

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

1998 OGSA Board of Directors

INFORMATION ON:

- Annual Hockey Challenge
- Golf Course Accessibility
- President's Reception
- Turf or Consequences





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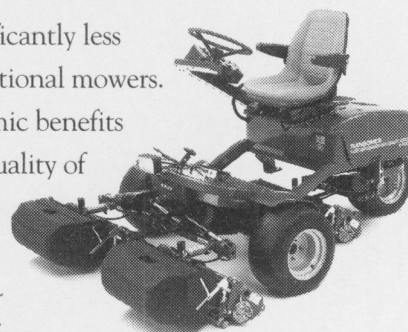
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contents

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what's inside

- 2 EDITOR'S COMMENTS
by Mark Piccolo
- 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Ian Bowen
- 3 INTERNET EFFICIENCY
- 4 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
by John W. Gravett
- 5 OGSA FULFILLS REQUIREMENTS
- 5 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT
- 6 TURF OR CONSEQUENCES
by Doug Breen
- 7 NUTS & BOLTS
by Mike Huck
- 9 SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT
by Everett Nieuwkoop
- 9 HOW'S YOUR BEQ
- 10 MOUND IRRIGATION
by Patrick J. Gross
- 11 IMPROVE MORALE & SAVE MONEY
- 13 INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO
- 13 GOLF COURSE ASSESSIBLE
by Mark Hagan
- 16 STEWART AWARDS
- 17 TALK TURF
- 17 HOCKEY CHALLENGE
by John Taylor
- 18 NEW TRENDS
- 20 DRY CLEANING
by Paul Vermeulen

advertisers

- 5 SKYWAY LAWN EQUIPMENT
- 11 NUTRITE TURF SPECIAL
- 12 PLANT PRODUCTS
- 12 ALMACK & ASSOCIATES
- 12 THE SCOTTS COMPANY
- 12 NU-GRO CORPORATION
- 12 RAY GORDON
- 12 MAPLE FARMS
- 12 BRAEMAR
- 15 CENTURY RAIN AID
- 15 TURF CARE PRODUCTS
- 16 NU-GRO CORPORATION
- 17 ALBION GOLF CARTS
- 18 BANNERMAN
- 19 ISK DACONIL

editor's comments



Winter is here, and a full slate of conferences and seminars await our attention. Most superintendents are considering going to Anaheim California, or Calgary Alberta for our National Turfgrass Conferences. The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was a great success and they should be commended for their efforts. In this issue of Green Is Beautiful, Doug Breen from the Waterloo Golf Academy will again enlighten us with his ability to see the humorous side of our profession and much more. Being a slow time of year we have taken several articles from material available to us from the GCSAA. We will be looking at forming a news letter committee this year. Individuals throughout the province interested in submitting articles or regional news on a bi-monthly basis should contact myself or the O.G.S.A. office. We will be contacting some of you for your co-operation.

Mark Piccolo
OGSA Newsletter Editor

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New Beginnings



The Ontario Golf Superintendents Association has a lot to offer everyone associated with golf course management.

The OGSA focus revolves around you, the member. Our goals will continue to be those which represent and portray the member in the most professional manner.

The Boards focus today encompasses a vast range of topics which include: Membership; Education; Public Relations; Image; and Green is Beautiful.

Membership, we as an association need to make our membership valuable to our profession. Superintendent's across Ontario must feel the need to belong to our Association.

Education, the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium continues to be our main educational venue. The Conference and Trade Show continues to grow each year, through increased industry and membership involvement. The OGSA is committed to providing a strong Educational

Seminar and Speaker platform for our premier event.

Public Relations, a growing portfolio within our Association, allows us to broaden our message of professionalism as an industry. The OGSA is looking into new venues to help expose our Association and profession, such as The Golf Show and Canada Blooms. These rare opportunities allow our Association contact and interactivity with the general public and perhaps members of our own clubs.

Image, the OGSA is dedicated to raising the level of awareness, respect and recognition of our profession. Only through a strong dedicated Public Relations Portfolio can this be achieved. We as Members need to acknowledge professional image and the awards it can bring personally and professionally.

Green is Beautiful, our Associations magazine continues to develop and keep pace with our changing industry. Membership involvement in Green is Beautiful is vital to it's success, members are encouraged to submit articles and pictures.

The OGSA Board is committed to Change, and the many challenges that come with making Change. The OGSA has something to offer us all, take advantage and make it part of your future.

O.G.S.A. President

Ian Bowen



Increase Efficiency with the Internet

To be successful and provide the highest value to employees, a superintendent needs to stay on course with more than just the latest technology in turfgrass management. Superintendents also should have access to the latest computer

technology, including the Internet, at the office.

Benefits of superintendents having Internet access in the office:

Improve communication with golf course officials and fellow GCSAA members using E-mail.

Access current weather forecasts for their area to stay aware of how weather conditions may affect daily operations.

Visit the growing number of supplier Web sites to

gather information and comparison shop for equipment, supplies and services.

Post problems on the GCSAA discussion forums and gather expertise from hundreds of member superintendents.

Participate in association activities, such as registering for regional seminars, planning your conference and show schedule, reviewing publications, and getting the latest news.

Find technical information by using various search engines and databases of research findings and agronomic practices.

Access compliance/regulatory information at the local, state and federal levels and get MSDS from GSCAA's Web site.

Double Benefit: No matter what information needs may be met by using the Internet, the end result is the same: superintendents will be able to do their jobs more efficiently for their employees.

Source: GCSAA Information Services Committee.

president's reception

1st Annual President's Reception

By John W. Gravett

The Ontario Golf Superintendent's Association held it's first Annual President's Reception at the Regal Constellation Patio Ball Room during the recent Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

The reception, held immediately following the Annual General Meeting, was a great success with the attendees, including O.G.S.A. members, past-president's and associate members. The evening featured an open bar, cocktails and hor's d'oeuvres which provided the perfect "mix" for an evening of conversation and enjoyment. The 1998 O.G.S.A. President Ian Bowen from Oshawa Golf Club, briefly addressed the crowd during the reception and introduced the 1998 board of directors.

The O.G.S.A. would again like to thank the co-sponsors of this event:

- Al Turf
- Albion Golf Cars
- Almack & Associates
- Arborist's Tree Care Ltd.
- Braemar Building Systems
- Hutcheson Sand & Mixes
- IMC Vigoro
- Ray Gordon
- Turf Care
- Turf Drain

We hope to see even more O.G.S.A. members take advantage of this annual event next year. See you There!!



Past Presidents



Ian Bowen OGSA President, Pelino Scenna CGSA President



O.G.S.A. fulfills requirements

As of December 3, 1997, the OGSA has fulfilled all the requirements to become an affiliated chapter of the GCSAA. This agreement is made in order to:

Enhance the image of its members and assist in elevating their professional status.

Have an effective national and Chapter network of trained volunteers that vigorously represent the profession in the areas of education, government relations, public relations, membership recruitment, research and development and funding.

Promote and develop future leaders.

Support both GCSAA and Chapter in their activities and programs to benefit members and the golf course superintendent's profession.

Share information that helps preserve and advance the members' livelihood and the golf course superintendent's profession.

It also allows the OGSA the privilege of voting representation, the use of promotional materials and logo, member lists and participation in co-operative programs.

the benefits of employment contract

Source: GCSAA Compensation and Benefit Report; PGA Golf Professional Compensation Survey; 1997 GCSAA Employment Resources Kit, Negotiating Compensation and Benefits

One word sums up having the benefits of an employment contract: protection.

How: An employment contract balances the playing field between employer and employee by acknowledging a superintendent's level of professionalism.

An employment contract:

- Defines expectations
- Saves time second-guessing goals
- Protects the most important asset, the golf course
- Ensures continuity
- Saves money by defining compensation
- Allows for better planning
- Removes fear and builds trust
- Creates loyalty and commitment by employer and superintendent

Statistics:

Approximately 26 percent of GCSAA members and 52 percent of PGA golf professionals have an employment contract. Regardless of the specific situation, the superintendent's employment contract should cover the following:

Terms of Employment:

State the contract's ending date, renewal date or it's open-ended nature.

Duties:

Outline the superintendent's boundaries of authority and designate to whom the superintendent reports.

Termination/Severance:

State the course of action that will be taken if the superintendent is voluntarily terminated, and the severance package.

Compensation:

Specify the superintendent's salary and pay period. Include a bonus structure. Outline a performance review schedule.

Benefits:

Define the benefits that will be provided to the superintendent. Be sure to include insurance (medical, dental, disability and liability) vacation, sick leave, vehicle, facility privileges, meals, housing and clothing allowances, educational reimbursement, dues for professional associations, pension/retirement plan other benefits appropriate to your region and facility.



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turf or consequences

" Thank You "

By Doug Breen, Superintendent
Waterloo Golf Academy



Someday near the end of my days, I will look back on my career and pay homage to the people who helped me along and made it the wildly successful trek that I'm sure it will be. O.K., moderately successful, O.K., if I don't end up living, a cardboard box under a bridge in Acton,

Ontario I will be very grateful.

There will be my grade 5 teacher who taught me phonics when no one was hooked on it. The biology teacher who got me excited about botany and convinced me to go to Guelph for agriculture instead of Western for english. (Not that working in a 7-11 would have been all bad. I certainly would have enjoyed discussing the latest books with the philosophy and political science graduates who stock the cooler and wash the squishier machines.)

Then there are the many professors who imparted higher education to me during my five years as an Aggie. I'll never forget Professor Eggins standing on the lecturn on the last day of class, screaming like a Banshee and waving a pointer over his head like a broad sword. It was a wild eyed sight which for all the world like one of those charging pics in the movie Braveheart. And let's face it, if not for Norm (Mac?) Callum, there might not be any turf type perennial rye grass in the whole world.

I also won't forget the owners, salespeople and superintendents who have employed and trained me; but primarily, I will thank my wife. She met me when I was skinnier, faster, funnier, and had disposable income. Remarkably, she has stuck with me even though I'm becoming progressively more fat, slow, grumpy, and broke. She stays with me even though she has been around long enough to know that all those stories of high school glory when I really was skinny, fast, funny, and rich, were at least exaggerated if not outright fiction.

She lives daily with the irony that our lawn looks awful. People come over for barbeques and say things like, "You do what for a living?", or the less subtle, "Man this lawn looks like crap!". The truth, of course, is that for months I never see the house with the sun up, which leads into another whole reason why I should be grateful to her for not leaving me.

Last summer we had our first baby. One of those "planned" children that are born on the 30th of June, like any good husband, I attended all the pre-natal classes religiously, and all the books and films had me well prepared for this "miracle of nature". The people in the pictures were all happy and smiling and it all actually looked fairly straight forward. What I was not prepared for; however, were the physics of pushing a watermelon through a garden hose. There were Doctors, Nurses, and a tool rack which would have been the envy of many a golf

course mechanic. If the baby hadn't come, we probably could have tuned up a starship with the provided equipment.

The truth is my wife had one of those relatively easy labors which lead to fists fights with the disgruntled hard labor crowd at baby showers, which is a good thing, because I really wasn't much help. It had been more than a few weeks since my last day off and I was really determined to make the most of it. The modern labor/delivery/recovery room, or LDR in lamaze class jargon, is a far cry from the sterile assembly line maternity ward of my parent's era, and as I said to Krista, "If they didn't want me to use the couch and the TV, they wouldn't have put it here.", I was only maximizing my use of the facilities purchased with my hard earned tax dollars, and I was halfway through my second Red Green episode when the really nasty stuff began. Once the first real contraction hit, I was ordered to shut off "Adventures with Bill" and stop treating the blessed event like my own little club med.

Now, I'm one of those guys that no one would let touch their babies, let alone hold, or heaven forbid babysit; but suddenly, this 300 pound nurse threw me into a chair and handed me my newborn son. Right at that moment, I didn't know whether to laugh, cry, stare blankly, or run out of the room screaming, and I was struck by how similar this was to my reaction nine months earlier when we began the project. The wash of all this, of course, is that now the neighbors think that she's a single mother with a bad lawn - but she sticks with me anyhow.

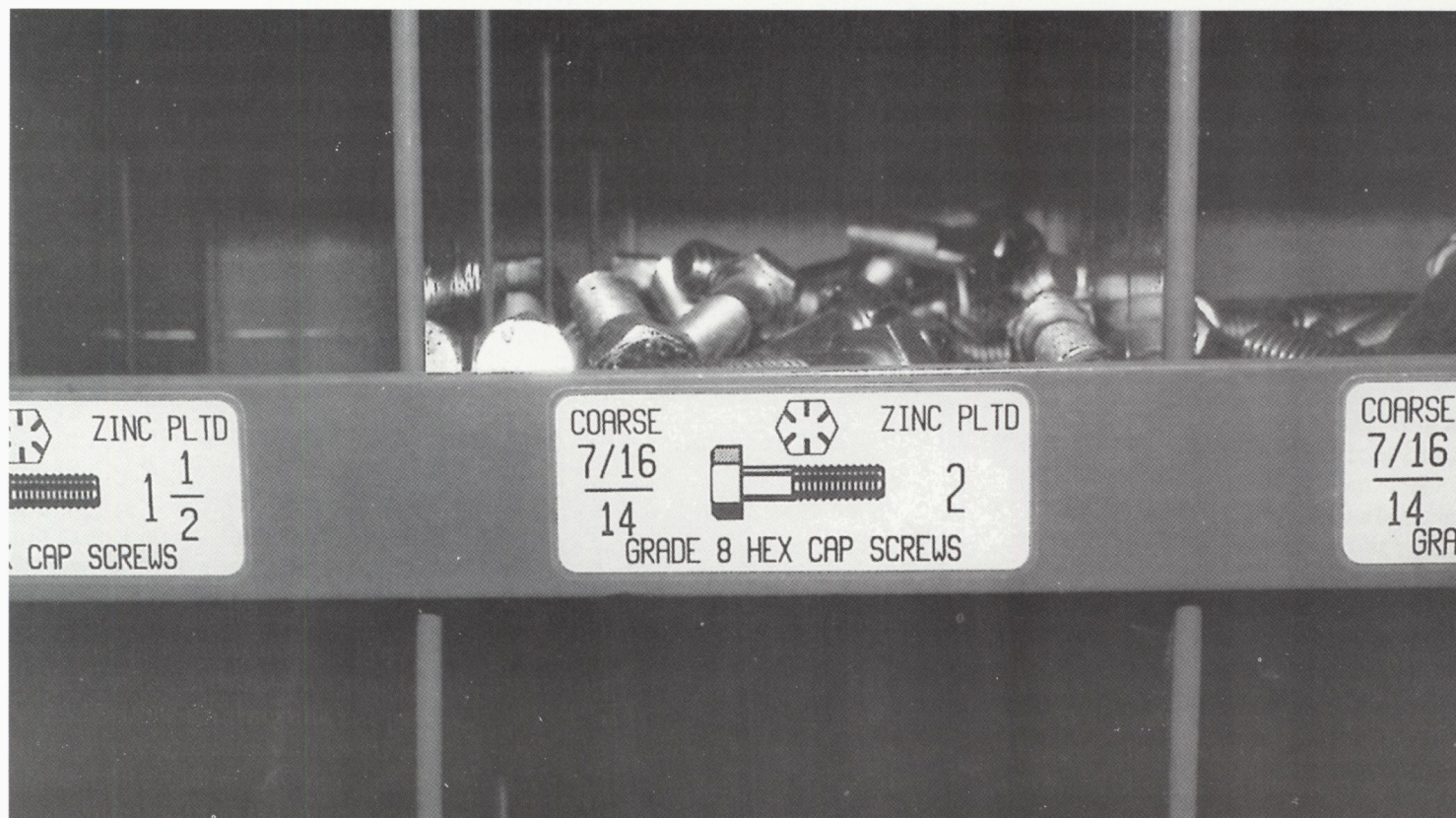
She has been with me through multiple golf courses and countless dinners either late or missed altogether. She makes excuses for me at family reunions where I never actually arrive and never complains when I sleep away a whole day off. She encourages me to keep working in a profession where respect is uncommon and greens committees or owners dismiss superintendents at the drop of a hat (sometimes annually), because their cheerios were too soggy that morning. (or often for less concrete reasons)

Without her support, I probably would have taken that 7-11 job by now and I'm sure that for many superintendents there is a very similar story. It's a different kind of job which requires a different kind of partner and none of us would get too far without the support of our families. So pick up some flowers, take them out for dinner, or maybe the best idea of all, just go home early tonight and say thanks.



aw nuts! and bolts, too

By Mike Huck, Agronomist, Western Region, USGA Green Section



Individual storage bins should be labeled with all the necessary information to make locating a part as efficient as possible.

How many times a week do you find you need to go out chasing around chasing around town for a small part - a nut or bolt, perhaps a spark plug? How much time is wasted in the process? Does the person retrieving the parts have something more productive to do with that time? The smaller the part needed, the more frustrating the whole situation is. Granted, no one can have every part ever needed in inventory, but assorted hardware, filiters, fluids, and regular wear items should be stocked to accomplish normal maintenance.

Starting with the Nuts and Bolts

Searching through a box of mixed hardware is not much of a storage system. A supply of nuts and bolts, common to any repair shop, should be in a well organized storage cabinet. Clearly labeled bins that designate fractional size, threads per inch, and overall length are a necessity. Labeling would read for example: "1/4-20 x 1. This designates a 1/4" diameter bolt with 20 threads per inch and an overall length of 1 inch. Multiple cabinets or bins may be required to organize both fine and coarse thread sizes, along with metrics commonly found on turf equipment. Since 1/4",

5/16", and 3/8" diameter bolts are the more popular dimensions found on turf equipment, a larger assortment of these sizes should be kept on hand.

Do Your Bolts "Make the Grade"?

The Society of of Automotive Engineers (SAE) sets standards on the tensile strength rating of bolts. These ratings are identified through a series of lines radiating outwards on the bolt head. Plain headed bolts without markings, commonly found at the hardware store, are grade 1 or 2. These are lower standard bolts considered adequate for fastening of accessories (lights, etc.) or sheet metal covers. If you are purchasing bolts at a hardware store, though, you may be causing yourself and your mechanic unnecessary grief through a higher than normal failure rate!

Bolts with three lines on the head are grade 5, generally recognized as the common replacements in automotive and commercial applications. Grade 5 bolts have approximately double the tensile strength of the plain headed grade 1 or 2 bolt. Grade 6 and 7 are marked with four and five lines, respectively, and offer only a slightly higher strength rating than grade 5. Topping off the list for standard commercial

aw nuts! and bolts, continued

use is grade 8, with six lines marking the head. Grade 8 bolts are found at high stress points, and are commonly used on heavy duty trucks and construction equipment. Allen head cap screws are unmarked, but usually are grade 8 or higher. Carriage and stove bolts are not recommended for replacement of even the lowest SAE grade bolts for commercial equipment applications.

Machine screws with special heads, such as flat, round, and pan designation, are not usually marked except in aircraft grades. Sheet metal screws, another special item, may look like a common wood screw; however, this particular variety is hardened, to allow threading into a punched hole. That kind of abuse would twist off the head of an ordinary wood screw. Other fastening items such as set screws, self locking "nylock" nuts, and flat and lock washers should be available to the mechanic in all popular sizes. Other essential small hardware items are key stock, woodruff keys, roll pins, and cotter pins.

Ignition and Electrical Supplies

One replacement set of spark plugs for each engine found in the equipment inventory should always be on the shelf. Contact points and condensers may also be necessary on early vintage units not equipped with electronic ignitions. Fouled spark plugs should be considered throwaway items, as the cleaning of fouled spark plugs with sand blaster is frowned upon by most mechanics. Using a sand blaster can lodge sand into the cavity of the electrode that later may free itself during the combustion cycle of the engine. You don't have to be a master mechanic to realize the damage caused to the piston, rings, and cylinder wall when sand is introduced into the picture!

Electrical supplies such as fuses, fusible links, crimp connectors, and wire should be available in various sizes. Electrical wire, like irrigation pipe, must be properly sized to handle the flow of current. Sizes ranging from #10 gauge through #18 gauge are most commonly found. However, if battery cables are to be fabricated on site, other sizes from #6 gauge to #0 may also be required. Kits to make battery cables and spark plug wires can prove very convenient, as turf equipment often requires odd sizes not commonly found over the counter at auto parts stores.

Belts

Belts found on turf equipment come in two basic varieties - standard automotive type V-series and fractional horsepower (FHP). Automotive V-belts are primarily found on engines driving the water pump, alternator, or auxiliary hydraulic pump. Fractional horsepower belts are commonly found driving reels, rotary blades, and other power driven

implements. The dimensions of these two types of belts differ, and they should not be considered interchangeable. The FHP belt has a more broad shape, allowing for a greater transfer of horsepower at lower RPMs.

Hoses

Radiator hoses for key pieces of equipment generally should be stocked. Flexible universal type hoses can be found at auto parts stores to help get in a pinch. Regular equipment inspections by the turf equipment technician should spot failing hoses ahead of time. In a real emergency the world famous roll of duct tape may be able to bail you out for an afternoon! Hose clamps of various sizes are often used in a variety of quick fixes around the golf course, and an assorted supply should be kept on hand.

Do-It-Yourself Hydraulic Hoses?

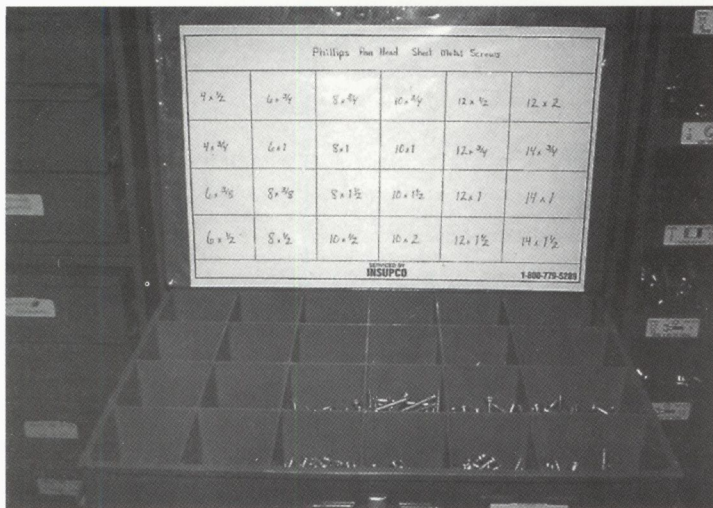
Hydraulic hoses offer two options. The first is to purchase hoses of every shape, size, and configuration from your equipment distributor. This could cost thousands of dollars, depending on your needs. The second option is to purchase the necessary equipment to make hoses on site. This equipment, including a selection of fittings and hose, can be purchased for approximately \$2,500. It requires 10 to 15 minutes to make a hose at a savings of 40% or more. This specialized equipment is available through automotive and industrial supply houses.

Filters and Fluids

It has been said that changing the oil without changing the filter is like taking a bath without soap! Complete sets of filters for each unit should be on hand at all times. Not having a filter available guarantees that the fluids will not be changed on schedule, or that changing the filter itself will not occur. Air, fuel, oil, transmission, and hydraulic filters all should be on the shelf items.

A one month supply of anti-freeze, greases, hydraulic oil, transmission fluids, and motor oils would be a minimum to keep stocked at all times. It is very important that fluids specified by the manufacturer or of equal quality are used. Failure to use specified fluids can result in major mechanical failures. Bulk dispensers can eliminate the hazardous waste disposal problems associated with small containers. Many equipment technicians now opt for synthetic lubricants because of lengthened change intervals and the superior wear protection. This reduced labor requirements for fluid changes and the quantity of waste oil generated for recycling.

aw nuts! and bolts, too continued



An organized storage area for miscellaneous hardware such as sheet metal screws, cotter pins, and key stock is essential

Tire Repair Supplies

Patches, plugs, replacement valve systems, and sealant are commonly found in most repair shops. A plug gun can allow the repair of the tire without removal from the rim, saving a considerable amount of time. Sealant in the pressurized can is expensive, but can save you in an emergency situation.

OEM and Aftermarket Parts

Certain parts and supplies must be purchased from the turf equipment distributor, also known as the OEM (original equipment manufacturer). Selected parts, including bedknives, reels, and bearings are also available through aftermarket suppliers. Experience has shown that specialized applications such as bedknife retaining screws require OEM replacements for optimum performance. Local industrial suppliers and auto parts stores can provide a majority if not all of the small hardware items; however, the best advice is to shop around. Prices on nuts and bolts alone can vary greatly, and be sure you are receiving the quality that is needed. If you are looking for service, auto parts distributors often have outside sales staff who can call on the mechanic. They will help set up reasonable stocking quantities and then regularly check inventory levels, relieving the mechanic of this duty.

Stocking the shop with the basic essential hardware items results in a more efficient operation. So stop running around town, and take a little time to get your parts supply stocked right down to the nuts and bolts.

slow pitch tournament

By Everett Nieuwkoop

We sincerely apologize to McCracken Golf Supplies and the Nu Grow corporation for misprinting the soft ball results from 1996 in our September issue. Better late than never!

Champions came from the small town of BURFORD. Burford Links Golf Club, home of supt. Mark McClure banded together kitchen staff, pro shop, suppliers and greens staff to win 5 games and take home the A Championship with a convincing victory over Conestoga. B CHAMPIONS went to a band of merry men calling themselves Kossuth - a mixture of Brookfield and Beaverdale greens staff. Another fine example of superintendents community spirit. Kossuth defeated Glendale 11-2 for the B championship.

This years' tournament had an international flavour as the Park club from Buffalo came over to compete against their neighbours from the north all 30 golf clubs competed for the 1997 Championship. Next year will be the 5th annual. Hope to see you all there!

how's your beq?

Source: Margaret Fitch-Hauser, Auburn University, Auburn Ala.

Proper business etiquette is the key to getting ahead. According to Secrets of Executive Success, etiquette books are outselling cookbooks. Test your Business Etiquette Quotient (BEQ). Answer Yes, Sometimes or No to the following questions:

1. When I am invited to a business function, I always RSVP within the week.
2. I always return a phone call the same day I receive a message.
3. I never use curse words at home.
4. I always write thank-you notes for meals and gifts.
5. My table manners are superb.
6. I see myself as a part of a team, rather than seeking praise for my individual efforts.
7. I answer important letters immediately and take care of the rest of the mail within the week.
8. Before dealing with someone from another culture, I find out the proper etiquette unique to that culture.
9. I give verbal or written credit where credit is due.
10. I send holiday cards to my most valued business relationships.

Give yourself a 3 for each Yes, 2 for each Sometimes and 1 for each No answer.

BEQ scoring: 25-30, Excellent;

25-27, Good; 20-24, Fair. If you scored 10-19, your BEQ is poor.

pop-up sprinklers for mound irrigation

Mounds can be meaningful additions to a golf course, but sometimes they require special treatment

By Patrick J. Gross

Mounds are popular features of modern golf architecture. They add visual interest to the golf course and often increase the difficulty and challenge of a golf hole. Although mounds often look nice, they can be difficult to irrigate and maintain. Even if irrigation coverage is relatively good, the tops of the mounds tend to dry out more rapidly,

causing turf decline and an undesirable appearance. Several factors are responsible for substandard turf growth on mounds. Poor quality soil is often used for construction, creating different water management needs and maintenance requirements. Because of the elevation difference and slope of mounds, localized dry spots often

occur on the top, and wet areas develop around the base due to irrigation system is properly designed and installed, perfect coverage is difficult to achieve on hilly areas. Eventually, this can become an unmanageable situation for the superintendent unless plenty of labor is available for hand watering.

As an alternative to costly hand labor, a supplemental irrigation system for mounds can be installed using pop-up sprinklers. There are several models available that typically are used for home lawns and landscapes. The pop-up heads usually cover a radius of 8 ft. to 15 ft. and are ideal for use on mounds. It is recommended to select a sprinkler head with a low precipitation rate since the slow, steady application of water reduces runoff and provides better water penetration. A supplemental system can be easily installed by connecting to a nearby main line and installing either a manual or remotecontrol valve to operate the system. Most courses that have installed such systems prefer the manual valve, which can be used by the irrigation technician or sectionmen for spot watering only. After connecting the valve, PVC pipe can be pulled or trenched to the desired location, followed by the installation of the pop-up heads.

Before installing a supplemental irrigation system for mounds, it is important to evaluate the existing system to ensure everything is in proper operating condition. Uneveled Sprinkler heads and worn nozzles may be the primary reasons for uneven coverage and localized dry spots. Once these issues have been resolved, the pop-up sprinklers can be installed to provide better irrigation control with fewer wet spots and dry spots.

Patrick J. Gross is a agronomist in the Green Section's Western Region.



Mounds can add visual interest to the golf course, but they are difficult to irrigate. The different management needs of the mounds often result in dry spots and turf decline.



A supplemental irrigation system, specifically for the mounds, can be installed to provide better irrigation control.

improve morale and save money

In Florida, golf course superintendents have found a way to take care of their golf course employees and save money.

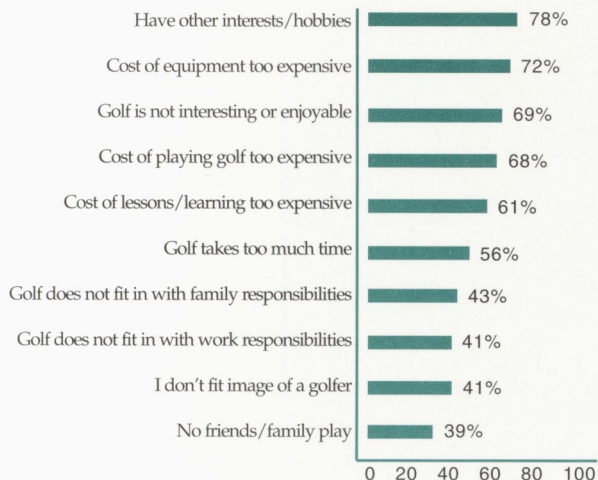
Details: They have created an employee locker area outside the maintenance building in addition to the traditional lockers located inside. Each employee is issued their own equipment, such as shovels, leaf rake, whipping pole, back brace, budgie cord, hard hat, safety glasses, rain suits, rubber slip-on boots and ear plugs. The tools and equipment are numbered with their locker number. Personal belongings are still kept in traditional lockers inside the maintenance facility.

Results: Crew members take pride in having their own sets of tools and safety equipment and keep them in good condition. Employee morale improves. This system has eliminated tools from being lost or left outside. **Benefit:** The up-front costs of purchasing tools is more than normal, but in the long run, the golf facilities save money by not having to replace lost, broken or stolen tools or safety equipment.

Sources: Darren Davis, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, Fla.; Gary Grigg, CGCS, Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples, Fla.

why people don't play golf

Top 10 Reasons Why People Don't Play Golf



Source: Trends in golf demand and supply, National Golf Foundation, 1986-96

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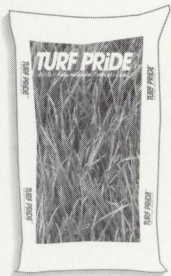
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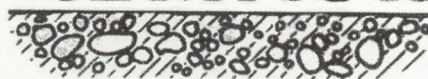


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The Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) and EPIC of Wisconsin, Inc. Have agreed to produce and market training videos for golf course superintendents and their staffs.

"Education is at the heart of our association," GCSAA President Paul S. McGinnis, certified golf course superintendent, said. "The use of video is a proven and valuable tool to instruct people on technical methods and practices in golf course maintenance. I don't know of a better group than EPIC of Wisconsin to provide the superintendent professional this service. Its track record is excellent".

Known as the "Superintendent's Video Workshop" the video-based training covers such topics as greens mowing, crew etiquette, safety on the golf course, irrigation winterization and spring startup, safe pesticide handling and turf restoration, among others. Selected videos are translated for Spanish speaking employees.

"We've always been impressed with the professionalism of golf course superintendents," EPIC President Jim Becker said. "It is a group dedicated to the highest standards, whether it be training, education or performance. It is rewarding to work with these professionals and be able to contribute to their quality and success"

Recognized as a leader in golf course training video production, EPIC has also developed works for American GolfCorp., Audubon International, the USGA, the Center for Resource Management and numerous other golf related clients. EPIC has also partnered with GCSAA in the past to produce the highly popular "Golf and Environment" video magazine. The SVW will be produced by EPIC, which selects noted golf course superintendents to help generate ideas, and review instruction techniques and video scripts.

A complete list of SVW training kits available by contacting GCSAA at 1-800-472-7878 or via the GCSAA website (www.gcsaa.org)

Since 1926, the GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarter in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 18,000 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

For additional information contact:
Jim Becker
President of EPIC of Wisconsin
(414) 338-3700

golf course accessible

*By Mark Hagan, Hyde Park Equipment Ltd.,
London, Ontario*

In London, Ontario, efforts have been made by the Greater London Area Greens Superintendents Association (GLAGS) and by C.P.G.A. Golf Professionals to get golfers with physical challenges back on the links. In 1994, Therapeutic Recreation Specialists, Bev Regan and Laura Gianomenico from Parkwood Hospital in London discovered that many patients longed to play the game they once enjoyed. The activity of golf promotes balance, flexibility, muscle strength and a wide range of motion; similar to what physio-therapy teaches. City of London C.P.G.A. Golf Professionals, Fred Kern, Michael Olizarevitch, and Andy Shaw were approached to develop a golf program for people with physical challenges. The first golf clinic was held at one of London's Municipal Golf Courses - River Road G.C. in the summer of 1995. The event was an overwhelming success and many more clinics followed.

Parkwood Hospital Therapists, Regan and Gianomenico, didn't stop there. Why not bring the golf therapy right to the hospital grounds so that it could be enjoyed on a regular basis by the patients? A phone call went out to the local London Golf Superintendents Association (GLAGS) in the Spring of 1996 asking for design, construction and maintenance advice. After a short meeting with the Hospital's grounds crew and GLAGS representatives, a 4,000 sq. ft. Green was outlined on the ground to fit into the existing gardens. The green was located adjacent to a patio and designed with gentle slopes so hospital patients could wheel themselves on and off the green with minimal assistance. It was decided that a modified USGA sandbase green would drain quickly and withstand the compaction of the wheelchairs and traffic better than native pushup greens.

Two weeks later a dozen volunteers showed up and the project started. Two mini-excavators and two small single axle trucks were able to manoeuvre around the site with minimal damage. The first lobe of the green was shaped and volunteers moved in to start installing the drainage system. A few irrigation lines were inadvertently trenched through. This proved to be no problem for the volunteers/superintendents to repair and get the system up and running for the evening watering. Grade stakes were set and the phone call was made to start bringing in the peastone. Things were going like clockwork until the inevitable occurred. The first load of stone arrived to the thundering applause of an unexpected downpour. The drainage was sufficiently completed to prevent the sub-basin from filling with water. Three loads of stone were delivered and rough graded before conditions made it impossible to continue.

By the next morning the green had drained perfectly.

golf course accessible continued

The gravel blanket was finished graded and the root zone mix was ordered. The first truck rolled in leaving two foot ruts. It was apparent the site received far more rain the previous evening than the practice green had shown. Quick phone calls to local suppliers guaranteed us that as many complimentary loads of topsoil and sod as required to repair the damaged grounds would be available. The mix continued to be delivered and spread. The fertilizer blend was incorporated into the mix and the green was seeded and rolled. Approximately \$20,000 in material and labour were donated by local business and superintendents. Precise project coordination and careful grow-in by Ernie Lewis and his maintenance crew, allowed the installation to be completed in two days. Site restoration took a few days and the green was opened three months later.

Several miles away at Fanshawe Golf Course another project is currently underway. John Cowie, Manager of Golf Course Maintenance for the City of London and Head Professional, Mike Olizarevitch have designed and constructed the "Parkside Nine" an accessible facility for physically challenged golfers. This nine will also double as a teaching area. This project is part of a large redevelopment by the City of London at Fanshawe which will produce a 45 hole complex by 1998 featuring an existing 18-hole traditional style golf course, an 18 hole links style course built on a restored gravel pit and the fully accessible Parkside Nine. Some of the features of the Parkside Nine are flat holes varying in length from 45 to 140 yards, firm soil greens construction so that wheelchairs can access them with little damage, tees located immediately adjacent to the previous green to minimize the need for movement and short 5 foot ticks flags which are easier to handle from a wheelchair. The Halfway House which will be constructed for the Links Style 18 will be fully accessible and double for use as a Clubhouse on the Parkside Nine.

Physically challenged golfers are equipped with special short "Clever Clubs" with Bent Titanium hoses in the shafts. A cane like gadget called the E-Z tee device allows the golfer to tee up without bending over. Cut-down clubs and putters, suction cups on the end of clubs and arthritic grips are other simple but effective aids for the golfers.

Maintenance of the 45 hole complex at Fanshawe is the responsibility of Bob Miners who is very aware of the magnitude of the challenge ahead of taking care of 45 holes, 27 of these carrying the special problems associated with maintaining fine turf areas in mined out gravel pits.

There are few guidelines and precedents for what the construction of an accessible golf course should involve. Such as which mixes would be best for the greens, should paths be constructed and how can the design of the course allow special golfers to enjoy all aspects of the game that

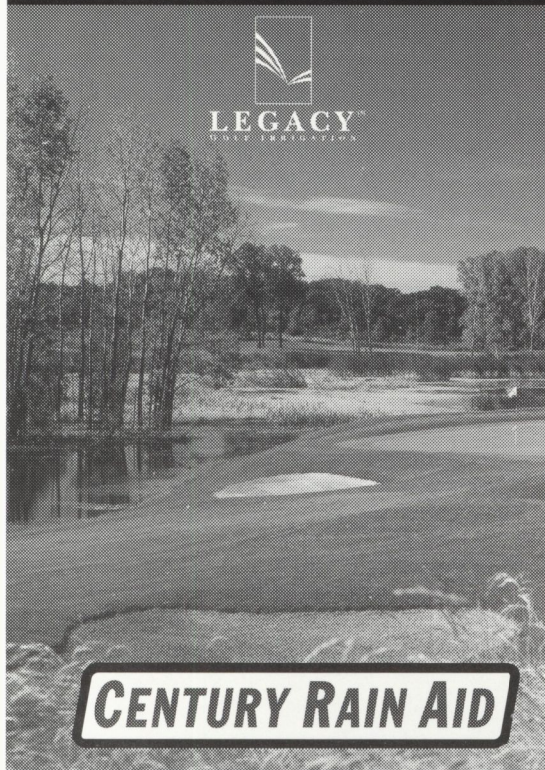
other golfers enjoy. The enthusiasm and determination of the patients at Parkwood Hospital which has been demonstrated at the many clinics will hopefully be seen on the Parkside Nine when it opens in late 1998. Hopefully, the efforts being made in London by the Greenskeepers and Golf Pros to provide instruction, facilities and equipment for physically challenged golfers will be duplicated and improved upon by others across the country.



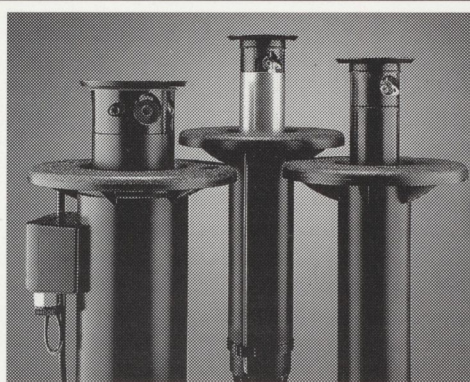
A Key for Prioritizing the Focus of a Golf Course Maintenance Program

- Putting surfaces are the most important areas on a golf course. The ranking of tees, fairways, bunkers, roughs, and other areas will vary.
- Consider the three main components of every maintenance decision: (1) agronomics, (2) economics, (3) politics.
- Proactive, positive, creative communication helps offset politics. Invest as much time in communicating as agronomics.
- Solid agronomics safeguards long-term economics. With the focus on building an agronomically solid foundation, economic choices will be much clearer.
- Agronomically, invest your first dollar and all your best efforts in:
 1. Water Management (Drainage/Aerification and Irrigation),
 2. Growing Environment (Sunlight and Air Movement),
 3. Mowing (Type of Mower, Sharpness, and Bench Setting),
 4. Fertilization.

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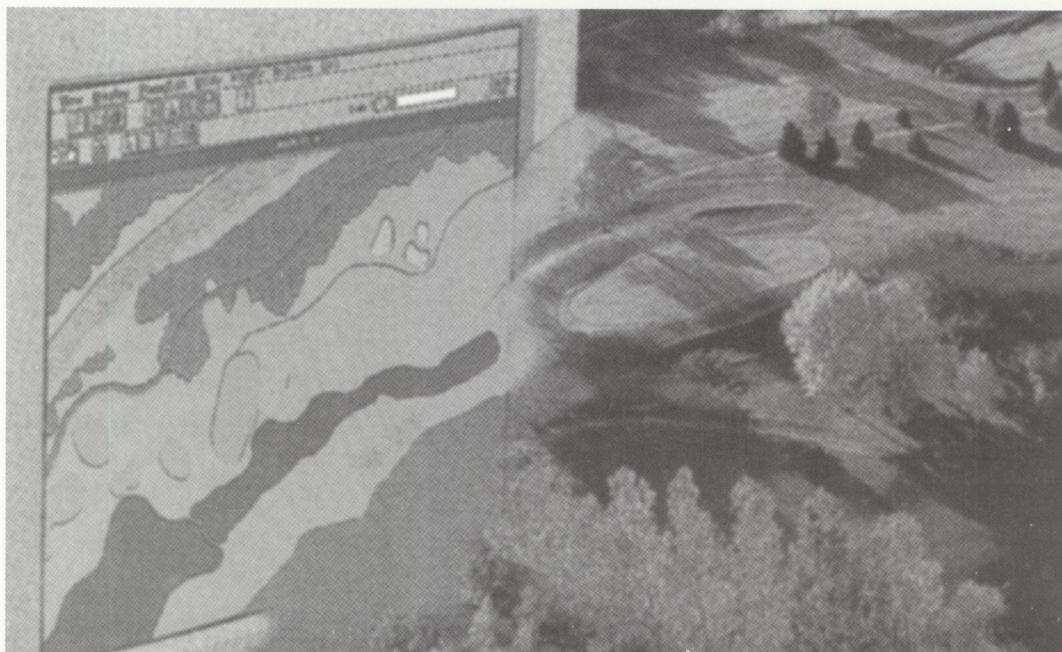
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1998 Environmental Steward Awards

Thirty-three golf course superintendents have been named national, regional or merit winners of the 1998 Environmental Steward Awards, underscoring their commitment to stewardship efforts on the golf course through contributions that enhance local environments.

In recognition of the winners, program sponsors Norvartis Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Jacobsen Division of Textron and Pursell Technologies Inc. will donate nearly \$23,000 to The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Foundation. The Foundation is committed to advancing educational opportunities and environmental and scientific research for golf course management.

The 1998 Environmental Steward Award winners were named in three categories: private, public and resort golf courses. The three national winners include:

Private: Peter Leuzinger, CGCS, The Ivanhoe Club, Ivanhoe, Ill.

Public: Jeffery W. Carlson, CGCS, Widow's Walk Golf Course, Scituate, Mass.

Resort: Mike Meindertsma, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Mich.

The Environmental Steward Awards recognize golf course superintendents for overall course management excellence, outstanding programs to maximize pesticide and fertilizer efficacy and irrigation and equipment efficiency, as well as wildlife preservation and enhancement.

"Golf course superintendents are extremely focused on environmental issues and continually strive to foster stewardship efforts both on the golf course and in the community," said Paul S. McGinnis, GCSAA president and certified golf course superintendent at Alta Mesa Country Club in Mesa, Ariz. "Thanks to the continued support of the program's four sponsors, the Environmental Steward Awards recognize the highest of environmental contributions."

In addition to the three national winners, 17 regional winners and 13 merit winners were selected from seven United States Golf Association Green Section regions plus the Canadian region.

Regional winners:

Canadian Region

Private: Blake McMaster, The Royal Montreal Golf Club, Ile Bizard, Quebec

Public: Dean Baker, Glen Abbey Golf Club, Oakville, Ontario

Florida Region

Private: Jeff Ball, Panama Country Club, Lynn Haven, Fla.

Mid Atlantic Region

Private: Scott Schukraft, Huntsville Golf Club, Shavertown, Pa.

Mid-Continent Region

Private: Dan Dinelli, CGCS, North Shore Country Club, Glenview, Ill.

Public: Tom Morgensen, Countryside East & West Golf Courses, Mundelein, Ill.

Resort: Jimmy Thomas, CGCS, Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, San Antonio, Texas

North Central Region

Private: Donald F. Ewoldt Jr., CGCS, Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton, Ind.

Public: Fred E. "Derf" Soller Jr., Old Works Golf Course, Anaconda, Mont.

Resort: David Faucher, CGCS, The Legend Course, Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, Mich.

Northeastern Region

Private: Joseph Alonzi, CGCS, Westchester Country Club, Rye, N.Y.

Public (tie): Clark Weld, Blue Heron Pines Golf Club, Pomona, N.J.

Public (tie): James Perez, East Mountain Country Club, Westfield, Mass.

Southwestern Region

Public: Wendell T. Nealon, CGCS, The Legacy of Springfield, Springfield, Tenn.

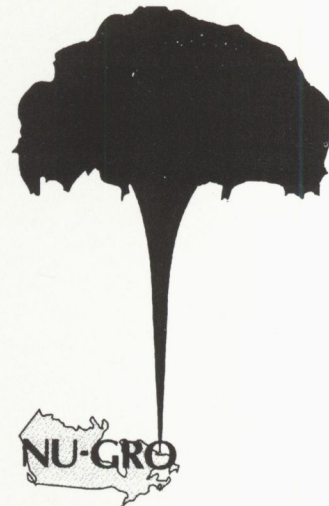
Western Region

Private: Richard Eide, CGCS, Aspen Glen Golf Club, Carbondale, Colo.

Public: Raymond Davies, CGCS, Crystal Springs Golf Course, Burlingame, Calif.

Resort: Edward C. Horton, CHCS, Pebble Beach Company, Pebble Beach, Calif.

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talk turf for better business

Source: Robert O. Farren, CGCS, Assistant Director of Golf Course Maintenance and Grounds, Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, Pinehurst, N.C.

In Golf course management, as in any other business, it is helpful to know the basics and how to apply them to be successful. Key: There is no standardized formula, no single maintenance program for every golf course. But there are some basic agronomy terms that help golf course owners and golf course superintendents communicate with each other and their golfers to ensure a common understanding of practices that affect playability and course aesthetics.

1. **Aeration:** The cultivation of a turf soil without destruction of the turf by coring, slitting, grooving, hole punching, forking, sliding, spiking or other means of easing compaction.

2. **Blend:** A combination of two or more cultivars of the same grass species.

3. **Cultivar:** A variety, strain or race that has originated and persisted under cultivation or was specifically developed for the purpose of cultivation.

4. **Desiccation:** Injury sustained on exposed turf areas when subject to high winds, or loss of moisture from a plant because of hot, dry weather.

5. **Foot Printing:** Frost: Dead leaf tissue formed by walking on live frosted turfgrass leaves. Wilt: Temporary impressions caused by walking on grass plants that are unable to spring to upright position because leaves lack sufficient moisture.

6. **Hydroseeding:** A high-pressure spray technique for applying seed, mulch and fertilizer over a seedbed in a single operation to avoid excess travel over the planting site during seeding.

7. **Leaching:** the removal of materials dissolved in the soil solution caused by the movement of water down through the soil, past the root zone.

8. **Localized dry spot:** A dry area of sod and soil that resists water infiltration.

9. **Matting:** To work topdressing or other materials into a turfgrass area with drag mats, usually made of steel.

10. **Mix (Seed):** A combination of cultivars from two or more different species. Sometimes used in reference to soil, sand, peat or other growing medium.

11. **Plugging:** Planting turfgrass by means of turf plugs or small sod pieces.

12. **Scalping:** Removing more of the green leaf surface than is good for the plant, leaving a stubby brown turf.

13. **Syringing:** Light sprinkling of water on turf usually done during the hottest part of the day to prevent wilting. Statistics: Nationwide, 90 percent of employers pay for their superintendents' continuing education.

golf course hockey challenge

NIAGARA FALLS, NY., 1/16/98 - The 4th annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge was just completed at a twin pad complex at Niagara University in Niagara Falls NY. This years tournament featured eight teams from both sides of the border. Teams representing Western New York, Michigan, Chicago, London, Kitchener, Toronto, North Toronto, and Niagara competed in a two day round robin tournament.

"The biggest complaint we had about last years tournament was it was too much hockey for one day, that why we expanded to two days," stated Scott Dodson, Superintendent at the Park Country Club in Buffalo and one of the tournaments organizers. "The biggest snowstorm of the year got us off to a bad start," continued Dodson, "but we were able to make up at the time and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, especially at the Thursday night attitude adjustment party."

"Industry sponsorship for this event has been fantastic right from day one," stated John Taylor, Superintendent at Twenty Valley Golf Club in Vineland, Ont. And another one of the tournaments organizers. "Toro has always looked after the ice time and this year Club Car covered the cost of the Thursday night party," Taylor explained, a number of other companies covered expenses such as referees and pizza and beverages after games which meant it didn't cost the players a cent."

After two days of hard fought hockey action, team Michigan emerged with the golf course cup beating two time defending champion Kitchener in the final. Plans are already underway for next years event which promises to be bigger and better then ever.

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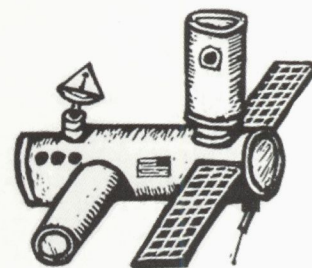
Satellite Precision. Sometime by the year 2000, superintendents will be using Global Positioning System (GPS), a satellite-based, worldwide, 24-hour-a-day, precise system for position, velocity and time determinations on land, sea or air, for specific chemical applications.

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Examples. Golf course irrigation designers already use GPS in irrigation system installations. A GPS system was used to test chemical applications on damaged areas of sugar beets in western Nebraska.

Do more with less. Golf course maintenance equipment is being developed to provide more productivity using less manpower.

Source: Aaron Wetzel, Territory Manager, John Deere, Lawn and Grounds Care Division - Golf and Turf Products Group, Pacific Grove, Calif.; "Using Differential GPS to Improve Crop Yields," *GPS World* 5, 1994.



New Trends in Course Design

Every seven seconds someone in the U.S. turns 50. **Significance to Golf:** These aging baby boomers are the most important group to the game because they represent 26 percent of all golfers who play 50 percent of all rounds. These golfers expect more. They've grown up during the explosion of technology, which has made the immediate delivery of information and services possible and expected. **Strategy:** Golf course design has changed to meet these high expectation.

Design Trends

The "total golf experience." Golfers expect to come out of the clubhouse and have the driving range, putting green and first tee right there.

Wider fairways. Golfers like to find their golf balls.

Conceal houses. Even though golfers enjoy the lifestyles of residing around the golf course, they do not want to see houses during their game.

Source: Ron Garl, Ron Garl Golf Course Design, Lakeland, Fla.



How Does Your Handicap Index Stack Up?

How do the handicaps of your golfers stack up against the rest of the nation? Does your course set up or green speed philosophy cater to the majority of golfers at your facility? Check out the percentages below:

WOMEN

UGSA Handicap	% of Golfers
+1 - 5	.46%
6 - 10	1.64%
11 - 15	4.67%
16 - 20	10.18%
21 - 25	16.58%

MEN

UGSA Handicap	% of Golfers
+1 - 5	5.63%
6 - 10	16.24%
11 - 15	26.43%
16 - 20	23.95%
21 - 25	15.38%



SOURCE: USGA



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dry cleaning

BY PAUL VERMEULEN, *Agronomist, Mid-Continent Region, USGA Green Section*

LIKE MANY courses across the country, The Vintage Club, in Indian Wells, California, has encountered problems using the traditional means of washing equipment. For example, wet clippings that accumulate around a wash area can generate some very unpleasant conversations with golfers who have a keen sense of smell. Another problem is the potential effect on stream ecology caused by the nutrients from decaying clippings that drain into a small stream. On the mechanical side of things, greased bearings are easily damaged by traditional washing when water penetrates the seals. Given that The Vintage Club is a 36-hole course, the damage done to greased bearings alone was burdening the mechanical staff and escalating the budget for replacement parts. Another mechanical problem is corrosion and engine damage caused by washing equipment with cold water. This problem can be especially significant for courses that use reclaimed water. Soluble salts in the irrigation supply can literally dissolve the equipment inventory.

To address these problems, Douglas Anderson, superintendent, and Luciano (Chito) Velasquez, maintenance supervisor, retrofitted their wash area with eight dry-cleaning stations. Each station is equipped with an air hose plumbed into a large air compressor normally set at 125psi. To dry-clean equipment safely, goggles are required to prevent eye injury. To remind the employees of this fact, CAUTION signs were placed on the wall behind the air stations. To protect the air hoses from damage, they were mounted on automatic-recoil hose reels. Without these reels, the long brass nozzles on the ends of the air hoses would be broken off by employees driving in and out of the dry-cleaning stations. Another safety precaution integrated into the project is a small hole bored through the tip of each brass nozzle. This hole serves as a pressure relief

point, should one of the employees hold an air hose against his or her body. In addition to solving some of their problems, the new dry-cleaning stations have also eliminated the long waiting line in front of the wash area. Before retrofitting, the wash area was equipped with only two water hoses. With the new air stations, the wash area can accommodate as many as eight employees at a time. Another advantage of dry-cleaning equipment is that clippings underneath the engine shrouds can be removed without damaging the wiring or hot engine components. If you've ever seen the damage caused by pouring cold water on a hot engine day after day, dry-cleaning probably is starting to sound very appealing. Dry-cleaning equipment at The Vintage Club has not done away with the need to wash equipment with water, but it has associated with washing equipment with water. After each mower has been blown off, it is rinsed before parking it inside the

maintenance building. Equipment must still be steam cleaned on a regular schedule. As a general rule, Chito Schedules steam cleaning every two to three weeks for mowers that are used every day. When the clippings pile up around the new air stations, they are shoveled into trash cans and hauled over to the special waste recycling dumpster. For quick loading at the end of the day, a skip loader is used to put the clippings in the dumpster. In the regions of the country where Mother Nature makes dry-cleaning outdoors an unreasonable proposition, air stations could probably be moved indoors, if a large building is available. For example, air stations could be retrofitted just inside the doorway so that clippings could be removed before equipment is parked. Also, knowing that only a few gallons of water will be needed to rinse each mower, it would be feasible to install a drain and water hose next to the air stations.

Dry-cleaning equipment at The Vintage Club has not replaced the need to wash equipment with water; it has just greatly reduced the many problems associated with washing equipment with water. After each mower has been blown off, it is rinsed before parking it inside the manufacture building.





ETHICAL STANDARDS OF ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

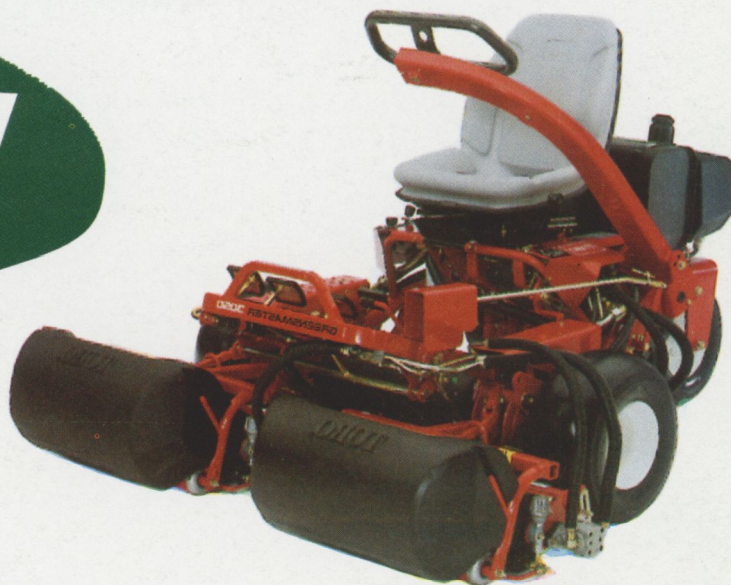
- *To ensure that respect is accorded our profession, our Association and our individual members, these ethical standards are to be observed and practised..*
- *Maintain courteous relation with your employer, employees and fellow superintendents, while practising sound business and turf management.*
- *Continue to broaden your knowledge through formal education channels and by exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members.*
- *Endorse products or practises only when completely satisfied through personal experience..*
- *Refrain from corresponding either verbally or in writing, with a Director, member or official of another club, regarding its affairs, without the prior knowledge of that club's superintendent.*
- *Apply only for a position that is vacant, and, if possible, talk to the person who held the job last or other local superintendents.*
- *Offer employment to another club's employee only after advising that club's superintendent.*
- *Notify the superintendent of the club you are visiting directly, and, whenever possible, do so in advance.*
- *Misrepresenting the Association and yourself by lending your membership card will not be condoned..*
- *It is the responsibility of each member to abide by these standards and to report any violations to the Board of Directors, in writing.*



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