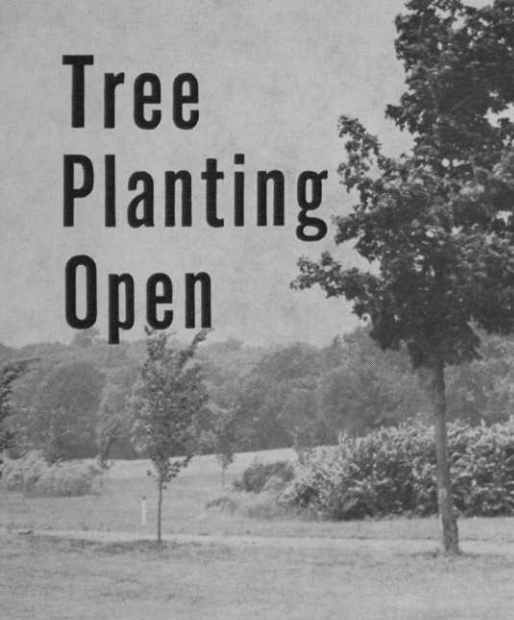


# Tree Planting Open



North Oak Needed 1,200 more trees on its course . . . So, it got the members to plant them by offering an incentive By TONY KOWSKI

During their spring meeting in 1962, the board of directors at North Oaks GC, a private club located in suburban St. Paul, decided that their golf course would be more beautiful with additional trees. Questions arose, however, as to how to raise the necessary funds to buy the trees, and how to get them planted. Typical answers to these questions might have been, "Assess the membership," and "Let the supt. handle it." North Oak's board, however, had a different answer.

In order to raise the necessary funds and induce volunteer planters, the board decided to hold a tournament. Entries would be limited to members who agreed to donate their time or money to the project.

## Restricted to 100

Whatever amount of time or money the member wished to contribute would entitle him to an entry. The tournament was to be called, "The Tree Planting Open," and it would be held on a Saturday in early May. The board decided to restrict the entry to 100 members and to close the course until all the trees were planted and the tournament was completed.

The board set 1200 three-year old pine trees as its goal and agreed to pay the difference from the total cost of the trees

and the contributions from the entries.

A "landscape committee" was appointed to contact the 260 golfing members. Letters were sent a month in advance to tell each member of the project and tournament and to appeal for a donation of either time or money.

## Donate Money and Labor

In less than two weeks, the Board had received about \$400 from the first 100 entries. Three-fourths of the entrants also offered their time to plant the trees.

Approximately 1200 pine trees of various types including Austrian, Norway, Ponderosa, White and Colorado and Black Hills Spruce were purchased from a local nursery for \$558.00. Since actually \$389.00 had been contributed, the cost to the board was \$169.

On the day before the tournament, the supt. and his staff placed stakes at the spots where the trees were to be planted. The length of the hole and its need for trees determined the number of trees to be planted on each hole.

On Saturday morning, a 7:30 breakfast was held in the clubhouse. From the list of volunteers, the Board had chosen 18 captains, one for each hole on the course. A captain was assigned one planter for each 16 trees he had to plant. Each captain was given his allotted number of

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CLEM WITTEK, President  
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Three North Oaks members don working clothes to get trees planted.

trees and a map of the approximate location of the stakes.

The planters left for their sites at 8 a.m. With the help of 60 caddies, who were paid for their efforts by the participating members, the planting was completed by 9:30. The "Tree Planting Open" was half over. The golf tournament itself began with a 10:00 "shotgun start."

By 2 p.m., all members had finished their rounds. A lunch was held and prizes were awarded. The board and members alike agreed that the tournament had been fun as well as constructive.

Now, almost two years later, 840 of the original 1200 planted trees continue to grow. The new board of directors recently met and decided that something should be done about improving the condition of the sandtraps on the course.

So that means they'll be playing a "Sandtrap Open" at North Oaks one of these days.

### Rutgers Field Days

The 1964 Turfgrass Field Days at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., are scheduled for August 12-13. The first days tours, at 10:30 and 1:30, will cover lawn and utility turf. Tours on the second day at the same times will cover golf and fine turf.

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