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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.

CART CONTROL

Golf cart traffic control has been made a lot more functional with these decorative, customized 4" x 4" posts that were manufactured in-house. This idea replaced the traditional ropes and stakes, which are spread out much wider and they provide the same cart control affect with impressive aesthetic appeal. Greg Goecker, 1st assistant; Chris Hedberg, 2nd assistant; and David J. Soltvedt, CGCS, of The Ridge at Castle Pines North in Castle Rock, Colo., managed by Troon Golf, teamed up to design the 4" x 4" x 12" posts, which have a 30-degree angle cut on each side's top portion, with a 3/8"-diameter rebar for holding it vertically into the turf. The posts are then stained and sealed with a wood preservative, which ensures they will hold-up extremely well to irrigation cycles and last for several years. The Brand-First Branding Iron (www.brand-first.com), which puts the club's customized logo onto the top portion of the posts, is a Model BF200-L that costs \$300. The wood costs about \$80 and the stain and wood preservatives cost another \$80. The initial process involved an efficient assembly line process that took about 40 hours from start to finish.



THE MIX MASTER

This homemade pre-mix tank used for mixing water soluble fertilizers, to speedup the mixing and loading process, was conceived by David L. Smith, superintendent; built by James Lee, irrigation technician; and assisted by Alan Brissette, foreman, at the Fawn Lake C.C. in Spotsylvania, Va. The used 500-gallon tank costs \$300 and the valves, fittings, trash pump and lumber were already in stock and it took about one day to build. The tank is filled from the irrigation system through a 2"-diameter PVC irrigation swing joint that swivels over the top of the 500-gallon tank fill-up opening. The 2"-diameter, 4-HP Honda trash pump agitates the mix through 1"-diameter PVC "ports" inside and on top of the tank. Then a series of valves are opened and closed as it transfers the chemical to the sprayer fill-opening through the same swing arm. Another unique feature is that quick-connect couplers are hooked-up to the hoses and pipes so the trash pump can be easily removed to be used on the course. **GCI**

