



# Maintaining Success

By Bruce Worzella

The first order of business for me is to offer a sincere "thank you" to all the members of Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association for your trust and support for me. I am proud to be a member of an association that thrives on fellowship. I'm even more proud to serve as president.

Fellowship is what I have enjoyed the most in this association for the past years that I have been a member. Anytime one of us is in need of a sympathetic ear, there is always a fellow superintendent willing to listen. The camaraderie that his association has matches that of any other professional group. Anytime a member's name is brought up, whether at a monthly meeting, the GCSAA conferences or just a casual conversation, support and credit are always given for a job well done. This is what makes a successful association.

I looked up the word SUCCESS in Webster's dictionary and found the following definition: 1. *the gaining of something desired, planned, or attempted.* 2. *The gaining of fame or prosperity.* 3. *One that is successful.*

As you can see in the definition of SUCCESS, gaining is used twice, I believe this is what our association has always done. It has never stood still on its past. The WGCSA has always worked for newer and higher goals.

One such goal was to have a devoted member of our association run and win a GCSAA directorship. He will be the 1992 GCSAA president. Another goal was convincing members, golfers, and other associations to dig deep into their pockets to fund a long needed research center in Wisconsin. The Noer Center is now a reality.

We all played an important part in these accomplishments and should be

very proud of that.

Success is not something that once achieved will last forever. You have to continue to work hard through careful planning to maintain the success level we've enjoyed. With the help of the directors, their committees and all WGCSA members, we plan on continuing the successful association all of us have come to respect.

I have a couple of notes of information that need to be addressed. They came out of our November board meeting. At the upcoming 63rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans, the WGCSA will participate with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage-Milorganite Division in hosting a hospitality night. A special thanks to Milorganite and to Terry Ward for letting our association co-sponsor. They share the largest burden of work and expense.

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## 1991/1992 WGCSA Officers and Directors





# BIZARRE WEATHER

By Monroe S. Miller

I'm convinced, more than ever, that bizarre weather has become the rule rather than the exception in Wisconsin anymore. From October 23rd right through the end of the year, the weird late autumn and early winter weather fit nicely with the rest of the year. 1991 will be recorded by most Wisconsin golf course superintendents as "strange" simply because of the weather we had.

We experienced virtually no spring. The weather was July-like in May and cases of brown patch and pythium added to the summer feeling. In some areas of our state, it was very dry, too.

The summer was ugly — also dry and hot — until we reached August. That normally difficult month sometimes felt like May.

Then came the autumn season, which only lasted until Halloween. The rain started on October 23rd and continued on a constant basis until the 31st.

That is when the snow started. It snowed and snowed. The temperatures plummeted and panic rose.

Few WGCSA members had snowmold materials applied or irrigation systems purged. With temperatures hovering around the 10 degree F. mark, the tortuous business of winterizing pump stations and distribution systems began.

One day jobs took three. Employees suffered in the cold; superintendents lost sleep.

And if we were worried we had only to think of our friends in Minnesota who were under 30" of the white stuff.

As might be expected (unless you counted on it), conditions did improve and the temperatures rose to normal levels. Leaves thawed and were removed or mulched. Dormant fertilizer was applied, along with fungicides for low temperature fungi. You could hear all kinds of sighs of relief around our town.

Then the rain started again, eliminating any lingering thoughts about construction or sodding projects.

It will be remembered by me as an autumn of unfulfilled promise. We were

poised on our golf course for some project work, and the work was funded. Planning was set. But the weather said, "next spring."

A couple of neat ideas came my way during the scramble to get snowmold protection down on play areas.

One problem, especially with the lower pressure on fairway sprayer booms, was fan nozzle freeze up. George Magnin and the staff at Cherokee C.C. had the same problem.

They also had an answer. They added what amounted to about an ounce of N/M of an inorganic fertilizer to the spray tank. Since that fertilizer was a salt, the freezing point of the solution was lowered. The nozzle freezing problem was solved.

Faced with the need to spray greens and tees for snowmold diseases and the reality that they were under snow, Jeff Parks put his thinking cap on. The result was a solution that was very creative.

Rather than try to apply tons of Milorganite over the snow—a virtual impossibility with a rotary spreader in the snow—to create a dark surface to help melt the snow, Jeff resorted to an easier and quicker method.

His plan was to attach a handheld gun to the sprayer hose, add a high rate of turf marker and spray greens and tees until they were a dark blue.

Coupled with a bit of sunshine, the dark color led to snow melt and the opportunity to do the job that needed doing.

Despite its location, I am really looking forward to the 1992 GCSAA conference.

In addition to the educational opportunities, the enormous equipment show and a large number of seminars, this one will offer more than any other has or ever will.

Those offerings will be more personal. I cannot imagine any WGCSA mem-

ber who won't be bursting with pride when Bill Roberts is elected president of the GCSAA.

It seems like only yesterday when he asked me to help run his first campaign. We were at the South Hills Club in Fond du Lac for a WGCSA meeting. As is usually the case, the board held a meeting. Bill made a formal request for support from the membership. Of course, he received it.

I was personally moved when he asked me to chair the campaign committee.

Although that first effort was unsuccessful (many are), he and Rod Johnson were victorious the following year.

Three cheers for Bill.

Three cheers for Tuck Tate, too. He is going to receive the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. Tuck was the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association newsletter editor for years and years.

He is also a past president of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and for a long time was the secretary/treasurer of the NMTMA and served as its president.

Tuck owned and operated the Frankfort Golf Club for decades, and has been a champion of golf course superintendents for all that time.

He's also an unselfish man. He has shared his prosperity in golf by endowing a scholarship fund at Michigan State University for turf students, to the tune of \$100,000.

The GCSAA DSA was created for people exactly like Tuck Tate.

Finally, I cannot resist the temptation to compliment Rod Johnson for his two years as WGCSA president. He, in a unique way, combined humor and hard work and leadership during that time. They made for a very good president. He left a big pair of shoes for Bruce to fill.

Thanks from all of us, Rodney.



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## **REAL SUPERINTENDENTS II: Real Golf Superintendents Don't Wear Ponytails**

By Monroe S. Miller

Despite some unpopular response (and yet because of some popular demand), here's the second edition of "real superintendents".

The first edition—code named "ear-rings"—generated a lot of commentary. Some of it went like this:

1. Twice I was called a sexist.
2. One person referred to that piece as "typical Wisconsin macho".
3. Pat Norton suggested I should be jogging, like he does.
4. Rod Johnson contended my penny loafers weren't any better than the tennis shoes he wears to work.
5. Peter Salinetti informed me he had two Volvos in his garage.
6. Dennis Christopherson declared he was going to continue wearing his gold necklace. I replied that since he wasn't a superintendent, it didn't matter one way or the other.
7. Mark Kienert caught me nursing a lite beer at the WALSA meeting in Las Vegas and quickly called me on it.

This has gone on for months; I could add dozens of more comments. On the other hand, the original list has been reproduced any number of times in newsletters and other publications across the country. So maybe it was a wash!

Regardless, I'm expanding my list of qualifications for real golf course superintendents. I do so knowing full well I'll hear all about it all over again.

One word of advice: please find your sense of humor before reading any further.

• A real golf course superintendent doesn't get wear his hair in a ponytail; he leaves that style to his daughters. He also knows what is usually beneath a ponytail!

• Real golf course superintendents serve real coffee in their shops; not decaf and certainly not tea. Real superintendents drink their coffee black, too.

• Real golf course superintendents fly the American flag outside their shop, and they were doing so before Desert Storm made it vogue to do so.

• Real golf course superintendents

get their hair cut at a barber shop; they never get their hair "styled" at a beauty parlor.

• The real golf course superintendent feels very comfortable among square, establishment-type people. He likes that type better than those who are "cool".

• Real superintendents are "can do" people who don't blow an artery every time something goes wrong (which is all the time on a golf course).

• A real golf course superintendent thoroughly checks his golf course personally each morning and doesn't go from the office to the range to 'hit a bucket of balls'. Even after twenty years on the job. The superintendent who does that (or dreams of it) should have been a golf pro.

• Real Wisconsin golf course superintendents like opening day in the spring, thick steaks on the grill in summer, Packer football in the fall and lots of snow in the winter.

• A real golf course superintendent never blasts his credit cards to the max.

• The real golf course superintendent knows a goodly share of the success he's had is due to the help and support of his gorgeous wife. He only thinks of her on two occasions — day and night.

• The real superintendent knows money isn't everything. He judges people by their attitudes and values. He especially appreciates and respects hard work, fair play and devotion to duty.

• Today's real golf course superintendent doesn't trust pocket calculators (or computers), old hippies or young yuppies. He doesn't want anything to do with marijuana, Amaretto and Cream or designer jeans. Madonna disgusts him, Wall Street scares him and he'd put little Jimmy Baker away forever and a day.

• For the real golf course superintendent there are only two political parties in our country — the Republican and the Leftist.

• A real golf course superintendent prefers neighbors who are neat, fussy and quiet.

• The real golf course superintendent has no time for bullying, unprincipled and ignorant salesmen. On the other hand, he handsomely rewards those professional, competent and informed sales representatives who visit his office. They have his trust, his respect AND his business.

• The real golf course superintendent knows how to behave himself.

• The real golf course superintendent stands and removes his hat when the national anthem is played. If he isn't singing it, he isn't talking, either. The real superintendent understands what the word "respect" means.

• Real Wisconsin golf course superintendents ride Milwaukee-made Harley-Davidson motorcycles, not those twinkie bikes made in Japan by Honda or Suzuki. Just ask Mike Lees.

• Real golf course superintendents in Wisconsin spend Thanksgiving vacation in the woods deer hunting.

• The real golf course superintendent is never the butt of rude jokes made by the club president, other officers, directors or the green committee chairman. The real superintendent is smart enough, careful enough and capable enough not to do anything to merit such disrespect.

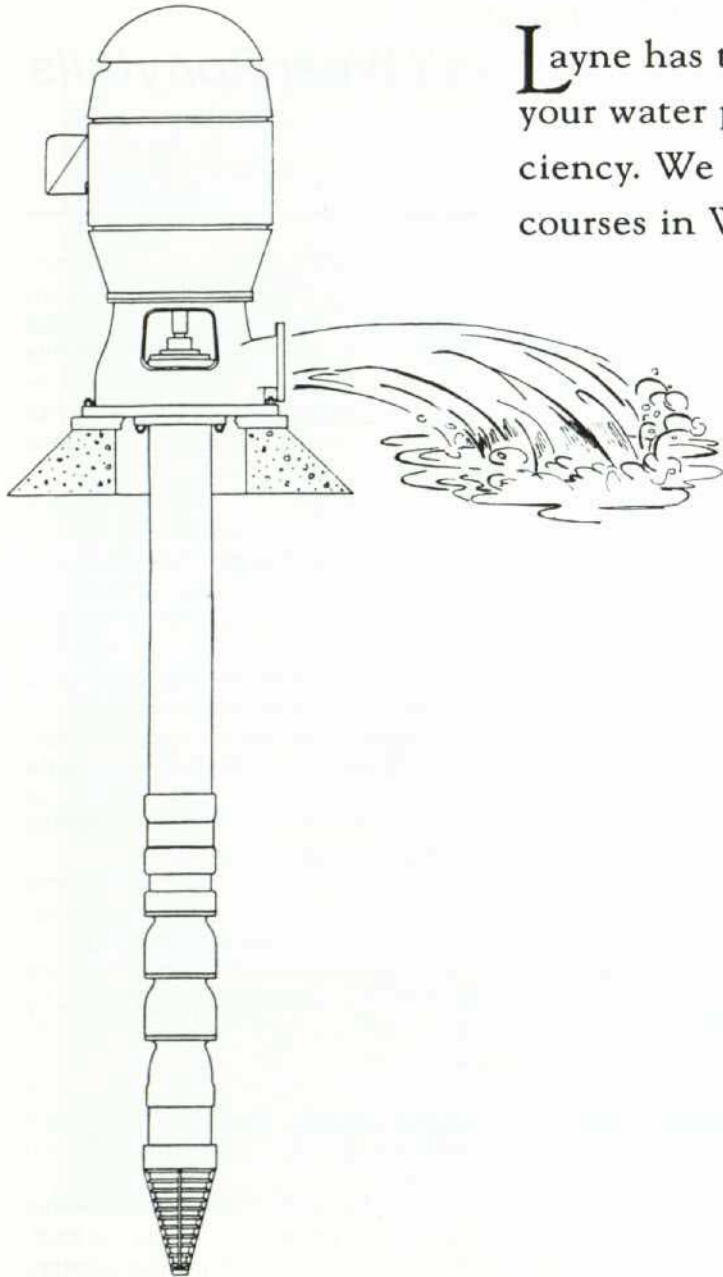
• The real golf course superintendent has simple tastes — he likes the best.

• For the real golf course superintendent, Coca-Cola is the real thing. He drinks Miller High Life beer. Kellogg's Corn Flakes make for a real breakfast. He reads *TIME Magazine* and uses ATT telephone service.

• Real golf course superintendents despise those little pin locator balls and flags some want on flagsticks. They consider such trivial amendments mere clutter on the golf course and won't stand for it.

• Real golf course superintendents may not wear cologne to work, but they do wear deodorant. They don't mind smelling like the shop, but they definitely do mind smelling like a sweaty lockerroom.

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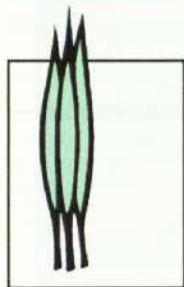
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# An Update

by Tom Salaiz

Before I came on board as manager of the Noer facility, I remember telling Monroe Miller over the telephone, "The opportunity to work in a new facility with quality people and a supportive industry is very exciting." I knew then that the turfgrass industry in Wisconsin was eager to see the turfgrass facility completed and that they would be very supportive of turfgrass research. What I wasn't aware of was the magnitude of this support and the strong commitment to research by the industry. I use the word 'industry' to avoid omitting anyone who has contributed to turfgrass research and to the Noer facility. Everyone involved should be proud of their contributions.

There is one person whom I feel deserved special mention, and that is Tom Harrison, superintendent of Maple Bluff Country Club. Tom helped make my transition from graduate school to manager of a new research facility a smooth one. He frequently visited the site or called to see how things were

going, and urged me to call him at home if there were ever any problems or concerns I was having. Thanks, Tom.

Since the last writing of *The Grass Roots*, interior details such as office furniture, warehouse supplies and turfgrass equipment acquisitions are almost complete. Wayne Kussow purchased office furniture, custodial supplies and a weather station to be installed yet this winter or spring. Bob Newman supplied office furniture and several items for the shop, including metal shelving, air compressor, bench grinder, flammable liquids cabinet, shovels, and rakes. Irrigation supplies for the plots have arrived and are in order. Almost all of the equipment on loan from John Deere Horicon Works has been delivered. Negotiations with other suppliers will continue this winter and early spring.

A short break in the weather November 11 and 12 allowed Milwaukee Lawn Sprinkler Corp. to get a good start on installing the irrigation system around the building. Given another day or two of decent weather in the spring and that project will be complete.

My job this winter is to develop a budget for the next fiscal year, finalize research plot management schedules, plan research projects, and coordinate tree plantings in the spring with other projects going on such as installation of the irrigation system.

I have learned a great deal these first six months and have really enjoyed the diversity my position offers. Ask me how I feel about this position for the future and I will probably say, "The opportunity to work in a new facility with quality people and supportive industry is very exciting."



What a difference a year makes—the top photo was taken in October 1990; the bottom photo was shot in October 1991!

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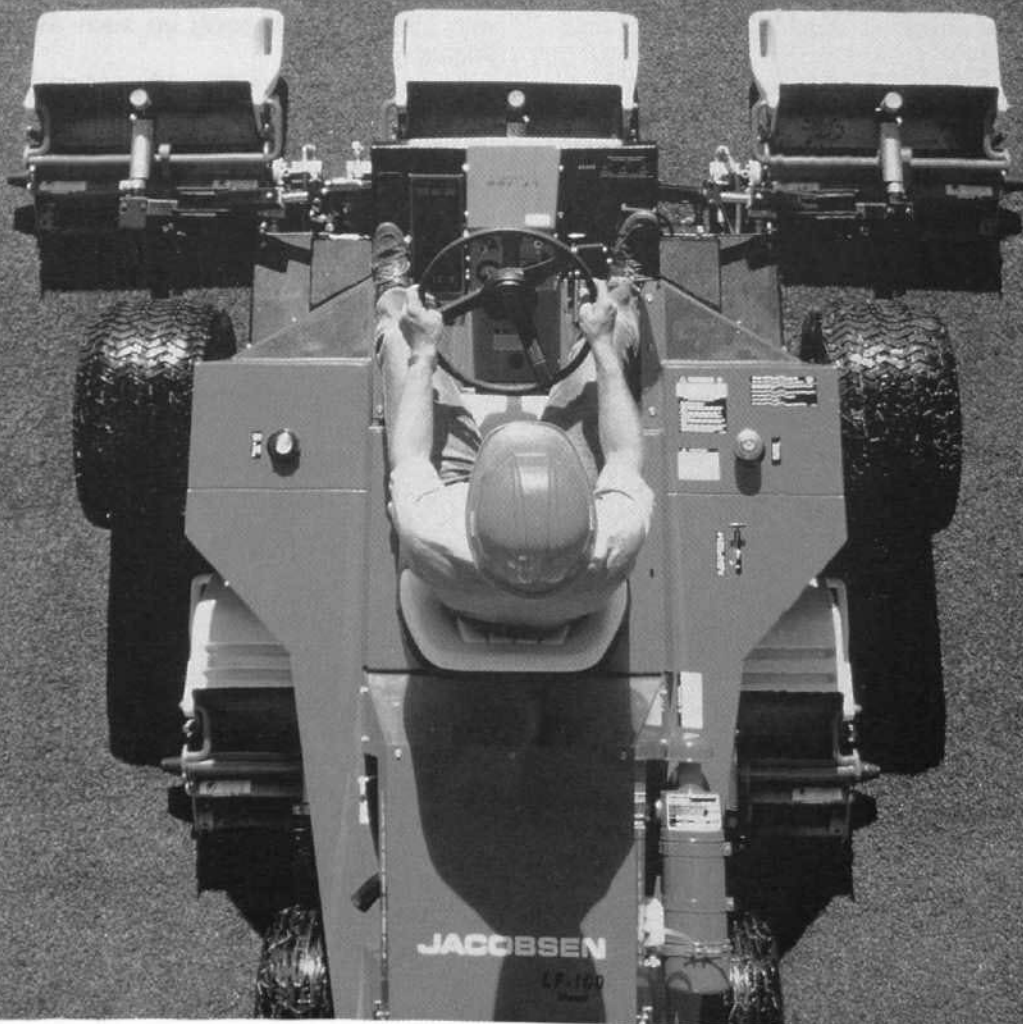
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*(Continued from the front page)*

more visible to both golfers and non-golfers.

We are going to have to continue to reconcile the desire for good playing conditions golf players want with the incredible cost associated with doing that. It cannot continue the way it has been going, especially with the economic conditions we are operating in nowadays.

Finally, I worry about the stress far too many Wisconsin golf course superintendents operate under. There has to be a way for more of them to get away from the golf course for a day or two during the summer months. The need for a normal family life needs to be pressed to owners, directors, etc. This business of "living on the edge" just has to stop. Soon you will see people leaving the profession because of the working conditions.

*Are you comfortable with the relationship with the WSGA?*

Absolutely! One of our greatest assets is the relationship we have with the WSGA. We simply could not function as an association without them. Everyone in that office is a good friend and we owe them tremendously.

*How about the WPGA and the WCMA?*

We are all in the same business of providing a service to golf to the best of our abilities and our resources. We always have worked well together and I feel certain that we will continue to do that. We are a family of professionals.

*What do you view as your most important task as WGCSA president?*

First, I have the responsibility to see to it that this organization runs smoothly. That means listening to all points of view during decision-making processes, and making sure that everything we do is done in a professional manner.

*What areas might receive some special attention during your two years as president?*

I want to place even more emphasis on education. We have to do that to stay on top of ever-changing demands and requirements we face. It goes beyond our professional well-being; I think our survival depends on it.

I also want to be absolutely certain that we are always aware of current laws and regulations. No excuses are accepted for failure to do this.

Finally, I want to put forth every cent we can for research. We have to get



Imagine that—a golf player who not only walks, but carries his own bags!

started with this business of answering some of the important questions in Wisconsin golf turf management. In close connection with this will be my pledge to do everything we can in the area of student scholarships. The young people in the turf management program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will do a lot in the years to come to secure the future well-being of golf. We have to support them.

*How do you expect the WGCSA to "fit" with the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the new NOER research facility?*

We have a strong commitment and great loyalty to our land grant university in Madison. We have always wanted to see grass research done within our borders and we now have a chance to do that. I will fully support the work that the WTA does and the research projects that will be started at the NOER facility. There is no question we have a serious responsibility to inform our membership of how our donations are being used there, and I feel we deserve input during the decision-making processes. Answers to the questions we have and that the public has about golf turf management must be found. We would be foolish not to be a part of the search.

*How do you view the relationship between the WGCSA and the GCSAA?*

I believe that every local chapter in the country has to look to the national

for direction and leadership. They are better able to deal with the bigger issues of the day.

The emphasis the GCSAA puts on education is impressive, and I fully support it.

By working with local chapters, the GCSAA is able to advance a united and consistent front to issues faced by all of us.

*On more practical matters, do you expect to initiate any changes in THE GRASS ROOTS or the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium?*

No. These represent our best efforts at communication and education, two priorities for me. Their successes speak for themselves. There may always be room for fine tuning, but by and large I believe that if neither is broken, why try to force a "fix"?

*How does your club feel about your selection as WGCSA president?*

Honestly, I haven't told anyone. My green committee chairman has always known of my involvement in the WGCSA and how important it has been to me. But I haven't specifically informed anyone at this time.

*Is everyone in your family behind your decision to assume the WGCSA presidency?*

Yes. I have always considered my family the most important part of my life. They are my sounding board, and I owe them a lot for that. Their involvement in golf has been especially rewarding and they are well aware of the importance of the WGCSA to me.

*Give us some quick "bytes" on each of the following:*

**Fast greens** — The speed of golf greens should be determined by each situation. Certainly important are undulation, weather, tournament requirements, majority player wants and the important factor of enjoyment. I am glad that the talk about ultra fast greens has subsided in recent years.

**USGA Green Section** — The past two years I have subscribed to the Turf Advisory Service. The results have been great! Jim Latham and Bob Vavrek have kept me and our green committee informed of the latest in what it takes to manage good golf turf these days. They are also very tuned into the latest trends in turf management.

**Golf prosperity in Wisconsin** — I have always felt Wisconsin is a paradise of golf courses. Too few people have been aware of that. Both the old



and the new golf courses here have a lot to offer golf players and have helped the tourism industry in the state.

**Relationship between the WGCSA and the UW-Madison** — The track record of the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a world class institution is well known. It has produced excellent quality graduates. The record of those golf course superintendents who have come out of that institutions is testimony enough. I am especially proud that my daughter is a student there!

**Relationship between the WGCSA and the companies we do business with** — I come from the old school where you support your local people. They are most often your friends, too. That attitude continues.

**Women on golf course staffs** — I have always had women on our golf course staff. My wife has been involved with the maintenance of flowers at WBCC for years, and the members wouldn't have it any other way. In fact, many women have greater pride in their work than men I have employed.

*Any final thoughts?*

I really am grateful to the membership for the opportunity they have given me. I will work very hard and do my very best to justify the faith in me. Thanks to everyone.

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## The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz



# Name That Course

*By Monroe S. Miller*

The World Series inspired a lot of conversation around the country. Unfortunately, most of it wasn't about baseball.

I thought the discussions about the Braves fans and their tomahawk chop were dumber than dumb. But they persisted, and the rest of the fall season saw groups in any number of school districts working to change team names. I didn't realize there were so many offended people out there.

There is no real reason to editorialize about what I think, for example, about efforts to change team names like Indians, Warriors, Redskins, Braves, etc.

Those silly arguments got me to thinking, however, about the club where I've worked for twenty years. Blackhawk was a courageous Indian leader in the early to mid-1800s, and travelled through the Madison area. For those reasons and because of the existence of many Indian burial and effigy mounds on our golf course, the club founders decided to honor the chief by naming their new golf organization after him.

I'll bet, if he were alive today, that he would be both honored and flattered by that simple act.

Now I'm wondering if someone who might be offended by that came forward and demanded a name change, what would happen.

Would officials change the name of the club from the one that has served us so well for so long?

If a change was ordered, what would we become? Would we be The Lake

Mendota Country Club? The Shorewood Hills Golf Club?

Those thoughts naturally led to this question: *What various things were Wisconsin golf courses named for or after?*

My survey of the 1991 Wisconsin State Golf Association Directory is the basis for this issue's quiz. Here it goes:

"Rank the following factors in order of the frequency they were used to name Wisconsin golf courses."

Admittedly, the categories are arbitrary and some judgements were required in placing a course in one category or another. Be assured that I was at least consistent.

Animal  
City/Town/County  
Geographic feature  
Indians  
Institutions  
Other  
People  
Rivers/Lakes/Creek/Streams  
Trees

ANSWERS  
8 Animals  
1 City/Town/County  
2 Geographic feature  
6 Indians  
9 Institutions  
5 Other  
7 People  
3 Rivers/Lakes/Creeks/Streams  
4 Trees

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