



Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, is president of Golf Agronomy International. He's a 41-year, life member of the GCSAA. He can be reached at 757-561-7777 or terrybuchen@earthlink.net.

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.

GREENS BLOWER

Chan Yen Hung, golf course manager at the Discovery Bay Golf Club in Hong Kong, China, built a greens blower system for blowing and dragging dry topdressing sand into the cored aerifier holes. A used Rogers Windfoil Sprayer Boom Shroud measuring 80-inches long was modified to 60 inches by cutting 10 inches from both sides. Two-inch high aluminum angle bars (1/4-inch thick, costing \$20) are used to construct the platform frames holding the two Maruyama backpack blowers (along with bungee cords) in place. Two 3-inch diameter holes were drilled in the top of each end of the shroud and two 3-inch diameter PVC 90-degree elbows were installed for each blower discharge hose to fit into. Underneath, four pieces of 1-inch by 55-inch (1/4-inch thick) aluminum angle bar (\$20) were used to install/bolt the two 54-inch Standard Golf Replacement Topdressing Drag Brushes (\$80) after the sprayer wheels had been removed. The two backpack blowers are used for other normal duties when not being used on this implement. About 16 labor hours were used to modify the unit and some of the materials were already in stock. This invention, now called Aerobrush, is being manufactured by Premier Turf of Hong Kong. It was displayed at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego.



CURB APPEAL

At the Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, Md., Dean M. Graves, CGCS, golf course manager, and greenkeepers Kebede Mezmur and Benjamin Torres built these decorative flagstone curbs along their cart paths to control vehicular traffic wear on the turf when making turns. The flagstone pieces are approximately 12 inches by 12 inches by 2 inches, where a 12-inch-deep trench is dug then filled with pea gravel to give support and to prevent winter heaving. Then the flagstone is placed vertically 4 inches in the ground. The cart path is 4-inches thick and it sticks 4 inches above the cart path and both ends are tapered to the ground contours. Topsoil is then placed up against the flagstone and then sodded over the top; a mower deck can mow over the top of the flagstone. If a piece of flagstone breaks from being hit by a vehicle, it can be easily replaced and it will match the surrounding stones. The flagstone looks very



natural next to the concrete cart paths and it blends in nicely.

The flagstone is approximately \$3.75 per foot, the pea gravel is already in stock and it's a nominal cost. It takes two staff members about eight hours to build a 50- to 75-foot curb depending upon the soil conditions and cart path edge. **GCI**