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Keep Your Bunkers Beautiful

Here are some products to help you do just that

By Frank H. Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

As you drive around your course, you notice that something's not right. There's a beige ring around your bunkers where golfers have sprayed more sand than a Florida hurricane.

You drive up to the edge and peer in tentatively, afraid of what you might find. You see standing water in the bottom, and the edges are a little more ragged than your golfers like. So you call the shop on your walkie-talkie and tell the assembled crew that it's time for a little bunker maintenance.

Golfdom wants to help you perform that job as quickly and efficiently as possible. Without further ado, here are some products that can help you keep your bunkers in excellent condition:

Bunker bedshaper

Mantis offers the Little Wonder Bedshaper, which cuts clean edges — even S curves — at up to 100 feet per minute, according to the company. It runs on an 11-horsepower Briggs & Stratton, a 13-horsepower Kawasaki or a 13-horsepower Honda engine and a hydrostatic transmission. It has a BladeFloat arm so the blade continues over obstacles without stopping. Its 16.25-inch blade cuts to depths from .5 inches to 4.5 inches. The Bedshaper also comes with a two-year warranty.



Erosion prevention

The BunkerGuard bunker liner from **North American Green** conforms to a bunker's contour to reduce washouts and stabilize sand while controlling erosion on even the steepest bunkers and facings. BunkerGuard uses patented construction and is a tan, permanent, three-dimensional liner comprised of three polypropylene nettings with a 100 percent polypropylene matrix.

Hover mower

Eastman Industries introduces its newest 5.5-horsepower Hover Mower, propelled by a four-cycle Honda engine and using the largest impeller in the business. It hovers easily on bunker slopes. The hover mower cuts and mulches tall wet grass for a professional look and is CARB- and EPA-certified.



Contamination control

TrapMaster offers its erosion and contamination control fabric to address bunker maintenance issues associated with sand erosion and contamination through rain and irrigation water. The two-layer blankets are made of nonwoven polyester fiber that holds sand on faces up to 60 degrees in the top layer and prevents dirt and debris from migrating upward through the bottom layer.

Liner staples

The V-Staple from **IVI-Golf** has an easy-to-drive, single-leg design that eliminates "benders" while increasing installation efficiency. The company says the V-Staple has a holding power that's stronger than other staples. The staple works well

with IVI-Golf's Sandtrapper product line. The V-Staple is available in 6-inch and 8-inch lengths and can come in either 8-gauge or 11-gauge steel. Galvanized and stainless-steel versions are available as a special order.

Bunker rake

Standard Golf offers its Tour-Lite Rake. Manufactured from a high-density, polyethylene head and ultralight plastic-coated steel handle, the rake is light for easy, one-handed use, according to the company. A special tooth angle and curved 15-inch-wide head creates a smooth bunker surface. The rake also features a 4-inch grip cap at the end of the 54-inch handle.

Triplex mower

Designed with a low center of gravity and a heavy-duty front end, **National Mower's** 8400 hydrostatic triplex mower tackles the most difficult hills, slopes, banks and edges, according to the company. The mower's hydrostatic drive provides independent reel and ground speeds. The 8400 includes power steering for extra control while trimming difficult areas around bunkers or negotiating tight corners. It's powered by a 16-horsepower Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine and has an 84-inch wide cut that covers 3.5 acres per hour.

Bunker liner

Green Mountain International introduces its Klingstone process for lining bunkers. Klingstone has been used on golf courses throughout the United States to lower maintenance costs by stopping contamination of bunker sand and sidewall erosion. Because it is applied as a liquid, it conforms to any bunker shape. Klingstone is easy to apply and is durable. ■

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you need to maintain
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Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Jeff Weld was named programs manager for Bayer Environmental Science.



Jeff Weld

Nakoma Resort & Spa at Gold Mountain (Calif.) named **Kurt Heinrichs** as superintendent.

KemperSports Management hired **Chris Cartin** as superinten-

dent of the Golf Club at Cypress Head in Port Orange, Fla.

LESCO named **Luke Stratton** as technical services manager and **Mike Maravich** to technical services representative.

Milliken and Co. promoted **Geoffrey Simril** to sales manager of the turf products business.

NOTABLE ACHIEVERS

The following superintendents recently achieved certification: **Rhys Arthur**, Indian Springs Country Club, Silver Spring, Md.; **Greg Bailey**, Riverview Golf Course, Sun City, Ariz.; **Thomas Bastis**, California Golf Club of San Francisco; **Owen Gregory Benson**, Bonnie Brook Golf Course, Waukegan, Ill.; **Paul Brandenburg**, Furman University Golf Course, Greenville, S.C.; **K. Robert Buege**, Tara Golf & Country Club, Bradenton, Fla.; **Matthew Kraemer**, Pine Trace Golf Club, Rochester Hills, Mich.; **Dale Morrison**, Trappers Turn Golf Course, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.; **Brian Netz**, Presidio Golf Course, San Francisco; **David Sweet**, Bucks Run Golf Club, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.; **Ryan Willis**, Kingsway Country Club, Lake Suzy, Fla.; and **Thad W. Kintigh**, PGA of Southern California Golf Course, Beaumont, Calif.

Camp Creek Golf Club in Panama City, Fla., became a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, a program run by Audubon International.

Rain Master Irrigation Systems hired **Warren Thoma & Associates** as a manufacturers' representatives in the Midwest.

Barbara Booth was hired by Rain Bird as director of the Golf Irrigation Strategic Business Unit.

The company also named **Scott Stevens** as its district sales manager for Southern California and **Jack Lee** as golf area manager for China.

The GCSAA named **Katelyn Ritter** of Mount Airy, Md., as the first recipient of the Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant.

The American Society of Golf Course Architects elected **Bill Love** of W.R. Love Golf Course Architecture as its president.

Billy Casper Golf promoted **R. Joseph Goodrich** and **Joseph D. Livingood** to senior vice presidents of operations.

The American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC) elected **Daniel Brenner** as its new president.

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Editorial Index

Company	Page No.	Company	Page No.	Company	Page No.
AAGMC	18	Echo Basin Golf Club	16	Nakoma Resort & Spa at Gold Mountain	84
American Society of Golf Course Architects	84	Furman University Golf Course	84	National Golf Foundation	16
ASIC	18, 84	GCSAA	20, 26, 28, 84	National Mower	82
Aquatrols	86	Golf Club at Cypress Head	84	NGCOA	18, 38
Avalon Golf Club	47	Green Mountain International	82	North American Green	82
Bayer Environmental Science	20, 49, 64, 84	Indian Springs Country Clubs	84	Oaks Course	20
Billy Casper Golf	84	IVI-Golf	82	PGA of Southern California Golf Course	84
Bonnie Brook Golf Course	84	Jacobsen	18, 66, 68	Pine Trace Golf Club	84
Bucks Run Golf Club	84	John Deere Co.	68	Presidio Golf Club	84
California Golf Club	84	KemperSports Management	84	Rain Bird	84, 86
Camp Creek Golf Club	84	Kingsway Country Club	84	Rain Master Irrigation Systems	84
Canterbury Golf Club	34	LESCO	84	Riverview Golf Course	84
Carolinas GCSA	20	Mantis	82	Rolling Hills Country Club	30
D&D Motor Systems	86	Mellomar Golf Park	70, 72	Shadow Valley Golf Course	38
Dacotah Ridge Golf Course	28	Merion Golf Club	18	Simplot/Jacklin Seed	22
Eastman Industries	82	Milliken and Co.	84	Smith Turf and Irrigation Co.	20
		Milliken Turf Products	49, 61, 86	Somerset Country Club	28
		Monsanto Co.'s	86	Specialty Products Consultants	14
				Standard Golf	82
				Sunlinc	16
				Syngenta Professional Products	86
				Tara Golf & Country Club	84
				Tee-2-Green	86
				The Andersons	49, 52
				The Gauntlet at Curtis Park	18
				The Majestic at Lake Walden	39
				The Scotts Co.	14, 49, 62
				The Toro Co.	49, 54, 66
				Tour Turf	16
				TPC at Deere Run	24
				TrapMaster	82
				Trappers Turn Golf Course	84
				Warren Thoma & Associates	84
				Whistling Straits Golf Course	68
				Wilmington Country Club	66, 68

Golfdom Sales Staff

Pat Jones

Publisher, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130
 Phone: 440-891-3126, Fax: 440-891-2675
 Email: pjones@advanstar.com



Pat Roberts

National Sales Manager, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130
 Phone: 440-891-2609, Fax: 440-891-2675
 Email: proberts@advanstar.com



Kevin Stoltman

Associate Publisher, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130
 Phone: 440-891-2772, Fax: 440-891-2675
 Email: kstoltman@advanstar.com



Michael Harris

Regional Manager, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130
 Phone: 440-891-3118, Fax: 440-826-2865
 Email: mharris@advanstar.com



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Ad Index

Circle No.	Page No.	Company	Page No.
ASIC	72	Novozymes Biologicals	41,77
Advanced Aeration System	5	Nutramax Labs	9
Air O Lator	4	Par Aide Products	79
Allen Seago International	76	Poulenger USA	47,78
Aquatrols	83	Pro Source One	76
BASF	Covertip	Progressive Turf Equipment	78
Bayer Environmental Science	42-43	Sand Trapper IVI Golf	81
Bear Irrigation	12	Sepro Corp.	13,(reg)75
BlueYellow	4	Standard Golf	67
Earthworks	6	Syngenta Professional Products	27
Floratine Products	CV3	Tee-2-Green	CV4
Greens Groomer Worldwide	84	The Toro Co.	15
Griffin LLC	31	Trap Master	86
Grigg Brothers	69	Turf Seed	45
Jacobsen	7	Varicare Tech	11
John Deere and Co.	CV2-1	Wood Bay Enterprises	36
John Deere Major Challenge	23		
Lebanon Turf Products	33		
Milliken Chemical	17,19,21		
Montco Products	37		
Nature Safe	47		
North American Green	71		

TURFGRASS TRENDS

The Andersons	53
Bayer Environmental Science	50-51
Milliken Turf Products	57
The Scotts Co.	55
The Toro Co.	63

This index is provided as an additional service. The publisher does not assume any liability for errors or omissions.

The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Foliar products

Milliken Turf Products offers True Foliar NPK Phosphite 10-20-16, an improved version of True Foliar P 6-12-6. In addition to a general increase in the content of all macronutrients, the product now contains a phosphite source derived from phosphorous acid. True Foliar NPK Phosphite contains a minimum of 10 percent of the company's proprietary seaplant extract. For more information, contact 800-845-8502 or www.milliken.com



▲ Redesigned Web site

Tee-2-Green has updated its Web site. It now has a new streamlined look for easier navigation and features a virtual round-table chat room and bulletin board. For more information, contact 800-547-0255 or www.tee-2-green.com

► New packaging

Syngenta Professional Products offers its newly redesigned 10-gallon LinkPak packaging system. Based on marketplace response, the new user-friendly LinkPak is easier to handle, store and use.

The Syngenta turf and ornamental products available in the new LinkPak are Banner MAXX, Subdue MAXX and Primo MAXX. The features of the new LinkPak include: color-coded by brand; top indentation with a flush-mounted nozzle for ease of shipping and stacking; handles that make it easy to lift with two hands or a forklift; and complete and clean drainage when in the horizontal position.

For more information, contact 800-395-8873 or www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com



Aquatrols distributors

Aquatrols announces that Howard Fertilizer & Chemical Co. and ProSource One are the exclusive distributors of Aquatrols products in Florida. For more information, contact 800-257-7797 or www.aquatrols.com

QuikPRO packaging updated

Monsanto Co.'s QuikPRO herbicide is now available in easy-to-handle 1.5-ounce dose packs. Each box of QuikPRO herbicide in the new

packaging contains five 1.5-ounce packets, enough herbicide for 5 gallons of spray solution, and takes a minimal amount of space to store. For more information, contact 800-ROUNDUP or www.monsanto.com/ito

Motors, controllers

D&D Motor Systems has added several new products to its line of higher speed and torque electric motors and controllers. These motors and controllers provide just about any electric golf car with several performance options for the superintendent. Depending on the application and the superintendent's performance needs, the change can be as simple as a 15-minute motor change.

Changing the electric motor and/or controller is an economical way to get enhanced performance while not busting the budget, according to the company. These high-performance options are available for golf cars that feature regenerative type braking and those that do not.

For more information, contact 315-701-0635 or www.ddmotorsystems.com

Weather station

Rain Bird introduces the WS PRO LT Weather Station, designed to help superintendents eliminate the guesswork in determining accurate sprinkler run times. WS PRO LT sensors collect weather data — temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, solar radiation and rainfall amounts — over a 24-hour period.

This data is used to calculate an evapotranspiration (ET) value, which determines the precise amount of water that must be replaced in order to maintain soil moisture at a desired level. As a result, the central control will automatically program the sprinkler run-times accordingly without over-watering or leaving certain areas of the turf too dry.

For more information, contact 626-812-3600 or www.rainbird.com



Dramatically reduce your bunker maintenance costs when you install TrapMaster™

TrapMaster™ erosion control fabric solves your toughest problems. It is 2 layers — a thick, non-woven polyester "blanket" that absorbs and holds sand in place, PLUS an innovative polyester spunbond fabric that adds durability and prevents contamination.

Together, the patent-pending **TrapMaster™** 2-layer design:

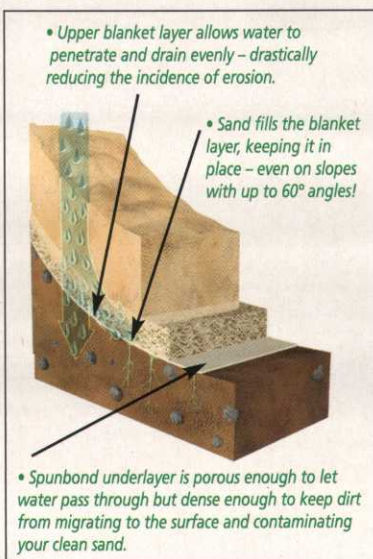
- Saves you thousands in bunker maintenance costs
- Holds sand on steep bunker faces - up to 60°
- Prevents erosion and washout
- Blocks weeds, rocks and dirt from migrating up and contaminating the sand
- Keeps rain and irrigation water draining

"I have always been besieged by problems of retaining sand on bunker faces and soil particles being washed into the sand from a heavy rain during my over 30 years as a Golf Course Architect. In a recent bunker renovation project at Fox Run CC, we installed TrapMaster™ bunker erosion and contamination control fabric. I was quite skeptical that it would be of value, but after a recent 4" downpour, all of the old bunkers were completely washed out, and the renovated bunkers that were lined with TrapMaster™, were virtually unaffected! The owner, golf course superintendent, and myself could only say "amazing". I can assure you that TrapMaster™ will be included in all my future bunker constructions.

Gary Kern
Golf Course Architect

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A golfer was hitting a ball from the first hole in front of the clubhouse. The ball was sitting about 2 feet in front of the tee markers.

The golfer approached the ball with his wood, set up silently, and was ready to swing when, over the loudspeaker, the voice of the pro from the clubhouse said, "Would the gentleman on the first tee please tee his ball behind the tee markers for his first shot."

The voice broke the man's concentration, and he backed away, came up to the ball again, set up, and was again ready to hit.

The voice over the loudspeaker repeated, "Would the gentleman on the first tee PLEASE tee up his ball behind the tee markers for his first shot."

The golfer backed away, strolled up to the starter and said, "Would you please tell the gentleman in the clubhouse that the gentleman on the first tee is hitting his second shot?"

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Golfdom's



badminton

A huge lawn sprawls to the south of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo.

On any given afternoon, families picnic, art students toss the Frisbee and babies aplenty frolic. You will also see two nearly 10-year-old shuttlecocks — or 18-foot tall sculptures by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen of them, which the museum commissioned in 1994. When the museum installed the sculptures, some rather crusty folks complained the shuttlecocks mocked the high-brow museum and its collection.

Such snobby types didn't know that the sport descends from an upper-crust lineage, taking its name from the lovely grounds of Badminton, the estate of the Duke of Beaufort. In the middle of the 19th century, the good Duke introduced the British royals to the game of poona, a variation of a game called "jeu de volant," (enjoyed by well-heeled Europeans).

That game, in turn, came from "battledore (a fancy name for a flat paddle) and shuttlecock," whose roots stretch into first-century China, Japan, India and Greece and were an outgrowth of an ancient Chinese game called Ti Jian Zi.

In short, those folks bemoaning

THIS SPORT OF KINGS
IS A GREAT WAY TO GET
A LOW-IMPACT AEROBIC
WORKOUT **BY MARK LUCE**

the "common" sculptures in front of Nelson-Atkins need to study both their "art" and their "history."

Currently, badminton boasts nearly 100 million players around the world. It's an official Olympic sport (and a very hot ticket), there are world tours and the game's best players not only make serious coin but are also hailed much the same way that we treat Brett Favre or Alex Rodriguez.

The game is the fastest of the racket sports, with birdie speeds approaching 200 miles per hour in professional matches. In the United States, there are 503 high school badminton programs. Next month, Anaheim hosts the World Championships, which includes nearly 800 athletes from 40 countries. But the great thing about badminton is that anyone can play.

To get started you need a net, rackets and shuttlecocks. Often, you can get a decent set for around \$50, but make sure you buy one that has four rackets, as doubles remains, well, double the fun. Set up is easy,

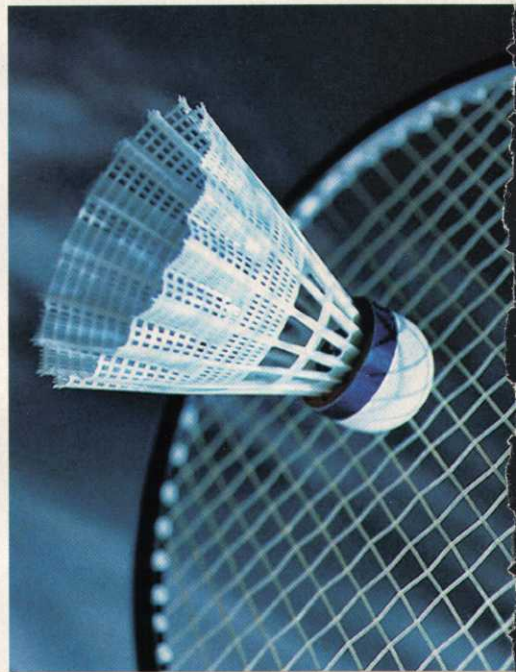
assuming you can push sticks in the ground and connect a net between the posts.

You can go official and mark off a 17-foot (20-foot for doubles) by 44-foot court in the yard, or you can pull a page from wiffle ball and say, "Anything past that rock is out on this side, and anything past the tree is out on your side."

The rules are simple: You must serve to score, and serve to the diagonal. Games go to 15, and the best of three games wins a match.

To be a decent player, you will need agility, footwork, good hand-eye coordination and, most importantly, the ability to place your shots. Badminton, if played vigorously, provides an excellent, low-impact aerobic workout.

Mark Luce, a freelance writer in Lawrence, Kan., dabbles in badminton during his summers off from teaching school. He can be reached at mluce@earthlink.net.



PHOTODISC

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