



Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Students Design Muirfield Practice Green



OSU Landscape Plant Selection student Kelly Mesenburg's ecologically appropriate landscape plan includes the 'right plant for the right place'.



H&CS 501 student Kelly Mesenburg's new practice green design was selected for installation at the Muirfield Village GC.

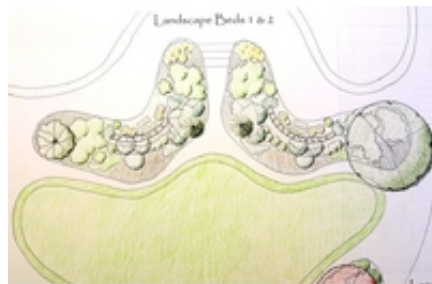
Ohio State students in the H&CS 501 Landscape Plant Selection course embraced the opportunity to do some real-world design for the Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin Ohio. The Horticulture & Crop Science Department course trains students to identify the 'right plant for the right place' and to develop ecologically appropriate landscapes. One of the seven projects students designed during the spring quarter was a new practice green for the golf course that hosts the Memorial Tournament, an annual PGA event that attracts thousands of visitors to central Ohio.

In early 2006, Muirfield Horticulturist and OSU alum **Zach Sowers**, (BS 2005 Landscape Horticulture) contacted Landscape Design Instructor **Laura Burchfield** about the possibility of students developing plans for a Muirfield project he was interested in. Burchfield, who makes a concerted effort to include real world projects in the design curriculum, jumped at the opportunity. "I have tried to incorporate some real world projects in to the courses because students gain from looking to real situations, and are often more enthusiastic when there is the possibility of their ideas being implemented."

Sowers requested the students submit designs for the practice green area near the Club House. The plantings in the area were original to the course and were in need of major renovation. The site is a very prominent area because it is the main view from the club house dining room out on to the course.

The junior and senior landscape horticulture students started the project by doing a site visit to gather information and get an understanding of the site. They enjoyed an added bonus of a lunch provided by the club chef. After the site visit students spent the next two weeks developing designs from concept to detailed planting plans.

Each student presented their design to Sowers and three were selected for consideration by the Superintendent of Muirfield. The three finalists selected were **Demaris Parker**, **Adam Rybak** and **Kelly Mesenburg**. Mesenburg's design was selected as the top design and is now on tap for installation. In recognition of her efforts Kelly was awarded a Patron Pass for the The Memorial Tournament held at the golf club in June 2006.



Horticulture student Kelly Mesenburg's new design proposal for the practice green at Muirfield Village Golf Club.

Burchfield was impressed with both the effort and the designs of the students, "The entire class put forth a tremendous effort on this project and I was very proud of what they accomplished in such a short period of time. Students were enthusiastic about work on a project where their design might actually be installed. The club plans to begin work on the installation of the practice green area sometime in 2007."

Kelly Mesenburg is now putting her skills into action in the real-world as a landscape designer

for [Miller Landscape and Gardens](#) in Norwalk, Ohio. Other students who participated in the design project include: **Ryan Brown**, **Grant Gambaini**, **James Kohn**, **Nicolas Mehl**, **Megan Price**, **Adam Puhl**, and **Kristen Six**.

Story, photos and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).
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