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EQUIPMENT IDEAS

Weigh it down

Don W. Taylor, CGCS, director of golf maintenance at Virginia State Golf Association's Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, has a John Deere front-end-loader tractor without a backhoe mounted on it. When his staff uses the fork-lift attachments mounted in place of the front-end-loader bucket to lift pallets of sod or other heavy loads, a large concrete weight is used to keep the rear wheels on the ground for traction in a safe, functional and efficient manner. In the past, implements such as rototillers were mounted on the rear for additional weight.

Former equipment manager Kenneth Price built the large concrete weight that attaches to the three-point hitch. The weight can be taken on and off the tractor easily as desired.

When making the weight, a steel frame was placed inside a concrete form (wooden box) measuring 4 feet by 2 feet by 18 inches. Three, three-quarter-inch-diameter rebar were bent into shape – one at the top and two at the bottom – and welded to the steel frame for additional support. Water was added to Screte instant cement and then placed inside the form.

After the concrete dried, it was painted green using specialized concrete paint. The weight weighs more than 500 pounds. The cost of materials used and the mechanic's labor was about \$250.



Say it with pictures

Supervisory staffs at golf courses constantly retrain maintenance employees and train new personnel. Darren J. Davis, director of golf course operations at the Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla., is the epitome of a great communicator, having hosted countless video workshops and written many articles.

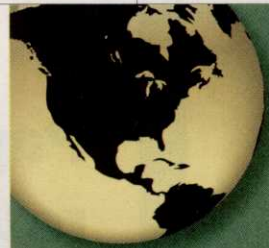
The correct and incorrect way of performing specific maintenance procedures is displayed prominently on the employee's lunchroom wall with vivid, digital color photos. The photos are mounted on two Advantus Grip-A-Strip display rails. A roller system organizes the photos on the wall like a bulletin board without tacks. The display rails are available at Office Depot in two size – 24 inches long (\$16.99) and 48 inches long (\$30.99). After each photo is downloaded to a computer, they're printed on 8.5-inch-by-11-inch, HP glossy photo paper, which can be bought in 100-sheet packs for \$29.99.

Then, a caption is written about each photo and translated into Spanish. The captions are printed on Avery 8160 address labels (1 inch by 2 5/8 inches), which can be purchased in packs of 750 for \$11.99, and are affixed to each photo. Because the photos and captions are constantly rotated on display, they're stored in Avery nonstick sheet protectors, which can be bought in packs of 25 for \$5.79.

The photos demonstrate tee-marker placement and alignment, repairing divots on tees and fairways, rope and stake placement, ball-mark repairs, etc.

The total cost was less than \$100.

Each employee has his individual photos proudly displayed along with his first name on the employee lunchroom wall. **GCI**



Travels With Terry

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.