Rodgers takes Global Positioning to a new sphere

BY TERRY BUCHEN

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — Using Global Positioning Surveys (GPS) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), irrigation engineer Larry Rodgers has designed what he feels is the ultimate tool to quickly measure anything on a golf course and make color-as-built blueprints and color surveys available.

Rodgers said the system makes as-built blueprints and color surveys available at "a reasonable cost" for course superintendents, owners, contractors and architects. The process takes a day or two on-site to completely measure a golf course's specific areas and a day in the office to print a 255-color laser plotter blueprint, he said.

"What we do," Rodgers said from his office here, "is recreate aerial photos adapted in a digital format, by using GPS technology and a Pentium-based Pentop Computer that resembles an Etch-a-Sketch that is totally portable and user-friendly.

"We can measure anything that can be 'defined' in a point, a line or an area. We can accurately measure a line, which could be a cart path; a point, which could be a sprinkler head, or catch basin or tree; or an area, such as a green, tee, fairway, rough, lakes, streams, bunkers, etc."

Once all of the information is in the database, Rodgers makes it site-specific to each course and can make a total tree survey; measure each green, tee, fairway, rough, lakes, streams, bunkers; and pinpoint every piece of irrigation and drainage equipment on a perfect as-built color blueprint.

"Everything and anything is possible with this equipment which can be custom-built for your golf course's own application," Rodgers said. "We can even measure the golf course yardage and do sprinkler-head yardage while we are measuring all of the areas of the course and doing a tree survey, pinpointing each and every tree variety.

New York offers turf scholarships

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York State Golf Association (NYSGA) has announced the availability of $8,000 in scholarships for the 1997-98 academic year.

With the cooperation of the New York State Turfgrass Association, the association needs to identify potential recipients who may be employed at clubs. Last year's scholarships ranged from $500 to $1,000.

The scholarship program is specifically for New York state residents who are matriculated in an accredited two- or four-year college or university. They must be studying a specific academic program such as agronomy, turfgrass management, or a related major leading to eventual employment as a golf course superintendent.

To receive an application for the NYSGA Scholarship Program, people may telephone J. Patrick Keenan, executive director, NYSGA, at 888-NYSGA-23 or Beth Seme, executive director, NYS Turfgrass Association, at 800-873-8873.

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MAINTENANCE

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