

# Angels using underground hose system

BY DAVID G. MIHAILIDES

**A**s a golf course superintendent, I quickly learned that hand watering is a part of daily routines for golf courses everywhere. For nearly five years Reelcraft Industries has been developing a product to replace quick couplers and to eliminate the need for hose dragging, yet still have the ability to hand water. Reelcraft liked the idea of a hose reel encapsulated in a polyethylene vault, tied directly into an existing or new irrigation system, and buried underground beside each green. Soon the first underground retractable hose reel was made and I made a career change to see the project through.

The production version of Reelcraft's underground hose reel now offers 75 feet of 3/4-inch ID hose, which remains fully pressurized for immediate use and is accessible through a 6-inch round lid at the surface. We have installed our underground hose reel system in industrial parks, theme parks, upscale residences, grass tennis courts and have received interest from zoo custodians, who dis-

like dragging hoses as they routinely hose down cage floors.

In 2002, my parents were vacationing in California and attended a game at Edison Field, home of World Series Champions, the Anaheim Angels. My father noticed four men of the grounds crew were all dragging one hose to water down the infield between innings. Four men and one hose.

I followed up with Barney Lopas, sports field manager at Edison Field, and then we met at this year's Sports Turf Manager's Association Annual Conference in San Antonio in January to demonstrate our new product.

Lopas is a proponent of consistent hand watering and he immediately realized the value of the underground reel for his operation. With limited time before the start of baseball season, Mr. Lopas purchased seven underground reels and installed them immediately.

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