

by
JOHN
WALSH

I've had enough of this. I'm going to look for another job." Most likely, there have been golf course superintendents who've uttered these words. Some even went through with it. Many have not.

Stress, caused by dealing with golfers and working long hours, contributes to burnout among superintendents. Not every superintendent burns out, but they all have to deal with stress.

Mike Bavier Sr., CGCS, at Inverness (Ill.) Golf Club, says he never felt burned out during his career, and if he felt like that, it was a fleeting moment of wanting to do something else.

"It only lasted a week or month, usually during a hot, busy summer," he says. "But then I realized I better stay. I don't drag myself out of bed to come to work. I get out there, see the sun come up and cut grass. That makes it fun. We have the ability to make things green and make people happy. I tell people if they don't like getting up in the morning, don't take the job."

But Mike Brown, CGCS, green superintendent at Starmount Forest Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., has experienced stress-related and boredom burnout. Brown, who's been at Starmount for nine years and in the industry 16 years, experienced stress-related burnout when he was involved in rebuilding Starmount's golf course during 1999 and 2000.

"Many people warned me it would be worse going through the first year after the course was done," he says. "There were two years of high stress. I went from one crisis to another. I felt like I was never on top of a situation."

"But one thing I found was to take a step back and make sure there was enough time for Mike Brown," he adds. "I played basketball, and some days, there's nothing better than committing some hard fouls with friends."

Brown's boredom burnout came after the renovation was complete.

"I coasted for one year when things evened out," he says. "Looking back at that hectic time, I realized I was never more alive, but I didn't appreciate it then. I eventually settled into a routine and was unmotivated because everything ran itself. I felt like I wasn't using my creative, energetic ideas."

"Hard work pays off, but there's a limit. Work smarter, not harder."

- DON HEARN, CGCS

Dealing with golfers

Perhaps the biggest element of a superintendent's job that can wear him down is dealing with golfers. Don Hearn, CGCS, who's been at Vesper Country Club in Tyngsboro, Mass., for four years, says he's been frustrated when dealing with the vocal minority.

"That gets me down," he says. "Club memberships don't appreciate the guys that work on the courses. They're seen as an inconvenience. Most superintendents I speak to love the technical aspects of the job but are frustrated with the demands of the players. That makes going to work difficult. The demands now are much higher than when I first got into the business. It's taken the desire out of a lot of superintendents."

"Players want X, and they don't care what it costs," he adds. "But money isn't always the solution. It's hard to reason with some golfers because they're not interested in science – just the end result. It's tough to win an argument with an ignorant person."

A lot of pressure is put on superintendents when something doesn't come out well, Hearn says.

"The demands of members and the way members act get the younger superintendents down, and it won't change in their generation," he says. "As soon as they get into the business, they're finding this out. Twenty years ago, people were more respectful and less demanding. Young superintendents are experiencing a hard-ass attitude from members."

Hearn, who's been a superintendent for 35 years, reminds assistants the course isn't theirs. He tells them not to get upset with the amount of money in the budget and to do the best job they can with the money they have to work with.

"Don't think if you work 93 hours a week, the members will appreciate it because they don't know," he tells assistants. "They just know about the end product. Hard work pays off, but there's a limit. Work smarter, not harder."

Hearn says that wasn't always his philosophy. That realization came when he was asked to leave The Weston (Mass.) Golf Club where he worked for many years prior to Vesper.

Riley Stottern, CGCS, vice president of agronomy at the 18-hole SunRiver Saint George (Utah) Golf Club and partner with Resort Golf Management, says there came a time when he, too, realized a project or golf course wasn't his.

"Younger superintendents put a lot of time into a project or course, but it's the owner's and members' course and project, not theirs," he says. "Members don't care how many hours you put in as long as the course looks good."

Bavier says members travel all over the country to play golf and they come back with many ideas for their golf courses and superintendents have to explain why they do the things they do.

"One challenge is to address your critics," he says. "If someone is complaining about the greens, the challenge is to talk to them and give your side of the story. You can't ignore members. You need to talk to them face to face."

Mixing it up

Breaking up the monotony of the job can help prevent burnout. The 62-year-old Stottern says he's always had construction projects to work on in addition to maintaining golf courses. Stottern says he's worked for owners who have wanted to improve their courses.

"When I've been at a course, that's what I've wanted to do – large and small construction projects," he says. "It's peaked my interest. I don't have the fire with just day-to-day maintenance. I'm always looking for that creativity. I've built four golf courses while being a superintendent."

Bavier says being active in associations, coming up with new ideas, attending the Golf Industry Show and becoming certified



Hearn

keep superintendents sharp. Brown agrees.

"I realized I was no longer a young 30-something up-and-comer," Brown says. "I was established, so I became involved with the Carolinas GCSA. This year I'm immediate past president. I'm also chairman for the academic advisory council to the turfgrass program at Gilbert Technical College. I'm also looking to establish a First Tee program."

The 44-year-old Brown believes personal growth should never end and wants to move to the next level of management.

"I want to become a general manager and carry the CCM and the CGCS designations," he says. "I have always had an excellent rapport with the g.m., chairman and board. I work for good people who believe in that type of growth."

The g.m. position at Starmount is open, and Brown says he's one of the candidates.

"My role and responsibility might increase even if I don't get the g.m. position," he says.

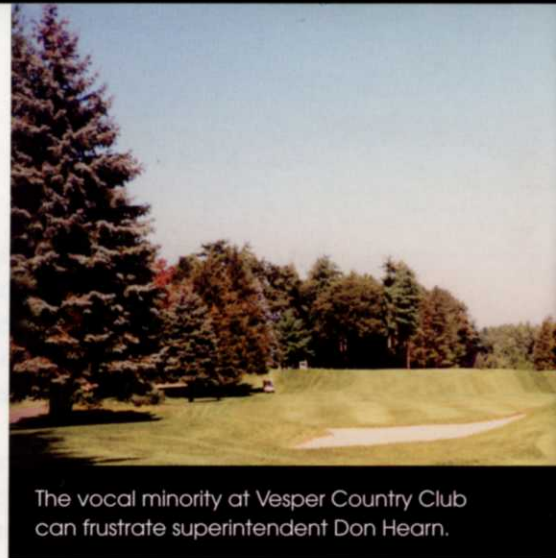
Dole it out

Delegation is another way to help relieve stress and prevent burnout. Stottern, who's been at SunRiver Saint George six years, suggests superintendents give some of their staff more responsibility. But he says there's an abundance of good superintendents who stress about someone taking their job for less money.

"Build your staff with quality people so while you're gone, things don't fall apart," he says.

Bavier says young superintendents are always challenging the older superintendents, asking them to do things differently.

"They're keeping me on my toes, and they keep me thinking," he says. "You have to be



The vocal minority at Vesper Country Club can frustrate superintendent Don Hearn.

up with them, or they'll take your job in some situations."

The 62-year-old Bavier says he'll phase himself out but won't retire.

"At the end of this year, the assistant superintendent will take over for me, and he'll run the show; but I will be here to help," he says.

Brown says the secret to his success is that he surrounds himself with young, energetic types who want his job. His position involves an executive-style management.

"I get here at 8:30 or 9 a.m.," he says. "I work more bankers-style hours because that's what the club requires. My assistants get the crew moving in the morning. I plan the entire next day for everyone in a meeting with my assistants every day."

Time off

Stottern, who's been in the industry 36 years, says there's a lot of burnout and many divorces in the industry because superintendents spend too much time at the golf course and forget the priorities in life. He says it's good for people to take their full allotment of vacation.

"You have to take a weekend off," he says. "I work long hours five days a week and take two days off, and the assistant takes two days off a week. I've seen guys work seven days a week, and they're just fried because they take no time off at all."

"Superintendents should play golf at other people's courses and look at someone else's problems," he adds. "Superintendents always look for the worst on their course and never look for the good. If you play your own course, it will stress you out even more."

Bavier hasn't taken any extended time off during the summer because the golf season in Illinois is short and he needs face time with members on Saturdays and Sundays, even though it's a pain for his family. But in the winter, he travels.

"I look forward to getting away in the win-

"Don't be afraid to vent.
Nothing is perfect."

- MIKE BAVIER SR., CGCS





Photo: Vesper Country Club

ter," he says. "I've been able to travel a lot."
Superintendents should pursue their other interests and be involved with their families, Bavier says.

"People always have to make a choice of the family or their job coming first," he says. "Well, they all come first, but you need to give them equal time."

Hearn says he never took a vacation, but has taken an extra few days off around the Golf Industry Show.

"I left tons of vacation on the table with Weston," he says. "No one told me I couldn't take the vacation. Now I take more time off during the off-season. In the summer, I work 5.5 days a week. More times than not I can do that unless there's a tournament."

Hearn tells the younger superintendents to take more time off.

"Many of the guys are working seven days a week and feel they can't leave the golf course, and I understand that," he says. "You should have an assistant that can run things. The course should still run if you're sick or aren't there. Share the load on weekends. Take time off. The club will still be there."

Brown says his staff is large and sophisticated enough to allow him to take a vacation in August.

"If a guy is off one week, he is more valuable for two weeks than having a burned-out guy for three weeks," he says.

Blow off steam

Bavier recommends speaking with neighboring superintendents to help blow off steam. He says he used to meet once or twice a week with other superintendents.

"Superintendents need to talk to their comrades," he says. "Don't be afraid to vent. Nothing is perfect."

Brown blows off steam a few days after the Carolinas GCSA show by hanging out in smoky jazz clubs for four nights in New York with the Starmount g.m.

"It's a great stress reliever because it's so far from golf," he says. GCN

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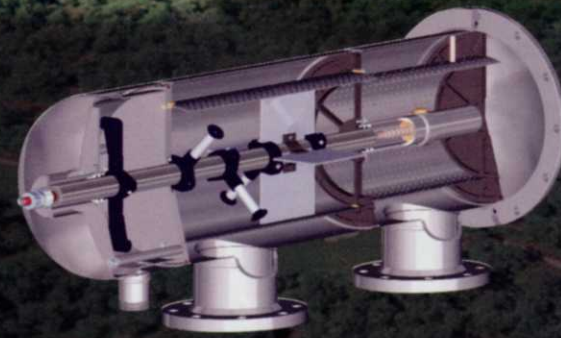
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A DRIVING RANGE CAN HELP INCREASE PARTICIPATION, ENHANCE GOLFER SATISFACTION AND GENERATE REVENUE

by ROB THOMAS

As golf facilities try to increase revenue in crowded and competitive markets, some are converting unused land into driving ranges, which can add dollars to the bottom line.

While revenue is immediately advantageous, the added benefit might be an increased customer base for years to come. Advanced golfers often are side-by-side with novice players, and even their children, because skill doesn't deter players from visiting the driving range.

Much has changed since the addition of a driving range at the nine-hole Sugar Creek Golf Course in Villa Park, Ill., according to general manager Dave Anderson.

"We noticed a whole different type of customer," he says. "People who don't necessarily play a lot of golf ... bring their families, their kids. They're new customers. It's another way of growing the business. It creates more enthusiasm and excitement. People come in to eat at the grill or have a beer at the bar. It's the extra stuff that adds on."

Sugar Creek – a joint venture between the Elmhurst Park District and Village of Villa Park, with a golf committee overseeing operations – took advantage of an abandoned school on neighboring land.

"There was an opportunity to purchase property adjacent to the golf course," Anderson says. "They took a look at it and decided to purchase it."

In the West, Incline Village on Lake Tahoe in Nevada recently opened a new driving range with pitched target greens – ranging from 75 to 200 yards – and sand bunkers. It makes great business sense to have a range, according to Jake Bader, head golf pro at Incline Village's 18-hole Championship Course.

"Every single facility needs a driving range," he says. "If there's no driving range, it takes away from the enjoyment."

If players are able to properly stretch out on the range, they can lessen the chance of

Business booster

The ability to warm up at a driving range before a round of golf provides the added benefit of golfers reducing the chance of injury.



The driving range at Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club has the added feature of the Grand Tetons serving as a backdrop.

Photo: Vail Resorts Development Co.

injuring themselves. Economically, a range can generate profit. Of the golfers using the range at Incline Village, 70 percent are playing the course, according to Bader. He says the other 30 percent are stopping to hit a bucket of balls on their lunch break or just practicing. Many of them purchase golf gloves, tees, beverages, etc., at the range, which adds to the bottom line.

The Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming moved its driving range because of a renovation of 66 bunkers, 20 tee boxes and an irrigation system. A driving range is a necessity at the semiprivate 18-hole Jackson Hole course, according to Pat Donovan, vice president of club development at Vail Resorts.

"It's not an option to not have a driving range," he says. "Golfers expect to be able to warm up and practice. To not have that, we wouldn't be able to represent ourselves as a high-end course."

The range, with target greens and all-grass tees, is scheduled to open this summer. The new range is much the same as the old range, with one exception – added length, according to Donovan.

"We extended the range to accommodate today's technology," he says.

But adding length wasn't an option at Sugar Creek. Being a confined space – 300-feet wide and 600-feet deep – the land-locked site needed creative solutions. Contractors cleared the property, and golf course architect firm Martin Design Partnership of Batavia, Ill., provided a blueprint. Netting is tiered to reach a maximum height of 100 feet at the back of the range. The golf course sits behind the range and to one side. A residence is on the other side. Additionally, the range uses restricted-flight balls (10-percent shorter), which lose speed sooner than regulation balls.

The range has four target greens at 80, 100, 140 and 170 yards and features 30

divided hitting stations with 10 feet reserved for each section. Artificial turf mats are used in the stalls for daily play. There's a 20-yard area of grass in front of the mats used mainly for instruction.

"The length of the range is our concern," Anderson says.

There's also a practice bunker at the end of the tee line for golfers to work on their games from the sand.

Traffic, which has been good the first year according to Anderson, is enhanced by several instructional programs, including a program for junior golfers that has more than 350 participants. Sugar Creek also offers private instruction.

Promoting golf

Growing the game is also a priority for Todd Sickles, general manager at Diamond Mountain Golf Course in Susanville, Calif. Diamond Mountain, an 18-hole public course that formerly was a nine-hole course known as Emerson Golf Course, added a driving range and practice facility in addition to nine holes, cart paths and 100 trees.

"It promotes golf," Sickles says of the driving range. "We live in a community where we need to develop rounds of golf. If you look at Pebble Beach, they don't need a driving range because they've got rounds piled up."

The range at Diamond Mountain has 30 concrete hitting stations and 15 to 20 yards of grass tees with five target greens.

Like Anderson, Sickles implemented junior and adult programs to promote the game.

Budget concerns

With a tight budget, a considerable part of the planning process at Sugar Creek was keeping the cost at a minimum, according to Anderson. That was done by limiting labor costs. Sugar Creek uses a ball

washer/dispenser to eliminate a step in the operating process. Range customers can pay with an e-key – a magnetized prepay key that takes credits from an account. Seasonal memberships – good from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, weather permitting – are available for \$350.

As for purchase programs available, customers can buy 10 small baskets of balls for \$35 and get a bonus basket, or purchase as many as 30 small baskets for \$105 and receive 12 bonus baskets.

Small (35 balls for \$3.50), medium (70 balls for \$7) and large (105 balls for \$10.50) baskets are available for purchase via tokens.

Over time, the range will pay for itself, Anderson says.

The grow-in of the range was done by hand. Anderson says the staff got lucky during construction because there was good weather in the fall of 2004. With the drought conditions of 2005, the Sugar Creek staff was forced to hand-water because there was no irrigation installed.

Most courses in the area where Sugar Creek is located don't have a driving range, according to Anderson. He says their initial research showed Sugar Creek was the first to have a range within a five-mile radius.

"Compared to other nine-hole facilities, there aren't many that offer the full amenities we have here," he says. "It makes us unique."

Whether the plan is to increase revenue, add participation or enhance golfer satisfaction, a driving range can help drive business. GCN

Photo: Vail Resorts Development Co.



High-end courses like Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club are expected to have driving ranges available for golfers, according to Pat Donovan.

Seeding, sprigging or sodding?

PROPER MATERIAL SELECTION AND CARE ARE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL TURFGRASS ESTABLISHMENT REGARDLESS OF THE METHOD USED



Sodding greens, once considered a poor choice, is now more popular.

by
**KEVIN
J. ROSS,
CGCS**

*Photographs also
by Kevin J. Ross*

Establishing a new turfgrass stand, whether on a new golf course or during a renovation project, is one of the most important areas of concern for a golf course superintendent. No matter what type of establishment technique is used (seeding, sprigging or sodding), many procedures are similar and produce first-class results. Achieving maximum turfgrass establishment makes a project successful from the beginning.

Planting window

The first principle to consider during the germination and initial growth phase, by seeding or sprigging of any turfgrass species, is the planting window – the time when soil and air temperatures are at their optimal level for germination and initial growth. This period encompasses the time from initial seeding and sprigging to the time of the first mowing. It can be four to eight weeks long.

When establishing by sodding, this planting window isn't such an important factor.

Whether dealing with cool- or warm-season species, the planting window varies throughout the country. It's important to establish the dates of the planting window, and then design the project to hit the time frames as close as possible. However, in the real world of construction and renovation, many superintendents realize it's difficult to accomplish. Even the best plans encounter poor weather conditions, material problems and design changes, which add up to delays and trying to establish turfgrass outside the planting window.

Maturation window

The second principle of establishing a turfgrass stand – after germination and the initial growth stage – is the maturation window, which is when turfgrass becomes established enough to support traffic and be a playable surface for golf. Many refer to this as the grow-in stage, which isn't accurate. Nonagronomists believe the grow-in stage is finished when there's complete turfgrass cover. This isn't the case. A more mature plant is needed to support golf traffic. The maturation window is much longer than the germination and initial growth period. Depending on the method, maturation can be as short as three or four weeks for sodding and as long as six months for seeding.

Seed establishment

The most popular choice for turfgrass establishment is seeding. However, not all grasses (especially warm-season ones) produce seed and must be established vegetatively. Seeding is the fastest and easiest method of planting a turfgrass stand, yet it has its share of disadvantages.

A big concern is the initial care. Watering is critical with all methods but is most critical during the longest period of time with seeded turf. Initial watering is needed for the seed to imbibe water, swell, crack open and have root radicle emergence. This time varies among different species, from as little as seven days to as long as 28 days. The faster the seed is able to accomplish this, the quicker a seedling plant will emerge. At the time of radicle emergence, the seedling plant is in its most delicate form. Watering at this time can't be underestimated. A tiny root is responsible for the water uptake and survival of the new seedling plant. Just an hour or two of hot and windy conditions can be disastrous. Many times this is when seeding failure occurs.

A big drawback with seeding is the susceptibility to erosion from wind and water. Even when protective mulches are used, nothing can match a bout with Mother Nature. Areas of channeling-type washouts can occur, as well as a floating and movement of seed with no soil wash. Floating tends to redistribute the seed and leave areas with high and low concentrations of seed.

Another result of erosion problems is

the contamination of different species. For example, if a fairway is seeded with creeping bentgrass, and the seed washes/floats into the rough area, which is Kentucky Bluegrass, it becomes contaminated. This becomes a playability problem with almost no control options. This doesn't occur with sod and rarely occurs with sprigging.

Also, some seeded species take a long time to mature. For example, Kentucky Bluegrass, a popular species for rough areas, has a slow establishment rate. Even with optimal germination, it can take 14 to 21 days, and maturation can take as long as six months.

Although often overlooked, wind also can cause problems with seeded areas. Depending on location, consistent high winds can make it almost impossible to keep the upper surface moist. As the surface dries, wind can carry seed easily.

Another benefit of seeding is cost – it's the cheapest method of establishing turfgrass. However, those cost savings can disappear if a few problems occur. The cost of repairing an area once or twice from a major washout can nullify the initial savings. This also can be a problem from an environmental standpoint, creating siltation issues with water sources.

Sod establishment

An establishment method gaining popularity is sodding. Years ago, sod was hardly considered, and sodding an entire golf course was out of the question. However,



Young turfgrass seedlings require extensive care.

turfgrass establishment



Sprigging is the common method of establishing warm-season grasses, but sodding (inset left) continues to gain popularity with golf course construction. The advent of big roll sod (inset right) has made sodding much faster and easier.

it's much more commonplace. Sod use originally started as a method to combat erosion problems on steep-sloped areas such as bunkers, pond bankings, and green and tee surrounds. They were initially wrapped with three to four feet of sod to help guard against erosion and provide better definition. When the benefits became apparent, sodded areas continued to grow, encompassing entire pond banks and green, tee and bunker complexes.

As sodding popularity grew, the next step was sodding entire golf courses. Although this is an unusual practice, it's becoming more popular. The major drawback of sodding is cost. Depending on the species, sod can range from as cheap as \$0.20 per square foot to as expensive as \$2.00 per square foot installed. Furthermore, obtaining quality sod isn't easy. Many projects are forced to use poor-quality sod because it might be the only kind available. Some of the common problems with poor sod quality are *Poa annua* contamination and excess thatch.

Another problem, which is often overlooked (especially when sodding greens), is the compatibility of the material the sod is grown on. When two materials aren't compatible, layering occurs, often resulting in a lack of rooting. This compatibility problem spurred the development and use of washed sod (soil/sandless) for greens. Washed sod has many success stories but also has its share of problems. Although there's no layering problem, rooting can be difficult because the material dries quickly.

Layering problems are rare when adding a soil-based sod to a soil-based area, such as fairways and rough. Many projects have sod custom-grown to their specifications.

This occurs about a year in advance, while dirt work takes place on the course. This custom-grown approach usually results in minimal problems and guarantees great sod quality for success.

Two benefits of sodding are the virtual elimination of washouts and the speed the golf course matures. Many feel these factors alone outweigh the cost. Opening months earlier can mean generating revenue more quickly. Practically eliminating washouts also can mean a cost savings from the extra money used to repair washouts. However, sod wash can happen when rooting hasn't developed and a hard rain occurs.

Sprigging

Most warm-season grasses aren't seed producers and must be established through sodding or sprigging. Sprigs are small plant parts, which usually contain rhizomes or stolons. Sprigs are produced from tearing turf into plant parts. The sprigs then are kept under controlled conditions and shipped to the site. This is the first major hurdle of sprigging. High-quality sprigs, clean of orphan grasses, are critical for success. Once sprigs are planted, new plants are developed from the nodes that start to grow and produce roots and shoots. The young plants develop additional plants, and as they mature, a sod-forming turf occurs.

Watering also is critical for successful sprigging, however, the initial watering might be the most critical. From the immediate time when sprigs are cut in the ground, for about a seven-day period, watering is vital. The small plant parts can dry down and die quickly. Watering sprigs starts immediately after planting and may be

watered as often as every 20 to 30 minutes. This is the time that most often dictates successful sprigging.

While sprigs aren't as susceptible to washouts and floating, it still can happen. When sprig floating occurs, sprigs tend to dry up and die, eliminating potential contamination problems. Sprigging costs much more than seeding but not as high as sodding, ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per acre.

Combination

A seed/sod or sprig/sod combination to establish a turfgrass stand is the standard method that has evolved. The two combine the best of both worlds while keeping costs under control. With a seed/sod or sprig/sod method, sod would be laid around green and tee surrounds, bunkers and erosion prone areas, while seed or sprigs would be used for the other areas. The amount of sod used would vary. The low end might be only a couple acres of sod. The high end might be as much as 25 to 30 acres. This method has provided great results.

Successful establishment

Regardless of the method used for establishing turfgrass, they all can be successful with the proper material selection and care. An important factor for success is to obtain quality/certified seed, sprigs or sod. The second is water management, which will determine the success of turfgrass establishment. GCN

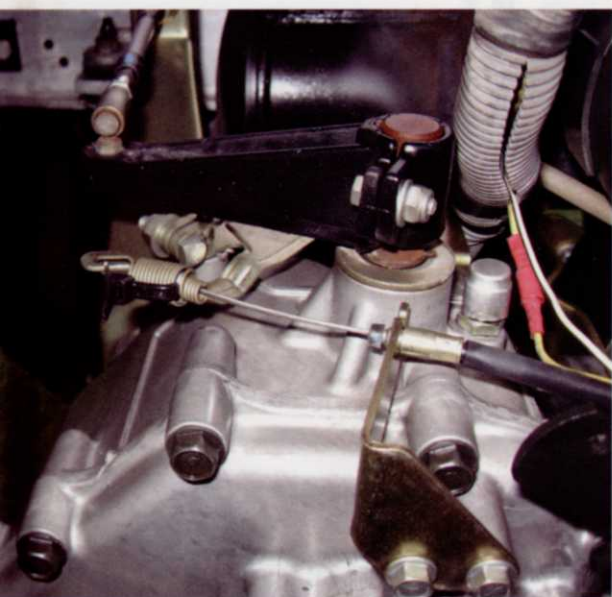
Kevin J. Ross, CGCS, is director of golf course management at Country Club of the Rockies, Vail, Colo., and president of Ross Golf Agronomy. He can be reached at kjross@vail.net.

travels with TERRY



Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, is president of Golf Agronomy International. He's a 35-year member of the GCSAA and can be reached at terrybuchen@earthlink.net.

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.



The need for speed

Patrick S. McHugh, CGCS, director of golf course and community maintenance at the Boca Grove Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., wanted to increase the speed of the Club Car Turf 2 utility vehicles he, his supervisors and equipment manager use when touring the club's golf course and grounds. Equipment manager Mike Lukz heard about a new way to increase the speed of the vehicles used by the supervisors – not the regular maintenance staff – from Chet Waddell, equipment manager at The Polo Club of Boca Raton: By increasing the size of the rear wheels and tires, the ground speed of the vehicles could be increased. Originally, Waddell used 8-inch-by-5-inch wheels with 20-inch-by-10.5-inch-by-8-inch turf tires from a Scag zero-turn-radius mower on the rear of the Club Car Turf 2 vehicle.

Club Car uses a speed-control device on the rear axle that acts as a mechanical governor. Sometimes a mechanic or someone on the maintenance staff will use a wire tie (pictured) or bend the brackets to limit the spring travel forcing the cables to pull the carburetor to a wide open position. When operated in a wide-open position, the engine will reach its maximum revolutions-per-minute range quickly, at which point the electronic governor interrupts the ignition system killing the spark to the coil, causing the revolutions per minute to surge up and down while traveling at top speed. This protection is sometimes bypassed to stop the surging and to gain more speed leaving the engine to rev freely beyond its capability, which can result in catastrophic engine failure.

By using a larger rear tire, the drive ratio is changed between the engine and the ground, allowing for a much higher ground speed with a lower engine rpm. This method allows for the vehicle to go as fast as 18 mph using the unmodified speed control spring and as fast as 24 mph when limiting the speed control's spring travel. Modified or unmodified, the larger tires provide a speed increase without tampering with the engine's rpm limiter, keeping the over-rev protection in tact.

Because the aforementioned Scag rims are somewhat expensive, Lukz uses 8-inch-by-4-inch rims with a 4-on-4-inch lug pattern and 22-inch-by-11.5-inch-by-8-inch four-ply tires. The narrower rim size compresses the tire width enough to clear the leaf springs and brake cables while allowing the tallest tire (8-inch rim size) available.

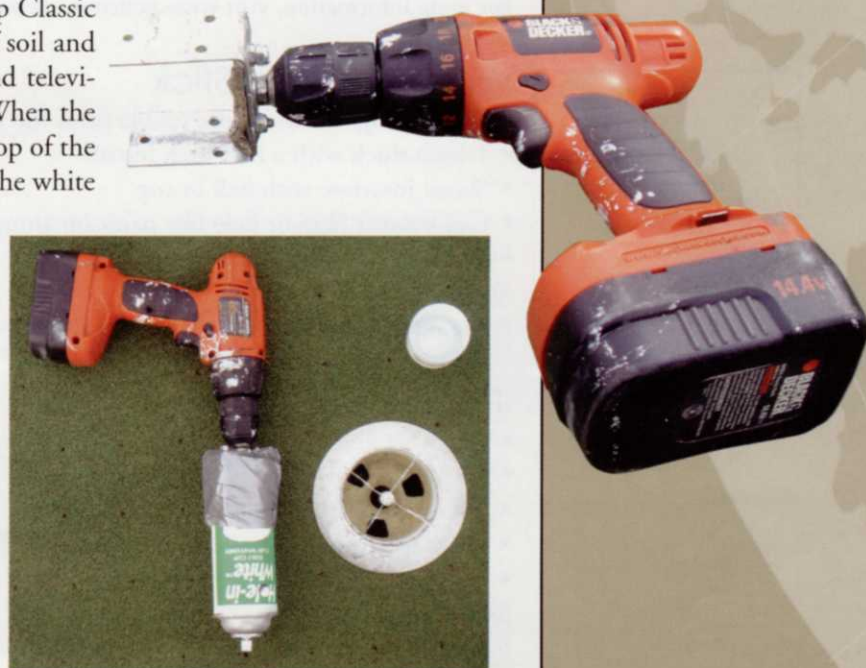
Paint it white

Sean Duffy, CGCS, at The Club at Twin Eagles in Naples, Fla., hosts The ACE Group Classic on the Champions Tour annually in February. During the event, the top one inch of soil and thatch/organic matter above the hole liners (cups) is painted white so the players and television viewers can see the cups more easily. Hole-in-White Golf Cup Turf Whitener is used. When the Hole-in-White aerosol can is inserted upside down into the metal bracket that fits into the top of the 4 1/4-inch-diameter cup, the can is pushed down and turned with a flip of a wrist to spread the white paint around the cup.

Martin Rojas, a member of the Twin Eagle's maintenance staff, wanted to apply the paint better and more evenly. He came up with the idea of attaching the aerosol can to a metal bracket that attaches to an electric, cordless drill.

The two L-shape brackets, which were bought at The Home Depot in the doors and knobs department, were attached together to form a U-shape bracket. Rojas drilled a hole in the middle of the brackets joined together and used nuts and a bolt to attach the brackets to the cordless drill adjustable bit holder. He also attached nuts and bolts in the existing three holes in the brackets to help secure them. The aerosol can slips smoothly into the U-shape bracket. It's secured to the bracket with duct tape.

To prepare applying the whitener, a cotton towel is measured to fit and placed around the cup so the whitener isn't accidentally sprayed onto the turf. The aerosol can is pushed down to release the whitener simultaneously as the variable speed of the cordless drill is adjusted as needed to apply the whitener quickly and evenly. GCN



473P backpack sprayer

- 3-gallon capacity
- Weighs 7 pounds at dry weight
- Equipped with a 90-psi piston pump
- High-density polyethylene tank
- 28-inch wand has commercial shut-off valve
- Wand has three-position latch and a 48-inch hose
- Nozzle assortment includes a flat fan, hollow cone and jet stream
- Adjustable, padded shoulder straps

Solo

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OvoControl

- Automatic feeders means reduced management time
- Low concentration (0.25 percent nicarbazin) ensures uniform application
- Proven effective in a USDA study
- Prevents resident goose population from growing

Innolytics, LLC

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Swing-Wing verticutter

- 59-inch cutting width
- Pivoting outer arms allow blades to follow contour of ground more closely, avoiding scalping
- Blades are fitted in reverse rotation to slice cleanly through turf
- Deep-scalloped design prevent blades from becoming clogged
- Cuts as deep as 1.5 inches
- Drive belts are fitted with idler pulleys for retensioning
- Hinged inspection doors allow access for inspection and maintenance

Graden

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Cool Cap canopy

- Metal substructure strengthens canopy
- Provides protection from sun rays
- Economical, durable and available in any color
- Available in three sizes: 36 inches by 42 inches, 45 inches by 52 inches and 57 inches by 64 inches
- Choose from fixed or easy-off bracket

Westendorf Manufacturing Co.

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews.com/reader service #203.



Wood-grain FatStick

- Bigger, brighter and more visible from the fairway
- 1-inch thick with a half-inch ferrule
- Won't interfere with ball in cup
- Color won't chip or fade like paint on aluminum poles
- Meets all USGA regulations

Standard Golf

For more information, visit www.golfcoursenews.com/reader service #204.

IPM Scope digital camera

- Identifies and tracks plant pests and disease pressures
- Magnifies images 40 to 140 times
- User can view live images on computer screen
- Saves still images, movies and time lapse
- User can draw directly on live image

Spectrum Technologies

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FEBRUARY 2006

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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2. What is your primary business at this location? (check one)

- 21-Public Golf Course
- 22-Private Golf Course
- 23-Semi Private Golf Course
- 24-Municipal/City/State Golf Course
- 25-Hotel/Resort
- 26-Par3/Executive Golf Course
- 27-Practice Facility
- 29-Other Golf Course
- 30-Golf Course Management Company
- 31-Golf Course Architect
- 32-Golf Course Developer
- 33-Golf Course Builder
- 39-Supplier/Sales
- 99- Others (please describe)

3. What best describes your title?

- A-Golf Course Superintendent
- B-Green Chairman
- C-Director of Golf/Head Pro
- D-Club President
- E-General Manager
- F-Golf Course Owner
- G-Builder/Developer
- H-Architect/Engineer
- I-Research Professional
- K-Assistant Superintendent
- L-Golf Course Management Company Executive
- Z-Others (please describe)

4. Number of Holes: (check one)

- A-9 Holes
- B-18 Holes
- C-27 Holes
- D-36 Holes
- E-Other

6. Total Annual Maintenance Budget: (check one)

- 1-Less than \$50,000
- 2-\$50,000-\$99,999
- 3-\$100,000-\$249,999
- 4-\$250,000-\$499,999
- 5-\$500,000-\$749,999
- 6-\$750,000-\$1,000,000
- 7-\$1,000,000+

7. Total Course Acreage _____

8. Course Renovation Plans for the Next 12 Months

- 1-Full Reconstruction
- 2-Partial Reconstruction
- 3-Greens
- 4-Tees
- 5-Fairways
- 6-Irrigation System
- 7-No Renovations Planned

9. If Only a Partial Reconstruction is Planned, Please Indicate the Number of Holes _____

10. What is the Name of the Architect Who Designed the Course? _____

11. What Year was the Course Built? _____

12. Is This a Headquarters or Branch Location?

- 1-Headquarters
- 2-Branch
- 3-Single Office

13. Is this course part of a

- 1. Resort Chain
- 2. Golf Course Management Company
- 3. Municipal Course System

What is the name of the Resort Chain, Golf Course Management Company, or Municipal Course System? _____

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