

Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, is president of Golf Agronomy International. He's a 38-year, life member of the GCSAA. He can be reached at terrybuchen@earthlink.net.



Jack it up

The maintenance crew at the Palmas del Mar Country Club in Humacao, Puerto Rico, uses a Greens Iron Super 5000 tournament speed roller, which comes with a removable transport frame. When the roller is transported from green to green, it hits the turf and cart paths because it rides low. So, head mechanic Jose Rodriguez raised the frame by adding one 12-inch-long, 1.5-inch-diameter hollow pipe above each axle to raise the roller a foot higher. In addition to welding the bottom of the pipes to the top of each axle, Rodriguez welded a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-thick piece of metal to the top of the pipes and then bolted them to the roller frame with two $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-diameter bolts, nuts and lock washers.

Because Rodriguez raised the frame, the built-in hitch on the Toro Workman tow vehicles couldn't be used with the roller anymore. So, he bolted a 2-inch-square, class III receiver hitch to the bed of the Workman using two $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-diameter bolts, nuts and lock washers. He also welded a class I hitch, which fits over the top of 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch-diameter trailer hitch ball, to the roller's frame. Rodriguez uses an adjustable turnbuckle to raise the roller onto the frame and lower it off.

Rodriguez, director of golf course maintenance Karla Cora and area supervisor Felix Arroyo conceived and designed the idea.

The cost of the pipe, hitches, trailer hitch ball, metal, turnbuckle, etc., was less than \$100, and the labor took about two and a half hours.



Hang it up

At the Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot, Va., Manakin Course superintendent Eric Spurlock and director of golf course operations John Haley designed a hose rack to better organize hoses and watering accessories for quick and easy access at a centralized location at the turf care center.

Spurlock placed two 6-inch-by-6-inch posts into the ground and stabilized them with concrete to support the weight of the hoses and lumber. He cut five 2-inch-by-6-inch pieces of wood on which to hang the hoses. He also cut notches on both ends of the two-by-sixes that were angled back to the main structure to keep the hoses from slipping off the rack. Then he nailed another two-by-six to each the five he cut first, essentially creating a 4-inch-by-6-inch board.

Next, the 2-inch-by-8-inch boards (one on either side of the 6-inch-by-6-inch end posts) were bolted ($\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter) to either side of the post for support underneath the notched two-by-sixes, which were positioned across the two-by-eights so the notches on either side enabled the hoses to be hung from both sides of the rack. The notched two-by-sixes were held in place by two short pieces of two-by-sixes wedged between the two-by-eights and screwed in place.

Two two-by-sixes (one on either side of the six-by-six) were spanned between the end posts and bolted in on top of the notched two-by-sixes for more stability. Once the structure was completed, a 6-inch-diameter PVC pipe was cut into 10 1-foot sections. The pipe sections then were split into half circles and screwed ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch diameter) to the top of the notches where the hoses hang to reduce the possibility of damage.

Finally, Spurlock built and mounted a wooden box with a hinged cover to one end of the post to keep quick coupler valves, nozzles, fittings, wetting agent canisters, etc., organized and close to the hoses.

The cost for the materials from an outlet lumber yard was about \$350, the PVC pipe was in stock, and labor took about 16 hours. **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.