

By TERRY BUCHEN

TIMONIUM, Md. — Superintendent Douglas W. Petersan of Baltimore Country Club recently remodeled the existing maintenance building and added a new maintenance shop, employee lunchroom, bathrooms, showers, fully equipped kitchen, reception area, irrigation/computer room, assistant's office and superintendent's office, keeping the Five Farms

Inhouse sandblasting a money-saver

design theme throughout.

Petersan's philosophy has always been to do everything in-house, whenever possible, to keep costs down and to further maintain quality control. One example is how he and his staff built their own sand-blasting unit in the maintenance building.

"We went down to Sears and

purchased a sand-blasting unit for about \$120," Petersan said. "We built the box with a clear plexiglas hinged lid and added some thick, elbow-length industrial black rubber gloves. The rubber gloves do a great job protecting employees from the sand particles' driving force, and the clear, see-through cover makes for an easy, user-

friendly machine."

In the past, Petersan sent out metal objects to be sand-blasted, but many times the corners and other tight areas were not sand-blasted properly, or at all.

"Because we were not satisfied with the quality and cost, we built our own sand-blaster



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and are now able to sand blast cheaply and with great quality," Petersan said.

"Our stamped metal tee markers, in the shape of our BCC logo, were all sand-blasted in-house last winter and look great. We periodically screen out any contaminants, such as paint chips, and we used about 200 pounds of sand for the complete operation."

The ceramic nozzles on the sand-blaster wear out from time to time and cost \$3 to \$4 apiece.

Petersan plans to do one-third of his tee makers each year and will sand-blast greensmower frames as well.

Any heavy metal item can be sand-blasted successfully, being extra careful when using any lightweight metal such as aluminum or magnesium, Petersan said.

Sand-trap vac

Continued from previous page back together.

"With this, there is no mess."

Fearing said the machine would work "perfectly" if a superintendent wants to remove just the top couple of inches.

The hopper will hold a couple of tons of sand, Fearing said.

At Snowmass, Ogren encountered slow going in a bunker filled with masonry sand. "It's like concrete," he said, deciding to use a small excavator to break through the hard top layer. "But as long as the sand is fluffed up and dry it works well."

"Anybody who does renovation work should have these," Briddle said. "They have the same problem I had when we did Keystone."

Hall-Irwin's plan is to have a crew accompany its super-vacuum from course to course. Any decision on mass-production of the unit, Briddle said, will have to wait until the patent is approved — perhaps by late summer or fall.

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Once the sand is removed, another machine pours in new sand. The Vancouver-made Ty-crop machine, whose hopper holds 4 cubic yards "works very well," Fearing said. Dakota Peat of Grand Forks, N.D., is also making two machines called Turf Tenders 420 and 440, carrying 2 or 4 cubic yards of sand.

The sand is delivered from hopper to trap by a conveyor belt, getting the job done without damaging the edges of the bunker.



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