

my thinking, the epitome of professionalism. This is a drastic change from our days of isolation, when many of us would not visit the clubhouse or have any desire to meet the members.

So, again you might ask what really is the best name for us to be called? I doubt very much anyone can answer that question and possibly they never will. But the name itself is not important. We should get paid for what we do and how we go about it. Thus, in our endeavor to become more professional at our jobs, we will enhance our stature at the clubs at which we work and the title we have will be symbolic of our professionalism.

MAKE WINTER USEFUL

by Carl G. Hopphan
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The many long cold days from December through March, when our golf course turf is dormant and usually covered with a great blanket of snow, can provide valuable hours for creating; creating new and better things for future growing seasons. A number of winters ago I made a promise to myself or maybe the word challenge would be better suited, that each and every Winter season would produce something new and better for my golf course.

I strive to add some form of beauty to an area of the course and also to create a *something* that will make maintaining the golf course better, easier, and faster.

Perfect turf is not always the complete answer. Too many of our members or golfers take the beautiful turf surface of #1 tee for granted, it's supposed to be that way, but design a nice looking arrangement of flowering containers to the tee post and all of a sudden you're a genius. If this is what it takes, why fight it, most golfers can not appreciate a complete fertilization and pesticide program, but they surely go wild over petunias. I have added different stone and floral arrangements to just about every tee on the course and keeping them simple and easily maintained eliminates adding a costly item to my budget.

My *something* for this year involves consolidating a small Onan generator, a Speedaire air compressor, and a 3.5 H.P. Briggs and Stratton gas engine on a small homemade trailer. The trailer is very easily pulled around the golf course by a truckster and in just one month has made it one of my most valuable items. The generator gives us electrical power to operate trimming equipment that is far lighter to handle, making the edging of sand traps and trimming around trees etc. a much quicker and far easier task. The air compressor which is run by the Briggs engine will enable us to spray paint tee posts, fences, gates, and curbing around the clubhouse area. In previous years these painting jobs all had to be done by hand with a brush and quite frankly did not get done as often as they should.

At a time when it seems to be quite popular to upgrade our profession, I would think that a little creativeness or call it upgrading ourselves, can't do anything but help this cause.

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