

A little paint keeps wayward carts in line

Course clutter substantially reduced; drivers stay on the straight and narrow

By Peter Blais

"Uglyyyyyyyyyyy."

That's all co-owner John Shields could mutter to himself as he gazed out at the ratty ropes and tilted posts stretching along the golf car paths traversing Glenn Dale (Md.) Country Club.

"How do we get rid of that stuff? We need something to keep the cars on the paths. But what can we come up with that's aesthetically more pleasing," Shields asked himself.

Like most golf courses, Glenn Dale occasionally spray painted the grass around greens, tees, wet spots, ground under construction and other areas where golf cars were forbidden to tread.

"About two years ago it occurred to us to extend that practice to the car paths. It's worked great," Shields said.

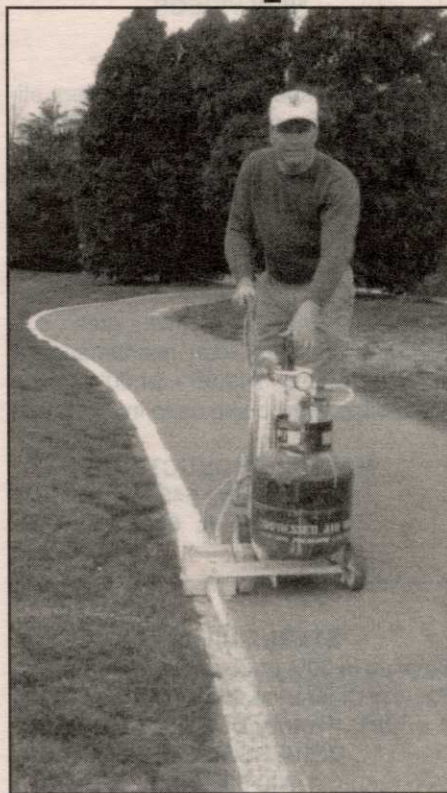
Two crew members took stiff-bristled brooms and vigorously swept the path edges. Next, they used a four-wheeled paint sprayer (\$375 from a local paint contractor's store) and 20 gallons of white, latex traffic paint (about \$150) to edge the paths with a two-inch line.

Completing the 18-hole paint job on the George Cobb-designed layout took the two workers about eight hours.

"Getting the paths thoroughly clean is key," Shields said. "Otherwise the paint adheres to the dirt and just gets brushed off."

The lines are supposed to act like the center and side lines on a highway, keeping golf cars within those boundaries. A line on one side means golfers must not cross that side of the path. Lines on each side mean they stay on the path, period.

Where the lines end, golf cars can drive onto the course. A one-inch-diameter, three-foot-tall PVC pipe is placed where



the cars should return to the path.

Guest cards explain the cart policy and are handed out at the sign-in desk. But do players respect the boundaries?

"We have as much observance of the golf car policy now as we did with the ropes and stakes," Shields said. "And it's aesthetically much more pleasing. You look out at the course and you don't see ropes or stakes anywhere."

"You don't even see the white lines when you look from fairway to fairway. The only time you see them is when you're in a car driving down the path."

"The members (about 500) know the rules and most accept them. The hardest part is getting guests to understand what you're trying to do. That's why we give them the card at the start of a round. And rangers remind them from time to time.



Jim Halley (left), superintendent at Glenn Dale Country Club in Maryland, applies a fresh coat of paint to a cartpath. In photo above, Rich Park clears the way for Halley, who notes that paths must be fairly clear of grit in order for the paint to hold.

Explaining that the lines act like the lines on the highway works best."

The only changes Shields has made the last two years were doubling line widths to four inches and the return PVC pipes to two inches. If a line needs to be removed, a single coat of black paint does the job.

From a liability standpoint, the lines are much safer. There are no ropes to trip over, broken posts to catch pants on, nails or hooks that cut into clothes or skin.

"Those ropes always seemed to be a lawsuit just waiting to happen. I've heard of several courses that were sued because golfers tripped over ropes," Shields said.

The lines also eliminate ruling problems concerning what to do when a ball comes to rest near a post or under a rope.

Maintenance with weed whackers around posts is eliminated. So, too, is the

three hours a week rangers averaged straightening posts and replacing ropes.

Occasionally edging paths to keep grass from infringing on the lines keeps a neat appearance, Shields said.

A cheaper alternative to buying a sprayer is using four- or six-inch hand rollers. Hand applying two, three, or four miles of white paint may take more time initially than using a machine. But the thicker coat will last longer, up to two years. Thinner, machine-applied coats must be done two or more times annually.

"And don't forget that traffic paint has a fast-drying agent. You have to be prepared to go the minute you start with a machine. If you stop for a few minutes, it will clog up the nozzle. If you just leave the cover off the can for 15 minutes, you get a thick film on the top," Shields said.

ADVERTISER INDEX

RS#	Advertiser	Page	RS#	Advertiser	Page
113	American Lake Doctors	14	176	Milona Turf Products	51
160	Anderson Instruments	50	111	Montco Products	12
109	The Andersons	11	167	Neptune Research	50
136	Aquatrols	38	122	NOR-AM Chemical Co.	25
149	Aquatrols	54	125	North American Green	28
173	Bargas Inc.	51	119	O.M. Scott	22-23
183	Bloch & Co.	52	151	Otterbine/Barebo	55
143	Ciba-Geigy	46-47	184	Page Com	52
105	Ciba-Geigy	6-7	129	Par Aide	32
115	Ciba-Geigy	15	172	Pavelec Bros. Construction	51
139	Ciba-Geigy	40	141	Pennington Seed	42
132	Club Car	33	117	Pennington Seed	18
175	Continental Bridge	51	147	Perfection Sprinkler	52
168	Excel Bridge Mfg.	50	108	Precision Small Engine	11
140	Farmers Marketing Corp.	41	186	Precision Tool Prod. Co.	52
171	Golf West	51	188	Precision Tool Prod. Co.	52
156	Grace-Sierra	20	162	Putting Greens International	50
101	Grace-Sierra	2	133	Range Rustler/Gustafson	34
161	Graco Manufacturing	50	187	Raven Golf Ball Co.	52
170	Greenscape Pump Services	51	121	Regal Chemical	24
130	Greensia International	32	148	Regal Chemical	51
112	Guettler & Sons	14	131	Regal Chemical	33
110	Hale Irwin Golf Services	11	124	Regal Chemical	28
177	Homotech Indus.	51	142	Rhone-Poulenc	44-45
146	Huber Ranch Sod Nursery	52	103	Rhone-Poulenc	4
144	ISK Biotech	48	123	Seed Research of Oregon	26-27
145	Jacklin Seed Co.	49	138	Southern Corp. Promo.	38
104	Jacklin Seed Co.	5	134	Standard Golf	35
152	Jacobsen	56	179	Syntennico	52
164	Jesco Products (Pinhigh)	50	126	Tee-2-Green	29
116	John Deere	16-17	128	Tex-Net	32
185	JPF Distributors	52	106	Toro Comm'l. Prod. Div.	8-9
102	Kalo	3	137	Turf Diagnostics & Design	38
120	Kubota	24	178	Turf Feeding Systems	51
174	Lab Systems/Software	51	181	Unit Structures	52
135	Lebanon Turf Products	36-37	118	Valent USA	19
180	MacCurach Golf Construction	52	107	Verti-Drain	11
169	Markers, Inc.	50	114	Watersaver Co.	14
166	Master of the Links	50	165	Western Wood Structures	50
163	Midwest Golf Development	50	182	Yard Edge	52

Making More Efficient Use of Water...

When you use AquaGro[®] you're making water wetter. AquaGro speeds water infiltration, so less is lost to run-off and evaporation. For 37 years the soil wetting agent used by more superintendents than any other.

... Another Reason to Use AquaGro.

AQUATROLS

The Water Management People

800-257-7797

From anywhere in the U.S. and Canada.