

Public Golf Forum reveals myriad money-saving tips for supers

By TERRY BUCHEN

CHICAGO — At the Public Golf Forum here Oct. 28-29, experts discussed how superintendents are saving money in their day-to-day operations. Of equal importance is spending money as expeditiously as possible, when it must be spent, carefully watching the bottom line while still maintaining a sense of quality.

Some examples of ways to save money and make more efficient use of money include:

1. Remove unnecessary shade trees. The improved sun and air movement means reduced pesticide usage and better playing conditions.
2. Reduce acreage of mowed areas not in play.
3. Schedule maintenance with the least golfer interference for better production and happier golfers.
4. Plant perennial flowers instead of annuals.
5. Perform a labor-flow chart to see how many labor hours are really needed with your maintenance objective in mind.
6. Perform a voluntary safety audit with a local state agency to help prevent being fined from a regulatory agency.
7. Hire temporary personnel for special

projects.

8. Hire a good mechanic where the extra money spent on wages is well spent.

9. Keep the course as dry as possible for better playing conditions and less pesticide usage.

10. Add extra drainage up the bunker slopes to help eliminate costly hand-shoveling and subsequent extra raking of bunkers.

11. Consider overseeding with some of the newer drought-tolerant grasses

SAVVY SUPERINTENDENT



on the market or coming out soon.

12. Put a pencil to whether it is sometimes better to buy supplies from out of state to eliminate paying states sales tax versus possibly the extra freight charges involved.

13. Use a total-kill-type herbicide around trees, along fences, etc. to help reduce hand-mowing.

14. Offer free golf for police and fire personnel. This sometimes improves

security in and around the golf course.

15. Perform a five-year equipment-replacement schedule, update it annually and stay on schedule.

16. Tree nurseries can be given a tax credit, in some states, for the acreage they use even if they are not sold but maintained as if they were to be sold or relocated.

17. Double-check your fuel-tax refunds, in most states, for non-highway use on unlicensed vehicles.

18. Keep everything super simple!

Buchen finds turf consultancy

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Terry Buchen, a master greenkeeper and certified golf course superintendent who has grown in 11 golf courses and worked as the PGA Tour agronomist, has opened an agronomy consulting firm here.

Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International will consult with grow-in, routine maintenance, tournament conditioning, restoration and renovation.

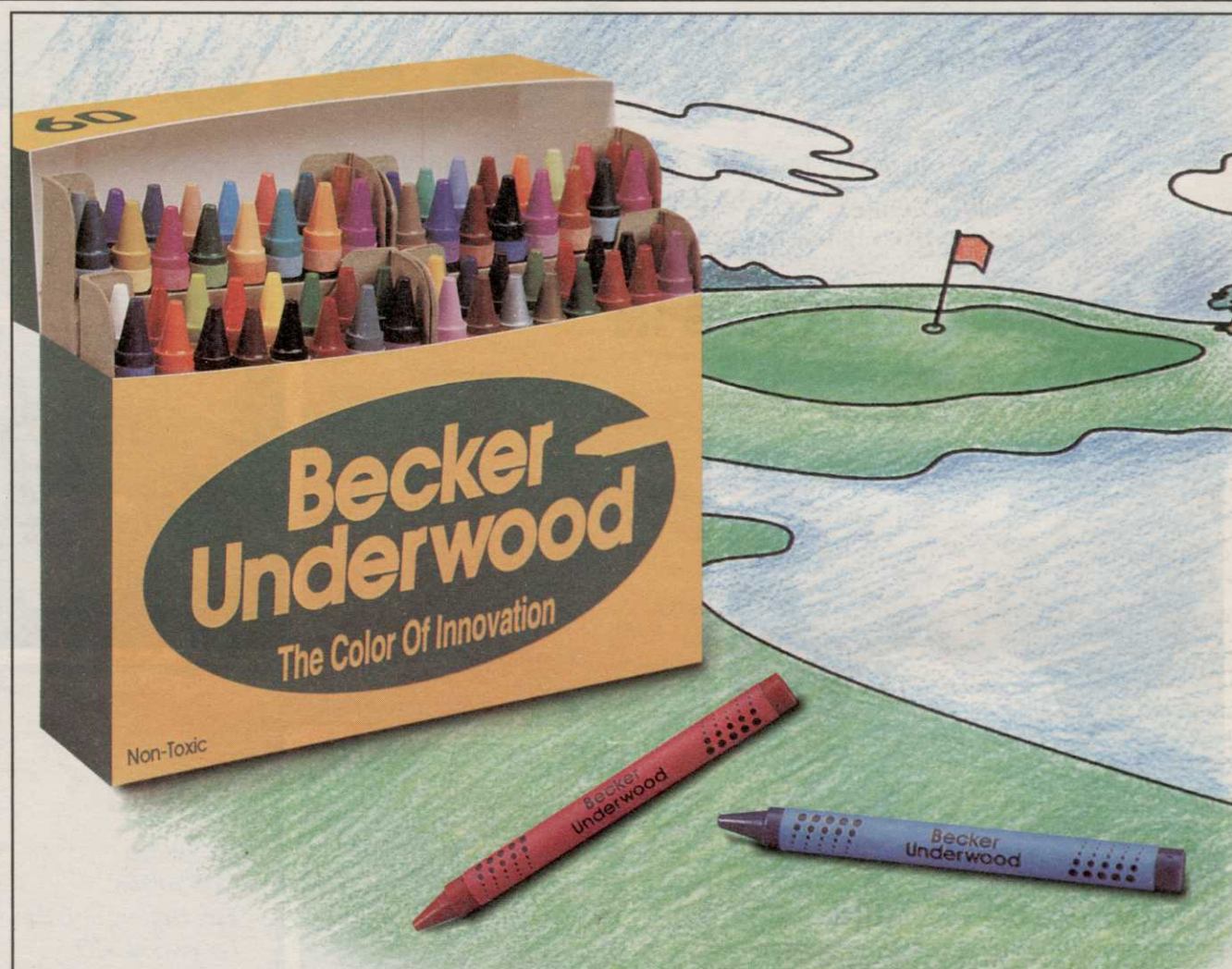
"I'm looking forward to it, to working with owners, superintendents, architects and course officials," said Buchen, a third-generation superintendent. "I've always wanted to consult, with all my grow-in and tournament-conditioning experience, plus being an agronomist for the PGA Tour [for two years] in the U.S. and Canada.

"I'd like to do some traveling worldwide and share what I've learned over the years."

Buchen, a *Golf Course News* contributing editor, left Double Eagle Golf Club in Galena, Ohio, last spring to oversee maintenance on the eight courses operated by The Legends Group here and in Myrtle Beach. He will continue to work with The Legends on a consulting basis.

While he was superintendent at Double Eagle, the course was rated the second-best conditioned course in the country (behind Augusta National) last year by *Golf Digest* and fourth-best conditioned course this year by *Golf Magazine*.

Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International is located at 4772 Williamsburg Glade, Williamsburg, Va. 23185-2113; telephone 757-253-0900.



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