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## EQUIPMENT IDEAS

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**A**t the Sharon Golf Club in Sharon Center, Ohio, the maintenance crew tows grass trailers behind five-plex fairway mowers, even while they're operating because of the circular mowing pattern. The operators stop mowing when the grass catchers are full and dump the contents into the grass trailer, then they resume mowing. The crew uses three fairway mowers at the same time, mowing nine holes (12 acres), which takes about three hours a day.

Each trailer is equipped with a broom to disperse the grass clippings that drop from the mower rollers, a roller scraper, divot mix containers and engineer flags to mark damaged sprinkler heads.

The grass trailers feature a 42-inch-by-48-inch trailer chassis, 16-inch-by-6.5-inch-by-8-inch turf tires, a leaf spring suspension, a 3/4-inch-thick marine plywood floor (the crew painted the plywood with a latex enamel paint), 24-inch-high sides and a rear vertical sliding gate. The 1/8-inch steel rear gate has a 1-inch channel along the edges to strengthen it. The crew made the trailer ball hitch, which is welded to the rear of each fairway mower, with 2-inch-square tubing bent in two places and a 1 7/8-inch ball bolted to it.

Frank Dobie, general manager and golf course superintendent, and David Willmott, senior assistant superintendent, and Gary Bogdanski, equipment manager, devised the grass trailer concept.

The materials cost less than \$300, and it took about 20 hours to build each one.



### 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.

### Stay put

**T**he golf course at the TPC Potomac (Md.) at Avenel Farm was reconstructed recently. Chad Adcock, golf course superintendent, worked with Dennis Ingram, a PGA Tour agronomist, and came up with a unique idea to keep metal stakes that hold bunker liners in place from moving upward, which is caused by freezing and thawing cycles. With the stakes glued to the bunker liner, they become one unit and can move together, instead of the metal stakes moving upward on their own.

First, the bunker liner is installed per the manufacturer's recommendations with all of the seams glued or bonded together. The metal stakes then are inserted into the liner on 12-inch centers. Liberally applying Liquid Nails, or any high-quality marine adhesive, to the surface and on the top of the stakes holds the liner and stakes together. Once the glue dries, bunker sand can be installed.

Liquid Nails costs about \$5.39 a tube, which is enough for two to three average size bunkers, totaling about 5,000 square feet.

Once the staff is trained properly, there's no appreciable extra labor needed to apply the glue. This process can work in any climate. **GCI**

