

pretty awesome situation to have a track record that shows you've accomplished above and beyond 96 percent of your peers."

Although 988,000 Boy Scouts were registered in 2005, only about 49,500 Eagles were awarded, making it a real honor and achievement.

Gary Grigg was a superintendent in Naples, Fla., at Royal Poinciana Golf Club for 32 years, and a former Scout. He never received his Eagle, though.

"I am what they call a frustrated 'life' Scout, because I never finished," says Grigg, who now owns a fertilizer supply company, Grigg Brothers, with his brother. "I've spent the past 50 years working as an adult Boy Scout leader to see to it other boys did not make the same mistake."

Grigg values scouting and the Eagle so much that during his time as superintendent he included a question on all his applications that asked whether the applicant was a Scout. If the applicant was a Boy Scout, Grigg then asked if he attained his Eagle.



"It shows me that you're goal-oriented," he says. "It shows me they were committed and completed a task that very few do."

Even though he didn't receive his Eagle, Grigg credits his tenure in Boy Scouts as life changing and ultimately guiding him on his career path. This led him to earn a master's degree

*Continued on page 82*

**"Scouting is certainly a major part of the cornerstone of principles I live by today."**

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**"I've spent the past 50 years working as an adult Boy Scout leader to see to it other boys did not make the same mistake."**

**GARY GRIGG**

GRIGG BROTHERS



*Continued from page 81*

in agronomy from Michigan State University in 1968, after which he dove headfirst into golf course management until he retired in 2000.

"Most guys come up through the ranks," says Grigg, who served on the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America board for nine years and was president in 1995. "The first

job I got on the golf course was superintendent."

Eagle or not, scouting remained an integral part of Grigg's and his family's lives as he went on to be a committee leader for his local troop, where two of his three sons earned Eagle awards.

Grigg believes there isn't a more suitable job for an Eagle Scout than golf course superintendent because of the parallel skill set and goals.

With more than 100,000 golf merit badges earned since its inclusion as a skills test, interest among potential Eagle Scouts is growing. Schuknecht urges anyone in Boy Scouts to not think twice about working toward his Eagle, especially if he aspires to pursue a career in golf course management.

"I would suggest anyone coming into the Scouts work hard and achieve the Eagle Scout award," Schuknecht says. "The skills you learn are applicable to any field, turf management or otherwise. Those skills will help you in your career and all throughout your life as well." ■

*Tiede is a freelance writer from Chicago.*

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## No Pie in the Sky Here

GPS technology proves valuable for golf course builders and architects

BY ANTHONY PIOPPA

**S**everal months ago Nick Scigliano had never used the HiPerlite GPS System. Now he can't imagine life without it.

The president of Frontier Construction Co. said he foresees the product soon becoming standard equipment for any golf course construction company such as his, which is based in Jones Mill, Pa.

Scigliano first used HiPerlite, from Topcon Positioning Systems, during a major renovation of the Hidden Valley Country Club in Salem, Va., which began in June 2005. As part

### Problem

Members of Hidden Valley Country Club liked the contours on the courses existing greens. But with the greens undergoing a renovation, would the contours be lost?

### Solution

Architect Bill Love was able to rebuild the greens within one-eighth of an inch using the HiPerlite technology.



The greens at Hidden Valley Country Club were rebuilt to within one-eighth inch of the originals.

of the work on the Dick Wilson-designed course, architect Bill Love rebuilt every green, two practice greens, all the bunkers and most of the tees. Where the GPS technology really shined was on some of the green work. Since Hidden Valley members liked the contours on 16 of the existing push-up greens — all Wilson originals — Love rebuilt them to within one-eighth inch of the originals using United States Golf Association (USGA) specs, thanks to the HiPerlite technology.

Love said the software technology is also valuable in producing GPS maps that give measurements of slopes and pitch on greens,

in some cases revealing a severity that surprised him.

At Hidden Valley it took two days for Frontier workers to record the contours and elevations of all the green surfaces that were reproduced, something Scigliano said would take three weeks with conventional surveying techniques. The information, which was tallied in 1-foot-square increments, was then downloaded into a computer and within a matter of minutes a 3-D model was available.

Scigliano said if the model showed contours to be too steep, adjustments could be made on the spot.

The measuring is done using a pole that has a GPS

unit and screen on the top and a wheel on the bottom. It is rolled along the green and makes an audible click each time it records. The pole can also be placed on a golf car or utility vehicle for recording of green surrounds and fairways at speeds up to 50 miles per hour, Scigliano said.

During the building of the green, rather than equipment operators working around grading stakes set at 10-foot intervals, one worker with the pole constantly monitors the work making for more preciseness at a faster pace.

Architect Denis Griffiths has been using the HiPerlite system on new course con-

*Continued on page 84*





It took two days for Frontier workers to record the contours and elevations of all the green surfaces that were reproduced. With conventional equipment, that task would take three weeks.

*Continued from page 83*  
struction. He said it is most valuable in checking topography maps of sites.

"We have been shocked whenever we do that, the variances we find," he said. "Design wise it allows flexibility to test a topo and to adjust and adapt right away."

Because architects want to use as much soil as they can from a site without having to truck in any, accurately knowing how much cut and fill will be produced is vital to setting a price for the job.

Griffiths said the GPS system has saved him money and time on the three courses he has built since

purchasing HiPerlite.

HiPerlite also has access to not just the 24 U.S. satellites circling the globe but also to nine Glonass satellites, a Russian network. According to Topcon, the U.S. satellites are all in the southern hemisphere while the Russian ones are more evenly distributed across the horizon decreasing the chances of encountering dead spots.

As Griffiths points out, even with the Glonass satellites there are limitations.

"It does not work in the woods," he added. ■

*Anthony Pioppi is a contributing editor to Golfdom.*

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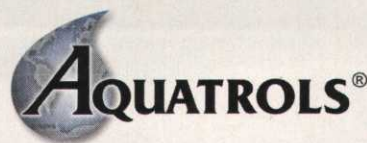
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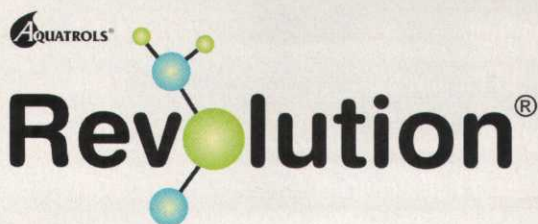


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#### Emerald®

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#### Curalan® EG

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**Drive® 75 DF herbicide** effectively raises the bar for postemergent weed control. A single, convenient application of Drive quickly clears your course of a broad spectrum of both broadleaf and grassy weeds — from crabgrass and foxtail to clover and dandelion — in a wide variety of turf species. Then Drive keeps weeds under control and fairways clean for 30 to 45 days — in some cases for more than 3 months. Drive also offers exceptional seeding and overseeding flexibility — allowing you to seed many varieties of turf immediately before or after application.

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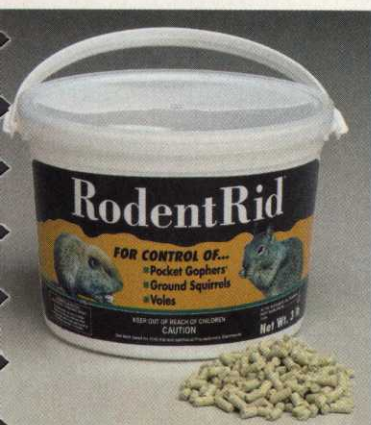
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