

A First Tee-rrific Project

By Jake Schneider, LMD Production Manager, The Bruce Company

When the assistant superintendents committee initially discussed the idea of doing a learning-based project for a worthy cause, I am not sure that any of us knew what we were getting ourselves into. It turns out that finding both volunteers and donated equipment and materials and making plans for building a chipping green for The First Tee at Monona Golf Course isn't as easy as we may have initially thought. Joe Sell summed it up best when he said that preparing for the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits wasn't as stressful as this project was. But, I think that the fantastic finished product and knowing that thousands of kids will be using this green in years to come made all of the stress worth it. Plus, those that helped now know what it takes to build a USGA spec green.

Aside from the months worth of planning, the project took place from September 6-8. Joe arrived in Madison on Friday afternoon to shape the very rocky soil that had been claimed from an adjacent road construction project. He also trenched the drainage lines that would be cleaned and filled with pipe and pea gravel the next morning.

Saturday was a very long and unfortunately hot day of work for a lot of people, but we were able to complete the drainage installation, lay down 4" of pea gravel, run irrigation pipe and tie two new sprinklers into the existing system, install the liner, and haul the vast majority of the greens mix.

On Sunday, the very tired crew was back at it again. The remaining greens mix was hauled, watered, and compacted, and Joe worked his magic to shape the green with a Sand Pro. While all of this was taking place, the green banks were being raked and smoothed, and a layer of topsoil was added prior to sod installation to compensate for the less-than-ideal soil that comprised the majority of the banks. Bentgrass seed was then spread across the green and approach and dimpled into the mix. Finally, starter fertilizer was applied across the entire project and the irrigation system was successfully restarted and tested.



ASSISTANTS AVENUE

Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and we were able to complete this daunting project on schedule and almost no cost to The First Tee. Aside from Mother Nature, there were many other helping hands involved in making this a success, and they are as follows:

- Scott Pace with Rain Bird for Irrigation Supplies
- Mitch Keogh with Ferguson Waterworks for Irrigation Supplies
- Dave Landwehr with ADS Pipe for Drainage Supplies
- Glenn Kafka with Kafka Granite for Delivering the Greens Mix
- Rob Johnson with Waupaca Sand & Solutions for the Greens Mix
- Mike Oliphant with The Oliphant Companies for Equipment
- Scott Gilbertson with Reinders for Fertilizer and Fungicide
- Phil Zastrow with Reinders for Saturday's lunch
- Paul Huggett with Paul's Turf & Tree Nursery for Bluegrass Sod
- Patrick Lyons with Lycon for Pea Stone
- Scott Bordeau with ERO-TEX for Greens Liner
- Derek Kastenschmidt and Scott Neary for Equipment
- Wayne Horman with Landmark Turf & Native Seed for Bentgrass Seed
- Chad Grimm with Blackhawk CC for Equipment and Hand Tools
- Tom Schwab with the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Center for Equipment
- Nick Strain with Quali-Pro for Sunday's lunch
- Mike Lee with Kohler Company for Equipment and Hand Tools
- Joni Dye with The First Tee of South Central Wisconsin

And, of course, Joe and I certainly couldn't have done this by ourselves and were fortunate to have the following group of hard-working volunteers:

- Shaun Brill, Ryan Brooks, Sean Guilfoyle, Charlie Belanger, Sean Kelly, and Kevin Kouba from Whistling Straits
- Ryan Berezowitz, Kristin Witkowski, Luke McGhee, Tyler Gerrits, Adam Wepfer, Aaron Hansen, Ben Luedtke, Jon Slock, and Dr. Doug Soldat from UW-Madison
- Tim Schmidt, Brent Haring, Ross Kressin, and Alex Smith from Butte des Morts CC
- Shannon Barstow who was our very accommodating host at Monona GC

Thanks to all who made this great project possible; it was certainly a worthwhile endeavor. 



ASSISTANTS AVENUE



Photos showing the progression of the green construction contributed by Jacob Schneider



Ed Witkowski
414-640-6447
pendeltonurf@tds.net

PENDELTON TURF SUPPLY



Todd Fregien
414-640-2265
pendeltonurf@tds.net

**FULL LINE OF TURF PRODUCTS
CHEMICALS • TEE & GREEN SUPPLIES
TIRES & TUBES • NEW PRODUCT INFORMATION**

805 Ela Avenue
Waterford, WI 53185
Phone: 262-534-3334
Fax: 262-534-2990

**SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED**

QUALI-PRO
Turf & Specialty

Nufarm
Turf & Specialty

**BASF
PROFESSIONAL
TURF**

EC GROW

**JACKLIN
SEED**

AQUATROLS®

Jay-Mar, Inc.
Liquid Golf Course
& Turf Fertilizers