

travels with  **TERRY**

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Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in-hand. He will share helpful Ideas relating to maintenance equipment from the golf course superintendents he visits – as well as a few Ideas of his own – with timely photos and captions that explore the changing world of golf course management.

Catcher of the grass

Mower grass catchers left scattered around a turf-care center can be disorderly and cause a safety hazard for maintenance employees and guests. So Michael A. Mongiello, Jr., CGCS, director of agronomy at The Estancia Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., came up with an idea: building a simple but effective portable grass catcher rack for Toro's Greensmaster Flex 18 and 20 greens mower grass catchers. Brian A. Porcelli, operations manager at Estancia, designed and built the rack.

Forty-five feet of 0.75-inch-by-1.5-inch rectangular thin-wall tubing was used for the frame; six feet of 1-inch outside diameter, thin-wall tubing was used for the basket support brackets, which are 20 inches long; and 0.25-inch-by-3-inch-by-27.5-inch flat steel was used for the top support bracket. These parts were welded in place, primed and painted safety red. The 1-inch-outside-diameter-by-4-inch inserts are 12 inches apart – 16 are required.

It took about four hours to build the rack, which is 60 inches tall and can hold as many as eight grass catchers, and cost about \$200 in materials.



Hang it up

Shawn Geouge, golf course superintendent, at the Charleston (S.C.) Municipal Golf Course has a talented small equipment mechanic, John Axtell, who designed and built two variations of a string line trimmer rack.

The first rack (see top photo at left), which is commonly used in the industry, is mounted to stakeholders on the side of a Cushman Turf-Truckster's bed.

The second rack (see bottom photo at left) is mounted to a 2-inch-by-2-inch receiver hitch on an E-Z-GO Workhorse turf vehicle. Because the vehicle is leased, Geouge's staff didn't want to drill holes in the body. After the rack is mounted and secured with pins in the 2-inch receiver hitch, the front of the rack is bolted to the seat back rest for added stability. The 2-inch square tubing fits over the top of the tailgate through a notch. Two-inch-by-2-inch angle iron and 2-inch-by-2-inch square tubing steel is used to build the rack, which is bolted together.

The trimmer shaft mounted closest to the engine is secured with a quick disconnect pin purchased from Graingers for \$16 each. The rear portion of the shaft is held by gravity on a 2-inch-by-0.75-inch-thick piece of steel bent at a 90-degree angle. The rack was primed and painted glossy black.

The spool of trimmer string is hung on a round, 1-inch-by-9-inch piece of steel. Face shields can be mounted over the 90-degree-angle piece of steel that holds the lower part of the shaft in place.

The rack took about three hours to build and cost \$125 for materials. GCN

