

Designing a Vehicle/Equipment Washpad

By Scot Ender

Ruffridge-Johnson Equipment Co., Inc.

Water flows downhill, oils float and solids sink. There, now anyone reading this is qualified to design an equipment wash area. Or so it would seem.

All of the above statements are true in most cases. However, throw in some soap, some grass clippings and some high ph chemicals and the usual physical characteristics of water, oils and solids will change.

Constructing a washpad should be more than throwing down a slab of concrete that slopes toward a center trench. Do you know anyone who likes to clean the muck out of a drainage trench or catch basin? Which is easier: Shoveling and scooping out a six-foot deep sump area or emptying an above-ground bag filter or cart? Which will get done on a regular basis by your employees?

What if the washpad were constructed so that the natural physical characteristics of oils, solids and chemicals were encouraged to interact and therefore remove themselves from the water? It can be done and it isn't expensive or difficult. Common sense and GOOD PLANNING are the key ingredients in designing a wash area.

Another important aspect of a good washpad is

what happens to the water after it leaves the pad. If you are building a new maintenance facility your odds of getting a permit to discharge washwater to the surface or to a drainfield are slim at best.

So, if your options are to collect the wastewater in a holding tank or to recycle, then the cleaner your discharge, the cheaper it is going to be to dispose of the water or to recycle it.

Make the maintenance of your wash area a simple task. Trap the solids and clippings in an easily compostable manner. Separate the oils and greases for skimming and disposal with other waste oils. Make it easy to do for general maintenance and to keep the wash area looking like it isn't an environmental liability. Step back and take a look at your wash operation and if it looks bad to you, think of how it looks to the golfers and others that may pass by.

ACSP for Schools—

(Continued from Page 25)

How to Get Started

1. The first step is to identify the public or private elementary, middle or high school that you want to adopt.

2. Contact and give a brochure to the principal at the school. Thoroughly explain the program to the principal and get approval before going any further.

3. Fill out the registration form found in the brochure and mail it to The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools, along with the \$100 registration fee and the name of the contact person at the school.

After the registration form is processed you will receive a letter confirming the adoption of the school and thanking you for your participation in the program. All materials will be sent directly to the school. Feel free to keep in touch with the school contact for updates on the school's participation in the program.

To obtain a membership packet or to find out more about how the program works, please contact the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools at 518/767-9051. To learn more about maximizing the value of your participation as an "adopter," please contact the GCSAA Public Affairs Department at 913/832-4490

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

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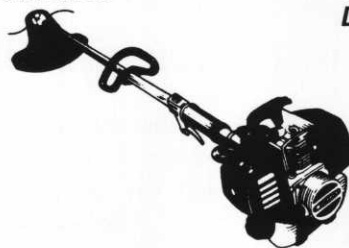
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JOB OPENINGS

To: Members/MGCSA

The Links at Northfork is now accepting applications for the position of ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT. The Links at Northfork is an 18-hole, public golf course located in Ramsey, Minn. The course features Pennlinks greens and Penncross tees and fairways while utilizing a Network 8000 irrigation system.

Personal requirements include a minimum two years of turf education and experience working on a golf course. Must be able to obtain a Minnesota pesticide license.

Responsibilities include assistance in all aspects of golf course maintenance, proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides, knowledge of irrigation systems and ability to operate all turf and grounds related equipment, prepare and keep precise records and be in charge of superintendent's responsibilities and duties when he is absent.

Salary range is \$18,000-\$20,000 and is based on experience and qualifications.

Benefits include club-paid health insurance, paid annual vacation and dues paid for membership in MGCSA and expenses involved in attending regional education seminars.

The position is open immediately.

Application deadline is June 1, 1996.

Send resume to: MITCH FOSSEY, Superintendent
The Links at Northfork
9400 153rd Ave. N.W.
Ramsey, MN 55303

To: Members/MGCSA

Applications are now being accepted for the position of SPRAY/IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN at The Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake, Minn.

The Wilds is a new 18-hole, upscale public golf course designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish.

Duties would include the precise application of turf maintenance products with sprayers and spreaders. Also, this person would assist in the operation of the automatic irrigation system along with all other golf course maintenance procedures.

Qualification's include previous golf course experience, a pesticide applicator's license and a turf school student or graduate.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. State dues paid.

Inquiries should be directed to:

JAMES D. GARDNER, CGCS
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Phone: (612) 496-0037

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- Toro 3100 Greensmower\$9,000
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Contact: James D. Gardner, CGCS
The Wilds Golf Club

612/496-0037

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- ★ 1990 Smith Co. Super Rake with Plow and Cultivator
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Contact: TOM PARENT
River Oaks G.C.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Parent
River Oaks Golf Course



A written rebuttal to "Who's Idea Was This Anyway? According to the response I have received via E-mail, phone and in-person, our chapter should have voted 95% against the by-law changes and 5% for it. I think I'll start writing articles that I think everyone should agree with me on and I'll probably get an overwhelmingly negative response.

In the Lions Den

On the 23rd of April I attended a seminar sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The speaker was Mr. Brian Detzler who is the parks director for the City of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. The subject was how the Waterloo parks department had reduced its pesticide usage for 90% of the acres maintained to .25%. This was done using a program called the Plant Health Care Program.

The Plant Health Care Program is different from IMP in the fact it tries to prevent problems proactively instead of monitoring and treating as needed like you would find in an IPM approach.

Unfortunately some of the strategies such as mowing rye/blue grass at three and one-quarter inches and routine "rest days" would not apply to golf courses.

In addition to raised mowing height, another basic strategy was very aggressive aerification. They aerified their sports fields twice a month, alternating core aerification with spiking, using an airway. At River Oaks we can attest to the value of this approach. We have aerated with "mini" tines on a monthly basis for the last several years with great success.

I had expected to be attending this seminar with fellow turf professionals. As it turns out I saw only four persons from our profession and a few other "Green Space Managers" (I like that term for our profession). The rest of the audience was comprised of very hard core environmentalists and their "guest." By hard core, I mean "All pesticides are toxic and will lead to the extinction of our race." Yes, that is a quote.

I had the pleasure of engaging in a debate with several of these well-intentioned zealots. As one was finishing off her vegetarian lunch from a caterer that specializes in organic food, I mentioned that she had just eaten insecticides, and fungicides that if presented for EPA approval would never make it on the market.

She looked at me like I was nuts! I continued with the question: How do you think plants defend themselves? . . . Magic? I wanted to continue with the fact that coffee and table salt are more toxic than most chemicals used on turf but I knew the route was hopeless.

She started quoting authors that in my readings on alternative management practices I recognized as well . . .

less than scientific shall we say. Her point was that pesticides destruction of the human races would be brought about by the disruption of our endochrin system (hormones, etc.)

I later mentioned to her that one of the primary winter feeds of livestock in England was turnips which contain a chemical that would never pass through the EPA. I continued with the fact that this chemical can and does inhibit reproduction (endochrin drivin system) in the livestock. It is the same chemical(s) that are found in broccoli and give it its nasty odor and the snap in its taste. (That's why George Bush and I are such sensible men.)

Again, she looked at me like I was nuts (Not all that uncommon of a reaction, really) and this time with the disdain you would give a small child. It was clear to her that I understood nothing. It was like debating politics with my mother-in-law (Whom I love dearly). She's right, I'm wrong. Talk all you want to but you won't change her mind. Or to quote my best friend's best line "I'm sorry but you're wrong."

I was going to rebut her again by asking if she'd like me to sprinkle some rotenone, neem oil or nicotine on her salad but decided that I would have been wasting my time. These people believe what they want to believe and refuse to even think about anything else. With any luck, she will think twic about what I said the next time she eats her organically grown broccoli salad.

If you read my articles you already know I'm a spray at last resorter. I also believe pesticides are overused by some green space managers (it does have a nice ring to it) and as a result the reputation of our whole profession suffers.

What I also know is that no matter how proficient we become at managing our golf courses with reduced chemicals, I for one will always have a couple of gallons of subdue and a case or two of daconil in the chemical storage locker. After all, what's better for the environment, bare soil or treated turf?

* * * *

I have had several requests to get a list of E-mail addresses put together for MGCSA members. If you are interested in sharing your E-mail address with your fellow members we will publish it in the July issue. Just send it to me at this address: (tparent@minn.net)

MEMBER-GENERATED ARTICLES

Articles written by members are the key to the success of a publication such as *Hole Notes*. We listen to each other's ideas and trust each other's common sense and advice, so why not share it? An experience of a superintendent at one golf course may be of use to a fellow superintendent at another course. *Hole Notes* needs you to put down those thoughts on paper and welcomes your suggestions for articles. Please contact Tom Parent, Editor, *Hole Notes*.

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