

PrairieView Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Matt Henkel
Golf Course Superintendent



To assist in honoring PrairieView's 25th Anniversary season, the golf maintenance crew spent part of the last offseason working on some commemorative upgrades to course accessories for the 2017 season. One of the first things you may have noticed on the course this year is the 25th year tee markers. The idea to use wood branded markers came through social media and specifically from Des Moines Golf and Country Club. Rick Tegtmeier, Superintendent at DMGCC, posted a photo of the some very detailed wood branded markers that his staff created in house. Des Moines Golf and Country club has a very big celebration of their own this year, as they are hosting the 16th Solheim Cup. With some talented crew members and the fact that the Byron Forest Preserve District houses a very nice woodworking shop made tackling this project a possibility.

The first step was to create a logo that we could brand onto the face of the markers. We launched a design contest on the website 99Designs and received over twenty entries from free lance designers. The winning design was selected and is also being used on apparel, golf balls, gift items, and also the course flags. A temperature controlled branding

iron was purchased online, along with a custom brass head with our new logo. Staff purchased 120 feet of cedar 4X4's to make the markers. After cutting the length and making a 45 degree cut with the mitre box to create the face to be branded, staff was getting closer to the finished project.

Now that the basic shape was defined, staff wanted to add a little bit of detail to the markers. A dado bit was purchased to put a 1" groove on all four sides. This groove was then painted to identify the tee location. Black is used to signify the back tees, blue and white to mark the middle sets of tees, and gold denotes the forward tees.

The final steps in making the commemorative tee markers included using the branding iron to burn the 25th year logo on the markers. A barn spike was hammered into the bottom and the head was cut off. This spike gives the tee marker a little stability when placed on the teeing surface. At this point, the markers were completed and ready to go out on the course. We hope you enjoy these markers and some of the other small little upgrades this year, as the golf maintenance staff helps celebrate PrairieView's 25th Anniversary.

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