



Aerifier Dolly Relieves Shop Frustration

The "aerifier dolly" is a tool that was constructed out of frustration. First, a frustrated shop and equipment manager who felt as if he was wasting time searching for a tractor that was not in use, so that he could lift the 3-point hitch-mounted aerifier to perform necessary repairs and maintenance on the aerifier. Second, a golf course superintendent who was frustrated with his staff when the rough was not being mowed because the shop and equipment manager had a tractor tied up. And finally, a frustrated assistant golf course superintendent who was sick and tired of being pulled from both ends trying to please both the shop and equipment manager and the golf course superintendent.

The solution was an innovative "aerifier dolly" designed and built by Olde Florida Golf Club's shop and equipment manager, Kim Ellis. The frame and five risers with cradles (two front and three rear) are made of 2 x 2 inch square tubing. The frame, measuring 29 x 75 inches is lightweight but strong and mobile.

The cradles, or brackets, that the aerifier rests on are two-inch, steel "C-channel". The back three are six inches in length and run parallel to the frame and the front two, also 6-inches in length, run perpendicular to the frame.

The back three pieces of "C channel" are face up so that the machine is cradled in the C-channel. The front two pieces are turned upside down to support the wider front piece of the aerifier. The front two

cradles also have a piece of C-channel welded to both ends to keep the aerifier secure. All five brackets that the aerifier rest on are welded to 12 inch tall risers (2 x 2 inch square tubing).

The two front risers and the two outside risers on the back are 13 inches from the outside of the frame. The center riser (on the rear only) is 37.5 inches, or exactly centered in the back. The measurements could easily be adjusted for another brand of aerifier. On the bottom of the frame, in all four corners, heavy-duty casters were attached to allow the frame to be rolled around the floor with ease.

When the dolly was finished, the metal was painted with a primer and several coats of Rust-oleum. It took Ellis between three and four hours to build it and the cost was around \$200 for the steel and paint and \$80 for the heavy-duty casters. The casters, which are rated for a 460-pound load range per wheel, were purchased from Grainger, part #1F147.

The dolly that Ellis designed and constructed has freed up the use of a tractor and allows the repair

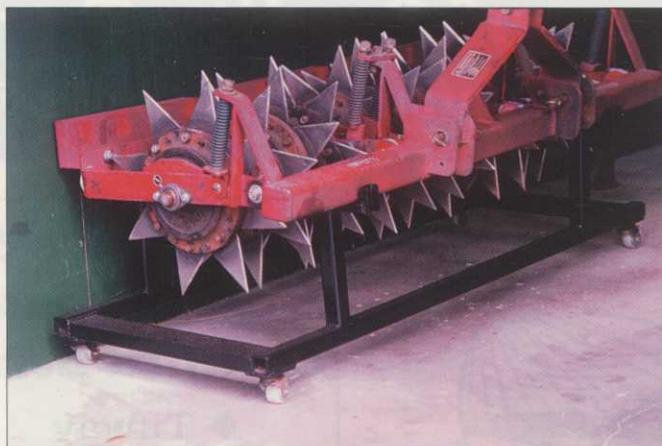
staff to perform necessary repair and maintenance on the aerifier as well as change the blades. It also enables the golf course staff to easily move the otherwise immovable (unhooked up) aerifier so that the floor can be cleaned.

Life is too short to be frustrated. Be happy!

Darren Davis, GCS
Olde Florida Golf Club



Note the three rear risers with the parallel C channel cradles and the two front risers with the perpendicular cradles. Photo by Darren Davis.



The finished dolly on casters. Stored out of the way when not in use, but easy to move around for blade changes or hook ups to tractors. Photo by Darren Davis.