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reason #1

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Continued from page 50

▲ **John Deere Golf** says its 2009 new product lineup — its largest product launch to date with eight products — draws inspiration from earlier John Deere products, combining existing solutions with new innovations in engineering. The new products include the 220 E-Cut Hybrid Walk Greens Mower, which incorporates the new Quick Adjust Cutting Units with the patented Speed Link system. The 220 E-Cut offers an independent cutting unit attached to the mower's traction drive system that improves course appearance.

Deere also introduced the 7200 PrecisionCut Trim and Surrounds Mower with Quick Adjust cutting units, which allows the operator to change mowing width quickly, even while driving, without tools or additional parts. The company also rolled out the 7500 and 8500 E-Cut Hybrid Fairway Mowers. Built on the same platform as the Precision Cut line of fairway mowers introduced in 2008, the E-Cuts are designed with fewer possible hydraulic leak points to protect fairway appearance, according to the company. And then there's the 8000 E-Cut Hybrid Fairway Mower, which combines the benefits of the Precision Cut line and adds the Quick Adjust 5 cutting units.

The company also showcased the 8800 TerrainCut Rotary Mower, an easy-to-use mower designed with ground following; the HD200 and HD300 SelectSpray Series of turf sprayers; and the Quick Adjust Cutting Units featuring the Speed Link system, which can be adjusted in a few seconds from one point on the cutting unit. The technology allows one-thousandth-of-an-inch adjustments to be made to both sides of the roller simultaneously with only a power drill required to make the change.

Nufarm Americas offers 4-Speed and 4-Speed XT herbicides. They combine several proven active ingredients to control virtually all broadleaf weeds in turf, and work quickly, with symptoms visible in 48 hours or less, according to the company.


4-Speed combines dicamba, 2,4-D and MCP-P with pyraflufen, while 4-Speed XT contains dicamba, 2,4-D and triclopyr in addition to pyraflufen. The herbicides show good tolerance on all the major cool- and warm-season turfgrasses when used as directed, according to the company.

Dakota Peat & Equipment showcased a hybrid topdresser that replaces the hydraulic system with an electric system to run the conveyor belt and spinners. With all the same features of the current Dakota 410, the hybrid eliminates the chance of hydraulic leaks and features an electrical system that offers easy calibration and pinpoint accuracy for the most demanding jobs, according to the company.

White Metal Golf introduces the fast-and easy-to-use Tidy Whitey hole painting system. In less than five seconds, the Tidy Whitey turns the soil above the cup bright white with no drips, no overspray, no set up and no clean up, the company says.

DuPont Professional Products announced that the granular formulation of its DuPont Acelepryn insecticide has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. With just one early application of Acelepryn, turfgrass professionals can control all 10 key turf-damaging white grub species plus surface-feeding insects such as cutworms, webworms, annual bluegrass weevils and billbugs, DuPont says. Acelepryn uses an active ingredient that has been classified as EPA Reduced Risk for turf applications.

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Technology

Continued from page 53

► **Redexim Charterhouse** unveiled two new models of coring aerators at the show. It offers the re-designed Verti-Core II and the latest Easy-Core series machines, which incorporate several new and improved features including simple adjustments, a trouble-free belt drive system and multiple tine options. With working speeds up to 3.5 mph, the new coring machines save time and money, according to the company. Fewer moving parts equate to simple service and less maintenance.

J.J. Mauget Co. introduces its new line of refillable micro-injection chemical technologies, Liquid Loadables, which are 1-liter bottles of Mauget's insecticides, fungicides, antibiotics, fertilizers and micronutrients that tree-care experts can use to refill their preferred



injection system, allowing them to pair their tools with top tree-care chemistry. Mauget offers the Liquid Loadable products Imicide, Stemix Plus and Inject-A-Min Manganese, with Fungisol, ArborFos, Abacide 2 and Tebuject 16 pending EPA approval. Mycoject Ultra antibiotic will be available in September. Fungisol, a proprietary fungicide, manages more than 30 foliar and stem diseases like anthracnose, bleeding canker and various wilt diseases. Imicide insecticide prevents and eradicates pests like the Asian Longhorned Beetle, and is an effective method of prevention and control of the Emerald Ash Borer. Stemix Plus fertilizer stimulates foliar and root growth.

Dow AgroSciences offers LOCKUP specialty herbicide for control of dollarweed in the South. LOCKUP provides ac-

tivity at extremely low use rates (0.02 to 0.06 pound of active ingredient per acre). Efficacy is increased when applied to wet foliage, and activity can be seen when applied to dry foliage on warm- or cool-season turfgrass. The active ingredient, penoxsulam, was accepted for review and registration under the Reduced Risk Pesticide Initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

► **Hustler Turf Equipment** offers its fairway mower, which features a 36HP Shibaura four-cycle diesel engine that's compliant with Tier 3 U.S. emission regulations. The mower's column tilts and telescopes for comfort and safer operation. Rear-cutting units rotate

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THIS MONTH'S HEALTH TIP



As a loving dog owner, you'd do anything to prevent your dog from suffering. After all, dogs are part of the family. Yet every year when flea season begins, the suffering sets in: flea bites and the subsequent scratching and chewing. It's a painful and irritating routine for you and your dog. See your veterinarian for the latest new products that kill adult fleas, eggs, and larvae. Ideally, flea control should begin as flea prevention — before flea season starts.

Sofie. His owner is Dave Peck, assistant superintendent of Grantwood Golf Course in Solon, OH. (Photo by: Dave Peck)



Improving the Way Professionals Care for Turf

out and up for easy maintenance.

Hustler also offers its walk-behind greens mower, which features double-engine stop switches on the control panel. Precise weight balance provides comfortable control and ensures smooth turning, according to the company. The mower also has easy-to-reach clutch controls for safe operation. ■



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It's Super-intendent!

The incredible stories of Doug Higgins and Bruce Nelson got me thinking: It's time for a comic-book superhero based on the deeds of golf course superintendents.

My working title is "Superman."
Oh, wait, that's taken.

Hmmm . . . how about GolfCourse-ManagerMan? DirectorOfGrounds-Man? OK, so we have to collateralize the branding and default swap the platform, as the MBAs running Hollywood might say.

But first, the back stories on Higgins and Nelson.

Higgins, superintendent of Regatta Bay Golf Club in Destin, Fla., was making his morning rounds on the course when he saw a car sinking in one of his golf course ponds. Higgins called 911, took off his shoes and jumped in the pond to rescue an elderly woman whose car was almost entirely submerged in the water.

"I was on the 16th hole, and I could hear tires squealing," Higgins told the Northwest Florida News. "The front door was too far in the water. I couldn't get it open. I was beating on the glass saying, 'Unlock your doors. Unlock your doors.'"

Eventually, the doors unlocked and Higgins had to go in through a back door, pulling the woman to safety.

Two months before that, but only recently revealed, Fox Hollow at Lake-wood (Colo.) Certified Superintendent Bruce Nelson was quietly fishing the South Platte River with his buddy, CJ, when they were startled by a woman screaming for help. The woman had just watched someone slip on an icy

LET'S CREATE A SUPERHERO BASED ON

DOUG HIGGINS AND BRUCE NELSON, THE TWO

SUPERINTENDENTS WHO RECENTLY SAVED LIVES

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



bank of the river. After about 20 minutes, Nelson found the man, who was unconscious and pinned between the sloping ice and a boulder. After Nelson risked life and limb to get to the badly injured man, he and CJ stabilized him, built a fire and waited until after night-fall when a search-and-rescue unit arrived to take the man away.

You see where I'm going here?

Sure, the awards, commendations and all that business about saving lives remains an essential part of Higgins' and Nelson's stories. But the L.A.-native in me says let's get these real-life heroes an agent. The golf industry needs its own stars, and we have the perfect role models for a golf course superintendent superhero series.

Cynics might say Hollywood will question how middle-aged men who deal with neurotic golfers and their silly requests could make for the next great comic book/action-hero series. (Translation: How will they put the coveted 9- to 15-year-old demographic in the seats?)

Well, we know the humor part is easy. Throw our Nelson/Higgins hero into any one of thousands of country clubs. By day, he hears pathetic whining about tee placement for the seniors mixed high-ball, only to be saving those distressed golfers by night. Here's the

pitch: "Batman" meets "Caddyshack" in the vein of "The Incredibles."

For the superhero outfit, I picture some cool green-stained white coveralls, manly rubber boots and a high-tech air mask. Granted, it's not sexy sounding and probably won't turn up on your doorstep next Halloween. I'm just giving the costume designers a starting point.

And you ask, what about the all important GolfCourseManagerMobile? I'm thinking some sort of converted golf car with a mangy-looking spray rig, oversized mowing reels and a huge clippings fan to blow the bad guys into outer space. Memo to mower manufacturers: Get to work on a prototype. Chop, chop!

If my pitch works, superintendents will finally have an icon to put the Carl Spackler image to rest. Kids will want to be superintendents and members will stop talking down to their man for fear they may need him to save the world. (Well, I know the kids' part will happen.)

And if Hollywood doesn't buy in? We still have Higgins and Nelson to thank for being true heroes and genuine icons of the industry.

Here's to their heroism.

Geoff Shackelford can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com.

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