

Horicon Works and worked on mowing equipment. Jerry Buelow passed away earlier this year, but he surely would have attended. Emily chose turfgrass science as her major at the University of Wisconsin – Madison based on how much her father enjoyed it.

Frank Rossi was her major professor in grad school and today she is a lecturer in the NC State two-year turfgrass science program, and the Associate Director of the Turfgrass Center.

I was surprised when I drove in, thinking it was early on the first day and figuring not that many people

could be interested in old JD LGTs. But the fairgrounds was packed.

I spent the whole day in lectures, tours and fun. I had the pleasure of visiting for quite a spell with a man from Baltimore, a former JD branch employee, who had the Model 110 with the serial #1 – the first machine off the line and the first mower John Deere built. It still works fine, and the cost, including 3 percent sales tax, was \$632.81! Only 1,000 Model 110s were built in 1963, and about 100 were there at the celebration. The five millionth mower came off the line in April 2010.

I had a great time, and a few questions came to mind. Will Jacobsen or Toro, each with such a rich history in our grass management business, host or sponsor such an event for collectors and customers?

Will John Deere plan a similar time for only golf turf machinery? For Deere & Co., it could even be planned as part of their sponsorship of the PGA tourney at Deere Run – wouldn't that be great!

In the end, I enjoyed it so much because I loved the career I had for almost 50 years, and I love history. What could be fairer than that? **GCI**

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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.

### BROKEN GOLF TEE HOLDER:

This unique broken golf tee holder has reduced the clutter on the tees by having it directly attached to a metal tee marker at the Heron Creek Golf & Country Club in North Port, Fla. The 4-inch diameter PVC pipe is 3.5 inches wide where the edges are sanded. Recycled plastic ½-inch-wide pieces from a former broken tee caddy were cut to size, attached and screwed (#6 – ¾ inch long counter-sunk) onto the outside portion of the PVC pipe. A 2 ½-inch opening was cut into the top of the PVC so the broken tees can be discarded properly. The PVC was then screwed to the metal tee marker using #6 screws ⅝ inch long and then color-matched painted the same color. Initially, it took about 20 minutes to make the first one, then an assembly line was made and the build-time was further reduced. One broken tee holder is placed on each of the blue, white, yellow and red tee markers, but none are placed on the black tee markers because they are rarely played. The total build cost less than \$5 each. Tom Rainey, superintendent, conceived the idea that was built by Dave Mealy, equipment manager.



Tom Rainey, superintendent, conceived the idea that was built by Dave Mealy, equipment manager.

### FAIRWAY MOWER DRAG SYSTEM:

This inexpensive but very efficient drag system, mounted on a 2002 Toro Reelmaster 5400D, uses a former 1.5-inch-diameter, 9-inch-long fence post. Two (1-inch links) chains are used, which is much more effective for dispersing the bluegrass clippings, after it was first tested using only one chain. The inner chain is 13.5 feet long and the outer chain is 17 feet long. The center bracket measuring 4.5 inches x 10 inches, is made of recycled 2-inch and 2.5-inch angle iron that slips into the "U" shaped rear tow bar that is then bolted to the frame. In the transport position, the fence post is raised and the bracket pivots upwards with two additional bolts on either side of the bracket – and the chains are pulled upward and attached to a large 1-inch hook (3 inches long) that is bolted to the hood. The hood can be raised to its

fully-extended position when the chains are in the "drag position" for checking fluid levels and servicing. The chains cost about \$15 and \$20 each, respectively. The eye hooks and snap hooks cost about \$10 and the rest were recycled materials. It took about 8 hours labor time. Jim Wallace, superintendent, conceived the idea and discussed it with some local superintendent friends. Assistant superintendent Paul Venable built it at the Warm Springs Golf Course in Boise, Idaho.



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(MORAGHAN continued from page 8)

firing is justified. How do you know your job is in jeopardy? Members (and especially those who sit on committees) stop talking to you. Meetings are held without your knowledge and attendance. Outside consultants unexpectedly show up to evaluate your efforts. Other superintendents unexpectedly show up to “look around,” or play golf with the pro or members. (The professional thing to do is to call the superintendent and let him/her know that you’ve been invited over, even if it’s possibly for his job.) And sometimes it’s just a feeling that things aren’t right.

Can you turn around a bad situation? Probably not. And given the message that the club is sending, do you really want to? Maybe it’s time to take the initiative and go, before you can be pushed out. But if you do leave, and expect to get another job, remember how you felt when in that awkward situation, and don’t put a fellow member of your industry in that same situation. **GCI**

(FLOODING continued from page 42)



Above: Two images of the new channel next to the old one at Reid Golf Course.

right – across a valley – to a putting surface on the far hillside. Players used to fly that concrete channel with their approaches. Soon they will crest the hill and see a beautiful, winding, naturalized water feature. Yes, of course, that feature is part of a system that can now handle a 100-year storm, and the water exiting that system is 10 times cleaner. But the 12th hole will also be a more beautiful golf hole, and that should count for something. It’s already counting for something.

“I haven’t golfed for about 15 years,” Neuberger says, “but I’m going to play when the course reopens next spring. I’m excited.” **GCI**

*Bob Lohmann is founder, president, and principal architect of Lohmann Golf Designs and a frequent GCI contributor. Check out his blog at [lohmanncompanies.blogspot.com](http://lohmanncompanies.blogspot.com).*

(BRAUER continued from page 18)

and satisfying for very little extra cost. While I promised not to focus on value, the old insurance salesman adage of, “Good architecture only cost pennies a day” applies.

Golf can range from deadly dull to inspiring. While everyone prefers the latter, they often preclude even the chance for the best golf possible by treating golf course architecture as less important than it truly is. Poor architecture usually ruins your golf, so when you have a chance, don’t shortchange your course when it comes to architecture. **GCI**

(DELOZIER continued from page 36)

declined. In those markets, property taxes also should have declined. Check with your local taxing jurisdiction to see if your property value declined and if your tax needs to be adjusted.

The question to ask: “Have I explored the possibility of a decrease in property taxes with my local tax authorities?”

The start of 2014 is still more than three months away. But your planning should be well underway. That process starts with the budget. **GCI**

(KAMINSKI continued from page 52)

playing conditions to bring out the hatchet. In these cases, it’s usually not really about the grass.

Although I simplify the impact of Mother Nature to regional generalizations, I have to add a qualifier. Regional conditions can not only be variable from state to state and course to course, but also from hole to hole. We can’t forget the impact of microclimates that can result in poor growing conditions and continued decline in turf stands year after year. Correcting some of the fundamental agronomic issues – shade, air flow and drainage – is essential to growing healthy grass.

So with all of this in mind, I encourage you to assess where your problems were this year, get things healthy this fall, and fire up the chainsaws this winter. The season’s coming to an end and 2014 will be here before you know it. **GCI**

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## A BUCKET LIST FOR GOLF

What I hope golf does before I die.

This month's cover image got me thinking about my bucket list. The more I thought about it, the more I decided I wanted a different kind of list. Here's why.

Most bucket lists are about special or rewarding events – exotic trips, meeting celebrities or heroes, climbing Mt. Everest, etc. Google suggests that “visiting the Great Wall of China” and “swimming with dolphins” are among the most common desires.

I've already been pretty fortunate about a lot of that stuff thanks to golf. Since the day I wandered into GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence 27 years ago and got hired for a \$16,000 a year writing job, golf has given me the opportunity to meet presidents, European royalty, superstar athletes, billionaire CEOs, movie stars, musicians and mobsters. I've been all over the planet and seen some incredibly beautiful things. I've been blessed to have played bad golf at most of the top 100 courses in the U.S.

All because of golf. Go figure.

Our good friend Monroe Miller called the other day and, in the course of a conversation about a mutual friend from overseas said, “Isn't it funny how golf shrinks the world?”

He's right. This crazy little business is a bond that unites all of us. It's a community based on a mutual love for the beauty and challenge of this damned silly game.

That's why, as I thought about creating a bucket list, I decided to make one for golf. Here's my wish list for what golf can aspire to be in the future:

First, I want to live to see golf be perceived as a game for everyone. I'd love to live in a world where golf wasn't primarily viewed as a pastime for wealthy white people. The reality is today that few real barriers exist to

people trying the game. It's dirt cheap to play nine holes a lot of places and I'm pretty sure that 99.9% of courses only care about the color of your money, not your skin, anymore. The reality is that the doors are open to all...we just need to invite them in and treat them nicely.

Speaking of which, I hope one day golf will be known for excellent customer-service standards. I still play a lot of “secret shopper” golf at daily fees around the country and I continue to be gobsmacked at the don't-give-a-crap attitude I see in many pro shops. I also see fundamentally lousy stuff (broken ball washers, overflowing trash cans, bunkers that haven't been edged since the Clinton administration...) on the course, as well. Why is it the average Starbucks offers vastly better service than the average pay-to-play golf course? I hope customers wise up and choose quality service instead of continuing to keep crummy operations alive.

I hope to see a day when golf is recognized for what it is: excellent outdoor recreation and exercise. Carts are great for many folks, can help to speed play and, of course, create revenues. But the perception that golf is just for fat-asses riding around drinking beer in carts belies the fact that you can burn a lot of calories and get a good aerobic workout by hoofing it. People need to think about golf as a fitness activity that happens to allow you to get healthy in a beautiful environment.

I dream that someday, Mr. Supply and Mr. Demand will meet each other again, shake hands and stay friends for a while. I'm optimistic that the upswing in housing values and new construction in key markets will help to convert some bad operations to a “higher, better use” (as Henry DeLozier

refers to bulldozing an underperforming course to build homes or a community park or whatever). We shot ourselves in the foot with over-building and we've been limping around and bleeding for 15 years. We need to eliminate the weakest links (get it?) and find a healthier economic balance that doesn't involve suicidal online discounting.

I fervently hope I live to see a solution to our water challenge to ensure golf is played on natural grass for another century or so. The incredibly sophisticated technology being developed by the irrigation geniuses will help, but we have to find new turf species (or soil treatments) that allow us to present healthy, great courses without using an unwise amount of water. I think the race for more intelligent water practices will really be on over the next 20 years as irrigation costs soar. We have to be proactive or we'll be regulated out of existence.

One thing I think I can check off my bucket list is to witness a time when golfers begin to appreciate superintendents. I'm sure a lot of you have horror stories proving I'm wrong, but the majority of golfers – particularly club members – understand and appreciate the role of the maintenance team. All of the years of PR by GCSAA, local chapters and individual superintendents who have stepped into the spotlight of major championships has really helped. It's not a perfect world and we still have a long way to go, but we've put Carl Spackler in the rearview mirror and are speeding toward broad recognition as world-class professional stewards of the land.

So, what would you add to golf's bucket list? Shoot me a note and let me know and we'll share them in a future issue. **GCI**

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