

New Albany's walls make space-savers

By TERRY BUCHEN

NEW ALBANY, Ohio — Using storage space properly and efficiently has always been a priority for superintendents in their maintenance buildings. New Albany Country Club superintendent Tony Mancuso has accomplished a fine example of using wall space for storing backpack blowers and string-line trimmers.

The backpack blowers are hung on a partition wall, using a bicycle-type hook that is covered with a red vinyl-type material screwed into a 1-by-6-inch board.

"We installed particle peg boards on the inside of our partition wall and put wing walls on either end to protect the backpack blowers from being bumped accidentally," Mancuso said. "Below each backpack blower we have space for smaller items such as orange-colored parking lot cones and rolls of rope."

For string-line trimmers, Mancuso mounted 2- by 8-inch



Tony Mancuso's trimmer storage area.

boards vertically, then notched them out so the trimmers could be stored horizontally. The motor and string line, brush blade or recipricators end of the trimmer are then also protected from being bumped accidentally. The straps used by the crew while operating the trimmers are hung alongside the trimmers on the same wall used for storage for easy access.

Safety signs are also placed on the wall, reminding employees



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that eye protection must be worn at all times when operating the string-line trimmers, brush blades and recipricators.

"We did all of the storage modifications to our turf-care facility in-house with our staff during the winter months and inclement weather," Mancuso said. "We have many of our own carpentry tools. There are always many small projects that justify having this type equipment instead of renting from the usual sources."

Harris Method of thatch control

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Thus, the genesis of The Harris Method.

"We are closed on Mondays," Harris said, "so we began our thatch-removal process by verticutting our tees in two directions with a Toro Reelmaster Model 4500 with hydraulically driven verticut reels set at 1/2-inch bedknife height. Then we blew the thatch into windrows and clean them up with a Toro Rake-O-Vac Sweeper/Vacuum.

"The following Monday we rented a Lay-Mor and went over every tee in one direction, angling the brush so we could windrow the thatch to the outside of both sides of the teeing ground."

Harris set the Lay-Mor as low as permissible, he said, adding: "That keeps the brush turning vigorously so you can see a little soil fly up, or, less aggressively, by raising up the brush.

"Ultimately, we end up with just grass plants and soil — nothing else," he said.

On the self-propelled model, a person can see right underneath.

It usually takes about 10 hours to do all the tees at Lake Nona.

Harris recommends that the operator wear a respirator and safety goggles and maybe a spray suit since he will get quite dirty.

Lake Nona plans to rent two or three units to prepare the 419 fairways for overseeding in the middle of November and do the tees again soon.

They close the course for five days to overseed. "The Lay-Mor is too coarse a machine for greens and collars, so we are going to test a Jacobsen Turf Cat that has a rotary brush that is made for cart paths that should work really well," Harris said.

Once The Harris Method of dethatching tees is completed, a fairly heavy 3/8 to 1/2 inch of top dressing is applied and the tees are completely healed up in two weeks. The tees are pumped up with ammonium sulfate at about 1/2 pound actual nitrogen, about five days prior to verticutting and again about five days before brushing. Then Harris applies a 19-0-17 greens fertilizer a week after the brushing is completed.

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