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EQUIPMENT IDEAS

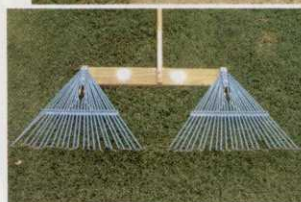
Hand-raking bunkers

Hand-raking bunkers provides excellent playing conditions, as witnessed regularly on televised professional and amateur tournaments and championships. Metal leaf rakes, which usually are used during these events, loosen and smooth the top $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1.5 inch of sand in bunkers.

To make his maintenance staff more productive while still providing excellent playing conditions, Skip Willms, CGCS, at The Owentsia Club in Lake Forest, Ill., uses two metal leaf rakes mounted side by side to hand-rake bunkers.

Two metal leaf rake replacement heads, which Willms purchased at the local hardware and garden store, are bolted to a 1-inch-by-4-inch-by-24-inch piece of wood using two $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-diameter bolts, washers and nuts. The 5-foot-long, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-diameter wooden handles, which also are replacements bought locally, are bolted to the wooden frame using the same hardware.

The two metal leaf rakes, wooden handle, hardware, wooden frame and labor costs less than \$60.



Hose-dragging device

Rich Reimers Sr., equipment manager at Sunnybrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., built a simple but effective metal bracket/holder for dragging a hose between each green's hand-watering operation.

Two used 22-inch-wide fairway mower bedknives were heated with a torch and bent into place. A third bedknife was used to connect the other two, and they were all welded together. Reimers ground down the sharp edges of the bedknives for employee safety. He cut a used John Deere 2653 rear roller into a 2-inch-long piece and slid a 2-inch diameter PVC coupling inside where they were held together with a self-taping screw. The point of the screw was ground off. The coupling and roller piece hold the nozzle attached to the hose in place along with the isolation valve key. A 1.5-inch-diameter metal pipe about 6 inches long is welded to the bedknife frame, and the quick coupler key attached to the hose slides into it. Another metal pipe, 1 inch in diameter and 3 inches long, holds the soil probe in place.

All of the metal parts were primed and painted with flat black-colored enamel. The cost for the recycled metal and labor was less than \$50 per device. **GCI**



Travels With Terry

Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in-hand. He shares 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.