

Are We Creating a Monster?

by Mike Bavier

Some thirty (30) years ago when some of us older superintendents started in the greenkeeping business, there were very few trained and educated. This has changed drastically over the years. We now have a GCSAA Board of Directors, that to my knowledge are all college graduates. This of course is quite impressive. So what is my point? We have been giving out scholarships for a number of years encouraging young people to get into the profession. My feeling is that we need to take a good look at what we are trying to accomplish. Some years ago there was a desire to educate more people in our profession. We have done an outstanding job of doing just that.



It is my opinion that scholarships are great to a point. The question is: Are we encouraging too many young people to get into a field that already has a number of college graduates that may have little on the job training. This is where the monster comes to the surface.

Are we encouraging too many young people to get into a field that already has a number of college graduates that may have little on the job training.

Let me give you a little background information. When my assistant applied for a position at a club in Wisconsin there were over 80 applications. In fact they stopped opening letters at 80. And of those applying there was a former GCSAA past president. Another interesting point, those superintendents in the Chicago area looking for assistants this past winter had 30 or 40 applications. Some of these people did little advertising other than word of mouth.

If we are encouraging people to get into the business, we need to be sure that they understand they need to spend some years in training before they might secure a management position, even if they have a college degree.

So do we really need to give out more scholarships? How many other professional groups give out scholarships in their own profession? Who is going to be the first superintendent (probably has already happened) that is let go because of one of our monsters we have created.

There are those of you saying, Mike just keep up with the times and you will not have to worry. You are correct for now. But maybe it is money that starts talking. We need to look at the future of the profession. Should we also look at what we are giving to our own people and clubs today and maybe tomorrow.

What is in the future for you? Think hard as to what we are doing with scholarship money. There still are some jobs available in the profession. Is this going to be true in the near future? The compensation is quite good for those coming out of college. Do we need to pay for their schooling too? Are we talking more foreign aid for Japan? You know what I mean. We need quality, but not quantity. Give the subject some thought.

From the Workbench

Sponsored by Chicagoland Golf Course Mechanics Assn.
Written by Wess Danieliwicz, CGCMA Educ. Coordinator

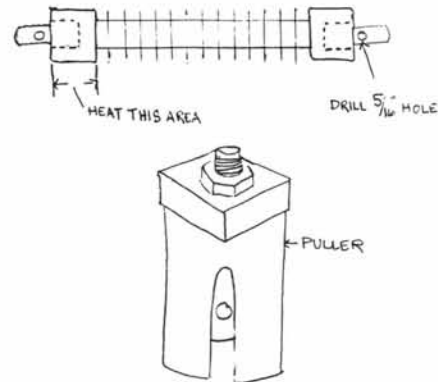
Topic: Bearing removal on Toro cast iron grooved rollers.

Problem: Bearing cannot be removed or is extremely hard to remove even with Toro tool #23-8900.

Solution: Drill a 5/16" diameter hole through bearing shaft so that bearing puller tool #23-8900 can be installed. Using a propane torch, lightly heat area around roller end, (where bearing sits) until bearing begins to come out. The bearing is removed with considerably less effort. Install new bearing with a light coat of neverseize to help installation and removal of new bearing.

Solution: Allows for easy removal and installation of bearing without damaging roller or bearing puller.

Not necessarily recommended by manufacturer.




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