



The photo "cabinet" at Country Club of the Rockies has simplified life for golf course superintendent Kevin Ross.

SHOP TALK



Space utilization is very important in the modern mechanic's shop.

'Space' use at its finest

By TERRY BUCHEN

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Making efficient use of space in the mechanic's shop area, using good time/motion abilities, is always a fun challenge for the golf course maintenance department team. One fine example is at the Tournament Players Club (TPC) at The Canyons, where Kim Byron Wood is superintendent here.

"In between two of our garage doors," Wood said, "we incorporated a steel welding table with a storage shelf underneath, for welding rods/supplies and for different size and shapes of scrap and new steel."

The shop's arc welder and welder's helmet sit atop the welding table, whose power cord is long enough if the table must be moved around inside or out of the shop.

The Canyons' battery charger, which is mounted on wheels, fits next to the welding table when not in use, while still allowing vehicular traffic in and out of the shop area.

A 2-ton floor jack is also positioned at the end of the table when not in use. Not far from this welding table is a manually operated tire changer, where almost any size tire used on golf course maintenance equipment can be changed or repaired in no time at all, Wood said. The tools that are used on the tire changer are conveniently stored close by.

"It is a great challenge to make all of our very diversified shop equipment fit nicely into our shop, while still being close by and handy for our service technicians to use with the least amount of wasted time," Wood added.

Need to organize slides? Try the Ross way

By KEVIN J. ROSS

Early in my career, I learned to document my work on the golf course by taking photos, or more specifically, slides. After several years, I had a lot of slides but no system of organization.

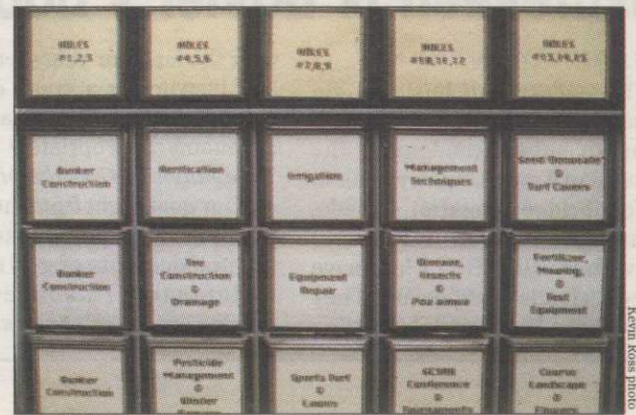
It was obvious that I needed a system that would allow me to easily retrieve the slides when needed, as well as file them afterwards. I went through many trials and tribulations before settling on my present method of organization.

My first system, was basically using the small plastic slide boxes that come with slides when they are developed.

I labeled the different boxes and filed the slides according to the label on top of the box. This method required searching for the correct box; finding the slide(s) in the box; and, finally, trying to recall which slides belonged in which box for refiling. I axed this method fairly quickly.

Method number two was suggested to me by a turfgrass pathologist who had many more slides than I did. He suggested purchasing clear plastic slide organizers and putting them into a three-ring notebook. Never doubting any pathologist's word, I gave it a try.

This method was a big improvement over the first, but still not as efficient as I thought it should be.



Kevin Ross photo

The third and final method came to me while browsing at a local department store. I noticed those little nut-and-bolt organizers for workshops, with little sliding drawers about the same dimensions of a slide, so I dug down deep in my pocket and splurged the \$10 to purchase one.

My idea was to use this organizer similar to a file cabinet. I labeled each drawer with a specific topic, such as bunker renovation, aerification, irrigation, wildlife, etc. Inside each drawer, I placed dividers that I also labeled on the top.

For example, the aerification drawer had dividers that were labeled greens, tees, fairways and other. To find a slide on greens aerification, I would go to the drawer labeled aerification and then to the divider labeled greens.

Each drawer can hold 110 slides and there are 18 drawers per unit for a total capacity of almost 2,000 slides.

I now own several of these units that contain my entire slide collection. This method has proven quite valuable in slide organization for me. If you are having trouble organizing slides, I think you will find this method easy and efficient.

If anyone has a slide organization method or experiences they would like to share, please contact *Golf Course News*.

Equipment donations help Florida's IFAS Research Facility

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — An equipment donation from Nucrane Machinery will help the IFAS Research Facility here continue its research for Florida's turfgrass industry.

Presented to the facility to use for one year at no charge, the machinery includes a John Deere 2653 Utility Mower and John Deere 220A Walk Behind Greens Mower. Kent Busser and Rick Levy of Nucrane Machinery made the presentation to Karen Williams, a biological scientist at the IFAS Research Facility.

"We at Nucrane feel it is imperative to support the industry that supports us," said Busser. "We are very proud of the work that the facility has done in the past and feel this contribution will only increase their productivity."

Dr. John Cisar, associate professor at University of Florida-Ft. Lauderdale, said the equipment is already making "a world of difference in maintaining our turfgrass research projects. It is vital for us to have up-to-date equipment that requires less maintenance which in turn lowers costs, making our research efforts more efficient."

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