

# Tips:

## Aerator Maintenance

Preventive maintenance is key to effective aeration, especially when it comes to hole quality and finish. Low-quality aeration is one indication of a machine malfunction. Excessive vibration and noise can also indicate a maintenance problem.

"Understanding how the product operates is important," says Peter Whurr, vice president of product management for Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products in Racine, Wis. "If you think that something may be wrong with your machine, generally there is."

Whurr advises superintendents to look at the quality of holes and listen for any undue noise.

"A lot of wear and tear can occur during aeration," he adds. "Adhering to a preventive maintenance program will help improve aerator performance and extend the life of their machines."

With that in mind, here are preventive maintenance tips for improved aeration:

### Engine upkeep

- Check for oil leaks prior to operating the machine.
- Inspect and clean dirty engine fins with a pressure airline to prevent the engine from overheating. Hose the entire machine down after use to keep it free of dirt and debris.
- Change the engine oil regularly – consult your owner's manual for the recommended frequency, generally every 50 hours of operation. Always use the appropriate oil grade.

### Tighten the tines

- Tighten any loose tines before operating the machine to prevent them from slipping out of the holder.
- Inspect the machine for damaged tines. Bent tines won't produce a clean, crisp hole.
- Coring tines should be cleaned with a water pressure hose on completion of the work cycle.

### Test the tire pressure

- Make sure the correct tire pressure is set before using the machine. Inadequate tire pressure can cause the machine to operate ineffectively and lead to tire roll off. Consult your owner's manual for the recommended pressure.
- Check tires for any foreign objects, such as nails and stones. Solid tires also should be inspected for damage to the sidewalls or outside perimeter. Missing pieces of tire material can cause difficult operation.

### Miscellaneous maintenance

- Tighten any loose nuts and bolts prior to operation.
- On walk-behind aerators, ensure the handle grips are firmly in place.
- Clean and lubricate chains and sprockets according to manufacturer recommendations.

## Leaders

### PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Azusa, Calif.-based Rainbird Golf Division named **Christopher Fay** as its national sales manager. Fay is responsible for managing the growth and development of domestic golf sales for the division. Rainbird also named **David Ro-maine** as its pumping systems product manager.

**Tom Handel** was named general manager for the combined businesses of Toledo, Ohio-based The Andersons Professional Turf Products Division.

Desert Pine GC in Las Vegas named **Gary St. John** as its superintendent.

**John Maeder** joined Profile Products LLC as its northeast regional project manager.

International Golf Maintenance named three superintendents: **Fred Gehrish**, Highlands Falls GC in Highlands, N.C.; **Jim Vogel**, Mill Pond GC in Long Island, N.Y.; and **Blake Watson** at the Warner Springs Ranch in Laguna, Calif.

**Anne-Marie Fanguy** joined the National Golf Foundation as communications manager.

Linkscorp named **Chris Collins** as superintendent at Windmere CC in Orlando, Fla.

**Cindy Davis**, president and CEO of The Arnold Palmer Golf Co., was elected vice chairman of the company's board of directors.

**Michael Hoffman**, vice president and general manager of the commercial division at The Toro Co., was elected secretary/treasurer. He has been on the board since 1999.

Plano, Texas-based Adams Golf formed Adams Golf Japan, and named **Kankichi Itani** president of the new subsidiary.

**Sam Snead** announced he has

formed Sam Snead Course Design, located in Stuart, Fla.

Bayer Corp. Garden & Professional Care announced several personnel changes: **Dan Car-rothers**, head of marketing; **Phil McNally**, field research and development representative for the western United States; and **Chuck Silcox**, field research and development representative for the northeastern United States.

**Jarrett Cowden**, vice president of marketing and sales for Vermeer Manufacturing, left the company May 1 to begin a new venture that will provide outsourced marketing and advertising services to Vermeer and its dealers.

Troon Golf hired **Terry Bloskey** as vice president of acquisitions and development.

**Steven J. Petersen** joined Gowan Co. as its Turf Division sales manager.

**Smith Turf & Irrigation** of Charlotte, N.C., received an Outstanding Achievement Award from River Falls, Wis.-based Foley United.

Racine, Wis.-based Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products honored a number of its dealers with its Raving Fans awards at the GCSAA show. Raving Fans awards recognize dealers for outstanding achievement and excellence in customer service. The dealers honored were **Krigger & Co.** of Gibsonia, Pa.; **Golf Ventures** of Lakeland, Fla.; and **Steven Willand Inc.** of Brookfield, Conn.

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*Let us know about your people on the move. Send information/color photos to Golfdom's Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.*