

By MARK LESLIE

**A**NDOVER, Mass. — “Build-up of wet grass on the mower roller can easily change the height of cut, and that change of height can ultimately reflect on me,” said Indian Ridge Country Club equipment mechanic Johnny “Jake” Parker. That impetus led to Parker’s very simple, yet very effective solution: using car ice scrapers to clean the rollers.

“These scrapers work great,” Parker said. “I use them on my triplex and fairway mowers and anything with a roller that collects grass clippings.

Most mower manufacturers have scrapers on the front rollers, but scrapers on the back are

## Indian Ridge’s Parker: Rollers no problem

optional. And often those on the back are ineffective, Parker said.

“With back rollers, you get a big build-up and then a big clump drops out and you get clumping all across the fairway,” he said.

“The biggest problem,” he said, “was that operators weren’t scraping their rollers off because

their hands get such a mess. I wanted to try to make things easier for people and get them to do it more often. I found all the operators loved the idea and were actually doing it. They are more likely to do it if you’re not asking them to get down there and get all wet.”

“It makes a huge, huge differ-

ence in the cut,” Parker added. “Now my height of cut is where it is supposed to be all the time.”

How often an operator hand-scrapes his rollers depends on how wet the turf is. “I suggest they scrape the rollers off when they empty the buckets,” Parker said. “It literally takes about 10 seconds.”

The ice scrapers have a 10-inch handle, much more efficient than the short ice scrapers.

Indian Ridge’s mowers all have smooth rollers, Parker said, adding that the grooved and swirl-type rollers don’t appear to have problems with clipping build-up.



# We'll keep the pesticide industry from

## Carolina Nat'l

Continued from page 21

also enhances the golfing and living experience. We will continue to improve on our program and try new projects to make Carolina National Golf Club a beautiful and nature-friendly golf course.”

In 1997, Carolina National Golf Club joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

“Carolina National Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property,” said Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the Cooperative Sanctuary System.

“To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas,” explained Zeh. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Golf courses from the United States, Canada, and Europe have also achieved certification in the program.

“As far as I am concerned,” said Dr. Terry L. Vasey, director of golf development at Bluegreen Golf and Carolina National Golf Club, “our achieving Sanctuary status is one of the highlights of my golf course management career. I truly believe we have added greatly to the planet. Our strongest contribution is the amount of wildlife habitat we have incorporated into the golf course, each including a vast diversity of plant material. We believe that we have increased the overall wildlife population here and plan to continue our efforts.”

