

Collar sticks solve uniformity problem on collar widths

By KEVIN J. ROSS

EDWARDS, Colo. — Uniformity on the golf course is something that always seems to attract the eye in many areas. But keeping things uniform is not as easy as we would hope. One area on the golf course that I wanted to simplify was the collar definition around the greens.

Collars seem to grow in and out and often lose that nice uniform width we strive to see. I developed a method that has worked very well for my staff when mowing greens to achieve the perfect collar width each time the clean-up rings are mowed. I call it simply: The Collar Stick.

When I was involved with the grow-in of Falmouth Country Club in Maine, I decided to mow the entire green area, including the collar, at one height. I did this to save the operation of mowing collars and thought that four to six weeks before opening I could mark the collars and let them grow to proper height. When it came time to mark these, I invented what was then the first edition of a very crude collar stick.

It was simply a wooden dowel duct taped to the bucket on a greensmower, with some flagging hanging off the end. The object was to have the flagging

Kevin Ross is director of golf course management at Country Club of the Rockies in Edwards, Colo., and an editorial adviser for Golf Course News.



Kevin Ross' collar stick is simple to make and attach to the ordinary greensmower.

follow the bluegrass rough and bentgrass fairway edge on the clean-up ring. The dowel was measured off the outside of the reel and cut to our desired collar width. This method proved very efficient and worked nicely.

After that first use of the collar stick, it just collected dust in the shop and I didn't think much about it until a few years ago. I thought, "Why not make this item a standard unit on all our greensmowers for cutting the perfect clean-up ring every time?"

So, with a little research and develop-

ment, and the help of my equipment manager, Mike Koehn, we devised the present collar stick, which is a permanent part of all our greensmowing units.

Making these is simple. First, we drilled one hole on each side of the grass clipping bucket and bolted a wire-holder clip to each side. Inside the wire clip, we inserted a .5-by-2-inch roll pin (using Locktite to prevent slippage). We positioned the outside of these to match the edge of the reel cut. We then cut up some old flagsticks (36 inches long) and machined one end to an 11/



ON THE GREEN

32-inch diameter by 6 inches long (making our collar width 30 inches). It is important to make a square shoulder when machining to achieve an accurate measurement.

Then we drilled small holes (1/8 inch for a small presto pin to be inserted to keep the stick in place), 2 inches from the shoulder (created from sanding).

Lastly, we cut strips of rubber, 1 inch wide by 12 inches long, to use as our marker at the end of the stick. This rubber was attached to the stick by a No. 4 hose clamp.

We have also found that some yellow or white tape at the base of the rubber pointer is easier to follow than the black color of the rubber.

These devices are simple to put together and are very helpful to my staff. Even if your collar width is different than ours, you can custom-make these to fit your needs. I know the collar stick has greatly helped the uniformity of our collars. If you decide to use this idea, I think you will find it helpful as well.

Durable, Flexible, Affordable



Durable Fore-Par direction and rules signs are weather proof and golfer proof. Wind. Sun. A whack with a golf club. A swift kick. They'll stand up to almost anything. They retain their flexibility and appearance indefinitely, even under extreme weather conditions. Messages are screen printed on one or two sides with a tough, pliable coating that bonds to the sign's surface.

Flexible Just one of the words used to describe Fore-Par service. Do you need a single sided sign printed on both sides? Just ask. Want a custom message? No problem. Have a special color requirement? Slam-Dunk.

Need them fast? Our speciality! When it comes to flexibility of service, nobody comes close to Fore-Par.

Affordable New production techniques and improved raw materials have provided us with significant savings which we are pleased to pass along to our customers. If you thought the legendary Elasto-Signs™ were too expensive, it's time to take a second look. Our new affordable pricing plus years of durable service make Fore-Par Elasto-Signs™ the best buy on the market.

For more information on the Fore-Par accessories line, Call 800 843-0809, and get more for your money from Fore-Par.



DISTINCTIVE GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

16761 Burke Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • Tel: 714 842-8494 / 800 843-0809 • Fax: 714 842-7384