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Collar protection

The Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, home of the Memorial Tournament on the PGA Tour, prides itself on near-perfect turfgrass and playing conditions. Paul B. Latshaw, MSM, CGCS, director of grounds operations, and Jake Gargas, golf course superintendent, thought of a unique way to help keep the collars in excellent condition.

When operators are cutting grass with the Toro Greensmaster Flex 18 walk-behind greensmowers, they turn the mowers on the collars, which are covered with three portable pieces of HDPE plastic sheets placed end to end to protect the collar from wear and tear.

The 1/4-inch-thick plastic sheets are 60 inches long by 30 inches wide. There are four "handles" that are cut out with an electric jigsaw for the operator to move them easily from one end to the other as the greens are mowed. The plastic sheets, which cost less than \$50 each, are available from a kitchen countertop store. The time it took to cut out the four handles is about 15 minutes each.



Travels With Terry

Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in hand. He shares helpful ideas relating to maintenance equipment from the golf course superintendents he visits – as well as a few ideas of his own – with timely photos and captions that explore the changing world of golf course management.

Trailer modifications

Donnie Adkins, president of Daniels, W.Va.-based Aspen Corp.'s golf division, his brother Ronnie, vice president, and Lenzie Bennett, shop foreman, modified a Pronovost model 5103S three-sided dump trailer for more efficient use on fairway and rough turf. Their modification to the trailer, which has a 10,000-pound capacity, included:

- Adding larger, special-order turf tires and wheels;
- Modifying the tandem axle beams to double their strength;
- Adding 4-inch lift kits to raise the dump body from rubbing on the larger tires; and
- Lowering the trailer hitch about 8 inches to compensate for the trailer body being about 12 inches higher than before.

The 4-inch lift kit, tandem axle strengthening and trailer hitch were prefabricated in-house using scrap and new metal at their shop.

Adkins and Bennett have a patent pending on their modification ideas.

The total cost for the parts, supplies and labor was about \$5,000. **GCI**

