

over the whole document line by line. I write the standards and then submit them to the committee annually for approval. Committees can change each year so it's important to do that.

"My first source for the standards was crew input for the obvious reason - they do the work every day. Another reason is that I wanted to establish grassroots belief in our goals to get buy-in and ownership of the responsibility for achieving the standards. These standards are then part of our training program for every employee to help each one succeed at his or her job and to provide a good quality for our members. By defining all our jobs, we also provide valuable documentation for budget preparation. When asked why you need X dollars for labor or equipment, it's pretty easy to open up

the binder and show them in black and white."

Kenyon Kyle at the 54-hole Shadow Wood C.C. in Naples said he was motivated to develop maintenance standards for his own peace of mind. Kyle said, "I watched Mark Black's responsibilities grow from a single 18-hole golf course to a 90-hole, multi-site operation with Bonita Bay. Obviously, his time spent on the golf course had to go down as he got involved in company meetings and planning sessions. The first week at Shadow Wood I knew I would need to create a set of standards like Mark did at Bonita Bay. I wanted guidelines in place that would help me meet my expectations as the person ultimately responsible."

"In conjunction with the general manager and head golf professional, we have a running list of

projects on the docket. Since we are owned by the developer we don't have a typical green committee, but rather an advisory committee made up of members that provides monthly feedback on issues and concerns. I also make it a point to be in the cart staging area near the pro shop on Men's Day to meet new members and chat about our plans and operations.

"Shadow Wood is a 54-hole complex. I knew supervising the grow-in of the new Preserve course was going to take a lot of my time. As director of golf operations I want to make sure my superintendents and the staff had all the resources they needed to provide a consistent quality experience on all the courses. By establishing and training the crew with a common set of standards we should be able to accomplish that goal."

SUPER TIPS



A custom built cabinet organizes irrigation control and communication components allowing for quick visual inspection and providing protection against unwanted tampering or mishandling. Photo by Darren Davis.

Oak Hill Irrigation Upgrade Provides Lots of Easy Tips

On a recent visit to Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY, golf course superintendent Paul B. Latshaw was kind enough to show us several "Super Tips" that may benefit many Florida golf course superintendents.

Oak Hill will serve as host for the 2003 PGA Championship, one of golf's four major championships. The Club, founded in 1901 boasts a Donald Ross-designed golf course and is no stranger to major golf tournaments, having hosted three US Opens, the 1980 PGA Championship and the 1995 Ryder Cup Matches. The golf course is also ranked in the top 25 on most Top 100 lists.

Latshaw and his staff have spent the last several years preparing for the upcoming PGA championship by revitalizing the conditioning of the

golf course to meet and exceed expectations of the PGA for hosting the upcoming championship. Included in this revitalization was a major irrigation renovation and the following two "Super Tips" relate to that irrigation project.

Command Center

The first tip was found in the new computerized irrigation system "command center." Adjacent to the computer that runs the irrigation program, is the additional hardware needed by the Rain Bird control system to send and receive the data necessary for the smooth operation of the state of the art irrigation system. At other facilities that I have visited, depending on one's house-keeping practices, I have seen the various components placed in tight quarters and often in disarray. This can be a little scary especially when we rely so heavily on our irrigation systems for accurate and dependable water distribution. At Oak Hill, a custom-built cabinet was used to organize the additional components in a manner that allows for

quick visual inspection and provides protection against unwanted tampering or mishandling.

Transportable Head

The second item I found intriguing is a transportable irrigation head that can be used to spot irrigate areas that are either not receiving adequate coverage from the system or in need of special attention. 1-1/2-inch PVC was used to construct the base of the unit with a Rain Bird 900 series irrigation head attached to the threaded fitting in the center of the base. During the initial use, Latshaw determined that operating the unit with a standard 1-inch hose, resulted in a loss of approximately 40 psi, severely decreasing the efficiency of the irrigation head and the desired irrigated radius. A 1-1/2-inch hose was then purchased from a local fire hose distributor and the spot watering device is now functioning very well.

Darren Davis



Easy and affordable to construct, this portable 1-1/2-inch PVC base is stable and delivers extra irrigation where needed at optimum pressure. Photo by Darren Davis.