

FEATURE II

Chuck Barber, *Indian Lakes Resort*

Medinah Country Club's Newest Asset



The new front entrance of Medinah Country Club's Turf Care Facility.

Just in case you thought that Curtis Tyrrell, CGCS, and the staff at Medinah Country Club didn't have enough to do during the summer of 2010, they also managed to squeeze in completion of a new maintenance building. There are many local Medinah Country Club alums who remember the good old days and the way the maintenance building used to be. It hadn't changed all that much since those good old days. Curtis and the members realized an upgrade was in order.

The staff decommissioned and moved out of the old maintenance facility in June of 2009. Construction of the new facility began later in the fall. The primary goal was to stay within the footprint of the existing maintenance building and cold storage area. The cold storage area could be expanded, but moving the entire operation to a completely different site on Medinah's property would have proven too difficult and expensive. During construction, the grounds department was staged at Medinah's new skeet range overlooking Lake Kadijah. Then, for a short time, they were in office trailers until the maintenance building re-opened in June of 2010.

The old maintenance building had several shortcomings in relation to the demands of today's golf course maintenance. First, material handling, equipment washing, cold storage, and equipment maintenance space were all in short supply. Second, office space for the management staff and space to house 54-holes worth of irrigation computers was also sorely lacking. Finally, facilities for Medinah's staff were in need of attention.

New bins were installed to handle materials needed on a daily basis including mulch, two different types of bunker sand, topdressing sand, and divot mix. This might be a lot of material handling capacity, but Curtis feels that more is needed. There is a plan in place to add more bins to the concrete footprint of "The Hacienda," Medinah's former dormitory for associates, which was demolished in 2008.

The equipment washing station has an interesting design. The water comes from the irrigation pond and drains into two basins on the pad. Sump pumps then push the water into two large tanks equipped with filter socks to collect grass clippings

and debris. Then the wash water is pumped through another in-line filter and down a rock bed before re-entering Lake Kedijah. The clippings and debris are currently harvested and put into landscape waste containers, but composting this material on-site is an option they intend to explore. Medinah felt that this mechanical system was easier to operate and maintain, because it provides a cost effective alternative to some of the recycled wash pad systems that are currently available.



The wash pads drum and basin system at Medinah Country Club.
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The filter socks inside each drum

The cold storage building was demolished and rebuilt at 20,000 square feet in order to accommodate the equipment fleet. Again, it is in the same location as the former storage building. Expanding the original space proved effective and a much better option than moving the entire facility.



Medinah's new 20,000 square foot storage facility

The former shop and office space is now dedicated to equipment maintenance. There, the staff of four mechanics grind, sharpen, service, weld and otherwise pound away on all that iron to keep equipment running at all three courses.

The office space for Curtis' staff also fit inside the footprint of the former maintenance facility and its storage space. The improvements include a professional style reception area, offices for each course superintendent, one room dedicated to irrigation central computers for all three courses, and a conference room for team meetings.



The reception area for Medinah's Turf Care Center



Course Three Superintendent Dave Kloss enjoying his office



The irrigation computer room for all three courses



The conference room for staff and member meetings

As you might imagine, Medinah's staff is quite big during the peak golf season. Where, you might ask, do all those people eat lunch, or where do you have morning meetings for all three courses, or where can you communicate at one time with the entire staff? All of those things can happen in their new break room. One of the best features, in my opinion, is a large common area for lunch breaks that has dividers. Each course can have their morning meeting, but the dividers can be pulled back to accommodate the entire staff for lunch or for getting the entire department together. Further, they have a locker room with assigned lockers for each associate.



The break room with dividers for each course



Ice machines, refrigerators, microwaves, soda machines and PLENTY of coffee machines round out the break room



Assigned lockers for each and every one of Medinah's staff

The final price tag for the entire project: permitting, design, demolition, construction, FF&E (furniture, furnishings and equipment), and everything else was \$1.8 million. This is a significant savings over other plans that called for the maintenance building to be moved to a completely different site on the property. For those of you in MAGCS looking to renovate, rebuild, or build a new shop, one of the stops you might make on your tour of area facilities is Medinah Country Club. **-OC**