

# An Unexpected Gift

*Glen Bereiter  
Aldeen G.C.*

**9**n October of 1996, the Aldeen Golf Club was the recipient of a greenhouse donated by a cit-

izen of Rockford. This local business person was in the process of clearing her property for the construction of a larger facility. She had recently purchased the property, and on it stood a 25- by 28-foot  
*(continued on page 18)*



Mariani Nursery, Inc. 13715 Horton Road, Kenosha, WI 53142  
Doug Levernier, Manager 414-857-6529

YOUR GOLF COURSE  
SPECIALIST



Trees  
Ornamentals  
Shrubs  
Perennials  
Groundcovers



Delivery to Your Site  
Available



### An Unexpected Gift

(continued from page 16)

fully operational, glass greenhouse. Though it looked to be in fairly good condition, she was not in the flower business and decided to donate it to us. All we had to do was to dismantle it and remove it from her property within a week. Upon securing in the neighborhood of \$15,000 for the reconstruction of this greenhouse at our golf course, the OK was given to us; and we had an unforeseen project to complete before winter set in. We chose to place the greenhouse off the back of our existing maintenance facility. This area, though subject to an errant shot from time to time, was an ideal location for deliveries, accessing water, electrical and gas for heat.

Beginning on the 22nd of October with a crew of five men, the task of removing the greenhouse from her property and bringing it to ours began. During this five-day ordeal, an architect was secured in order to suggest

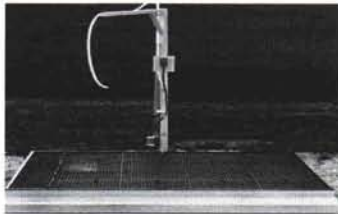


the best and easiest way to attach the greenhouse to our existing building. A concrete contractor, a heating and cooling company, an electrician, and a landscaper were also contacted in an attempt to successfully bring this project to a reality prior to the snow.

By the 28th of October, we had the entire greenhouse disas-

sembled and moved to our property. The concrete contractor arrived mid morning to begin construction on a new foundation. The existing foundation had deteriorated to the point of being unacceptable. Unfortunately, in order for the concrete wall to be built, several trees had to be treespaded out. A 911 call was put

(continued on page 20)



Our units are delivered ready for use after simple connection of utilities.



Computerized pump system keeps fluids within 1/4 inch depth, stainless steel removable screens filter large debris.

**EAGLE CONTAINER CORPORATION**  
4214 Rome West Rd.  
Chillicothe, IL 61523  
Tel. (309) 274-5273  
Fax (309) 274-4765

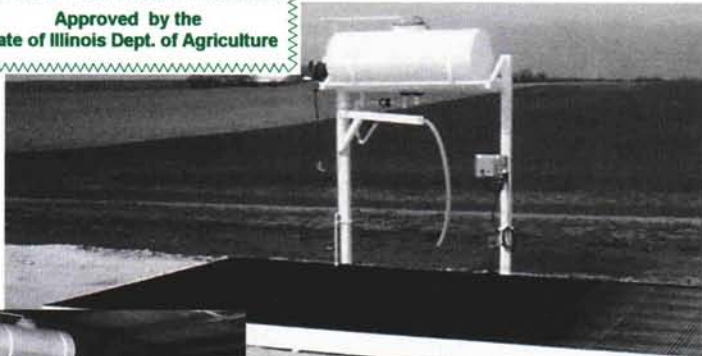


Environmentally correct process to reclaim tainted rinse water. Can be located anywhere

## “Rinse, Reclaim, Recycle”

An innovative pollution solution

Approved by the  
State of Illinois Dept. of Agriculture



Continuous welded, solid steel construction will not crack like concrete. Each unit is coated with a chemical and UV-resistant paint. With 16 standard sizes available ranging from 8' wide x 8' long to 12' wide x 20' long. We can meet your needs.

Call for your  
state compliance sizing for your equipment

“U.S. Patent Pending”

RINSATE PAD

**An Unexpected Gift**  
(continued from page 18)

in to our landscaper's beeper number; and within the hour, he was moving four trees out of the way. Constructing the foundation seemed to last an eternity, especially when you consider we were running short of time.

Shortly after the completion of the foundation, reassembly began. We made sure that the same individuals that took it apart were available to put it back together again. Though the images of the greenhouse and how it came apart were still fresh in their minds, the reassembly did not seem to go quite as smoothly. There appeared to be an excessive amount of retrofitting. The sawzall and drill seemed to be the tools of choice. I understood the fact that there was to be a certain amount of reconstructive surgery, due to

---

*At this point in time,  
we were faced with  
a very important  
decision. Do we  
assemble the green-  
house with the  
original glass?  
Or purchase a product  
called "Lexan"?  
As we analyzed  
the two options,  
it boiled down to  
being a relatively easy  
decision: Lexan.*

---

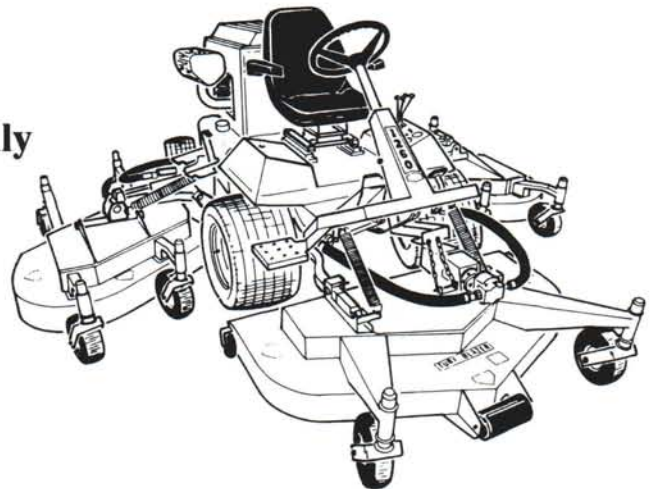
the fact that we were adding a 12-foot extension; however, this was only the first truss to be installed. Fortunately, there were an abundance of parts available from the old site, so they were able to complete all roof trusses.

At this point in time, we were faced with a very important decision. Do we assemble the greenhouse with the original glass? Or purchase a product called "Lexan"? As we analyzed the two options, it boiled down to being a relatively easy decision: Lexan. It is more durable than glass, easier and safer to handle, will resist the impact of a golf ball and can be put up easier and faster than the panes of glass. Also, the other greenhouse in the district will now have large supply of glass to replace their broken panes.

(continued on page 28)

## **"THE PRODUCTION MACHINE"**

- ✓ High Capacity
- ✓ High Floatation
- ✓ Economical
- ✓ Cutting Units Operated Individually  
(use 1, 2, or all 3 units)
- ✓ 52 H.P. Diesel
- ✓ 126" Cut
- ✓ 2 or 4 Wheel Drive
- ✓ Up to 5 years lease available.



### **CALL:**

**BILL MORGAN  
TOM RALPH  
PAYLINE WEST  
225 N. RANDALL RD.  
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174**

**630/584-8700  
FAX 630/584-4453**



**An Unexpected Gift**  
(continued from page 20)

Unfortunately for us, the nearest supplier of Lexan that we knew of was in St. Louis, a five-working-day delivery away. Once the product arrived from St. Louis, it went up relatively easy with drywall screws and rubber washers. As soon as the Lexan was in place, two heaters were donated to us by the cement contractor and installed at either end of the greenhouse. Lights and additional outlets were installed, and the gas line was extended into the building. Later we found out that both heaters were in need of extensive repair and were subsequently removed and replaced. On November 27, the day before Thanksgiving, with almost the entire greenhouse finished, heated and irrigated, the staff that I had remaining sat down to a potluck pre-Thanksgiving dinner in our enclosed greenhouse.

Ron Himes, an assistant superintendent, was given the responsibility of operating the greenhouse once the outer construction had been completed. Many of his ideas were used in the placing of benches, irrigation system installation, ventilation, work area, etc. However, he did solicit advice from the greenhouse staff at the Park District's Sinnissippi greenhouse. They were invaluable with their help and suggestions. We owe them a great deal of thanks. A large portion of our bench space was donated by the Sinnissippi greenhouse. They were in the process of a major overhaul to their facility and were downsizing their available bench space, so we were happy to take it off their hands. Around 75 percent of our bench space came from them; the other 25 percent was constructed out of 1.5 inch conduit and treated lumber.

Another issue that took a considerable amount of discussion

was that of irrigation. We were unsure as to how we were going to adequately water all of these flats without taking a full day to do it. The answer was some relatively low-pressure irrigation sprinklers mounted on 1-inch PVC pipe and placed overhead for a quick drenching affect early in the morning. In addition, 1-inch PVC pipe was installed underneath two benches, and five spigots were strategically placed so we could access water quickly but, more importantly, not have a great deal of hose lying on the floor. We plan on using the overhead irrigation early in the morning to allow the leaves to fully dry prior to the midday sun, then touch up dry areas as needed with the hose taking extra precautions to keep the leaves relatively dry.

We are excited about the possibilities and opportunities this will bring to our facility and the Rockford Park District. The purpose, as stated in our initial planning meetings, is that this facility will be able to provide flowers for all of the park district's five golf courses, its Sportscore Complex and Magic Waters Theme Park. I am confident that we will realize a 50 percent reduction in our annual flower budget throughout the park district in this first year.

Our 22- by 44-foot greenhouse is now a reality! We have some palm trees from Magic Waters overwintering here, with some geraniums that have come back to life at their base, providing leaf cuttings for eventual plants to be used on the golf course. Our canna lilies are now potted and beginning to grow here, rather than at the Sinnissippi greenhouse where they are running out of space. Yes, we have already planted some tomato seeds, and the plants are around 12 inches tall. In mid-March, our shipment of annuals arrived, and the real test began. We have eagerly anticipated this challenge and hope to expand our scope of opportunities in the near future.

Any advice that anyone with a greenhouse could give us would be greatly appreciated. If you should be traveling in the Rockford area, I invite you to stop in and tour the facility. We would be more than happy to show you around. It has been a worthwhile investment, and I am grateful to be a part of it. ■



# OLD DUTCH SAND COMPANY, INC.

- TOP DRESSING SAND
- BUNKER SAND
- PEA GRAVEL
- BOULDERS & RIP RAP
- ALL GOLF COURSE AGGREGATES

Call  
Richard E. Mika

(773) 374-2303  
(847) 228-9607  
(219) 938-7020