



INTRODUCING SUPER STAR

Super Tips

Getting Out of the Rain Does Not Require the Ritz Carlton

Have you ever heard the saying, “All I need is a roof over my head”? Well, Doug Abbuhl, golf course superintendent at Seminole Golf Club in Tallahassee, took this saying literally when he installed several “temporary” vinyl-roofed structures to act as shelters on his golf course.

Doug, who is currently serving as the president of the Coastal Plains Chapter of the FGCSA, was faced with a problem at his course four years ago: The existing shelters at Seminole were old, wooden lean-to’s that had deteriorated over the years and were unsightly. More importantly, there were fast becoming unsafe, a condition which could create a liability for the course.

Seminole Golf Club, which serves as the home course for the Florida State University golf team, was originally a nine-hole course constructed in the 1960s. Ten years later, an additional nine holes was added and it currently serves as an affordable public golf course for the students of FSU and others in Tallahassee. It even doubles as a cross-country course for several collegiate events and local road races for the residents of Tallahassee. The majority of the time, when it is serving as a golf course, the green fees are relatively low. Therefore, Doug’s expenditures are somewhat limited. For this reason, expensive, modern shelters were not an option at Seminole and Doug had to get creative.

After some research, Doug found an affordable, attractive structure. The structures that Doug installed at Seminole Golf Club each consist of a very strong, clear span (no center poles) frame of galvanized steel and a cover of industrial-grade, reinforced vinyl fabric. Assembly is quick and easy with no welding or drilling necessary and the shelters are fairly mobile. A foundation, concrete footer or slab is also not needed. Instead, auger-type ground anchors hold the structure in place. The structures are considered temporary, although most are installed and remain indefinitely. As “temporary structures” they don’t usu-



This “clear span” designed structure of galvanized steel and reinforced vinyl has proven to be an inexpensive and efficient solution to Seminole CC’s rain shelter problems. Photo by Darren Davis.



These simple shelter structures can be dressed up with landscaping or club logos, or you may elect to sell advertising space to defray the cost of the shelters. Photo by Darren Davis.

ally require a building permit, nor will they increase property taxes.

One warning that Doug has is, “After the structures are installed be sure a lightning expert is consulted to assure the structures are safe for golfers to occupy if a storm rolls in.” Another tip relates to the cleaning of the fabric, “If mold forms on the fabric, the shelters can be cleaned quickly and easily with a light solution of bleach and water,” explained Doug. He adds, “The structures can be dressed up a little by adding landscape to the outside and spreading gravel inside, on the floor of the structure. Doug had his Club’s logo (A

big Seminole Indian head) embossed on the side of most of the structures at his course. However, Doug also suggested, “You could sell the space on the sides of the structure to an advertiser to help offset the purchase price.”

Doug has been the golf course superintendent at Seminole Golf Club for six years. Prior to that Doug was the assistant superintendent at Golden Eagle Country Club also in Tallahassee.

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