

Putting the Shop In Shopping

*"Twas the night of first snowfall, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The golf clubs were hung up in storage with care,
In hopes that Father Winter soon would be there.
The supers were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of snowflakes danced in their heads."*

The best preparation for the upcoming season can involve laying the groundwork for more efficient summer tasks.

With the summer of 2005 long ago abandoned, winter is entrenched here. Reflecting on last year's golf season, the record-high temperatures, drought, long hours, hand-watering, stress, and complete and utter exhaustion, the anxiety for winter to arrive couldn't have been greater in a golf course superintendent's mind.

Superintendents will use the less stressful winter months in their own ways. Challenges do exist for a superintendent or assistant superintendent during these winter months. The superintendent cannot simply hibernate all winter. The superintendent must "push on," planning and preparing for the 2006 golf season. The best preparation for the upcoming season can involve laying the groundwork for more efficient summer tasks. For superintendents, time still remains for you to use your indoor shop time to create your own "Monster Garage" by innovating with your existing equipment, making it more efficient and productive on your golf course. The recipe is simple.

- A reason.
- An imagination.
- A few shop skills.

Involving yourself in an activity like a "Monster Garage" project will keep your mind active, creating room for learning, and will help you touch up on those now-lost shop skills. Assistant superintendents can benefit from the knowledge of their superintendent or mechanic by applying trades such as design, engineering, welding, cutting and simple mechanics. The result is efficiency and recycling, taking what is present or available and making it better. A few ideas follow.

The Portable Hose Reel

The Portable Hose Reel facilitates an efficient method of hand-watering when it is necessary to move around in short intervals. Basically, a rear-mounted reel makes it simple to maneuver around greens and tees and amongst players. The reel makes it easy to draw out hose and wench in. Thus, this device is an efficient time-saver, never gets tangled, and conserves the strength of rolling, loading and hauling.

Materials:

- (1) cart with bed
- (1) Hannay Reel assembly plus hand crank (optional electric motor)



- (2) 8-foot lengths of durable angle iron for the frame
- (2) pull-action toggle clamps

Construction:

Measure the length of the inside of the cart bed minus ¼" for each side. Measure the width of the hose-reel frame. Cut two lengths of angle iron for the distance of the cart bed, two lengths for the width of the hose-reel frame, and two lengths for the ends, which will act as slots for the frame that is to be mounted into the bed. Weld all the angle iron together into the measured frame. Drill four holes in angle-iron frame to match those in hose-reel frame, and bolt together. Mount toggle clamps on cart and frame. Attach hoses, nozzles and quick coupler and you are ready to hand-water on the fly.

The Plate



The "Plate" is an old 1990 Jacobsen 810 transformed into the ultimate utility vehicle. The Plate is ahead of its time, able to function as a multipurpose vehicle. Redesigned and built in 2003, this beauty features a reinforced aluminum slab and vice mounted on the front for easy work access. The Plate can be used as a mobile work bench, irrigation work station, stepladder, and large-load transporter of flowers, fertilizers and laborers. The design of the front-mounted bench and vice makes it easy to clamp and cut pipe while working out of a hole.

The Leader



The "Leader" is the exact opposite of a trailer. The implement is cut and welded frame made of angle iron and steel mesh. The Leader mounts on the front of an electric 1998 Club Car carryall. The mounting points on the cart are added to the existing frame. The position of this implement makes it an efficient transporter for a walk-behind fertilizer hopper. The front mounting is resourceful, making the loading and unloading of the hopper quick and easy. A special trailer can be added and loaded with product, making it a self-contained transport while avoiding the mess of having both hopper and product in the same bed. Every superintendent knows the danger of spilling fertilizer, and this implement erases that worry.



The Green Machine



The "Green Machine" is the project for our 2006 edition Monster Garage. It will be simply a GM3100 triplex with the reels and hydraulics removed and a 1993 Billy Goat Blower mounted on the front. The Green Machine will be a labor-efficient, productive and time-conserving means of cleaning greens. The Green Machine will also be fitted to drag a co-co mat for use after topdressing. This will decrease the treading of tires and wear marks sustained by earlier equipment.



They say necessity is the mother of invention. This off-season, try some of the above combinations, or develop one of your own, and your own Monster Garage is in business!



References

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