

## SUPER TIP

## Carry A String Trimmer in a Box

The subject of this issue's Super Tip, "String Trimmer in a Box" comes all the way from the state known as "the land of 10,000 lakes." This past summer I visited Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. where Jim Nicol, CGCS shared with me a Super Tip that he and his staff have found very useful. Nicol, an industry veteran, has been the golf course superintendent at Hazeltine for 12 years.

The highly regarded Hazeltine was designed by Robert Trent Jones and modified by his son, Rees. Over the years Hazeltine has produced a resume of championships that is unmatched among clubs less than 50 years old: U.S. Women's Open (1966, 77), U.S. Open Championship (1970, 91), U.S. Senior Open (1983), U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship (1994), NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship (1999),

PGA Championship (2002), and U.S. Amateur Championship (2006). In addition, the club will host the 91st PGA Championship in 2009 and the Ryder Cup Matches in 2016.

It goes without saying that course conditioning is incessantly on Nicol's mind and he is continually experimenting with techniques to increase productivity and provide an improved product. To mow the numerous bunker faces at Hazeltine, Nicol utilizes the Toro Groundsmaster 3500D (rotary Sidewinder). To avoid a potential accident, or damage to a bunker face Nicol feels more comfortable having his operators keep the Sidewinder cutting units about 12 inches away from the edge of the bunker.

This is where the string-trimmer-in-a-box idea comes into use. After



*Close up of the PVC section and bracket that holds the string trimmer shaft. Photo*

mowing the bunker face as instructed, the operator dismounts the Sidewinder and utilizes the string trimmer to finish trimming the bunker face. My supposition is the device might also be useful at golf courses that utilize trim mowers (either reel or rotary) to cut turfgrass on lake banks and around trees.

The box that houses the trimmer's power head is constructed from plywood and is affixed to the right side of the mower. The box measures approximately 20 by 12 by 10 inches deep. A channel was cut into the front of the box so the trimmer will remain level while in transport. The shaft near the trim-head rests in a sleeve made of a piece of 2-inch PVC pipe with a slot cut into it and affixed to a metal bracket on the front of the mower. The metal brackets and PVC sleeve used to secure the box were affixed to the mower utilizing existing bolts on the Sidewinder frame.

As "a picture is worth a thousand words," I think when you view the photographs of the string-trimmer-in-a-box you can envision slight modifications to both the dimensions and the mounting technique to fit your brand of mower and/or weedeater, but I thought the Super Tip was extremely innovative, creative and worth sharing.



*Close up of the plywood box and bracket attachment housing the motor part of the string trimmer. Photo by Darren Davis.*



*At the famed Hazeltine Golf Club in Minnesota they mount string trimmers on the trim mowers for increased productivity and operator safety. Photo by Darren Davis.*