

Hydroject aerifier trailer means one-man operation in the field

By TERRY BUCHEN

NAPLES, Fla. — The idea of building a Toro Hydroject trailer came to superintendent Darren Davis on a visit to Merion Golf Club when he visited Paul B. Latshaw, who was superintendent at the time.

Upon returning to Olde Florida Golf Club here, Davis had Equipment and



ON THE GREEN

Shop Manager Kim Ellis helped design and construct the trailer they now use, which was built entirely in house.

"In the past, our Hydroject activities always took two people — one to hold the hose and guide and one to operate the machine," Davis said.

No more, not with this latest innovation.

On the rear of the Hydroject, Ellis constructed a custom-built trailer hitch that is attached to the machine with bolts. The 2- by 5-inch, 1-inch-thick hitch that extends from the Hydroject has a 1/2-inch diameter hole drilled through it so the trailer tongue can be attached to the machine with a hitch pin to transport it around the golf course.

"The trailer was constructed," Davis said, "so that the hose reel sits on top of the trailer, centered in the rear, which allows the floor of the trailer to stay clear for storage of items such as the quick couplers, extra filters, the tool to change the filter on the Hydroject and extra hose."

By having the hose reel mounted high above the sides of the trailer, it also allows the operator to have the hose flow freely off the reel when using the Hydroject. The operator transports the Hydroject with trailer to the green or tee. A quick coupler is mounted to the "in" side of the hose reel and the quick coupler key on the other end of the hose is inserted in the valve by the green or tee.

The trailer is unhooked from the machine and positioned so the rear (the side that will allow the hose to flow freely off the reel) is facing the green or tee. The Hydroject is then operated making straight lines across the green or tee, working perpendicular to the trailer. The machine then operates away from the trailer across the area until the other side is reached. This allows the operator to Hydroject without crossing the hose or needing someone to move the hose out of the way.

Between the quick coupler and the hose reel is a pressure-regulating valve (Watts Model # M3, # 223 HP with a 3/4-inch inlet and outlet NPT, available from Toro). After the pressure-regulating valve is the Campbell Water Filter Model # 1 MS. Then there is a standard water-pressure gauge that measures between 0-200 PSI, in 2-pound increments. This hardware is all attached to a 1/4- by 4- by

10-inch metal plate in which holes were drilled where needed to attach the hardware. Included is a hole drilled in the metal plate to slide in the Campbell Water Filter Tool. This is used to change the filter, which Ellis made using the socket and welding a piece of 8-inch-long 5/8-inch cold role steel.

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Terry Buchen photo

The Toro Hydroject trailer, made totally in-house, performs many worthwhile functions.

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Florida Turf Assn. eclipses \$1M in research support

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) has surpassed the \$1-million mark in donated research funds to the University of Florida's (UF) Institute of Food and Agricultural Services.

UF Assistant Dean Everett Emino wrote: "The FTGA has now provided over \$1 million in

grant donations to the University of Florida. That is truly a milestone in support."

The total research support given by the FTGA through 1999 is \$1,087,921.

The FTGA has been raising and donating money to UF's Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation since June 1982.

FTGA donations have been used to better understand pest controls and their uses, warm-season turfgrass improvement, turfgrass growth, turfgrass breeding, water quality and quantity issues, pest resistance in grasses, and chemical application methods.

Plus, the FTGA, in coopera-

tion with the University of Florida, provided \$139,000 to fund the first Economic Impact Study of Florida's Turfgrass Industry. The FTGA also donated \$350,000, along with matching funds from the state, for the creation of the Environtron, a unique environment for researching turfgrass. These make

actual donations to the university since 1982 closer to \$1.5 million for turf-related research and studies.

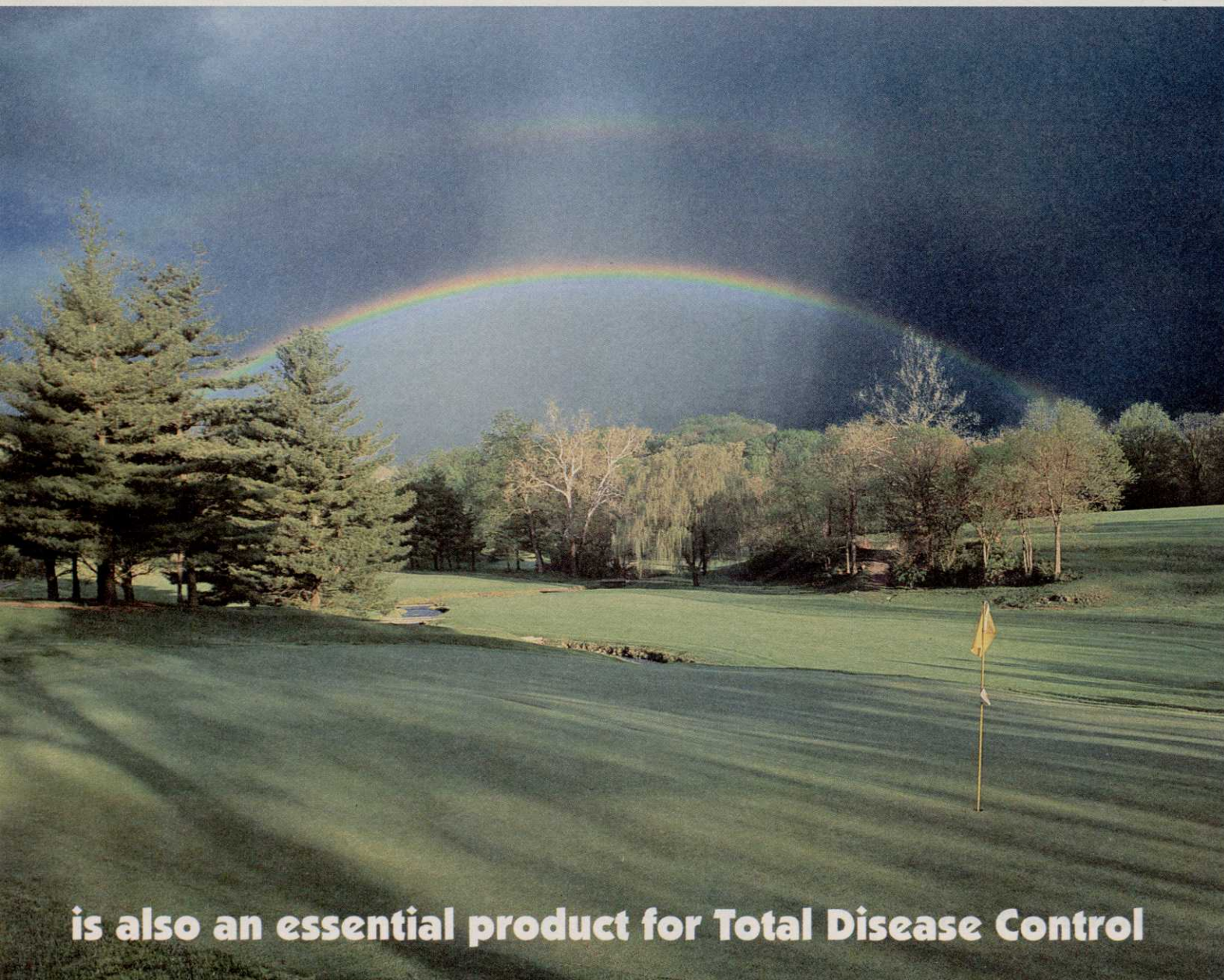
"When I first joined the Florida Turfgrass Association [1972] it bothered me that other industry representatives looked upon this association as just another golf course superintendents' group," explained FTGA President Mark Jarrell. "We're more than that, and always have been."

Roy Bates, past president of the FTGA, added, "A percentage of our donated research grants go to golf course specific research, but an awful lot is dedicated to turf research benefiting sports associations and their stadium turf, parks and recreation departments, the Irrigation Society, lawn maintenance companies and Florida pest control operators."

The FTGA raises funds through golf tournaments, the FTGA's annual and regional conferences, and donations from the local chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

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Hydroject trailer

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"The tool was made so that the socket would always be handy and not get lost," Davis said.

After this setup, a high-pressure hose is used to tie into the Hannay Hose Reel Model # 1520-17-18 with a manual hand-crank reel equipped with 150 feet of 1/2-inch hose, with a Toro adapter "pig tail" Part # 80-6740 at the end of the hose.

"The trailer itself measures 44 inches wide by 48 inches long and the sides are 18-inches high. The floor is made up of 2- by 6-inch PT planks bolted to the frame of the trailer. And the trailer frame consists of 1- by 1- by 1/8-inch square tubing.

The sides, front and rear of the trailer are covered with 3/4-inch expanded steel. The axle is built with a 2- by 2- by 3/16-inch square tubing that measures 50 inches. At the end of the square tubing is a standard axle spindle where the hubs are attached. The tires are 18-inches by 9.50 by 8 Goodyear Terra Tire Smooth with four lug standard rims and hubs. The 52-inch hitch is welded to the axle and is also made from the 2- by 2- by 3/16-inch square tubing as the axles are.

Attached to the end of this 52-inch square tubing are two pieces of 1/2-inch-thick plate, with one on top of the square tubing and one on the bottom, which makes up the hitch that attaches to the Hydroject. On the side of the trailer is a 1-1/2-inch diameter piece of PVC pipe that is used to hold a dew whipping pole to clean up the greens and tees after Hydrojecting.

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