ACCESSORIES

The Evolution

The Evolution is a three-function tool that cores out dead turf spots, fills the holes with sand or seed, and mends the surfaces together instantly with a push. **GreenFix** says that by incorporating the three steps required to repair pitch marks, the tool enables an operator to repair the turf perfectly in seconds while standing up.

THE

"Our unique mending process makes no additional turf tears or punctures. We simply grab the turf and slide it," says Mark Brown, GreenFix Sport president. "By simplifying and automating the repair processes a less experienced maintenance person, ranger, or player advisor can now achieve the same result as a seasoned staffer."

The Evolution cuts core holes from 3/8" to 1" in diameter, collects the plugs and delivers sand or seed with the push of a button. Footplates that mend the hole engage with a downward push while the operator is still standing over the mark. *Contact www.greenfixsport.com.*



E-ZEE White

Standard Golf is making it quick and easy to have clean, crisp white holes with its new E-ZEE White hole whitening

system. The system features a patented applicator designed to promote easy application and eliminate paint on the cup. It also features a specially formulated water-based paint that the company says provides the best coverage of any hole-whitening paint on the market while maximizing whiteness on dirt.

To use the system, simply drop the tool into the cup, insert a paint can and rotate. A built-in shield protects both the cup and green from overspray. No purging is required between uses. The starter kit includes a tool and six cans of paint.

Contact www.standardgolf.com.

BY KEN MOUM, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

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You've seen them, products that fill a need you didn't know you had. We're calling them cool accessories for the golf course, and several manufacturers have offered up their latest products for your consideration. Every golf course struggles with unrepaired ball marks, and there have been plenty of "solutions" to the problem over the years. Many courses have developed their own strategies, all of which take time and cost money. Now GreenFix Sport says its Evolution tool will help maintenance personnel manage and repair ball marks

in a fraction of the time and cost (see The Evolution, page 26).

Turf Boxes

According to **TurfEx**, its line of Turf Boxes is a perfect storage solution for Green Industry professionals. Designed to be durable and completely weather resistant, the Turf Boxes feature the same high density UV-protected polyethylene construction as the company's spreader hoppers.

Four models are available with capacities from 5 to 18 cubic feet. In addition to turf care supplies such as fertilizer, topsoil and compost, other materials such as ice melters, tools and sports equipment can be stored securely while being protected from weather elements.

The Turf Boxes come equipped with a heavyduty lockable lid and fork pockets for easy maneuverability. *Contact www.trynexfactory.com.*





Superintendent Whiteboard System

Superintendents have been using blackboards and whiteboards to communicate with their crews for years. Now **Par Aide** says it has a Superintendent Whiteboard System,

designed with input directly from superintendents to save time, provide better flexibility and make daily communication with crews more efficient than with homemade boards.

The system features two-foot by four-foot individually framed, preprinted panels made of high quality whiteboard material. Golf course maintenance-specific artwork is printed on panels then covered with a dry-erase material so it won't rub off.

There are 12 different panels to choose from, allowing you to mix and match the designs to create the best whiteboard for you. Both magnetized and non-magnetized panels are included in the system. The panels are simply placed next to each other and attached to the wall with the accompanying mounting hardware. Panels include three versions of a daily job panel, one- and two-month calendars, tee times, a mechanic's board, two mowing pattern boards, notes, and lined and blank white panels. *Contact www.Paraide.com*.

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Cool Gadgets

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Pro-Master 260

If you are tired of blowing clippings off cart paths, sidewalks around the clubhouse and the parking lot, **Gravely** says its Pro-Master 260 is now available with a new rear discharge deck, making it ideal for mowing near obstacles, as clippings





are diverted behind the machine instead of out the side.

The mower features a 60-inch cutting width, 13.4-gallon fuel capacity and 13 mph ground speed. The Pro-Master is powered by a 27 HP Briggs & Stratton Daihatsu Diesel engine. The 60-inch deck is based on the seven-gauge X-Factor[®] deck currently found on Gravely's side discharge model.

There are numerous benefits to mowing with a rear discharge deck, according to Bill Engler, director of contractor sales for Gravely. "This type of deck reduces the risks of mowing near people,

TerraRoller

From **Broyhill**, the TerraRoller is a unique integration of a roller and a spiker. The design employs a two-section star-bladed spiker followed by a three-gang roller to fold the foliage back over the perforations in the turf without closing them. The result is an immediately playable green with a smooth, fast surface.

The company says there is no noticeable disruption of the turf's surface, yet the TerraRoller does deliver a reduction in turfgrass dehydration and weed development due to the immediate restoration of the foliage canopy.

The spiker units can be raised independently to make the unit a roller only. The TerraRoller is 66 inches wide and the company says that the spiker/roller can be changed to do either function without tools.

Contact www.broyhill.com.



vehicles and windows. Any projectiles picked up by the mower are directed down and backwards, creating a safer environment."

Because grass is discharged from the back of the machine, clippings remain on the turf instead of on roadways and sidewalks, according to Engler. This minimizes additional cleanup work and keeps property looking manicured. In addition, the trim edge on both sides of the deck improves productivity, grain management and heavy top dressing incorporation after core aeration. *Contact www.gravely.com.*



GreensKeeper Brush Trailer

Broyhill says its gas-powered Greens-Keeper Brush Trailer is the solution for fast incorporation of heavy top dressing and turf grain management after core aeration. Soft, pliable bristles are firm enough to do the job without damaging grass plants. Rapid brush rotation contacts grass from all directions, causing turf to stand up.

A 3.75 hp Briggs gas engine (5.5 hp Honda optional) drives rotating brushes, while an electric lift cylinder raises and lowers the brush pan. It can be towed by most vehicles because no hydraulics are required. And since the trailer wheels are in front of the brushes, tire tracks on brushed greens are eliminated. *Contact www.broyhill.com.*

ROBO-MOWER

A superintendent gets the full demonstration on the RG3 robotic greens mower and reports back to *Golfdom*.

By Matt Hendren

Last month I had the opportunity to take a trip to Orlando, Fla., to Hawk's Landing Golf Club as the guest of Precise Path Robotics to check out the RG3 robotic greens mower. The RG3 is the industry's only autonomous, robotic greens mower and features what the company describes as the industry's best warranty on any greens mower.

The RG3 is powered by four sealed lead

acid batteries that give the mower up to four hours of continuous run time. The cutting unit is a standard 22-inch John Deere unit with three options of bed knives that allow your greens height to be anywhere from a minimum of .078 to .125. The pivoting frame and floating cutting unit permit a full range of motion that allows the cutting unit to follow contours and slopes.

Precise Path robotics has thought of just about everything regarding the RG3 and greens maintenance. Each RG3 is guided by a local positioning system making sure every green will get the same treatment every day, making all your greens consistent day in and day out. The RG3 is also capable of becoming a greens grooming and maintenance tool. Interchangeable cassettes for the mower include an ultra groomer, vibration roller, rotary brush, vibration brush, scarifier, thatchmaster, static brush and star spiker.

The best benefit about the RG3 is the increase in labor efficiency it allows. In today's economy anything a superintendent can do to increase labor efficiency is a huge benefit. Every superintendent knows the feeling of being rushed to complete course set-up jobs in the first hours of the day. Using the RG3 allows an employee who would traditionally be mowing greens to perform other tasks while the green is being mowed, such as cup cutting, green side bunker raking and tee prep. One employee is now able to complete the tasks of several employees.

"The RG3 is a good technology for us. It's a technology that, going forward, it's definitely the direction the industry is going," Sean O'Brien, director of grounds at Hawk's Landing, told me. "It allows us to be more efficient in our daily operation and get a lot of things finished that, truthfully we wouldn't be able to do unless we had the RG3 here." (Visit www.golfdom.com/golfdom-tv to see the complete interview with O'Brien.)

To learn more about the RG3, visit www.precisepath.com.

Matt Hendren, a contributing editor for Golfdom, is superintendent for the city of Kansas City, Kan. You can read his weekly blog, "Hendren's Hyperbole," at the Golfdom Daily, www.golfdom. blogspot.com.

