

Giving turf painting a good name!

By Kyle D. Sweet, CGCS

Today's golf course superintendent has many talents and wears many hats. Striving to provide great course conditioning is the number-one goal day after day, and often there isn't much time left after that. But if you can find a little time and want to have a whole lot of fun, here's an idea to give your golfers a little extra flair out there.

Whether watching football, baseball or the races, you will see incredible displays of turf painting each and every weekend. Bringing that attraction to your course is not difficult and, with a few easy steps, you can do it with excellent results.

First, you will need the desired design electronically produced on your computer. Use an LED projector to project that image onto a material on which you can easily create a stencil. 1/8-inch white hardboard works well



A putting green slope is an excellent location for a turf painting. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

for the stencil and is much easier to work with than plywood.

Fasten the board to the wall or to a stepladder to get it up to a good working height. Once projected on the board, carefully trace the design with a

pencil or crayon. Fastening the board tightly will be very important to this process so your tracing is as accurate as possible.

Once the entire desired design is traced, the design must be cut out. This is the most tedious part of the entire process and a good cutting tool is a must. A small pneumatic hacksaw will do an excellent job of cutting through the hardboard with great detail. Once the design is cut out and removed from the wall or easel, it must be stored flat on the floor or secure against a wall.

Once the hard work is done, you can get out and do the painting. Picking a good, visible site where everyone can enjoy and appreciate your work is a must. Putting green walkups are a great spot as well as the first tee. The shorter the turf the better for getting good detail when painting turf. The stencil must be placed on a flat surface or an even slope so the design can be properly lined up. To get the best results, press

Turf paints come in many colors, but if you can't find the color you need in a turf paint, you can paint the desired area with a turf paint first and then go over it with an over-the-counter spray paint without injury to the grass



Kyle Sweet, CGCS cuts out the stencil for the Sanctuary Logo. Photo by Fred Fulford.

the stencil tightly to the ground and begin painting the desired design area.

Turf paints come in many colors, but if you can't find the color you need in a turf paint, you can paint the desired area with a turf paint first and then go over it with an over-the-counter spray paint without injury to the grass. Practicing the painting process will pay off when it comes to the final project and will help you determine the best processes to get your desired results.

Store the stencil and paints in a safe place. Hopefully you will be able to use them again and again for events at your club and provide that something extra that everyone appreciates.

Good luck and have fun!



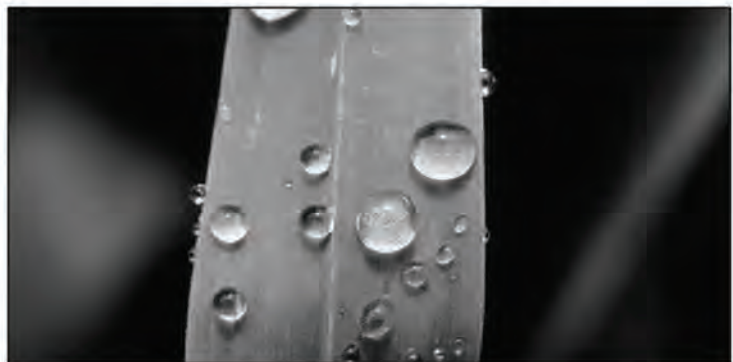
*Give fundraising tournaments some extra flair with turf painting.
Photo by Kyle Sweet.*



**Are you planning an upgrade to
Toro's new Lynx central software?
Don't forget the map!**

RTS provides cost-effective central control maps for Toro and Rain Bird systems.

- *GPS DATA COLLECTION
- *AERIAL SURVEY INTEGRATION
- *LAMINATED FIELD BOOKS
- *LAMINATED WALL MAPS
- *EXPERT TRAINING
- *UPDATES TO EXISTING MAPS
- *WATER CONSERVATION
- *OVER 200 SATISFIED CUSTOMERS!



dave@ragantechnical.com (561) 776-9713

See samples & customer testimonials at www.ragantechnical.com



Equipment on display at South Florida Expo Demo Day. Photo by Joel Jackson.

New, Used, or Leased?

Stretching the Budget to Meet Rising Expectations in a Tanking Economy

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

We pick Hands On topics over a year out so we can provide our advertisers an opportunity to showcase a product or service in an issue with a related story in the Hands On section. Little did we know then how the economy might bite into capital equipment budgets and affect purchasing decisions for a couple of years.

While budgets might be reined in, it appears that golfer expectations have not. Golfers seem to have a disconnect between spending levels and quality levels in grooming. It shouldn't take a rocket scientist to know that old, worn-out equipment will be less reliable in producing demanded results. I love the

quote by Kurt Kuebler at the Everglades Spring Symposium this past April, "No club ever cut its way to prosperity!"

You can choose to delay spending on equipment, but there will be a price to pay for those decisions.

Be that as it may, wear and tear goes on and equipment gets to a point where it's cheaper to purchase something than to keep pouring repair dollars into it. So what are people doing and how are they keeping their fleets operational to meet expectations in the face of restricted spending?

The most obvious options are buying new, buying used or leasing. Only four superintendents volunteered answers to our Hands On survey on the topic, but in researching articles and reading their responses, we can get a sense of the current trend and hopefully gain some useful ideas.

We've all heard about leasing programs, but I didn't really think about customizing the package to cover the high-use items like mowers and

purchasing other items that are used more seasonally, thus having longer life spans.

Speaking of life spans, have you ever had the conversation with a member who also belongs to a club "Up North" and who brags on how long their equipment lasts, like 10 years plus-plus? They never stop to think about those long winter months they are down here playing golf, while their course is closed and the equipment sits idle or gets rebuilt every year or so. Life spans for mowers in Florida are three to five years, since those engines and reels are humming almost daily, year after year.

The mowers may be mowing at that furious pace, but the dollars aren't there right now for most clubs to stay on those ideal capital equipment replacement programs. Here's what's happening at the four clubs in the survey.

1. Three out of four are not planning any purchases this year and one is renewing a complete lease package. One of the three does have some leeway if

a piece of equipment becomes more costly to repair than to replace.

2. Three will consider buying used equipment, "new" demos, etc.

3. Obviously only one leases equipment. They are in their third three-year lease, but will increase to a four-year lease to include more pieces and lower the payments. They will also do a buy-out of the seasonal equipment (aerifiers, etc) in the fifth year.

4. Most critical needs among the three were a roller, a new triplex and an out-front rotary trim mower.

5. Most do not routinely share equipment with other courses, but all confirm that in an emergency fellow superintendents are always ready to lend a hand or piece of equipment. One is part of the IGM group and they do share specialty equipment with one another.

6. In all cases, they report having rigorous preventive maintenance programs in place and tracking

scheduled and emergency repairs and repair costs on computerized record-keeping programs. In one case, the course maintains a backup piece of equipment for as many critical units as possible and, with good maintenance and rotating the primary unit after four or five years to a back-up role, they are getting a 10-year life span at that position. However, having back-ups also means needing to have the storage capacity to keep the equipment under cover.

In the case of the course with the lease program, the fact that the equipment technicians are so efficient is the reason they feel that can extend the lease period another year and save money.

I would like to thank Mike Caudhill, Lone Palm GC, Tyler Green, Southern Dunes GC, Dustin Plemons, IGM @ Ridgewood Lakes and Alan Puckett, Eaglebrooke GC for their comments and contributions to this article.

Tom Burrows, Consulting
Agronomist/Turfgrass Specialist
Independent Consulting using
"Brookside Laboratory"

Greens Reconstruction

- ◆ Soil Physical Analysis
- ◆ USGA Approved Testing
- ◆ Analytical Service
- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ Specifications for Contractor Bidding

Soil Testing

- ◆ Greens, Tees, Fairways
- ◆ Analytical Report and Soil Fertility Recommendations

Water Testing

- ◆ Report & Recommendations

In the business 40 years

Jensen Beach, Florida
772-692-1221 cell: 772-215-1819



ECKERT GOLF SALES, INC.
EGS EQUIPMENT Winter Park, FL

Tel: 1-866-629-7968
407-629-7968

Introduces Baroness to their product line -



- * Available in 18", 22" & 26"
- * Designed to hold its edge longer
- * Independent grass catcher & short drum-to-roller distance for a beautiful cut on undulating greens
- * All gear driven
- * Turf groomer & de-thatcher operate in both forward & reverse
- * High & low frequency of clip at the flip of a switch
- * 3 year limited warranty

www.buffaloturbine.com
BUFFALO TURBINE

(North America)
sisis
TURF EQUIPMENT

ATT Advanced Turf Technology
A UNIQUE ALLIANCE BETWEEN SUPERINTENDENTS & ENGINEERS

SUPER TIP

Headache Rack Cuts Risk

By Darren Davis

On June 2, we embarked on a significant renovation and upgrade of the irrigation system at Olde Florida GC. The contractor chosen to perform the job was Leibold Irrigation. With offices in Illinois, Ohio and Florida, owner and President John Liebold has more than 100 employees and a fleet of trenchers, dozers, trucks, backhoes, pullers, pipe wagons and utility vehicles, many of which are equipped with custom-made Toro "headache racks."

According to Liebold, the headache rack is intended to reduce the risk of items shifting forward and potentially injuring the operator, and prevent sand or other loose material in the cargo bed from inadvertently entering the engine area. Liebold credits Fred Roepsch, Leibold Irrigation shop manager for the

design and construction of the rack.

Roepsch, who has made more than 50 of them, estimates it takes him two and a half to three hours to build and install each rack. The price of each, excluding shop costs (grinding wheels, welding wire, paint, etc.) is between \$150 and \$175. His time and cost of materials drop considerably when he produces the racks in quantities of five or more.

The framing, which is 4 feet, 7 inches wide by 2 feet 7 inches deep, is made from 2-by-2-inch steel tube. Attached to this frame are six rectangular posts (two on each side and two in front), constructed from 1.5x2-inch steel tube cut in 6-inch lengths. The front and side pieces of the rack, which are strip-welded to the frame to avoid warping, are cut from 3/16-inch steel sheets.

When finished, the six posts welded to the underside of the frame are inserted into the two front and two side pockets of the Toro cargo bed. After insertion, Roepsch recommends tack



Custom-made rack prevents loads from shifting forward causing injury or damage. Photo by Darren Davis.

welding the six posts to the cargo bed for added safety.

Since the company's inception in 1987, Leibold Irrigation has completed more than 300 projects nationwide. Liebold admitted that some of his previous clients were so smitten with the custom-made headache rack that he had Roepsch build a few for them to purchase.

SMR Farms

Cattle • Turf • Trees • Landscape • Citrus

Your Proven

Florida Turfgrass Connection

Producers and Installers of High-Performance Certified and Fumigated Turfgrasses



Tifway 419



- Year-Round Availability
- Sod, Sprigs & Rolls
- Convenient to all Central and South Florida Locations
- Over 20 Varieties of Containerized and Field-Grown Trees in Many Sizes



4715 Lorraine Road
Bradenton, FL 34211
877-708-3322 Toll Free

www.smr farms.com

