

# TECHNICALLY SPEAKING WITH

Ted Soenksen, *Wilmette Golf Course*



## TETA Welds at Arrowhead

Thank you to Mike Mumper, Superintendent and Tim Johnson, Equipment Technician for hosting the TETA November educational seminar at the Arrowhead Golf Club. Thirty members enjoyed a full day of welding safety, techniques and maintenance.

Welding and fabrication are two different concepts, Larry Grover our instructor of Grover Welding, explained. Welding in a factory on an assembly line requires perfection with repetition according to manufacturer specifications. Fabrication turns the welder into the manufacturer and utilizes the imagination, materials, and the techniques of the individual. Larry initiated some great new ideas along with refreshing many old practices that are important and need to be reviewed from time to time. Whether you are MIG, TIG, gas, or arc welding, you need to be aware of your environment.

Before striking an arc, many things need to be considered by the welder. If you are not working in a contained welding booth, check your surroundings. Flying sparks and slag remain hot for enough time to ignite simple things hours after the job is complete. Keep your eye out for that shop rag and other easily combustible items. When welding, the work space is expanded far beyond the bench, as molten metal and slag can often travel twenty feet or more from your worksite. Fumes

hovering just above the floor from gas tanks or fuel containers can ignite. Always return to your welding site later in the day and inspect for smoldering items.

Protect yourself when welding. Ventilation of the work area is critical. Wear filtered head gear for extended welding times. Fumes from welding can be hazardous to others in the shop as well. Don't wear clothes that melt when welding, invest in a welding jacket or coverall.

All in attendance were invited to bring their welding helmets to enhance the experience of this truly hands-on session. Fortunately TJ had a portable see through welding booth that allowed all to witness the live demonstrations by Larry. We had the opportunity to weld aluminum and learn the extreme differences when welding steel.

When welding aluminum we learned it is important to preheat it. This can be done with a torch, which led to another discussion about torch safety and use. All-in-all, it was a great educational event sponsored by the Turf Equipment Technicians Association. The presentation by Mr. Larry Grover and his support of our association is most appreciated. We hope to expand on this type of session in the future.

Back to the shop and the solitude of winter maintenance.

-OC

