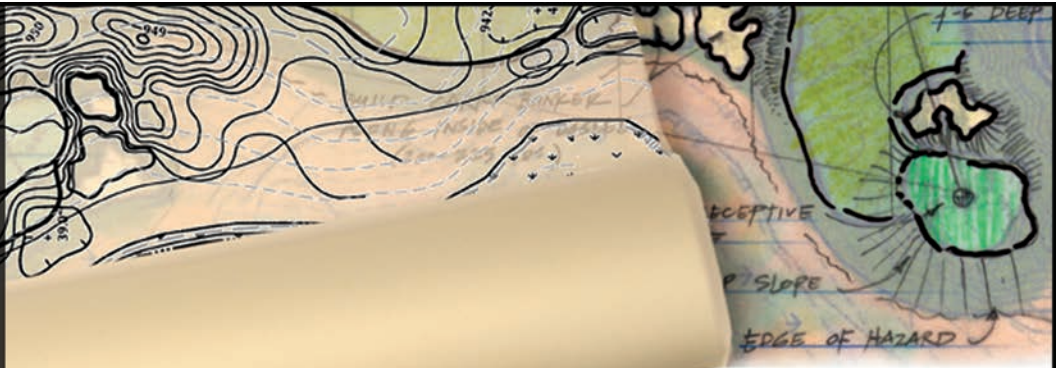
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# toc

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Steve VanAcker hosts the Midwest Championship on August 26 at Crystal Lake Country Club. Accurate tee shots and a solid putting stroke will crown the champion at this tree filled track. Steve celebrates his 24th year at Crystal Lake CC and invites you to the August event.

PHOTO: Luke Cella

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Midwest Members



Crystal Lake Country Club has undergone some changes since the last time the Midwest competed on the grounds. Bunkers have lost their flashings as seen in the picture above.

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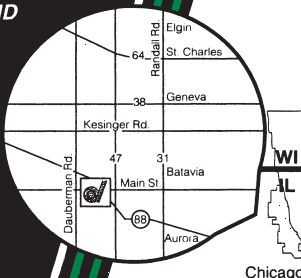
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Chuck Barber  
St. Charles Country Club

# I Suck at Basketball

Because I am 6'6" tall I am frequently asked if I played basketball at any point in my life. The answer to the question is best characterized by a quote from Reverend Lovejoy of The Simpson's: "Long answer 'yes' with a 'but'; short answer 'no' with a maybe".


I sort of played basketball in grade school and at the high school level, albeit briefly. I mostly rode the pine and played in garbage time at the end of some games when the outcome was certain.

I practiced hard. I was 'coachable'. I wanted to be a better basketball player, I left everything out on the court every time I played. I never improved. This was somewhat disconcerting for me as my father (6'9" tall) was a three sport athlete at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He was a standout at that level for three years. I wanted to be like him and I was not doing a good job of it.

It occurred to me that the game of basketball would not make me like my father, whether I was any good at it or not. What I wanted to be was a good person, the standard that my mother and father set for me. The jury is still out on how good a person I am, but I know that I'm trying every day to be as good as I can. I fail periodically. We all do. "We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery." Samuel Smiles – Scottish Author

I made a conscious decision to try new things, to do routine things in new ways, and to adapt to an ever changing environment. A big part of this strategy involves putting the people I work on staff in new positions. I try to break them from their routines, believe that this new strategy is not a wasted exercise. I've found that patience helps; the changes we implement don't always work right away. The wisdom we gain from each failure provides a new path to something more successful. We've found, playing to the strengths of the people on staff will increase the probability of a successful outcome.

My father told me that maybe basketball wasn't for me. I was 15 years old at the time and I was not about to quit. I finished the season of my sophomore year and focused on golf and volleyball. I was never going to be a scholarship athlete but I was able to piece together a few good years on both teams. I learned that by refocusing my energy in those places where I was a stronger competitor made the effort of practicing, training and competing more rewarding. The same can be said of our staff. Playing to their strengths, their abilities and focusing their energy at work in areas where they can excel has made a world of difference in how we approach each day.

We still have our misses and near misses with new things that we've tried. Each miss brings us closer to the hit and by working together on solutions makes the outcome much more enjoyable. Some day when I'm older I'll share some of these misfires as I have had some SPECTACULARLY bad ideas. Until then you'll have to keep reading *On Course*. 





# Preventative Maintenance of your Water Supply

Tom Healy, *Layne Christensen Company*

PHOTO CREDITS: LUKE CELLA

When Luke called in March requesting an article for On Course, he thought it would be best for the July issue, since we would then be in the heart of the summer. What better timing for a water supply company topic, right?

This made me think about the crazy irrigation season last year. No sooner had we come back from the annual convention trek in early March, 2012, than the golf course maintenance season started in earnest. So, I thought a good topic for On Course could be a diary of the first phase of the 2013 season, and how this compared to last year. As it turns out, my thought remained a thought until mid-May, when I realized we were fast approaching the June 1 publisher's (Luke!) deadline.

This procrastination panic hit me as I was driving to Beverly Country Club for the ITF annual day—a wonderful golf day, barely 60°, but certainly a highlight for the season so far. Our hard working MAGCS turf grass experts have been experiencing the opposite weather conditions this year as in 2012. Presumably everyone made it through last year, so your water supply was adequate for your needs. Does anyone wonder how you did make it? Do you know the present condition of your wells, well pumps, and irrigation pumps? If the answer to any of these questions is

no, or if you are not sure, we can offer some assistance, even at the mid-season.

Preventative maintenance on your well(s), well pumps, irrigation pumps, and motors is critical for ensuring adequate irrigation of your turf grass. It's perhaps too late to perform some of the suggested procedures, but during a down time (hopefully short), there will be some measures you can take to ensure a good working irrigation system. The recommended preventative maintenance we will cover pertains to your irrigation pumping station, no matter what type of pump(s) you utilize. If you utilize a well(s) for your water supply, there are ways to monitor your well(s) performance at the same time. These are simple tasks, so maybe July isn't a bad time to start. You can fully implement a Preventative Maintenance plan for next season and beyond.

The typical irrigation pumping station has vertical turbine lineshaft pumping equipment, with or without submersible jockey

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“Also, listen to the pump in operation to detect whether a noise and/or vibration is starting that could lead to serious problems either with the motor and/or pumping assembly.”

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NOT tighten the split glands such that no water leaks by. There needs to be a fine mist or spray to keep the upper rings of packing cooled. If your stuffing box is equipped with a grease fitting, make sure to pump in grease after every 24 hours of operation. Also, listen to the pump in operation to detect whether a noise and/or vibration is starting that could lead to serious problems either with the motor and/or pumping assembly. The vertical hollow shaft motors could have oil and/or grease that should be changed yearly. As far as the submersible pumps, they should be a sign of a problem lurking

These are the basic inspection items to check periodically on your various pieces of pumping equipment. The quantitative items that should be checked are the pump flow rate; current draw or amperage of the pump; and—with well pumps—the water levels of the well. Water levels are checked using an airline, hopefully installed with the pump. Flow measurements require a flow meter, and all too often there isn't one (though it may not be too difficult to install). Without a flow meter, you can measure the "shut off" head or the maximum pressure build-up when closing the system valve for several seconds. This requires a working pressure gauge on the pump discharge head, as well as access to the pump curve for comparisons to expected performance levels. If you do not have access to the pump performance curve, your well pump service company should be able to get one for you.

all three phases can be very valuable information for spotting downward performance trends. A decrease in amperage normally means the pump is wearing. Increasing amperage is typically due to a hole in the pump column pipe and/or pump bowl assembly, where water is re-circulated back into the well or irrigation sump.

static and pumping water levels, so that the drawdown can be determined (the difference between the non-pumping water level and pumping level). You can use this information to track "Specific Capacity," which is calculated by taking the GPM divided by drawdown. This Specific Capacity value will indicate the present condition of the well. When a well's Specific Capacity drops below 20% of the original, some type of well rehabilitation should be considered. As a well's Specific Capacity drops by 50% or more, it is considerably less likely that a well rehabilitation will restore the well to its original Specific Capacity.

Sheet pictured above). The key is to start now and develop baseline data. If the data you collect remains consistent, then all is well. But if variations begin to show up, you can spot them early and have something done before a catastrophic failure occurs.

Your Water Well and Pump professional can help formulate your Preventative Maintenance program. Or, if you would rather, they can perform periodic preventative maintenance checks. This process should be customized to your needs and your system equipment. This will provide you another level of confidence in ensuring that your wells and pumping equipment are ready for the long haul, especially when you experience another irrigation season like 2012 (and 2013?).

[illegible]

*Preventative maintenance checks don't have to be a high time consuming task, but they should be recorded in a format that is easy to track from inspection to inspection.*





# Carl Hoppman

## Remembered

Members of the Midwest

All know the Midwest is a collective unit of individuals; each person is significant, appreciated, and a value to the group and the golf industry. Once in a while an individual is able to make a difference in the lives of many fellow members, impacting the way they work and the way they live. Carl Hoppman was one such member of the Midwest. He was a fellow Golf Course Superintendent who always served others and the game of golf with a generous heart and as one friend explained, “an upbeat soul, a pure delight to be around.” Those who knew him miss Carl. We asked friends to share a few words with all:

As an aspiring golf course superintendent in the mid 1970s I had my first encounters with Carl Hoppman. He was a board member of MAGCS and soon would become president of the organization. I was mesmerized by his leadership skills and also the way he carried himself. Carl dressed impeccably and was the consummate speaker at any and all MAGCS events. He had the ability to get others involved and participating in MAGCS and encouraged the younger members to get and stay involved.

Over all the years Carl had a love for his family, his friends, and his fellow MAGCS members. As a proud Grandpa he did all he could to help raise his grandkids. He stayed actively employed and involved in the golf arena up until his passing. Greenkeeping was in his blood, and he mentored many of us in so many ways.

Carl will be sorely missed by more people than he would ever know. — **Bruce Williams**

I didn't have many opportunities to visit with Carl, but I remember him being one of the most dignified gentlemen ever to grace our profession. He always seemed patient and understanding. Even when his son, Tod, was so tragically taken by a drunk driver, Carl comported himself with appropriate restraint. He was an example for us all. — **Fred Behnke**

Carl has probably been the most generous individual supporter in the history of the University of Illinois Turf Program. The

Hoppman Fellowship has helped educate a number of U. of I. graduate students and improved our understanding of turf development and management.

I'll always remember Carl's advice. Many times he told me, “It only costs 10% more to go first class.” Carl WAS first class! — **Dr. Tom Voigt**

So sad to hear the news of Carl's passing. I first met him in my rookie year as a Superintendent, in 1970 at Fox Bend. He was a genuinely kind individual. I remember that first time we shook hands. He had very large hands, and a smile and a heart to match. Whether we were playing golf, having a phone conversation, or commiserating over drinks, it always ended with me feeling better about myself, my effort, and my job. He could always make that happen. What a great man! Rest in Peace, Carl. — **Jim McNair**

It would be difficult to imagine that Carl could have corresponded with anyone without leaving a lasting impression. I have admired his friendly and positive approach to any situation throughout my entire career. He is the definition of a glass-half-full attitude. His unwillingness to fail at anything is evident in the many successes of the Sunshine Course. It would not be what it is today without the time and talent Carl had unselfishly put forth. His smile, storytelling, and vision for the future will be tremen-



dously missed. Those who knew Carl were certainly blessed by the experience. Those who did not know Carl were blessed, as well, by his contributions to our industry. His passion was unparalleled and should serve as an inspiration to all. – **Don Ferreri**

Carl gave me my first job ever as a 16-year-old high school junior in the summer of 1967. I worked for Carl every summer until I graduated from college in 1973. His enthusiasm for the art of maintaining a golf course was infectious. He approached every challenge with a positive attitude. He also had the ability to instill that attitude in everyone that worked for him. He was the reason I changed my career path from accounting (I took one class) to turf management. It was one of the best decisions of my life. Carl didn't have a college degree, but he had a tremendous thirst for knowledge. For those who don't know, it was Carl who approached the CDGA back in the early eighties and convinced the board that they needed a Chicago-based turf advisor or a "family doctor" for the good of the area courses. I had the privilege of serving on that initial search committee, headed by Carl, which eventually hired Randy Kane. I now have the honor to serve as the committee chair. Recently, after Carl's second stay in the hospital, I called him to see how he was doing. He spent about a minute talking about his health and then spent twenty minutes letting me know what I should be looking for in the ideal candidate for the next "family doctor" for our superintendents. Carl always put the needs of his profession ahead of his personal needs. That's why he was a member of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame, and that's why he was my friend and mentor. – **Mike Nass**

Carl Hopphan, not a better could be had. Carl and I worked together on the MAGCS board for several years as he was president three years before me. There are stories that could be told and were told at his wake between those of us who knew Carl on and off the golf course. I am sure that the mention of "aw just one more Stinger, and we'll go," will bring back memories for some of us. I will miss Carl and his most friendly smile. Peace be with you, CARL!! – **Ed Fischer**

He was a man who had such a way with words. The golf courses he managed were proof of the skill he was blessed with.

---

**"How we portray ourselves through our words and actions widely impacts our credibility and successes more so than turf itself." *Carl Hopphan***

---

He was truly a gift to Chicago Golf. Three Cheers for Carl! Rest in Peace. **Ed Braunsky**

My very first memory of Carl was when Roger Stewart brought me as a guest to the Chicagoland Forum Meeting at Evanston CC in 1989. Carl was sitting upstairs smoking and chomping on his stogie, greeting everyone. I believe the keynote speaker was (future Ph.D.) Frank Rossi from University of Wisconsin. At that point I got to know Todd.

My favorite story is from my first foray into the GCSAA National Conference in Las Vegas in 1991, following my rookie year. My wife Lisa was flying home by herself and sat next to an older gentleman who kept a very nice conversation going for the three-hour flight. He said he had grown up in Aurora. After about two hours they realized the golf maintenance tie-in! Most recently Carl spoke at the Winnetka Men's Club Banquets on behalf of fundraising for the CDGA. He and I would one-up each other, blowing hot-air up our skirts. It was fun to talk to our annual pass holders about Carl and the Hopphan family, iconic in the Chicagoland area. Carl was a great man and I will miss him dearly. – **Henry Michna**

Carl Hopphan was the ambassador for golf course superintendents. He never shied away from promoting our profession to anyone. Whether it was club members, CDGA officials, college professors, deans, and presidents, whoever he could talk to, he always presented a professional image of the superintendent. I served on many committees and boards with Carl. He was a role model for being a positive individual and treating everyone equally. He will be missed, but he leaves a legacy unmatched in my career. – **Randy Wahler**

Hard to write a short paragraph about Carl! We could write a book just about what Carl meant to the CDGA turf program, the short course, and the Sunshine foundation. He was an instigator for sure, and knew how to get things done! – **Dr. Randy Kane**

On behalf of the Midwest, Carl, Rest in Peace.



*Carl's photo captured on the night he was inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.*



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# The Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Associate Editor



**JULY 2013**

## Dates to Remember

**July 8** - ITF/Northwest Illinois GCSA Summer Play Day at Short Hills Country Club in East Moline, IL, **Tim Gravert** host.

**July 15** - GCSAA Distinguished Service Award nominations due.

**July 20** - Midwest family Night Picnic and Kane County Cougars game at Elfstrom Field in Geneva, IL.

**July 22** - MAGCS monthly meeting at Edgewood Valley Country Club, **Ron McCarthy** host.

**July 24-31** - City of Chicago's "Native Flower and Grass Days" thanks to **Paul Voykin**.

**July 31** - Deadline for nominations for the 2014 TurfNet Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar presented by Syngenta.

**August 1** - Lebanon Turf and GCSAA's Dog Days of Golf Calendar submissions due.

**August 13** - 7th Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation White Sox Fundraiser at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, IL.

**August 19** - University of Illinois Turfgrass Field Day in Urbana, IL.

**August 20** - Deadline for applications to attend the fifth Syngenta Business Institute on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

**August 26** - MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake Country Club, **Steve VanAcker** host.

**September 16** - Deadline to apply for Green Site status through the Groundwater Foundation.

**September 9-15** - PGA Tour's BMW Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, IL, **Chad Ball, CGCS** and **Connor Healy** hosts.

**October 7** - MAGCS monthly meeting at Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, **Michael Heustis** and **William Sharp** hosts.

Congratulations to **Alan Hill**, who is the new golf course superintendent at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville. Best of luck to you, Alan!

You've surely heard about it, so now go check it out if you haven't yet--the new and improved magcs.org website is up and running. Featuring a whole new look, the site is a much more user-friendly version of the old one, with many new and useful tools. If you get the chance, upload a picture of yourself for the online directory; it always helps to put a face with the name, especially as we all get older. Also, in the Members Only area you can access the Membership directory, *On Course* archives, and a ton of other good stuff like the Member Forum area, where you can interact with fellow members securely, and without the entire Facebook world looking in. Enjoy!



*Alan Hill, new GCS at Cress Creek Country Club*

MAGCS and the entire golf community lost a true legend and friend on May 20th when **Carl Hoppman** passed away. The longtime superintendent of Aurora Country Club and Evanston Golf Club, and ambassador for our industry will be missed by one and all whose lives he touched. Rest in peace, Carl.

Our deepest condolences to the Dinelli family on the passing of **Joe Dinelli** last month. Joe was a man of few words, unless he had something to say. His strong work ethic started at Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park where he learned the art of greenkeeping helping his father Frank on the course. After studying agronomy at Purdue University, marrying the love of his life Marilyn and moving to Glenview, Joe worked for 35 years as the golf course superintendent of North Shore Country Club. He loved to go fishing on his beloved Catfish



Lake in Eagle River, WI, where he was unrivalled at catching walleyes and hosting fish fries. The true passion in Joe's life was his family--his wife Marilyn, his four kids Jodie, Jamie, Dan and Joe and their spouses Mike, Mike, Laurie and Laura, and his five granddaughters Carrie, Jessie, Nicole, Danica, and Sophia. Donations in Joe Dinelli's name can be made to the Environmental Institute for Golf at [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

Congrats to **Steve Cook, CGCS, MG** (Oakland Hills Country Club), **Brian Green, CGCS** (Sunset Valley Golf Course), and **Dale Morrison, CGCS** (Precision Turf LLC) on being recertified through GCSAA recently.

Also a shout-out to **David Marquardt**, who on the 5th of June made a hole-in-one at River Bend Golf Course in Woodridge, IL. Dave's ace came during league play on the 5th hole, where he took driver out of the bag for the 110-yard hole, skanked it due left into a beer cart where it caromed skyward, hit a wayward gull, and dropped into the hole. That's how the witnesses remember it anyhow.



The end of this month marks the deadline to get your favorite dog's mug in the 2014 TurfNet Superintendent's Best Friend Calendar presented by Syngenta. To nominate your dog, go to [www.turfnet.com](http://www.turfnet.com), click on the Features tab and follow the links. You'll find some useful tips on how to best photograph your dog, as well as the form you'll need to fill out, so do it soon!

While on the subject of TurfNet (sorta), if you've checked out their Blog Aggregator lately, you've seen a few MAGCS members chiming in. **Tim Christians** of Makray Memorial was featured several times recently, with blogs about leaf spot and his new low-maintenance areas seeded to fescue to name a few; **Steve Cook** of Oakland Hills blogged about repairs to the bridge on his #5 South, and **Scott Pavalko** and **Nick Marfise** of Cog Hill blogged about the removal of undesirable undergrowth on their property.

Other MAGCS members and their clubs were spotted in the industry pubs recently as well. In documenting our crazy spring weather, Golfdom magazine mentioned Evanston Golf Club's **Dan Charlton** and the 5.6" of rain they received on April 18th, followed a few days later by snow. Club & Resort Business had a ditty about Ivanhoe Club's (**Tom Prichard**

superintendent) pumpkin smashing event just after Halloween, whereby members were encouraged to bring their used pumpkins to the club so that their children could launch them off the upper deck of the clubhouse to the ground below. The smashed pumpkins were then picked up and used as compost on the golf course as a promotion of the club's green initiatives. Finally, and most recently, North Shore Country Club, the host of the Encompass Championship on June 17-23, and hosts **Dan** and **J.D. Dinelli** were prominently featured in several magazines, most notably on the cover of GOLFChicago. Nice to see.

This month, from July 24th through the 31st, the City of Chicago and its 2.7 million citizens will celebrate "Native Flower and Grass Days," thanks to **Paul Voykin**. On July 25th last year, the Chicago City Council and Mayor Rahm Emanuel passed a resolution initially created and promoted by Mr. Voykin, the retired superintendent of Briarwood Country Club for 46 years. Illinois is home to over 3,500 native vascular plants, with only California, Florida, and Texas having more. Paul's lifelong work to bring native plants to golf courses, and in so doing to demonstrate to the world that golf courses are environmentally and ecologically beneficial to their surrounding communities, is the sole reason for Native Flower and Grass Days to exist. With over 9 million people in the Chicago metropolitan area, Paul's hope is that we continue his work by promoting our courses' benefits to the communities in which we live and work as well. He is more than happy to help keep this moving forward—give him a call!

I'm REALLY trying not to beat a dead horse, but this particular horse is just too easy a target. Turns out **Dan Dinelli** is making the rounds on cable TV shows lately. After his big debut on Golf Channel's "Golf Central" show a couple months back, demand for Dan hit an all-time high, with a bidding war for his services ensuing. The winner turned out to be "Dig In Chicago," a local garden-to-kitchen show found on WCIU. Dan and his 28-year-old red-tailed hawk los are interviewed by host Mike Nowak on the grounds of North Shore CC, with the take-home point being the healthy ecosystems that golf courses can be, and the wildlife they support.



*Is my hair OK?" Do I need some mousse?*