



Carl Wittenauer hangs a plaque on a 100-year-old tree, memorializing Jim Britt, a longtime member of the club.

Tree memorials in vogue at clubs

By MARK LESLIE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — One club member always drove his ball into the left rough on a particular hole, so when he died it was fitting to memorialize him with a plaque on a large pine tree at that spot. Another member honored his parents' memory in true symbolic fashion, with twin

plaques on a double-trunked sweet gum tree.

Tree memorials are in vogue at private country clubs, and members at Brookside Golf and Country Club here are the pacesetters.

"The club has been doing this for many years," said superintendent Carl Wittenauer, who

has been the head superintendent here for 10 years and whose job it is to have the bronze-plated plaques made and installed. "People want to recognize the individual at the place where they spent many hours enjoying the game. It is also a way to create some funds for additional trees on the course. We're heavily treed here and don't need more trees, but we thought it appropriate to offer this [service]."

The plaques are normally funded by family members. Most choose to have a plaque placed on an existing tree "because of its size or location near a green or tree," he said. Others decide to fund a new tree in memory of their loved one, in which case a plaque is placed at the foot of the tree until it matures.

No one knows who pioneered tree memorials on golf courses, or where that was, but more clubs are doing so now. When Palmer Maples retired after many years as superintendent at Summit Chase Country Club in Lawrenceville, Ga., the club placed a plaque in his honor at the base of a large tree.

Rather than put plates on trees all around the golf course, another club installed a large board near the 1st tee. It will plant a tree in memory of members and add a bronze plate with that person's name to the board.

Brookside adds one or two plaques a year, Wittenauer said, adding that the bronze plate is mounted to a piece of cedar.

"The biggest problem," he said, "is that the tree grows and swallows the eye hook holding the plaque. You don't realize how much a tree grows in a year."

PENN TOPS MICHIGAN STATE

FARMINGTON, Pa. — The Penn State Turf Club Golf Team recaptured the Cutter Cup from the Michigan State Turf Club Team in a dramatic finish at Mystic Rock Golf Course here. The match-play event of five two-man matches was decided on the last putt on the 18th hole. Prior to the completion of the final hole, play was suspended for about an hour for a cold, driving rainstorm. Ed Zimmerman of Penn State sank a 1-foot putt on the water-soaked 18th green with his sand wedge to win the deciding match. He had to use his sand wedge to putt with after breaking his putter in frustration halfway through the round. Penn State was represented by Dave Duncan, Craig Ellis, Joe Kinlin, Bob Warth and Ed Zimmerman. Michigan State was represented by Robin Buntin, Dan Courtemanche, Matt Haberkorn, John Holberton and Brad Kowroski.



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