Lap of luxury

Try working this into next year’s maintenance budget.
For the luxury course that has… well… just about everything.
For a mere $52,000, the Garia Edition Soleil de Minuit is purported to be the most expensive golf car ever made. The Garia exudes European luxury:

• Rolls out of the same factory that produces the Porsche Cayman and Boxster;
• Two-colored, hand-stitched luxury seats; Alcantara roof lining;
• Numerous hand-made details;
• Double wishbone front suspension inspired by Formula 1 cars;
• An Italian-built drive train; and
• An aluminum frame profile by the same company that supplies Aston Martin, Jaguar and Volvo.

While the base price for this ride is an affordable $17,499, it’s the upgrades that will get you, including options for a built-in refrigerator and an exclusive personalization program that includes painting the car to match your “other” car.
What? No diamond-encrusted cup holders. Forget it!

ROLL CALL

John Deere Golf announced a number of personnel moves in its irrigation product offering, including naming Jeff Kiewel and Kevin Johnson as division sales managers, and Dave Maholic and Nick Minas, area managers, product support.

Dataw Island Club, Dataw Island, S.C., has promoted Dustin Nemenz to superintendent of its Cotton Dike course and Anthony Robertson to superintendent of its Morgan River course.

Peter Hill, Chairman and CEO of Billy Casper Golf, was appointed to the National Golf Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Callawassie Island, Okatie, S.C., promoted assistant Billy Bagwell to superintendent.

Concord, N.C.-based Rocky River Golf Club named Ryan Brickley director of golf and Joel White golf course superintendent.

Valent Professional Products hired John Johnson as its national sales manager for its non-crop business, which includes turf, LCO, ornamental and aquatics.

Newark Country Club, Newark, Del., named James C. Nietubicz as its new golf course superintendent.

Nolichucky View Golf Club, Greeneville, Tenn., named Shannon Shelton as its new superintendent.

The Northern Ohio Golf Charities named Tom Watson its 2010 Ambassador of Golf.

The Nation Golf Course Owners Association elected to its board of directors Bill Casper, Golf Chairman and CEO Peter Hill.

Arnold Palmer Design Co.’s executive vp and senior golf course architect Erik Larsen, ASGCA, was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

The State of Kentucky’s Environmental Quality Commission selected Christopher S. Gray, Sr., superintendent at the Marvel Golf Club in Benton, to receive its Earth Day Award.

Valve and Filter Corp. appointed Steve Springer vice president of sales and marketing.

SandTrapper announced the addition of Chuck Hutton to its sales team.

Clearly Chemical promoted vp of operations Bill Bewlay to the position of chief operating officer.

Jacobsen promoted program manager Paul Drain to director of product management.

PimeraTurf hired Dana Wilson to serve as manager of business development.

The Environmental Institute for Golf appointed Club Car President & CEO Gary Michel to its Golf Advisory Council.

Extreme No. 19

GCI’s Africa correspondent has come across the longest and most dramatic par 3 in the world.

Legend Golf and Safari Resort’s No. 19 is high up on Hanglip Mountain, situated within Entabeni Safari Conservancy in the malaria-free Waterberg Region of the Limpopo Province of South Africa. After a short helicopter flight, gofers can tee off from one of three tee boxes high up a 430-meter escarpment.

According to the resort, four separate cameras and tracking equipment gives the golfer the ability to follow and capture the tee shot and the flight of the ball.

The fairway is seeded with cynodongrass and contoured to funnel the ball to the green below. And in celebration of the African Renaissance, the green has been shaped like the map of Africa and is protected by a large bunker.

Golfers can opt to play No. 19 in addition to their round of 18 holes, or as an experience on its own. And as an added bonus, anyone who shoots a hole-in-one gets $1 million U.S.!

We have one question: How do you think they get the greensmower up there?