GOLF COURSE NEWS

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MAY 2005

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In the wake of the staggering tragedy caused by the Asian earthquake and tsunami, the Salvation Army World Service Office is providing help to people rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

Your financial contribution can make a difference in the lives of people in desperate need by supporting our efforts to provide long term restoration to this hurting part of the world.

Please mail your donation to SAWSO c/o South Asia Relief Fund, P.O. Box 269, 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22313

SAWSO@usn.salvationarmy.org • www.SAWSO.org • 703-684-5528
The piece of equipment shown at the right originally was a 1988 Toro Greens Master 3000 triplex greens mower before the cutting units were removed. The self-contained leaf blower is attached to a 14-inch-by-9-inch metal platform and has angled steel plates on either side for added strength. The pieces were cut and welded together. The blower rests on rubber pieces that are about 2-inches thick to dampen the vibration from the air-cooled engine. To help support it, the platform also has diameter rods welded to it and bolted to the greens mower’s frame. The engine is bolted to the metal platform. Quick disconnects on the metal framework platform are used to remove or install the leaf blower as required when servicing either machine. The cost to build the platform, including materials and labor, was $1,290. The piece of equipment is solely used for blowing leaves and debris.

Norbert Lischka, master greenkeeper and course manager at The Hamburger Golf Club in Hamburg, Germany, and his greenkeeping team developed this idea.

Corrosion of wheel hubs can be caused when pressure washers or steam cleaners are used to clean maintenance equipment. The Bearing Buddy helps prevent moisture-forming corrosion from prematurely wearing out wheel hubs. The outer barrel of the Bearing Buddy is made of triple-chrome-plated steel, and the internal parts are made of stainless steel. The axle hub is filled with waterproof grease until the grease forces the Bearing Buddy piston outward about 1/8 of an inch. Because the piston is spring loaded, it exerts a slight 3-psi pressure against the grease, which maintains a slight pressure between the inside of the hub and the outside environment. When the hub is submerged, water can’t enter the hub because of the pressure. An automatic pressure relief feature prevents grease overfills and overpressurization. The inner seal will be damaged without this feature. Grease can be added to the hub through an easily accessible grease fitting located in the center of the piston. The lubricant level (and pressure) can be checked quickly and easily by pressing on the edge of the moveable piston. If the piston can be moved or rocked, it’s properly filled with grease. A vinyl cover can be fitted over the Bearing Buddy to contain excess grease and to keep it off wheels and tires.

The Bearing Buddy can be used on the turning wheels of golf course maintenance equipment that turns a lot because the spring loading forces the Bearing Buddy the other way when turning. It can’t be used on any of the drive wheels. It can be used on any maintenance equipment wheel bearings that have dust covers.

The Bearing Buddy costs $14.95 a pair, and a pair of vinyl covers cost about $2. The total cost depends on the model and size.

Randall Pinckney, golf course manager at The Manor Country Club in Rockville, Md., and his mechanic’s staff are using this with good results.
Cure and prevent putting green moss infestations with Junction* Fungicide/Bactericide.

Changes in turf maintenance practices have made moss encroachment one of the major problems that golf course superintendents face today.

Left unchecked, moss can out-compete desired turf species and literally choke the life out of your greens. But, there is a proven and simple answer to this prolific problem.

Research has shown that Junction Fungicide/Bactericide, used in a control program, can both cure and prevent moss infestations. And, while dealing with moss, Junction also provides cost-effective control of a wide spectrum of fungal and bacterial diseases.

So, don’t let moss suffocate your greens. Take back control of your greens with the Junction Moss Management Program. For more information about Junction call 1-800-419-7779 or visit our web site at www.sepro.com.
**Tenacity 1.3ME fungicide**
- Broad-spectrum, systemic
- Contains long-residual propiconazole
- Controls more than 15 turfgrass diseases including dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, snow mold and spring dead spot
- Labeled for a wide range of ornamental disease problems
- Microemulsion concentrate liquid formulation
- Registered for use on golf courses, commercial and residential lawns, sports turf and sod farms
- Improves the establishment rate of cool-season grass seedlings and sod
- Available in 2.5-gallon containers, packaged two per case

_Sipcam Agro USA_
For more information, visit [www.golfcoursenews/readerservice](http://www.golfcoursenews/readerservice) (number 200).

**Sandmaster 2000 sand screener/blender**
- Screens bunker sand for foreign materials
- Produces more consistent topdressing sand
- Sanitizes sand
- Mixes sand, seed or organic matter together
- Reduces viability of weed seeds
- Eliminates downtime waiting for sand to dry

_Palmer Manufacturing and Supply_
For more information, visit [www.golfcoursenews/readerservice](http://www.golfcoursenews/readerservice) (number 212).

**Excellerator fertilizer**
- Blend of micronutrients to enhance turf health
- Environmentally friendly
- Strengthens turf and enhances resiliency
- Ideal for high-traffic areas
- Increases tolerance against toxic elements
- Reduces heat stress
- Improves disease and insect resistance

_Excell Minerals_
For more information, visit [www.golfcoursenews/readerservice](http://www.golfcoursenews/readerservice) (number 214).

**Pogo soil sensor**
- Offers all-in-one capability for immediate sensing of moisture, salinity and temperature
- Measurements offer a way to manage greens better through optimized watering and fertilization
- Uses Hydra Probe sensing technology
- Can be used for random checking of greens or to evaluate trouble spots
- Uses Bluetooth wireless technology to transmit data to PDA or laptop for real-time readings
- Designed for rugged outdoor use
- Volume discounts available

_Stevens Water Monitoring Systems_
For more information, visit [www.golfcoursenews/readerservice](http://www.golfcoursenews/readerservice) (number 203).
Hole cutter sharpener
- Designed to keep hole cutters sharp for clean hole edges
- Easy-to-grip handle
- Keeps scalloped or straight cutter shells sharp with a few swipes every day
- Sharpens the inside or outside of the hole cutter shell
- Saves time by keeping hole cutters sharp

Standard Golf Co.
For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 205).

Nastek turf stress detection glasses
- Lens filter technology allows for early detection of disease, water or pest-related problems
- Lets user spot stressed turf close up or at a distance
- Lenses block out green color range
- Any off color caused by disease, water or pests will stand out against the black background as glowing red, coral, pink or other hues
- Can detect infestation of Poa annua, weeds, mower cut quality and tree disease

BoMar Technologies
For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 204).

Zeba soil amendment
- Improves turf establishment
- Absorbs moisture and water soluble nutrients, then releases them as demanded by turf plant roots
- Results in more vigorous growth and a healthier stand
- Environmentally safe way to control water and nutrient intake for optimal germination, growth and stand durability
- Shortens seed germination time, accelerates emergence, reduces dry spots and minimizes compaction
- Helps turf stands develop a deeper, stronger root structure to reduce watering needs, crowd out weeds and increase turf survival in hot, dry conditions
- Made from natural cornstarch
- Biodegradable, nontoxic and almost odorless
- Remains effective for as long as one year

Absorbent Technologies
For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 206).

From Otterbine

The Aerating Fountain

From Otterbine

AT OTTERBINE, we know that water quality is equally as important as aesthetics. That is why our Aerating Fountains are tested at the University of Minnesota and have been proven to create excellent circulation and oxygen transfer.

Otterbine aeration systems effectively induce oxygen into the water column promoting natural aerobic digestion of excessive waste, run-off and algae that can consume your water features.

Effective circulation is key in reducing algae and the beauty of an Otterbine spray pattern speaks for itself!

OTTERBINE AERATORS:
- Virtually Eliminate Algae and Odors
- Are Ideal for Irrigation Ponds
- Stand up to Brackish and Effluent Conditions
- Offer the Strongest Warranty in the Industry

800-AER8TER  610-965-6018 www.otterbine.com

USE READER SERVICE #24
**Little Hercules mist sprayer/blower**
- Compact – fits into any utility vehicle
- Powder-coat frame has 10-year warranty, parts have three-year warranty
- 9.5-hp Kawasaki engine
- Air blast measured at more than 150 mph

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 211).

**Sulf-N Pro ammonium sulfate fertilizer**
- Four grades available: granular, mini, micro and soluble
- Granular, mini and micro grades are free-flowing, highly uniform and compatible with other turf fertilizers
- Soluble dissolves quickly into a solution that can be sprayed directly or injected through irrigation systems

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 207).

**RZ-Wireless sensors**
- Installation requires only a cup cutter
- As many as four sensors can be attached to each transmitter to allow monitoring of soil conditions at different depths
- Sensors can be set to monitor moisture, temperature or salinity, according to the needs of individual greens
- Multiple transmitters can be installed to monitor variations in a single green
- Real-time information from the root zone is sent directly to the user's computer
- Allows user to manage irrigation with precision

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 208).

**Maintenance management system**
- Determines the quantity and location of assets
- Provides a central focus for planning and budgeting
- Uses GPS mapping technology
- Captures identifying information (serial number, tag ID’s, etc.)
- Determines quantity (area, linear feet, etc.)
- Monitors work load by person, work group or agency
- Compares processes, performance and expenditures across physical locations, time periods, personnel and assets

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 209).

**Alpha and T-1 creeping bentgrasses**
- Ball marks and divots heal rapidly
- Strong dollar spot resistance
- Rich, green color
- Makes visible gains on Poa annua each year
- For use on greens, tees and fairways

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews/readerservice (number 210).
FOR SALE

TURBO-TURF
HYDRO SEEDING SYSTEMS

Prices Start @ $1295.00
For a FREE turf seeding info pack & video call:

TURBO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
1500 FIRST AVE, BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010
1-800-822-3437 www.turboturf.com

Fairway Feel PLUS

Natural Fiber Range Mats with a surface that hits and feels like grass...
Reliable Golf Course Suppliers
1-800-274-6815 www.reliablegolf.com

HELP WANTED

Aspen Corporation
Seeking quality people to join a quality organization. Construction Superintendents, Irrigation Superintendents, Pipe Fitters, Supervisors, Shapers, Finish Foreman, and Operators for immediate hire. Please send detailed resume, including salary history, to radkins@aspen-golf.com or fax to 304/763-4591. Visit our web site at www.aspen-golf.com.

Golf Course/General Contractor looking for a Project Manager/Superintendent Irrigation, experienced. Live on the Big Island of Hawaii (Kona Side). Please send resume to: Lava Contracting PO Box 4652 Kailua Kona, HI 96745 Fax or Email to: 808/325-6991, Email: niverson@hawaii.rr.com.

Technical Sales Representative
National company based in Central New Jersey is seeking a technical sales representative with a degree in turf, horticulture, nursery or pest control, or at least six years experience selling in these markets. Territory to include Northern Indiana and Michigan. Responsibilities include managing existing accounts and identifying new business. Must have high energy level, excellent presentation skills, and willing to travel. Report to national sales mgr. Competitive salary, excellent benefits. Send your resume in strictest confidence, including salary history to careers@clearychemical.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Golf Course Construction Company seeking Shapers, Project Managers and Labor Foremen for projects in Asia and U.S. Fax resume to 914/693-9506 or email Frank@intergolfinc.com.

Golf Course Builders International Inc.
GCBI has career opportunities available for those who are experienced in the golf course construction industry. GCBI is currently seeking qualified construction Superintendents, Shapers and Project Managers. All employees will be required to travel extensively. Resumes should include desired salary range, project list, architect and owner contact information. Please send resumes to smonn@earthlink.net or fax to 800-916-1941.

Looking for a new Opportunity?

Current interviewing for full-time positions. Resume can be e-mailed to: midamericagolf@sbcglobal.net or contact Rodney Cole at 816.524.0010.

Golf Course/General Contractor looking for a Project Manager/Superintendent Irrigation, experienced. Live on the Big Island of Hawaii (Kona Side). Please send resume to: Lava Contracting PO Box 4652 Kailua Kona, HI 96745 Fax or Email to: 808/325-6991, Email: niverson@hawaii.rr.com.

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Don’t try this at home

Everyone has a secret guilty pleasure. For some, it’s eating an entire container of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream at midnight. For others, it’s being obsessed with buying Pez dispensers on eBay. Hey, as long as it doesn’t involve inappropriate relationships with farm animals, I’m all for anything that lets you relax and escape from the day-to-day grind.

My secret guilty pleasure is bad TV. Specifically, I admit to being a fan of truly awful shows such as “Jackass” on MTV. The monumentally stupid “Jackass” and various other stupid programs like it involve stupid and dangerous stunts performed by equally stupid people. If you’re not familiar with this genre, just imagine the “stars” of the show allowing world-class jai alai players to repeatedly hurl oranges at 90 mph at their buttocks. Enough said.

All of these inane shows have one thing in common. They always run a legal disclaimer at the beginning of each segment imploring that viewers don’t try this at home. These warnings, crafted by the dimmest of entertainment lawyers, are somehow supposed to prevent teenagers from attempting the same idiocy in their backyards. Yeah, right. Have you ever met a teenager who would actually read and abide by a legal disclaimer?

Conditioning expectations

Anyway, I have a modest proposal along these lines based on a recent trip I took down to Pinehurst, N.C. I was there on behalf of “Superintendents’ VideoMagazine” to interview Paul Jett, CGCS, a very cool cat who’s about to host his second U.S. Open at the resort’s famed Course No. 2. The interview went great – mainly because Paul is the most media-savvy turfhead in the known universe – but toward the end, he threw us a curveball.

Paul turned the tables and asked us a question: “Will this video be seen by green chairmen or owners or other golfers?” A bit surprised, I said, “Possibly,” and asked him why he wanted to know. He replied, “Because I have a message for them.” So we kept the cameras rolling to record what he had to say.

His message was pretty simple and extremely forthright. I encourage you to go back and take another look at the April edition of “Superintendents’ VideoMagazine” for his exact wording. This video would be an excellent thing to share with your facility’s decision-makers or others who might have unreasonable expectations about conditioning.

Open season

That said, I will, as usual, take a wee bit of literary license and offer my embellished version of what Paul was trying to get through to the millions of morons, er … I mean customers … who will watch the Open next month:

• What you see on TV every June, Mr. or Ms. Golfer, is the product of years of planning, preparation and a gazillion dollars of additional maintenance spending. Do not, under any circumstances, equate this with reality.

• Those four days the host course is showcased on TV are like an elaborate David Copperfield illusion. We are levitating elephants and sawing pretty women in half here. We have created the world’s largest agronomic magic trick, and you have been duped into thinking that a pachyderm can actually float in mid-air as effortlessly as a child’s helium balloon.

• Please temper your expectations and try not to be so adamant that you should be getting a five-course gourmet meal when you’re driving through a Burger King at midnight. Unless you’ve dumped six figures into your club’s initiation fee, just relax, shut up and enjoy the game.

• Never, ever listen to anything that a Tour player says about course conditions. These guys live in a traveling Disney World where everything is perfect and they haven’t seen a patch of dead grass in high school. When did these clowns become rock stars demanding that no brown M&M’s be allowed in their dressing rooms?

• Ditto that for announcers – particularly Johnny Miller. I find it ironic and terribly amusing that Johnny is now a self-proclaimed expert on putting surface conditions. Unless I’m mistaken, the reason he “retired” from the Tour is because he couldn’t make a "[@#%#]? putt to save his life!

• Any Tour player or announcer who so much as utters the words “Stimpmeter reading” on television should be required to personally conduct the weekly septic system flush-out of John Daly’s Winnebago for the rest of the year.

• Golf is a game. The goal is to complete an obstacle course between point A and point B. Nobody said that what you encounter in between was supposed to be AstroTurf. That’s what makes it fun. Quit blaming your lousy swing, bad luck and mental mistakes on the nice people who work so hard to provide you with a beautiful place to enjoy this damned silly pastime.

Ahh, I feel so much better. Vventing is always good for the soul.

Proposal

So, now that I’ve gotten that out of my system, I’ll return to my original point. I modestly propose that – in all fairness – televised golf should adopt the same kind of disclaimer that “Jackass” runs before every episode. Whenever they start the broadcast or come back from a commercial, NBC, CBS or whoever should briefly air the following message:

We hope you’re enjoying the Viagra/Cialis/Enzyte Sheboygan Classic. Please be warned that there isn’t a snowball’s chance in hell that you’ll ever play on a course that looks like this. As President George Bush (No. 1) used to say, “Naht gonna happen.” This is a made-for-TV event that in no way represents a typical golf experience (except if you’re one of the jerks on the Tour or Bill Gates). Please get a clue, take a reality check, crack open another beer and lay off your local superintendent. In short, don’t expect to try this at home.

P.S. – There is no such thing as ‘grain’ on most well-maintained greens, so just ignore the blithering blond bozo in the broadcast booth. Thanks and enjoy the show. GCN