

Rodgers takes Global Positioning to a new sphere

By TERRY BUCHEN

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — Using Global Positioning Surveys (GPS) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), irrigation engineer Larry Rodgers has designed what he feels is the ultimate tool to quickly measure anything on a golf course and make color as-built blueprints and color surveys available.

Rodgers said the system makes as-built blueprints and color surveys available at "a reasonable cost" for course superintendents, owners, contractors and architects. The process takes a day or two on-site to completely measure a golf course's specific areas and a day in the office to print a 255-color laser plotter blueprint, he said.

"What we do," Rodgers said from his office here, "is recreate aerial photos adapted in a digital format, by using GPS technology and a Pentium-based Pentop Computer that resembles an Etch-a-Sketch that is totally portable and user-friendly.

"We can measure anything that can be 'defined' in a point, a line or an area. We can accurately measure a line, which could be a cart path; a point, which could be a sprinkler head, or catch basin or tree; or an area, such as a green, tee, fairway, rough, lakes, streams, bunkers, etc."

Once all of the information is in the database, Rodgers makes it site-specific to each course and can make a total tree survey; measure each green, tee, fairway, rough, lakes, streams, bunkers; and pinpoint every piece of irrigation and drainage equipment on a perfect as-built color blueprint.

"Everything and anything is possible with this equipment which can be custom-built for your golf course's own application," Rodgers said. "We can even measure the golf course yardage and do sprinkler-head yardage while we are measuring all of the areas of the course and doing a tree survey, pinpointing each and every tree variety."

New York offers turf scholarships

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York State Golf Association (NYSGA) has announced the availability of \$8,000 in scholarships for the 1997-98 academic year.

With the cooperation of the New York State Turfgrass Association, the association needs to identify potential recipients who may be employed at clubs. Last year's scholarships ranged from \$500 to \$1,000.

The scholarship program is specifically for New York state residents who are matriculated in an accredited two-or four-year college or university. They must be studying a specific academic program such as agronomy, turfgrass management, or a related major leading to eventual employment as a golf course superintendent.

To receive an application for the NYSGA Scholarship Program, people may telephone J. Patrick Keenan, executive director, NYSGA, at 888-NYSGA-23 or Beth Seme, executive director, NYS Turfgrass Association, at 800-873-8873.

"We can even print out a color blueprint with each and every maple tree only on it, or any other specific item at the client's request," he added.

Architects and contractors can accurately measure a green that has been roughed in and determine the exact size and cubic yards of material needed or being used as the green is being built, or has been built.

The operator simply determines a start-

ing point and then walks the outside dimensions of the area to be measured. As he walks the line of definition, it appears on the portable computer exactly as an as-built form.

This comes from a man who, feeling his many years of mechanical engineering experience and technical college training weren't enough, is back in school part-time. His objective: a civil engineering degree.



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