

## A blower of another kind

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tion-spec putting green. This influx of oxygen to the root zone removes gases, which helps stimulate root growth and improve soil quality.

"To keep the air volume (5,000 cfm - 175 mph) on each green high enough to get our desired results," Davis said, "we isolate our greens' drainage system after it exits the green, so any excess air does not enter the surrounding drainage systems."

Olde Florida has a buried vault setup on the 15th and 18th greens, with green-colored removable plastic covers. A 4-inch-diameter slide valve is shut off during the blowing operation so no air can escape. Next to the slide valve is a 4-inch-diameter female hose fitting that is connected to the green's subsurface drainage piping. The blower has a 4- or 6-inch-diameter flexible ADS-type non-perforated discharge hose that is easily connected in the vault, with or without a reducer, to begin the blowing operation. It is hooked up to the blower by a 4-inch quick connect cam lock male (plastic) and female (aluminum) apparatus.

"When we wish to remove excess water from the green's subsurface drainage piping, we simply move the 4-inch-diameter hose to the cam lock quick connect in the center of the fan housing to provide a sucking action," Davis said. "The excess water proceeds rapidly through the blower discharge outlet."

Mounted on a riding bunker rake, the blowers remove surface debris from sand bunkers prior to them being mechanically raked. When used on the rake, the blower's electrical hookup connects to the bunker rake's battery and its fuel hookup is connected to the bunker rake's fuel tank.

When the blower is mounted to a turf truckster bed, trailer or tractor three-point hitch, there usually is a separate fuel tank and battery to operate the engine starter.

"We have been blowing our greens' subsurfaces for five years now, giving each green one to two hours per day when needed, depending on the local climatic conditions," Davis said. "We are fortunate to be able to blow during play because our vaults are far enough away from our greens for a mostly quiet operation."

Davis is involved in construction of the neighboring Golf Club of the Everglades that Rees Jones is designing, and said: "We are installing vaults to hook up blowers on all 18 greens, the putting green and chipping green there."

Davis said the manufacturer

of the self-contained blower also makes a new electrically operated low-pressure system that can produce heated and cooled air. Specifications include an air volume of 1,000 cfm, dual mode sucking and blowing, two 3 horsepower 230-volt motors with a power draw of 13 amps full load with a 60-amp start, quiet operation at 51 dba at 30 feet, and 4- or 6-inch outlets with quick disconnect hoses. ▶

## The PVC pooch

By PETER BLAIS

BRUTUS, Mich. — Think dogs are just good for chasing geese off golf courses? Well, Steve Sump, superintendent at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club here has a PVC-seeking missile of a Labrador retriever who can find clogged drainage caps through the

deepest, murkiest standing water allowing Sump to get the flooded parts of his course back in play in two shakes of a dog's tail.

Buddy is an 18-month-old, 80-pound yellow lab. Buddy loves to pick things up and bring them to Sump. One was a green drainage cap which became a favorite toy.

When parts of the course flooded last June, Sump said, "For some reason I said, 'Bud, find your drain,' the name we'd

given his cap toy. He starts looking around, paws under the water and pops out one of the drain caps.

"I thought maybe it was a fluke, that he'd just happened to step on it. So we went to another area and I said, 'Hey Bud, go find a drain.' He starts sniffing around and sniffing around, paws under the water again, lifts out another drain cap and the water starts draining down the hole. He must have found 10 caps that day."

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