

Shop Envy

By Jake Schneider, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club


A severe case of shop envy swept through 20 assistant golf course superintendents who were gathered in the Hartford area on October 2, 2012. This difficult-to-cure malady was caused by a shop tour of the majestic Erin Hills maintenance facility, and its effects are likely still lingering in the attendees' dreams.

Thanks to superintendent Zach Reineking and his assistants, Brian Moesch and John Jacques, those in attendance had the opportunity to tour the outstanding shop that was recently constructed at the site of the 2017 US Open. Besides giving an informative facility walkthrough, Zach also discussed some of the planning and preparation that went into making the shop a

reality. Prior to the planning stages, Zach toured a handful of newer golf course maintenance buildings, and he melded many of the best features of these facilities when designing the shop at Erin Hills. In the early years of the course's existence, the crew operated out of an old barn that didn't have running water and a salvaged trailer home. It's safe to say that they have upgraded substantially, and Zach credited the new shop with increasing employee morale, with helping to attract top-notch employees, and with increasing the crew's efficiency and productivity.

Following the shop tour, USGA agronomist Bob Vavrek was gracious enough to give a brief year-in-review presenta-

tion, and as you can probably imagine, he had many interesting pictures from the extreme summer that was. If we learned anything from Bob's talk, it was that golf pros should not be allowed to own irrigation head keys because turf loss will result. However, regardless of outside inference, it was obviously a difficult year for many courses and the pictures showed just that.

It was an informative, well-attended meeting, and the assistants committee would like to thank Zach for hosting/presenting and to Bob for the always-entertaining slideshow. Also, thanks to Nick Strain and Barenbrug Seeds for providing snacks and refreshments for the entire group. 



Above: Golf Course Superintendent Zach Reineking addresses the group inside the maintenance facility.

Left: The maintenance facility at Erin Hills.