

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING WITH

Gus Santos, *Country Club of Detroit*

### Thoughts for the Off Season

Gus Santos, *Country Club of Detroit*

As the leaves begin to turn their brilliant colors in the fall, golf course maintenance is ongoing. Aeration of the golf course, although vital in maintaining high quality turf, is always dreaded by turf technicians. We know it needs to be done, but we dread the thought of a perfectly good reel and bedknife being destroyed by the sand or soil during cleanup. We know as soon as we sharpen the mower, the staff will take it back on the course and it will probably come back needing the same sharpening as the day before. Although this seems to go on for weeks in the fall, providing our customers with quality turf conditions requires it.

Along with aeration, leaf mulching and removal are needed to keep the golf course playable. At the Country Club of Detroit, we have over 3000 trees spread over 260 acres. It takes a small army of equipment and staff to clean the golf course throughout the fall season. Mulching is the preferred method of leaf disposal because it provides the soil microbes with natural compost and frees up valuable space in our dump area.

Finally, as the 2007 golf season comes to an end and we start preparing for next season, take a little time to reflect back on the season. Think about the changes you made this season that worked or didn't work, and start setting new goals for 2008.



*Fairway verticutters are used to clean-up the soil left on the fairways after aeration.*

### TETA Spends a Day at Nadler

Ted Soenksen, *Wilmette Golf Club*

October kicked off another educational season of monthly meetings for the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA). This year we started with an in-depth, hands-on session at Nadler Golf Car Sales, with 40 TETA members in attendance. Once again, Dave and Eric Nadler were our hosts. Pete Schag and the entire service department set up live demonstrations of the latest electrical technologies onboard the Club Car vehicles. To start, we all joined in a question/answer session to insure that any concerns we had would be covered that day. Work stations were set up for small group, hands-on disassemblies and reassemblies of carburetors, clutches, starter/generators, and chargers. (Yes, even the chargers require maintenance and repairs.) This type of setting, with six guys in a group, is much more casual and makes the experience more productive. Sharing experiences across the work bench is a tremendous way of learning. You just don't get that on a web-cast seminar.

Good old-fashioned service lives on with Nadler. During the past season, just about every week, a service technician stopped by to see if I was having any trouble or needed any help. Most every time, after 15 or 20 minutes of conversation, I gained small bits of knowledge. Simple tips that can save the golf equipment technician time are always welcome. For example:



*After aeration, fairways are rolled before mowing to prevent scalping.*

Trouble shooting a questionable igniter or rev/limiter,  
Explaining that a newer Turf II's battery voltage will run  
down when the ignition key is left 'on' during storage, or  
A reminder that Turf II vehicles have 6-ply tires and require  
35psi — a big change from what we are accustomed to on  
older units with 4-ply tires.

A big thank you to the Nadler Golf Car Sales and Service  
Family. **-OC**

