

## Tools of the Trade...at Nelson's Camas Meadows

CAMAS, Wash. — Camas Meadows Golf Club, situated between the Cascade Mountains and the Columbia River, is a new daily-fee "hot spot" in the Pacific Northwest. With a forested wetlands layout near Lacamas Lake, superintendent Rod Nelson will put his 20 years of maintenance experience to good use.

"Probably the biggest challenge is that we're surrounded by a lot of native wetlands, and just trying to incorporate the maintenance practices that enhance the wetlands requires a constant effort," he said.



Rod Nelson

Having opened the course last May, Nelson spent the summer battling the turf grass disease

Pythium blight, which rarely strikes in Washington state. "It's common in the Midwest and in warmer climates, but I've never encountered it before in this region," said Nelson.

"One of the unique features we have is Penn A-4 on our greens. It's completely different from anything I've been familiar with until now. As far as I know," he said, "we're the only course in the Pacific Northwest that has it. The greens have really grown in nicely and look great."

Nelson logged 10 years as superintendent at Heron Lakes Golf Course in Portland, Ore. prior to taking the position of construction supervisor for two years during the building of Camas Meadows. As a year-round golf course, Nelson explains, "we may get some flurries, but no snow that accumulates. Instead, we get a whole lot of rain. We had over 60 inches of it last year."

At the 18-hole, 4,859- to 6,518-yard Ca-



John Deere equipment predominates at Nelson's maintenance facility.

mas Meadows layout, complimentary golf carts are offered with the new ParView global positioning system. "The Parview system is great — golfers have a lot of fun with it," Nelson said. "When I go to play at other courses, I really miss it."

**Greens mowers:** 6 John Deere 220A, 2 Jacobsen 522T

**Tee mowers:** 2 John Deere 2500

**Fairway mowers:** 2 John Deere 3215A

**Rough mowers:** 2 John Deere 2653A, 1 John Deere F1145 w/laztec deck

**Riding bunker rake:** 1 John Deere 1200, 1 Toro 8HP

**Turf utility vehicles:** 8 John Deere Turf Gators, 4 Kawasaki Mules, 2 John Deere Pro Gator

**Verti-cut reels:** 1 John Deere

**Aerifiers:** 1 John Deere 800

**Topdressers:** 1 Ty-Crop MH400, 1 Dakota 410

**Reel grinder:** Foley Accu-pro  
**Bedknife grinder:** Foley 660  
**Irrigation pump station:** Flowtronex 1480 GPM

**Irrigation system:** Rain Bird Cirrus  
**Golf car fleet:** 80 Clubcar, electric, with Parview GPS

**Flagsticks:** Par Aide (cups and poles), Prestige (flags)

**Computer & accessories:** 1 Dell Irrigation with Cirrus

**Primary herbicide:** Round-up

**Primary fungicide:** Heritage

**Primary slow release fertilizer:** Wilbur-Ellis Duration II

**Cannot live without:** My family

**Oldest piece of equipment:** 1970 Dodge 5-yd dump truck

**Total square footage of maintenance building(s):** 8,700

**Annual rounds of golf:** 45,000

## McGee named superintendent at new Talega Golf Club

SAN DIEGO — Heritage Golf Group, a San Diego-based owner and operator of premier private and public golf facilities, has named Marty McGee superintendent of Talega Golf Club. The daily-fee course, located 30 minutes north of San Diego, within the coastal valleys of San Clemente, is scheduled to open in January.

Designed by PGA Tour star Fred Couples and course architect Brian Curley of Schmidt-Curley Design Inc., Talega Golf Club will offer a look and feel unlike any other course in Southern California.

Talega appears bound to benefit from the expertise of McGee, who has 16 years of experience in golf course maintenance and management. He has held assistant and superintendent positions at such California golf facilities as Lake San Marcos Resort and Country Club, Four Seasons Resort at Aviara, Marbella Golf & Country Club and Carmel Mountain Ranch Golf Club.

"We feel that Marty is truly one of today's top young superintendents," said John Hungerford, vice president of operations at Heritage. "Talega Golf Club will offer guests a number of unique features to enjoy, and we are fortunate to have a superintendent as highly regarded as Marty leading our golf course presentation efforts at this new facility."

McGee holds a certificate in turfgrass management from the University of California at Riverside and is active in several associations, including the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Southern California Golfer's Association.

## MECHANICS RATE SERVICE LIFTS

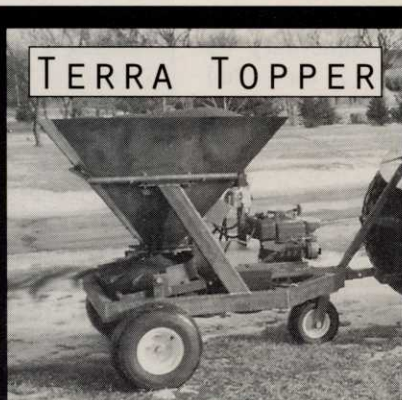
A national survey of golf course mechanics who are using various brands of turf equipment lifts was recently completed. The survey results were used to rank the major brands. They also challenge some commonly held beliefs about turf equipment lifts. One lift, the Trion workstation, received top ranking in four categories.

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## Piersol's Perspectives

### Getting creative with your hiring tactics

By JOHN R. PIERSOL

The national shortage of part-time and full-time employees is forcing superintendents, like other employers, to get creative. Here's an idea that some of them have used, and it's pretty easy to copy: get involved with the kids at your local high school.

There's ample potential at the typical school. You can recruit part-time employees who might convert to full-timers. You can increase awareness of various golf course careers, including golf course mechanics. You can generate positive public relations for your club and the golf industry as a whole. And who knows — you might find satisfaction in helping high school kids.

Take the example of Jeff Gullikson, CGCS, at Spokane Country Club, in Spokane, Wash. Jeff has successfully built a strong relationship with a local high school, to the benefit of everyone concerned.

I met Jeff recently at a convention in Louisville, Ky., where we were both on a program designed for high school agriculture teachers. The idea was to inform them about the various opportunities in the fields of golf and landscape. At Jeff's local high school, one

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## Dursban

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"I think we were able, through the GCSAA and some local grass roots groups, to demonstrate the kind of qualifications we have, and how we have to stay licensed, and they saw value in that," Ihms said. "I went to a few sessions with regulators when they were taking input from the field. They understand that we're very care-

ful with these products and well-trained in their use. They had been talking about pulling Dursban from the market for turf grasses, but they came back and allowed us to use it, albeit at a lower rate."

The industry needs to establish strong credibility with the EPA, Ihms added, because more scrutiny of chemicals is coming, under the 1996 Food Quality and Protection Act. ■

## Piersol

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teacher was searching for a learning lab to teach students about soils, plants, fertilizers, insect and disease identification. Jeff contacted the instructor and invited him to use his golf course as a field laboratory, and the relationship began.

Today, the high school kids volunteer at Jeff's course, and

he hires some of them part-time. As part of their high school class, students are assigned certain planting beds at Jeff's course, where they are free to design and plant various annuals throughout the year. The students learn horticulture, and Jeff adds color to his course.

I asked him about the situation of kids under age 18 operating power equipment. He said it was no problem, as long as they

were under the supervision of their teacher as part of a class. Of course, state laws vary, so you probably ought to contact your club's attorney about the proper procedures.

Jeff also discovered that limited school budgets often prevented the students from doing much, and his club came to the rescue. Often, by buying a few hundred dollars of supplies or equipment, he could keep the high school program active and the students enthused. He and the ag teachers have developed a good rapport, which has been exciting, fun, and educational for everyone.

What Jeff Gullikson is doing is right on target. Such involvement creates excitement about golf courses and all the career opportunities that the industry has to offer. Not only can students learn the agronomy and horticulture involved in golf course work, but also, by showing students a neat, organized shop, you might be able to lead someone into a career as a turf equipment technician.

When you have high school students working on the course as part of a class, you — the superintendent — gets a chance to look over the "crop." From this part-time employee pool may emerge someone you would like to keep.

Lack of career awareness, especially with regard to turf equipment techs, is a major problem. Students can't ask about careers about which they know nothing. Getting involved with a local high school, especially if it has agriculture and/or mechanics, can pay big dividends. I am convinced that increasing the number of turf equipment technicians hinges on such involvement. Doing some high school recruiting will be good for the entire industry as well as for the individual superintendent involved.

If you'd like, call Jeff (509-467-6211) or me (904 752-1822 ext. 1225) to brainstorm about how to get started. ■

*John R. Piersol, M.S., chairs the Division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry at Lake City Community College, in Lake City, Fla.*

### ADAM PIERCE WINS SCHOLARSHIP

ELWOOD, Ill. — Adam Pierce, a junior in the University of Illinois turfgrass management program, has been awarded the \$7,500 Ben Warren Scholarship from Tyler Enterprises of Elwood. After graduation, he hopes to work as an assistant golf course superintendent. Pierce has already worked at country clubs in Michigan and Illinois and has a strong academic record. The late Ben Warren owned Warren's Turf Nursery, a turfgrass research company based in Palos Park, Ill.

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