

With the high cost of removal and replacement of trees, serious thought should be given to trying to save our elms.

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## HISTORIAL CORNER By Monroe Miller

### Brief History of Blackhawk Country Club

The founders of Blackhawk Country Club selected a breath-taking site for a golf course. About 20,000 years ago a vast continental glacier invaded Wisconsin from Canada, leveling hills in its path. When it melted, its heavy load of rocks and soil formed the rolling terrain of the Madison area and gave the city its four lakes. The golf course was built on the south shore of the largest of these four lakes - Lake Mendota - in the Village of Shorewood Hills on the west side of Madison.

The first nine holes of the golf course were constructed in 1921 and the second nine was added a year later. Irrigation was provided only for greens and tees at that time, but a manual quick cupler valve system for fairway irrigation was installed in 1938. The layout of the course is typical of those built during this time period. The fairways are relatively short and tight. The putting greens, with an average of about 4,800 square feet, are small as are the tees, which average 2,500 square feet. There are many steep banks that require hand maintenance. However, there have been some significant changes and improvements made over the years, including those suggested by the famed golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast prior to 1940.

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Currently, the course yardage is 6,081 from the men's tees and 5,689 from the ladies tees with par of 72 and 74, respectively.

Any history of this golf course must necessarily include a few comments about the natural history of the approximately one hundred acres where it is situated. Tribes of Indians were obviously attracted to the shores of Lake Mendota and left many burial and effigy mounds on the course grounds that even today are of interest to natural historians, anthropologists, and even casual observers. This heritage of mounds includes those very distinctively in the shape of bears, fish, snakes, a panther, a goose and a hawk, as well as several large burial mounds. When the founders of the club were wrestling with the problem of a name, they recognized that some note of the recent history of the area would be appropriate. Chief Black Hawk passed through these grounds with his Fox and Sauk Indian followers in April of 1832 in an effort to regain lost territories north and west of here. The selection of a name was easy and obvious.

The club's connection with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association is a long one that goes back

to the very beginning of the Association. John Bone, the second Golf Course Superintendent of Blackhawk Country Club, was one of the movers behind the establishment of a state association and was elected as its first vice-president. Bone was preceded by

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## WISCONSIN STATE GOLF COURSE

### SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

*We, the members of the Wisconsin State Superintendents Association, depend upon the unity, as well as the professionalism of our membership, to cultivate and maintain superior golf turf as well as golf atmosphere.*

*The knowledge that is gained through continued education and experience in turfgrass maintenance should be openly shared with mutual trust and comradarie among fellow members. To strive for further and continued knowledge and excellence in all phases of golf course maintenance is our ambition.*

*The proud legacy of our profession depends upon the pride and integrity which each individual takes within himself.*

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John Bauer and followed by Karl Schlicht, Harry Hanson (a GCSAA Charter Member), Jerry O'Donnell and Monroe Miller.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our next meeting will be held on Tues. Aug. 3 at North Shore-Menasha. Our host will be Ralph Heckel.

Ralph informs me that lunch will be at 11:30 AM. Dinner at 6:30 PM. Cocktails at 5:30 PM. The cost of the package is \$10.50.

Our speaker is a good friend of mine, Charle Tadge. Charle is Superintendent of the Mayfield Country Club in Cleveland, Ohio. Charle is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He will speak on the national organization and how it affects you.

Directions to North Shore - Menasha is as follows: Those coming from the south go up 41 to 114 where it intersects with highway 10, turn on North Shore Rd.