

Green Section Record

REGIONAL UPDATE

September 18, 2020

8-8-2017

Overall 10° Mostly Cloudy 81 10° 12°

Mowing profiles

Approach
Fairways
Tees

Darren Brooks ①: RG3 zone 7 ②: Topdress greens - old 8 red green behind Serhii	John Holmes ①: RG3 zone 6 ②: Spray rough ③: Lunch duty
Javier Crisostomo ①: RG3 zone 3 ②: National	Petro Kovalchuk ①: Clipping trailer ②: Mow collars and blue/gold side ③: Weed eater com
David Duvall ①: RG3 zone 4 ②: Shop	Jeff Lindley ①: Drag dew off fairways ②: Spray fairways
Craig Fonte ①: Mow Fairways ②: Mow Rough 4300	Harry Mankey ①: Mow Fairways ②: Mow rough TN75
Richard France ①: Mow Fairways ②: Mow Rough 4300	Paul Martin ①: Tee service
Joseph Gasbarrini ①: Mow Fairways ②: Mow rough Kubota	Karl McShane ①: RG3 zone 5 ②: Shrub beds - Remove woody plants
Victor Gil ①: RG3 zone 1 ②: Flood cleanup - Ventac Sec	

Excessive organic matter content was common in areas of turf decline throughout the 2020 season.

TRACKING LABOR HOURS WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

BY GREEN SECTION STAFF, NORTHEAST REGION

Tracking labor – the greatest operating cost of a golf course maintenance operation – can be extremely challenging and time consuming without the correct tools. Tracking the amount of time it takes to complete the numerous daily tasks that occur on a golf course can be a full-time job. Furthermore, maintaining an accurate daily record of tasks performed, course conditions, turf health and other important information requires considerable time and devotion. John Shaw, golf course superintendent at Valley Brook Country Club in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, was looking for a solution that would allow him to gather valuable data about his labor resources without creating a tremendous administrative burden for the department.

At first, Shaw utilized Microsoft Excel to track labor inputs throughout the



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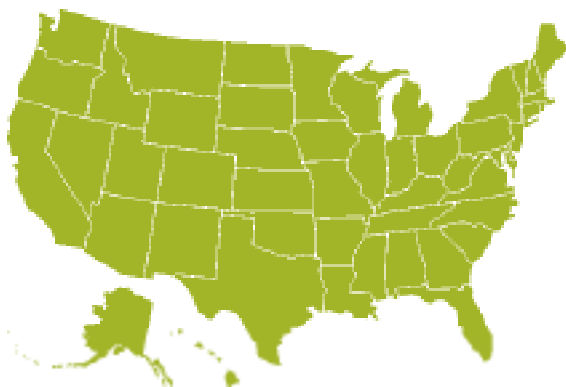
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golf course. This was a successful way to measure how much time and labor went in to maintaining the 27-hole facility while also keeping detailed records for easy reference. However, the information in the spreadsheets was only as good as what was entered, which meant that Shaw and his team had to invest considerable time to ensure accurate data entry.

Shaw eventually came across a more automated approach to tracking labor that required considerably less input from himself and the staff. The software operates as a digital job board that automatically tracks how much time and labor costs go into a specific task and specific areas of the golf course. This digital job board eliminated all the extra work that was needed to input information into the spreadsheet documents they had been using. What was once a time-consuming, and sometimes inaccurate, daily challenge was now done automatically.

Shaw now has a detailed breakdown of time commitments and costs for each task and area of the golf course. This information is used to assess the level of labor inputs relative to the surface's performance. The software produces detailed reports in the form of tables and charts so that data can be easily interpreted. This has made the labor tracking program a great tool for communicating specific labor needs to facility decision-makers.

Additionally, detailed notes on tasks performed, weather and other important information are all readily available. Productivity has also improved because of better scheduling. When asked if he would have changed anything, Shaw replied: "I would have started using the labor management software much sooner if I could go back in time."



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