



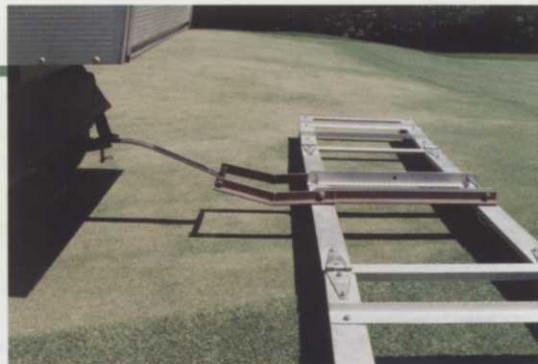
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Travels With Terry

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.

WHAT A DRAG

A Standard Golf Co. topdressing drag mat model 52000 hitch with two model 52050 extensions was modified so it could be hooked up to the Club Car Carry All II trailer hitch. This modification was designed and built by Jeff Brothers, head mechanic at the Bald Peak Colony Club in Melvin Village, N.H., where Todd Pollini is the superintendent. A 1¼-inch angle iron (¼-inch thick) was bolted to the existing angle iron on the drag mat with one ½-inch diameter by 12-inch long bolt/lockwasher/nut on the back end and with two ½-inch diameter by 1¼-inch long bolts/lockwashers/nuts on the front end. The angle iron on the front end was cut into a V-shaped angle with a torch; it was then bent upwards into a 30-degree angle and welded in place. The black hitch that came with the drag mat was bolted to the end of the new angle iron with one ½-inch diameter by 12-inch long bolt/lockwasher/nut and then it was hooked up to the turf vehicle hitch with a hitch pin and clasp. The modification took about one hour and it cost about \$50 in materials.



A CLEAN SWEEP

At the Butterfield Trails Golf Club in El Paso, Texas, head mechanic Joe Perez and assistant mechanic Nick Guillen designed and built a John Deere TC 125 Collection System that uses eight conventional-type street brooms. Instead of replacing the broom heads when the bristles wear down, a 1-inch by 1-inch thick piece of oak wood is bolted to the top end of the broom as a "spacer" to compensate for the wear of the bristles. This worthwhile practice allows a much longer life of the broom heads, which saves approximately \$100 per set of four – \$200 total in replacement costs. The reusable 1-inch by 1-inch "spacers" have two 3/8-inch diameter holes drilled in them and the ¼-inch diameter existing bolts are replaced with bolts 1 ½ inches longer. The materials cost about \$15 and the total labor time was approximately one hour. **GCI**

