

## Spring Break—

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or out on the beach because peak times around the resorts are early morning and late evening.

While it is important for me to relax on my vacation, these experiences inspired me to play a round of golf and hopefully tour a maintenance facility this year in Mexico. You never know what you may learn from a different operation that you can implement at your course. I was amazed at how similar the duties and routines were at two different operations, a golf course and a resort. I learned a lot last year about the upkeep of resorts, but most importantly I learned how to connect with our Hispanic employees in the least likely of places, while on spring break.

*It's in the Hole .....*

### GCSAA Survey to be sent in March

Third phase of GCSAA's National Golf Course Environmental Profile project is coming soon. Widespread participation of GCSAA members and non-members is needed for continued success in the third phase of the association's Golf Course Environmental Profile Project. The results will be used to provide an accurate portrayal of nutrient use on golf courses.

This phase will collect data from golf course superintendents on the amount of nutrients applied to golf courses. Surveys will be distributed beginning March 19 in both hard copy and electronic forms, with the cutoff date for the receipt of information April 27.

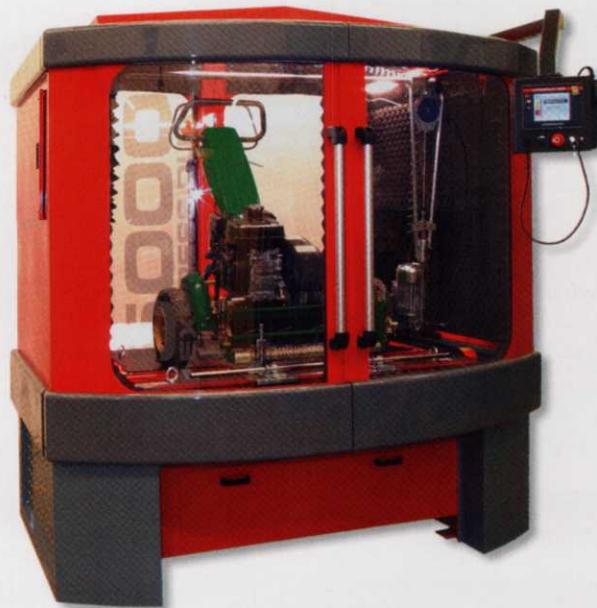
"We have been pleased by the response rate of the first two phases," GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D., said. "It is important that we have strong participation by both GCSAA member and non-member superintendents to compile the necessary data. It is vital that we get data from all types and sizes of facilities. The information will help GCSAA to better serve them in managing their facilities."

The survey is part of a multi-year project being undertaken by GCSAA that will evaluate environmental performance on golf courses. The Golf Course Environmental Profile project is designed to collect information that will allow superintendents and other facility personnel to become better managers, help them operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices on the golf course.

Throssell indicated the data are still being analyzed from the first two phases, one focusing on the physical profile of a golf facility and the other on water use and conservation. The first comprehensive report of the first two phases will appear in a peer-reviewed scientific journal this year. The Environmental Institute for Golf funded the first two phases of the project, thanks in part to a grant from The Toro Foundation.

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of golf with the natural environment. For more on The Institute, visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

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