



ON THE GREEN

A dredger, top photo, completely removes silt from the bottom of Turtle Creek in Dallas Country Club. Then a separator, left, divides reusable soil from recyclable mulch.

Terry Buchen photos

Dredging irrigation lake keys 'fix'

By TERRY BUCHEN

Highland Park, Texas — Turtle Creek passes through Dallas Country Club, filling lakes that serve as the irrigation source for a pumping station on each side of the property. Over the years, soil that has washed into the creek, raised the bottom and caused soil to pass through the pump house, which has required a filtration system to help keep the water clean.

As the soil built up in the bottom of the irrigation lakes, the available irrigation water decreased significantly. Two unique situations came about as the lake levels needed to be dropped from a 6-foot average depth to 12 and 14 feet and as extra soil was needed for a major course renovation that was going to begin this fall.

"We obviously had to irrigate the course and provide extra soil for our renovation process, so the only conceivable way to accomplish both tasks was to dredge out the entire Turtle Creek and two irrigation lakes," said superintendent Scott E. Parker. "This would provide the extra soil needed for our rebuilding process as well."

Parker located Tim McAlester in Pittsburg, Texas, whose dredging

equipment fit the job perfectly.

"The dredger is a 40- by 9-foot floating barge that is self-propelled, with paddle wheels at the rear to steer it. It can dredge between 500 and 1,000 cubic yards of material in 10 to 12 hours, depending on how far the material must be pumped.

"At Dallas Country Club, we had to pump up to 6,000 feet at 4,000 g.p.m. to a staging area on the north end of the course through a 10-inch-diameter Drexel black plastic pipe," said McAlester, president of McAlester Construction and Fence, Inc.

McAlester said he can pump up to 2,500 feet before booster pumps are required. Two booster pumps were needed on the Dallas CC project.

The 9-foot-wide rotating teeth on the front of the dredger can remove soil in 1-foot lifts and up to 2-foot lifts in a muddy-type soil.

McAlester used two separators, with a computer-operated pumping system. They separated the debris into two piles — one reusable top soil and a pile with waste that is used as a recyclable peat moss-type mulching material.

Approximately 50 percent of the debris is used as topsoil for the course

Continued on page 15

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The nuts 'n bolts of the matter at Caves Valley

By TERRY BUCHEN

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — To make their job more efficient, golf course equipment managers must have a vast array of tools, parts and supplies at their immediate disposal, using time/motion management techniques. A good example of an efficient

equipment shop servicing area is at Caves Valley Golf Club here, where Steve Glossinger is the certified golf course superintendent.

“Our acetylene torch bottles are mounted on a portable cart



with wheels for easy access around the shop, or to be easily transported out on the course,”

Glossinger said.

SHOP TALK “The portable cart has a tray for spare torch tips and rods and it has a 25-foot-long hose to get close to any job.”

As per Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety regulations, Caves Valley’s spare acetylene and oxygen bottles are kept vertical by using a safety chain.

“Like most modern equipment shop areas, we have a vast assortment of nuts, bolts and washers, available in standard and metric sizes, that are in separate open-front bins that are easily identified by sizes and types with self adhesive color-coded stickers,” Glossinger said. “Next to the nuts and bolts are a series of storage drawers that house a variety of necessary repair and replacement items.”

These include: hydraulic system “O” rings, snap rings and fittings; light bulbs; fuses; copper fittings; zerk fittings; radiator hose clamps; pop rivets; key ways; etc.

Glossinger is pleased how the shop has become more efficient by using “every conceivable wall space available to bring much-needed tools and supplies in easy reach for our very valuable equipment managers.”

Without these storage wall space areas, a lot of time would be lost walking further distances to other areas of the shop, he added.

Dredging

Continued from page 14

renovation. The rest is used as a recyclable mulch that is hauled away by a local nursery.

“This is the first golf course we have ever worked on, as our primary business has been with electric power companies,” said McAlester.

Five or six other courses in the Dallas area have contacted McAlester about his unique dredging operation, he said, adding: “We hope to do business with them.”

“We are very pleased with how we could provide more irrigation water storage capacity at the two pump station locations, while providing the much-needed topsoil for our total renovation of the course, all while recycling the waste material as well,” said golf course architect Jay Morrish.



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