

FEATURE

Chuck Barber, *Indian Lakes Resort*

# Repurpose

*According to The Free Dictionary, the definition of "repurposing" is: "To use or convert for use in another format or product"*

In essence it means to take a thing that was meant to do something specific and then to turn it into something else entirely. It could be argued that one of the most immediate, specific challenges golf course superintendents face is maintaining a new equipment rotation. Each golf facility has its own challenges economically. Finding the dollars to purchase new equipment in order to meet member and customer expectations can be difficult.

I was inspired to write about repurposing when I thought about using our 1999 Hyster Fork lift as a second equipment lift for golf cart and utility vehicle maintenance. Although I don't have a picture of it (sadly), our equipment technician here at Indian Lakes, Bryan Stephen, fabricated a sulky for our walk-behind John Deere lawn mower out of an old Yamaha golf cart axle with a banquet chair bolted to the frame. It wasn't pretty, but it worked. I am willing to bet that many of you can think of your own examples of repurposing the tools around you to be more efficient, to save on the cost of buying new equipment, or to realize a benefit from underutilized inventory.

John Gurke, CGCS of Aurora Country Club, turned an out-of-service utility vehicle into a creative flower display for the bathroom in the turf care facility. He turned one thing that had a specific purpose into something else altogether. He "repurposed" the heck out of it.



Mr. Gurke, whose creativity knows no bounds, didn't necessarily repurpose a Buffalo Turbine Blower, here, but he did modify it to address a challenge. John is blessed to have a terrific equipment technician, Nemanja Pavlovich, who is able to make his visions a reality.

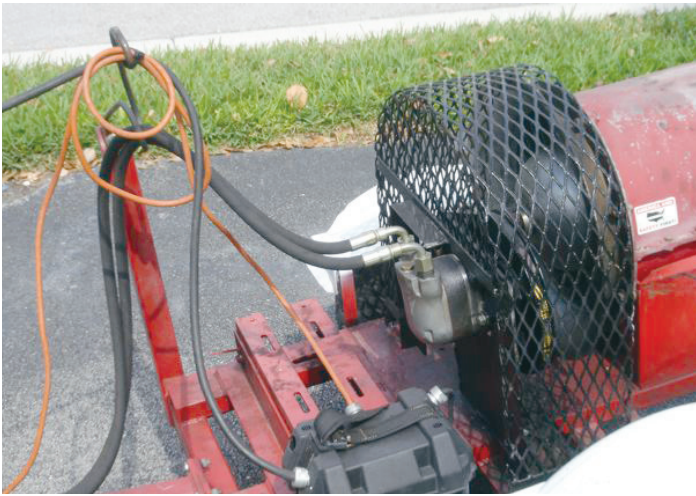


At Indian Lakes Resort we were in desperate need of a trailer for our sod cutter. We found it was too heavy for standard utility trailers, and it was more difficult to get on to the trailer than it should have been. I didn't see the need to incur the expense of a new trailer. We already had our turbine blower on a 'skid' mount in a utility vehicle. The trailer was just sitting there. Dale Webb has been at Indian Lakes since before I was born (which I don't let him forget), and he is a pretty good fabricator. He pieced the sod cutter trailer together with parts and metal we already had in inventory. Now, getting our Ryan Jr. sod cutter around the property is WICKED easy.

*(continued on next page)*







Terry Buchen, traveling agronomist, put this out in July, 2007, in his "Travels with Terry" column. The superintendent of Admiral's Cove Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida, saw a need to blow clippings and debris early in the morning, but without making too much noise. Apparently, people living on a golf course means you can't make noise in maintaining the course. Who knew? At any rate, equipment technician Jim Matis fabricated a hydraulic motor to power the turbine. The hydraulic drive is very near silent and just as powerful as its gasoline incarnation. I really like this one.

Mike Sauls of Butler National Golf Club is no stranger to repurposing either. Mike saw a need to get sod onto a trailer and into the field quickly, while having as light a footprint as possible. Mike, assistant Corey Kuhl, and equipment technician extraordinaire, Salvador Cerritos, fashioned a flat-bed truckster from an out-of-service Smitcho 300 gallon spray rig. Now the sod can go from the truck to the field quickly and without tracking too badly.

These are just a few examples. If any of you out there in the field have a good repurposing example, by all means, send it on. **-OC**



Ron McCarthy, golf course superintendent of Edgewood Valley Country Club in LaGrange, uses lots of water soluble products in his fertilizer program. He and his assistants, Brian Stout and Tyler Dykstra, fashioned a couple of mix tanks out of old sprayer tanks, hoses, filters, and pumps. I couldn't hope to explain how it all works, but I'm sure Ron could. This system allows the Edgewood Valley crew to load up a tank of fertilizer in about five minutes. Building both tanks this way saved roughly 50% of the cost of one new tank.

**Delivers  
brains  
and  
brawn.**

**CAN A UTILITY VEHICLE  
REALLY DO THAT?**

Vehicles that go where you need them to go, doing the jobs you need them to do, day in, day out, without problems. Brains and brawn. Now available in utility vehicles.

**Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.**  
2700 N. Farnsworth Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60502  
Call: 630-898-1616 for Eric, Chad or Dave  
[www.nadlergolf.com](http://www.nadlergolf.com)

**YES, IF IT'S A ClubCar®**

1 800.CLUBCAR • [clubcar.com](http://clubcar.com)