

Once a new pump station hits the ground, it's up to superintendents and their crews to preserve that newness.

Protecting the Pump Station

BY ANTHONY PIOPPA, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Perhaps no single piece of equipment on a golf course is more vital to the survival of the turf than the pump station. A mere burp or hiccup in its operation and the grass suffers. A failure of a pump nears the top of the list of worst nightmares for any golf course superintendent.

But simple preventive measures, some of which add not a dime to the operating budget, can increase the life of a pump station and ease superintendents' minds.

Something as simple as closing the control panel door exactly how it was designed to be shut can add years to the life of a pump station, says Rob Kerrigan, product manager of engineered pump systems for Rain Bird.

He says he has encountered a number of situations where the door was not

secured properly, which allows debris and material buildup to occur inside the panel. In one case, he was amazed to find the panel door was being held shut by a broom handle.

For older pumps, Kerrigan recommends checking the weather strip around the door panel to make sure it's still doing its job of forming a tight seal.

One maintenance factor that is often overlooked is inspecting wiring on not just old pumps, but new pumps as well, Kerrigan says. Within 90 days of installation there should be an inspection to look for loose wiring caused by the vibrations of the pump. Kerrigan says it's not uncommon for the problems with new pumps to be traced back to wiring.

John Murtaugh, customer service direc-

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Inexpensive maintenance can increase its life and bring superintendents peace of mind

Protecting the Pump Station

Paying almost daily attention to a pump station is the best way to prevent it from failing.

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tor for ITT Flowtronex, agrees that keeping an eye on electrical connections is vital.

"It can do catastrophic damage," he says of a wire that has become detached.

Kerrigan is adamant that those performing an inspection must make safety a priority. "Verify the panel is dead, and make sure the power is turned off," he states.

Depending on what area of the country the golf course is located or how often the pump is run, inspections by a technician need to take place one to four times a year, Murtaugh says.

He also says those in charge of the pump station, whether it is superintendents or irrigation technicians, should spend enough time in a pump house to understand normal operating conditions.

"He should smell it; he should listen to it," Murtaugh says. "If he walks in one day and something is different, he'll know it."

The two men point out that general keep

up on scraping and painting will extend a pump's life. "Keep it cleaned up and wiped down," Kerrigan adds.

Murtaugh says that rust outside and inside a hydro tank on a system that is more than 15 years old can be dangerous. "It becomes a real safety hazard as well as a maintenance issue," he adds.

To keep a pump station (especially an older model) running at its most efficient, which means saving on electricity and water, Murtaugh says it's important to observe the pump run through a cycle.

"You want to make sure it starts when it's supposed to start and when it shuts off to stay off," he says.

The bottom line, both say, is that paying almost daily attention to a pump station — tightening bolts, checking wires, keeping the area clean — is the best way to prevent it from failing.

"It's not a fire-and-forget type of item," Kerrigan says. ■

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Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Tom Vlach will become the new golf course superintendent at the PGA TOUR flagship TPC Sawgrass, home to THE PLAYERS Championship. Vlach's new responsibilities began after THE PLAYERS in May, upon the retirement of long-time golf course superintendent **Fred Klauk** who worked for the PGA TOUR for 27 years. Klauk, who will assist in the transition as well as remain active with the PGA TOUR in a project-management capacity, was instrumental in selecting his replacement following an exhaustive search. Vlach formerly was director of grounds maintenance at Greystone Golf and Country Club in Birmingham, Ala., a position he has held since 1999.

E-Z-GO promoted **Michael Parkhurst** to vice president of global sales. The former vice president of the Golf Channel and branch operations at E-Z-GO will oversee the sales and service organizations including specialty, used, fleet golf, corporate accounts, parts, accessories and customer care.

Dow AgroSciences named **Marney Dorsey** and **Justin Stewart** to its turf and ornamental sales team. Dorsey is the sales representative for the turf and ornamental market in Ohio, eastern Michigan, western Pennsylvania and western West Virginia. Stewart will be responsible for sales in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky.

Edward J. Sealy Jr. is the new superintendent at the Rose Hill Country Club, a Signature Golf Group property.

Rudy Virga was promoted to director of operations of Empire Golf Management. He most recently served as general manager of Pine Barrens Golf Club for the past 10 years. He started his career at Empire as the first assistant professional at Minisceongo Golf Club, in Pomona, N.Y.

Two employees of Tri-Turf earned the designation of the No. 1 and No. 2 salespersons in the world for sales of Nature Safe Fertilizer. **Steve Adamczyk** of the Grand Rapids, Mich., office was named the top salesman in the world, and **Eric Denoyer** of Traverse City, Mich., was recognized as holding the No. 2 honor.

Becky Gauthier joined Profile Products LLC as a technical service associate.

Quali-Pro hired **Larry Blackledge** as West Coast area manager. Blackledge most recently served as technical sales representative with Nichino America. Prior to that, he held Sales positions with Nu-Gro Technologies, AgrEvo USA and Wilbur Ellis Co.

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's 2008 officers and trustees are: President **Todd Voss**, superintendent of Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio; Vice President **Dan Walter**, superintendent of City of Blue Ash Golf Course near Cincinnati; and Treasurer **Joe Enciso** of Century Equipment.

FarmLinks LLC named **Blake Garrett** as the new experience manager of The Experience at FarmLinks. He will connect directly with the more than



Dorsey



Stewart



Adamczyk



Denoyer



Voss



Walter



Enciso



Garrett

1,200 golf course superintendents and golf professionals who visit the facility each year. Garrett was golf course superintendent at FarmLinks.

Hunter Industries promoted **Steve Abernethy** to executive vice president of sales and **Gregory Hunter** to executive vice president of marketing. Abernethy will have complete responsibility for both domestic and international sales operations, and the current marketing organization will now report to Hunter.

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▲ Walking seeder

With the introduction of its TriWave Walking seeder, Turfco has taken the innovations developed for its TriWave 60-inch tractor-mounted overseeder and applied them in a new way to a smaller, self-propelled machine. The result is a new walking seeder that not only increases the success of seeding operations but is also easy to operate, adjust and maintain, according to the company. Turfco says the TriWave is the only seeder available that can seed an entire surround in one pass,

▶ Golf car

Four years after introducing the most advanced golf car in its history, Club Car says it has done it again. On the heels of the 2004 launch of Precedent comes Precedent i2, a more reliable, better performing car, according to the company.

Precedent i2 and the Precedent i2L model includes a number of upgrades aimed at upscale facilities. To the casual observer, the Precedent i2 looks like its namesake. The exterior styling that set Precedent apart from three decades of angular-shaped golf cars has not been altered. But the Precedent i2 changes start with the new Excel drive system, which continues the evolution of Club Car's electric platform with enhanced efficiency, reliability and control capabilities. One of the key benefits of the more sophisticated system is that it increases the benefits of Precedent's motor braking and regenerative braking features to provide greater control of the vehicle and a smoother ride, according to Club Car.

For more information, contact www.clubcar.com.



without pulling the blades out of the ground and without tearing the turf.

Turfco engineers combined the qualities of the company's patented WaveBlade design with precise alignment of the drive wheels on the TriWave Walking to achieve the ability to turn while seeding, with minimal disruption to existing turf.

For more information, contact www.turfco.com.

Soil sensor upgrade

Advanced Sensor Technology said it has upgraded its wireless soil sensors that provide data for the RZ-Wireless system, resulting in greater accuracy for monitoring moisture, salinity and temperature. The RZ-Wireless sensor employs two frequencies — one to measure soil moisture while another measures soil salinity — producing an accurate measurement of both moisture and salinity, even in varying soil types and problematic high-salinity soils. As a result, the end-user can better manage turf with the variations of real-world conditions such as soil type, salinity, climate, compaction and fertilizer application.

For more information, contact www.advancedensors.com.

Aquatic herbicide

Kraken aquatic herbicide has been added to the expanding aquatic product line offered by Phoenix Environmental Care LLC. Kraken, with the active ingredient triclopyr, provides selective and fast-acting control of undesirable aquatic species, including woody plants and certain annual and perennial aquatic plants. Kraken's systemic mode of action is highly effective on nuisance aquatic, wetland and ditch-bank

species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, alligatorweed and Phragmites, according to the company.

For more information, contact www.phoenixenvcare.com.

Web site features parts catalog

Jacobsen has a new section of its Web site dedicated to providing customers with information and guidance on selecting and ordering Jacobsen Genuine Parts (www.Jacobsen.com/parts) for all of the company's mowers and turf equipment.

With the addition of a separate Genuine Parts section online, customers now can log on to the Jacobsen Web site and find a comprehensive parts catalog with several search options, inclusive parts manuals and easy-to-use, specific product information all in one place. Jacobsen Genuine Parts also includes the Never-Out Parts program, an initiative guaranteeing that the 1,000 most commonly requested maintenance items are constantly in stock.

For more information, contact www.Jacobsen.com/parts.

Herbicide

BASF offers a new broad-spectrum herbicide for weed control. Segment herbicide provides selective control of weed problems in centipedegrass, annual bluegrass, and established fine and tall fescue turfgrasses. BASF says it's an excellent rotation product that provides broad-spectrum control of the most common grass weed problems and helps minimize labor costs.

For more information, contact www.betterturf.com.



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summer movies

This month proves to be a wonderful one on the big screen. On May 2, one of my favorite comic book characters, Iron Man,

made his film debut. On May 9, my favorite cartoon character, Speed Racer, did the same. And on May 22, audiences will be able to see one of their favorite movie characters back on the silver screen as Indiana Jones returns to explore the “Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.”

Even though I really don't go to the movies anymore, what with a job, kids and more jobs, I do plan on making three treks this month to indulge in popcorn and escape. However, as summer approaches, it seems fitting to return to our cinematic roots and examine in detail those movies that are particularly apt for summer viewing.

10) “Meatballs” (1979). A goofy comedy about lovable losers at a summer camp. It stars Bill Murray. Need I say more?

9) “What About Bob?” (1991). Another underrated Bill Murray comedy. Here he plays Bobby Wiley, a fellow with more than a few problems. Hilarity and hijinx ensue when he crashes his shrink's (a grumpy Richard Dreyfus) summer house.

ENJOY A BLEND OF BLOCKBUSTERS AND CLASSIC CHARACTERS

BY MARK LUCE

8) “Kill Bill Volume 1” (2004). The Deadly Vipers Assassination Squad, the Crazy 88s, martial arts mayhem, gallons of spurting blood, sword play and Beatrix Kiddo, the baddest of all bad chicks.

7) “Who Framed Roger Rabbit” (1988). On some level it's the human detective Eddie Valiant (played by Bob Hoskins) that makes this half-animated movie so darn entertaining. Of course, one could equally argue that it's the buxom Jessica Rabbit that gives the movie its “va-va-vavoom.”

6) “Terminator 2” (1991). I'm not sure which is better — the T-1000 jumping from the motorcycle to the helicopter or his recombination from blobs of liquid metal.

5) “The Matrix” (1999). Other than Bill and Ted, probably the only Keanu Reeves movie I like, mostly because he plays himself — an addled dufus who constantly says “huh?” The slow-mo gun battles totally changed movie-action sequences, and Agent Smith still creeps me out.

4) “Top Gun” (1986). OK, I admit it, I am a sucker for this movie despite the theme song, despite Tom



Cruise, shirtless volleyball and the now oh-so-tired rendition of “You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling.” The flying scenes, though ... they're still aces.

3) “Jaws” (1975). It was terrifying then. It's just as terrifying now. Don't go near the water.

2) “Die Hard” (1988). The first of the smart-aleck action pictures featured a barefoot John McClane running across shattered glass, ferocious action and one of the best bad guys around — Hans Gruber.

1) “Raiders of the Lost Ark” (1981). I saw this in June of my 11th year at the Mid-Sate Cinema in Salina, Kan., and have never forgotten the unmitigated joy of this movie. Whether Indy is just shooting the sword dude, or evil Arnold Toht's face melting, there's no topping this homage to Saturday morning serials. Happy viewing.

Mark Luce lives in Kansas City, Mo., where he spends his free time trolling TV channels for movies that make him laugh.

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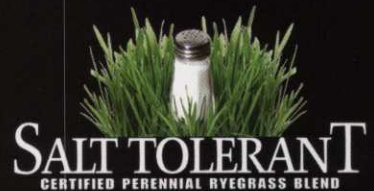
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