There’s dollars in that rusting scrapheap behind the maintenance shack, just ask superintendent Chris Cook. Cook and his crew at Bailey Ranch Golf Club, Owasso, Okla., started a metal recycling program during the winter of 2011-12. This past winter, Cook and his crew continued cleaning out the old equipment and scrap metal – old brake levers, reels, tools, shafts, and hydraulic motors. “Once we felt that we had harvested all the useful parts off of the equipment, I contacted a local scrap-metal facility and they explained their guidelines for accepting material – no fuel, oil, batteries,” he says. “They brought us a 30 cu. yd. roll-off bin and we got to it. I quickly realized that we were going to need several more bins.”

The local scrap metal facility they worked with required a minimum of 3,000 lbs. or they would charge for the service. No problem, says Cook, adding the Bailey Ranch crew recycled nearly 20 tons of metal, which earned them more than $2,000 for the effort. “We’ll most likely spend that money on various small-engine tools that are in desperate need of replacement,” Cook says. As far as other recycling endeavors, Cook says they’re exploring recycling the trash from off the course (mostly beer cans), but they haven’t gotten any further than the idea.

FOR MORE... Check out the issue’s app version for more photos of Bailey Ranch Golf Club’s metal recycling effort.

We’re already past 1,500 downloads of the new GCI app, with more and more readers getting the chance to really interact with the issue. We don’t want to brag (well, not directly, anyway), so we’ll let some of our followers do it for us!

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Heavy metal

Dr. Know

Congratulations go out to Dr. Emily Merewitz, assistant professor in molecular turfgrass biology at Michigan State University, for being selected to receive The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation 2013 Award of Excellence.

The award is given to outstanding Ph.D. candidates who, in the final phase of their graduate studies, demonstrate overall excellence throughout their doctoral program in turfgrass research.

Dr. Merewitz received her B.S. degrees in plant science and plant biotechnology from Rutgers University. She went on to earn her Ph.D. at Rutgers under the tutelage of Dr. Bingru Huang in molecular turfgrass physiology which is now the focus of her teaching and research at MSU.

“I am very grateful to be considered and to have received such a prestigious award,” Merewitz says. “It is quite an honor and it will motivate me even more to excel in the turfgrass industry. The industry has been extremely supportive of my research and this award is something that means a lot to me.”