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if he forgets the basics. And lately, things have gotten real goofy: mowing heights, PGRs, playing golf all season."

One of the keys to keeping the course maintained is head mechanic Tom Woodall, who Coldiron calls "the single most important person on the golf course."

Woodall and his assistant are in charge of maintaining four tractors, half-a-dozen

**"We've made a ton of improvements that have come from the employees. I provide the tools and let them be creative."**

—Jerry Coldiron, Jr.

riding triplex mowers, four "five-plex" fairway mowers and 10 work carts. "We've got state-of-the-art equipment," Coldiron notes, "mostly Toro and Jacobsen."

Boone Links also leases 105 Club Car carts, and will contract for about 70 more when Lassing Pointe opens next spring.

**Growing out**—When LM visited Boone Links, the new 18-hole Lassing Pointe course was being grown in.

"Its design (by architect Michael Hurdzan) and construction was an exciting process," Coldiron notes. "It's a fabulous project. It could be one of the top five public courses opening in the U.S. next year."

Lassing Pointe was financed by bonds; Boone Links is self-supporting. The courses have a combined maintenance budget of \$1.6 million. And success has contributed to growth. "We've been so successful because we've never used tax dollars except for the feasibility study conducted for Lassing Pointe in 1991."

The key to its success always comes back to working with people, Coldiron reminds us.

"This is not brain surgery," he says. "You don't have to be a rocket scientist. We strive to make everything pleasant, to serve the public without worrying about our own problems. These are things you teach yourself."

—Jerry Roche

## GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

### Grinding, sharpening blades

■ Grinding and sharpening to mate the reel and bedknife of your greensmower are the two most important processes in the mower maintenance program, according to Tim Moraghan of the USGA Green Section.

You should grind blades whenever a new knife is used, after topdressing and on a biweekly schedule throughout the mowing season, he says. Grinding should be followed by backlapping, the fine sharpening and mating of the bedknife to the reel using a fine grit, emory-based compound.

When you purchase a bedknife, consider the following, Moraghan says:

1) There are three levels of bedknife thickness: regular, thin and championship. The lower the cutting height, the thinner the knife.

2) Use bedknives made of factory-recommended hardened steel.

3) Check for bends in the bedknives prior to purchase.

4) Match the mower brand with the bedknife.

5) Remove the paint on the bottom of the bedknife before mowing.

6) Check that all mounting screws are flush with the bottom of the bedknife prior to mowing.

### Water use on committee's agenda

■ Water usage studies are on the agenda of the GCSAA Scholarship & Research foundation's projects.

The studies would document actual water usage rates on golf courses around the country and compare them to other agricultural and industrial uses. They are scheduled to begin in the next five to 10 years.

Other projects scheduled are: a national study of the economic impact of golf courses and golf course maintenance; bird

and wildlife studies that would document the impact of maintenance practices on animals; and risk assessment studies to determine the actual pesticide exposure of golf course workers.

The University of Iowa's College of Medicine has been selected for the risk assessment study. Team leader is Iowa's Dr. Burton Kross. The initial study will focus on superintendents who have managed golf courses in the past 23 years.

### Nelson gets 'Old Tom' Award

■ One of the greatest golfers of all time, Byron Nelson, will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA.

"There is probably not a nicer man in golf," says GCSAA president Randy Nichols. "Even though he officially retired from the pro tour nearly 50 years ago, he constantly gives all that he can back to the game."

The GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1982 to recognize individ-

uals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to the game.

Nelson won the Masters in 1937 and 1942, the U.S. Open in 1939, and the PGA Championship in 1940 and 1945. In 1945, he set a PGA Tour record of 11 consecutive victories, and finished with 18 for the season. His namesake PGA Tour event, the GTE Byron Nelson Classic, has brought more than 25 years of goodwill to Dallas, Texas.

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