

SUPER TIP

Words That Stick

By Darren J. Davis

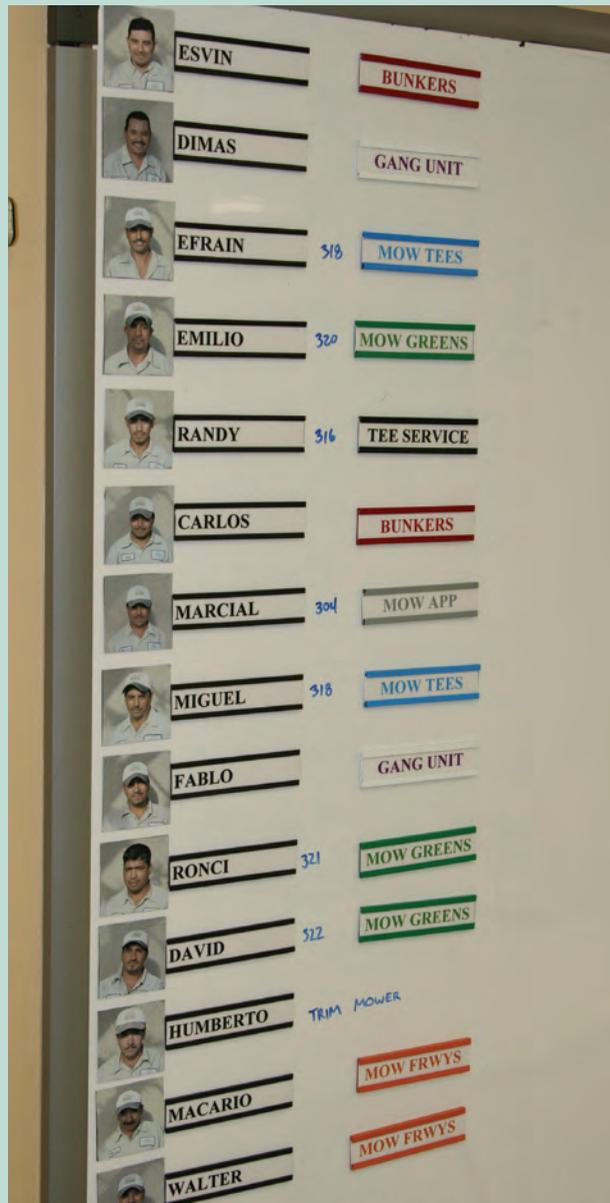
Since I am not one of them, I have always admired individuals with exceptional handwriting. Neat handwriting is definitely a skill I haven't mastered. In fact, given a choice I might use the paper with the dotted middle line used to teach handwriting in elementary school. With this said, the writing of the daily crew assignments on our dry erase board has always been a responsibility I have delegated to my assistant. However, we recently designed a system which, among other things, eliminates at least 75% of the daily writing required.

The first step in creating the new system was to purchase 4 x 1-inch magnetic holders. These are the same style of holder that we use to affix our employees' names to the assignment board (see "Names and Numbers for the New Guys" in the summer 2004 issue of *The Florida Green*). The magnetic label holders were purchased through TIMEWISE, a manufacturer of dry erase boards and accessories (www.timewiseboards.com). A package of twelve holders is \$13.85 and they are available in eight different colors.

While the magnetic holders were on order, my assistant and I decided on the eight most common daily tasks. These included mowing greens (mow greens), mowing tees (mow tees), mowing fairways (mow frwys), mowing approaches (mow app), mowing rough (gang unit), changing the hole location (change cups), bunkers and tee service. We then typed the tasks in Microsoft Word using 38-point Times New Roman font. After printing and laminating the page, we cut the individual words/phrases to fit snugly inside the magnetic holders. The lamination process could be skipped if you do not own a laminating machine. However, since the cost for us was less than \$5 we chose to laminate the paper to increase its durability and enable easy cleaning.

Since I do not write the daily assignments on the board, the biggest advantage of this new system for me is that it enables me to quickly inspect the assigned jobs and the quantity of people doing each. For example, if I wanted to see if my assistant sent out one or two fairway units I

just look on the board for the orange colored label holders. Or, if I wanted to make sure he had at least four walking greens mowers assigned I just count the green colored magnetic holder.



We created a total of 30 magnetic assignment labels so the total cost of the project was under \$45.

seasonal workers. If we need extra help for hurricane cleanup or help to prepare for the opening of the season, we use contract laborers on an as-needed basis to fill in the gaps.

I know a number of South Florida superintendents who rely heavily (up to 30-40 percent of their crew on some

days) on contract labor to supplement their regular crews. Though it has challenges, this method seems to work well for accomplishing low-skill golf-course maintenance tasks like flymowing, edging bunkers and cart paths, etc.

*Bob Randquist, CGCS
Boca Rio Country Club*

EXPERIENCED HELP SOMETIMES AVAILABLE

The labor market in north Tampa has been good of late. It seems that every time we have an opening, there is someone filling out an application. Lately, we have had several applicants who have golf course experience. This