

on 07/2013

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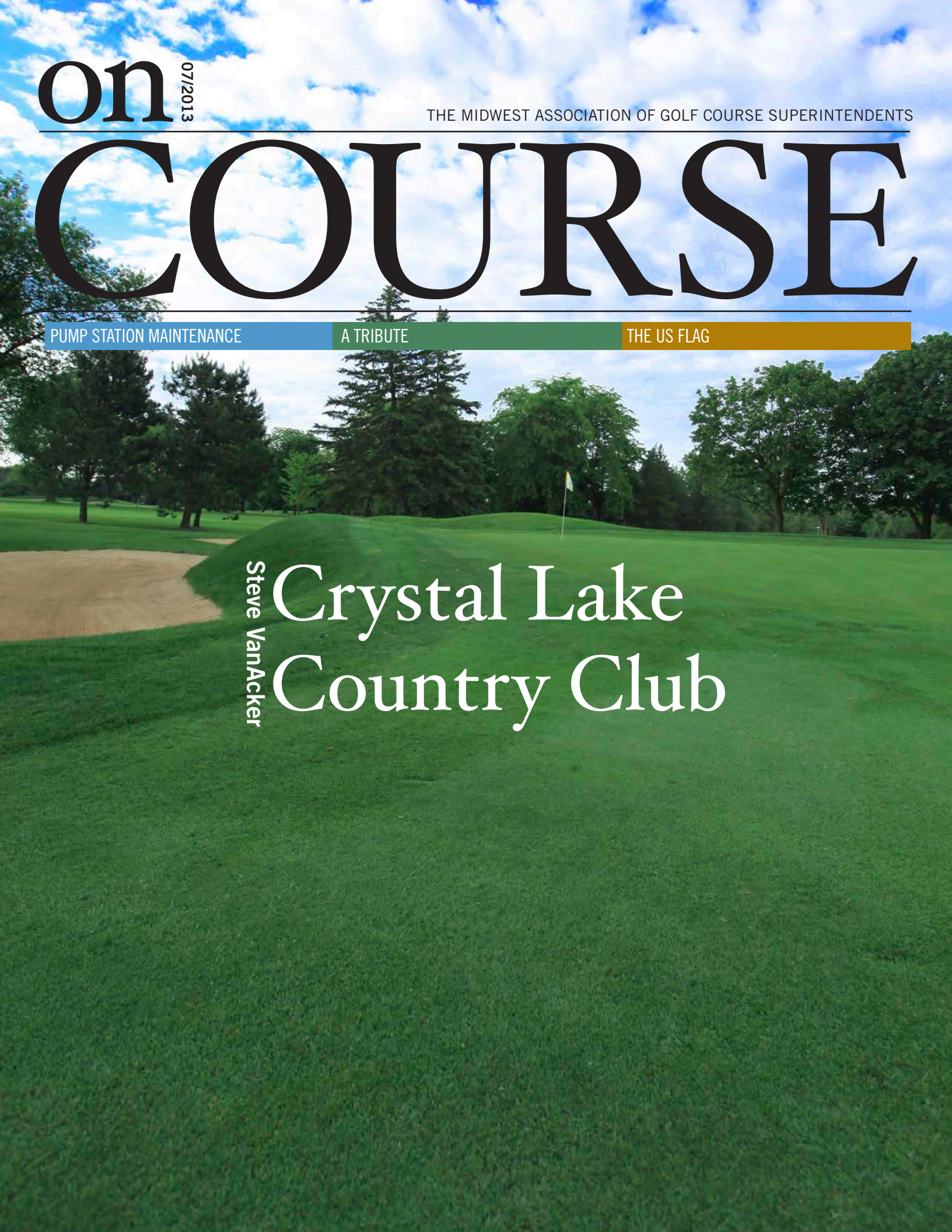
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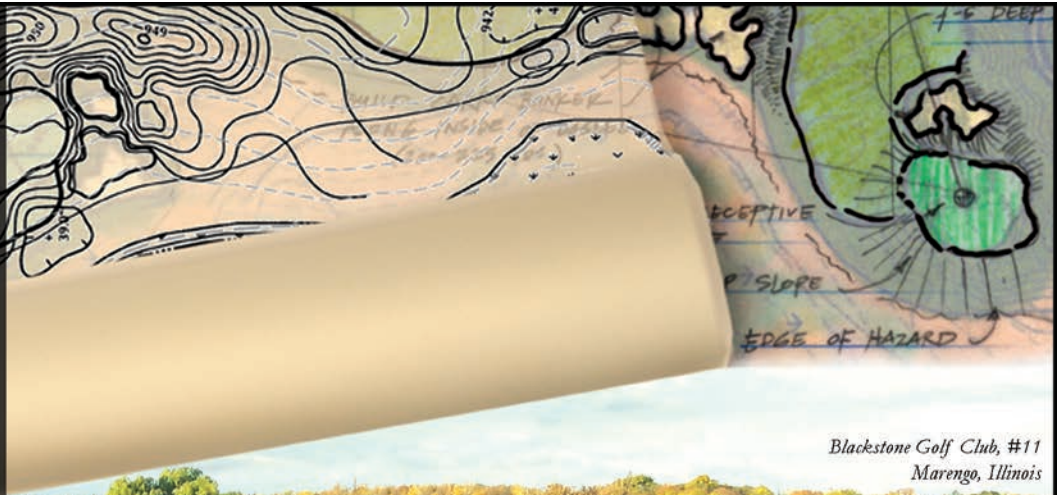
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# toc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

## front cover

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

**4** FEATURE  
**Preventative Maintenance for your Water Supply**  
 Tom Healy

**6** COLUMN  
**A Tribute to Carl Hopphan**  
 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.

- DEPARTMENTS**
- 03** Director's Column  
Chuck Barber
  - 11** The Bull Sheet  
John Gurke
  - 18** Super-n-Site  
Brian Placzkowski
  - 16** Commentary  
Luke Cella
  - 22** Midwest Breezes  
Chuck Anfield

## DATES

### 2013-14 MIDWEST EVENTS

- 7/20 Midwest Family Night Picnic, Cougar Baseball Game
- 7/22 Midwest July Meeting, Edgewood Valley Country Club
- 8/26 Midwest August Meeting, Crystal Lake Country Club
- 11/14 6<sup>th</sup> Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah Country Club
- 1/22/14 January Meeting & Wee One Fundraiser, Seven Bridges
- 2/5/14 Midwest Hospitality Reception, Orlando Fl

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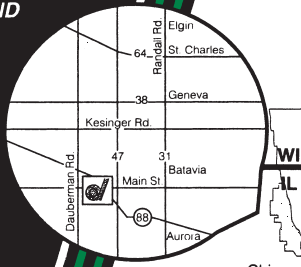
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Chuck Barber  
St. Charles Country Club

# 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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# 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 Hoppman, 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.

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

---

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 Hoppman family, iconic in the Chicagoland area. Carl was a great man and I will miss him dearly. – **Henry Michna**

Carl Hoppman 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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# #BullSheet

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.



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The City of Aurora recently honored the Nadler family for their 50 years of doing business in the city. The business opened in 1963 as Nadler Harley-Davidson Sales, Inc. by Bill and Bea Nadler, and became Nadler Golf Car Sales under the second generation of Dave Nadler and his sister Karen Baumgartner, followed by the recently-renamed Nadler Golf under owners Eric Nadler and Matt Baumgartner.



On hand for the presentation were L. to R.: Eric Nadler, Karen Baumgartner, Mayor Tom Weisner, Dave Nadler and Matt Baumgartner. Congratulations on this great achievement Dave, Karen, Eric and Matt!

**Michael Benkusky** of Michael J. Benkusky, Inc. has reached a major career milestone--that of celebrating 25 years in the golf course design business. Congratulations, Mike, and may there be at least another 25 on the horizon!

Q: What kind of car does a surfer-dude member of **Randy Wahler's** club drive?

A: A Knollwoody.

The Johnson family operated Illinois Lawn Equipment Company for many many years. Illinois Lawn became Burriss Equipment and eventually the Johnsons left the business. Or DID they? Is that really **Jake Vollbeer** at Burriss Equipment Company, or did the Johnsons leave their long lost cousin Zach Johnson back to keep an eye on things? It's possible, no?

## MIDWEST Doppelgänger



*Vollbeer needs to logo it up a bit and maybe work on his swing or Johnson needs to start wearing some Textron colors.*

Audubon international is proud to announce that it has designated its 1,000th golf course as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Eagles Pride Golf Course in Washington State is the venue, and John Ford, CGCS is the superintendent.

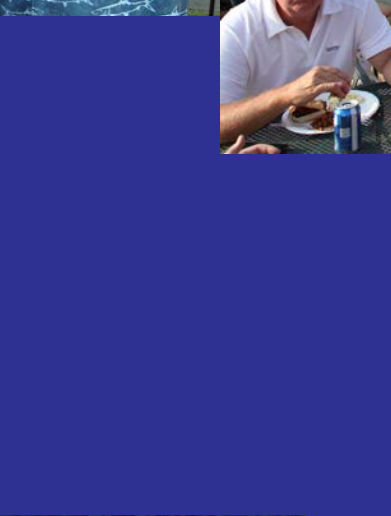
If you're interested in winning \$2,000 worth of irrigation products and services from Rainbird, read on. The Groundwater Foundation was founded in 1994 as a way to educate users on the need to conserve water. Part of that mission is the formation of the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program that encourages managers of green spaces to implement, measure and document groundwater conservation practices. Any golf course can apply for Green Site designation by completing a survey and application, and once submitted, a point system determines how well (get it? I said well and I'm talking about groundwater) you are doing. If your site earns a total of 70% of the total applicable points, it gets Green Site designation and is eligible to receive the \$2,000 in Rainbird stuff. Go to [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org) to apply.

Remember the Red Rider utility vehicle? The one with the engine on the handlebars? Well, the guy who brought it to market back in 1967, Ted Smith, the founder of Smithco passed away on June 10th at the age of 98.

In case you feel you've had a few too many on the course and are not sure if you should drive, there's a new gadget called the Golfalyzer, a battery-powered breathalyzer geared toward us "social athletes" to help make the decision. Developed by a couple of golfing buddies, the device aims to deter golfers from driving home after overindulging during their rounds or at the 19th hole.

A potentially new type of MAGCS meeting took place last month on the 10th at the St. Charles Country Club (**Chuck Barber** and **Jason Kahlstorf** hosts). The unique things about the event included the start time which was 2:00 p.m., leaving a good portion of the day for participants to get their responsibilities taken care of at work; the 12-hole game, making for a shorter day on the course; and the casual, walking-encouraged atmosphere of the event. The Quarry Course was the site--a six-hole monster with some really fun holes complete with huge elevation changes and gnarly goat-eaten ravines, and it was a blast! In the end, the team of **Ron McCarthy**, **Brian Stout**, **Brian Kalal** and **Craig Shepherd** prevailed with a 35, besting 3 teams that were on their tails with 36's. After golf a sumptuous barbecue on the pool deck compliments of the folks at **Arthur Clesen, Inc.** was just the ticket to bring the great day to an end. I think the experiment was an unmitigated success! Thanks to Chuck and St. Charles CC, to the Clesen folks, and to **Dave Blomquist** and **Shaw's** for providing the beverages AND bringing them to us, and to **Harris Golf Cars** for providing a couple of people movers. Thanks everyone for a truly wonderful and unique event. (pics here "st\_chuck003, 010, 014, 018, and 023" with captions on 014: Hosts Jason Kahlstorf, Chuck and Tina Barber; 018: Chefs Garry Anderson, Lisa Tomashek and John Anderson)







**NEWS FROM USGA**

If you didn't watch the U.S. Open last month, you may have missed the fun new "While We're Young" campaign the USGA launched, which is a public-education campaign to address slow play. Playing off the "Caddy Shack" line, the series of ads featuring the likes of Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods are funny, yet contain an important message--PLAY FASTER!

Also from USGA, on the morning of May 21st, the proposed Rule 14-1b--the one prohibiting of anchoring the club while making a stroke--was adopted by the USGA and The R & A, and will become effective January 1, 2016 (pending an anticipated TON of litigation).

**NEWS FROM GCSAA**

The first Rounds For Research (R4R) auction is in the books, and it was a complete success, raising more than \$100,000. The next auction is August 1st.

How much did weather disasters cost last year? How about a cool \$110 billion. Last year was the second most expensive year for weather-related disasters since record keeping started in 1980, according to federal climate scientists. The costliest was 2005, the year of Hurricane Katrina.

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Luke Cella, CGCS, MAGCS

# Flying the United States Flag at Your Club or Course



This year, I've been at a couple of events that commemorated the lives of a different generation. At two of these services Honor Guards of our different military branches presented the United States Flag to the family members of the deceased. These ceremonies though solemn, honored individuals of a generation that didn't question their commitment or their call to defend the United States and its Constitution. At their passing, both were recognized for their sacrifices and the object used to symbolize this was the United States Flag. I've paid much more attention to the Flag since those ceremonies, and I think we too often forget what it symbolizes. I know most clubs and courses have a United States Flag, but how many follow our Federal Law in Title 4 of the United States Code when flying it?

The "Flag Code" includes instruction and rules on such topics as the pledge of allegiance, display and use of the flag by civilians, time and occasions for display, position and manner of display, and how to show respect for the flag. The "Code" also grants to the President the authority to modify the rules governing the flag. A few of the most unknown or ignored instructions are:

- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.
- When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.
- On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living

thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (Most VFW halls will take flags that are unfit to fly and destroy them for you.)

Next time you are up by the clubhouse, take a moment to check out the flag and hold it in the esteem it deserves, if not for yourself, for those to whom it meant more. @



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# SUPER-N-site

## Steve VanAcker & Crystal Lake Country Club



Brian Placzkowski, Royal Melbourne Country Club

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA

The August Midwest meeting takes us to a faraway land that few of us regularly travel to: McHenry County. Crystal Lake Country Club (CLCC) is situated in, of all places, Crystal Lake, a far northwest suburb.

Having lived in the nearby town of McHenry for the past 26 years I amazingly, only recently discovered the location of CLCC. I have to tell you; it is definitely worth any travel time you may need to get there. I just had the opportunity to sit down and gain some insight with the longstanding CLCC superintendent and MAGCS member Steve Van Acker.

For those of you that don't know Steve, he has been the Golf Course Superintendent at CLCC for the past 23 years. He began his career in golf in 1974 as an intern at Turnberry Country Club. Steve's affinity for the outdoors and agriculture began at a young age as he grew up on a dairy farm in

nearby Huntley. He would later further his education and dedication to the field by attending McHenry County College to study Agriculture. Steve credits much of who he has become as a superintendent to the late industry icons Adolf Bertucci, Benny Kronn, and Peter Voykin.

When I met with Steve I asked him about his philosophies on being a superintendent, so that I might share his wealth of knowledge with everybody.

Steve believes in detail and imagination, "Don't be afraid to take on a renovation project in-house with your own staff. Take a step back and imagine how it's going to look before you even start and plan it through. This is a great way of increasing your value to your club."

Another great piece of advice Steve shared was to reach out to fellow golf course superintendents and not only offer help, but also ask for help. "We're all in this business together, each trying to provide quality turf conditions for our clubs. You never know when you'll need help, each of us does at some point in our career."

Another point Steve shared with me is to not become greedy and chase a paycheck. "Clubs will pay you what you're worth if you do the job they expect of you."

One last thing Steve shared with me, something he







wishes he were able to do now, is to thank your mentors. Let them know the impact they made on you, your career and your life. It takes a very special person to help those under their tutelage to become better than they are, one of the reasons our profession has advanced in such a short period of time.

Steve does occasionally find time to get away in the off-season. He enjoys traveling with his wife of 36 years, Mary Kay. A few of their favorite spots are Cabo San Lucas and Las Vegas. The most disappointing part of my meeting with Steve was the discovery of his long-term illness. You see, we've lost another Illinois soul to the dreaded green and gold scourge from the North. Yes, Steve is a Green Bay Packer fan, making two super-n-sites in a row.

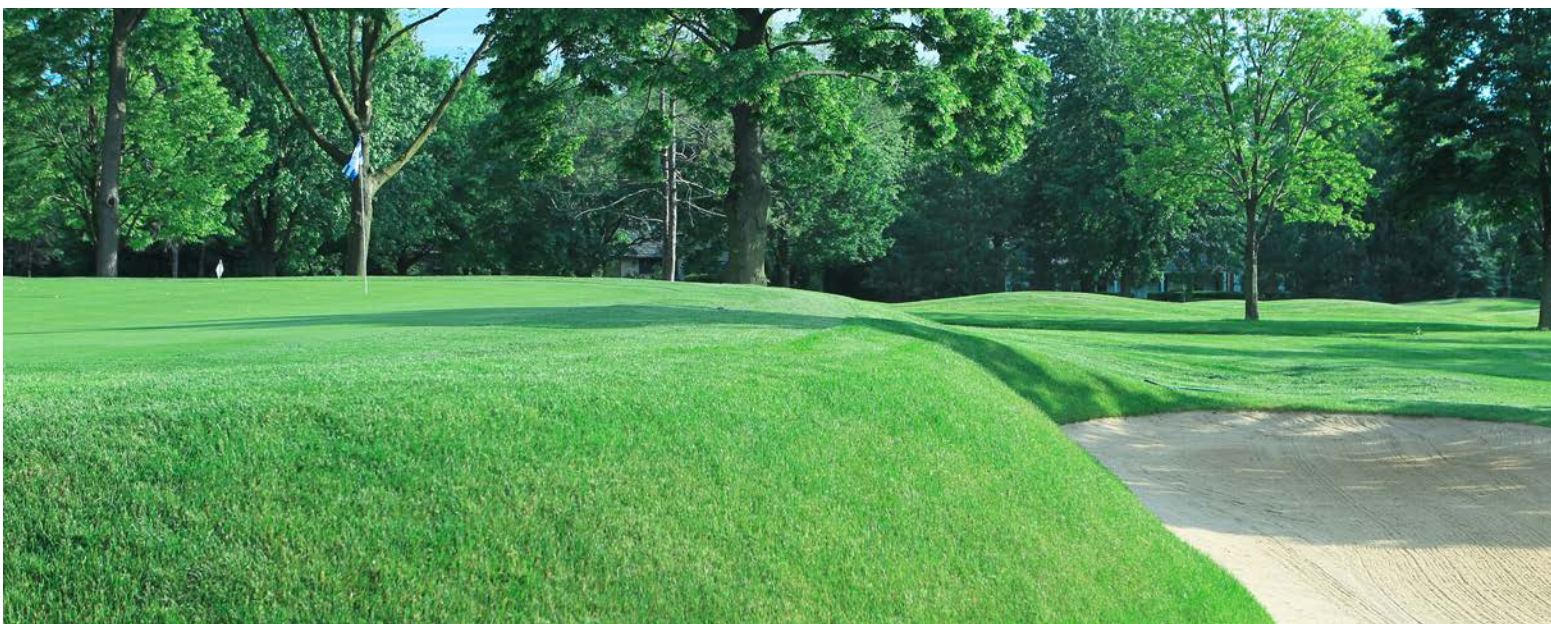
Crystal Lake Country Club is beautiful 18-hole parkland layout situated on 135 acres and is just a short jog from downtown Crystal Lake. CLCC was built in 1922 by George O'Neil and Joseph Roseman (of Roseman Tractor Fame). The course has been renovated and updated over the past 25 years by Lohmann Golf Designs. The original layout encompassed 36 holes and was often considered a second Medinah

Country Club because of its proximity to the passenger train. The current 18-hole layout plays to 6800 yards from the tips and will present a challenge for the upcoming MAGCS Championship. Steve and CLCC have not hosted the Midwest since the 1999 Championship. Even if you played in that one, you'll want to make sure you don't miss the 2013 Championship on August 26 and experience the changes and improvements for yourself. @

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# New Normal Every Morning

This season has been another “head scratcher.” After the three previous growing seasons being unusually hot, 2013 has been relatively cool and sometimes very wet. Temperatures and precipitation frequency have made it ideal to grow grass, and it has been an “easy” year thus far.

MAGCS Members have had to “wheel and deal” to try to figure out what, where, when and how to get all of the maintenance tasks completed between rain drops. Throw in a few “curve ball” storms and the year has been a doozy. It seems the definition of normal changes each day and MAGCS Members do what they usually do; (do we have a choice?) plan for the worst and hope for the best.

**Jim Canning**, White Eagle Golf Club: “I was very disappointed in our seed head suppression control. We went early and made three applications of ethephon and trinpac-ethyl. It was unsuccessful. I am thinking of switching to Embark next year.”

**Scott Kuebel**, Tyler Enterprises: “The pre-emergent season seemed to be later than last year and seemed to go on longer. April was very busy. March was pretty slow compared to 2012. Customers have been asking about the ineffectiveness of the seed head suppression applications.”

**Tim White**, Prestwick Country Club: “Everything seems to be off schedule; (with regards to timing of sprays) we’ve had to constantly make adjustments.”

**Rusty Stachlewitz**, ProGro Solutions: “It’s been difficult to have the right products available at the right time because weather patterns have not been typical.”

**John Gurke**, Aurora Country Club: “I’ve never seen more grass clumps in the rough that need blowing and dispersing more than this year.”

**Jeff Pozen**, Downers Grove Golf Club: “Our course was closed for three days after the big flood. Our pump house

had three feet of water in it. The entire VFD panel melted and replacement time was going to be 8-10 weeks. Chris Plumb from Absolute Service found some spare parts and had us back on line much sooner than projected. For a while, we had to hand water greens with a sprayer. We have flooded before, but never that high.”

**Kevin Carlson**, Springbrook Golf Course: “It was hard to try to keep up with the mowing with all of the rain days and water logged turf.”

Easy year....I don’t think so. Nobody mentioned all of the bunker wash outs that are incredibly labor intensive to pump out water, remove silt deposits, push wet sand back up the faces and add new sand as needed. I bet a few courses had to do that. Oh yeah, and because everything is growing so well the weeds in the landscape beds have been an added chore to manage. Courses that had capital project work that required earth moving and shaping have been delayed by saturated soil conditions. And of course if it’s raining or the forecast is for rain, the golfers have not been playing.

Ok, so there are always some positives in a glass half filled world. The flowering trees and perennials have been stupendous. We haven’t had to run much water through the irrigation systems, so we’ve saved some electric power expenses and some very valuable fresh water (remember the drought). There has been to date, minimal disease pressure. Knock, knock.

Party on Wayne. @



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## On Course Advertising Index

Company	pg
Arthur Clesen, Inc.	2
BASF	15
Bayer Environmental Science	24
Brookside Laboratories	15
Burriss Equipment Company	8
Commercial Turf & Tractor	25
CS Turf	24
DryJect	21
Dunteman Turf Farms	2
Great Lakes Turf	15
Global Bureau Investigations	25
Halloran and Yauch	15
Harris Golf Car Sales	25
Hollemeak Construction	14
Koelper Golf Course Construction	24
Layne Western	25
Lemont Paving	26
Martin Implement Sales	2
Nadler Golf	25
Nels J Johnson Tree Experts	17
Pearl Valley Organix	15
Precision Laboratories, Inc.	24
ProGro Solutions	14
Redexim North America	25
Reinders Inc	BC
Riverwalls	25
SAS Management, LLC	25
Syngenta Professional Products	17,23
Shoreline Sand Solutions	21
Water Well Solutions Illinois Division	25
Waupaca Sand & Solutions	2

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