

# Pine Lake Improves Course



PINE LAKE'S BEAUTY IS ENHANCED BY THE LAKE FROM WHICH IT IS NAMED



ERNEST WAY  
*Pine Lake green-keeper*

**P**INE Lake Country Club, located near Pontiac, a suburb of Detroit is one of the most beautifully situated golf layouts in the middle West. Under the able leadership of Mr. A. J. Prentice who is serving his second year as president the club has taken on new life and enthusiasm. In addition to house enlargements many changes and improvements

have been made in the course under direction of Ernest Way, pro-greenkeeper.

The first of these changes come with the third hole where the tee has been lengthened, and a poorly hit ball is now caught by the ditch crossing the fairway about 125 yards from the tee.

On No. 6, with the fairway lined with trees on both sides, a new tee adds 20 or 25 yards, materially increasing the golfer's difficulties, since this two-shotter ends with slight dog-leg, and a full 200 yards or better will be required to play a second shot to the green.

A new tee has also been built for the ninth hole, lengthening it by 20 yards, and fast-growing Lombardy poplars have been set out to keep the boys straight with their drives.

No. 11 has been lengthened so that hole now

measures about 435 yards. This par 4 hole is a decided dog-leg, and even the longest hitters will now take their heaviest bludgeons in order to be up for the second to the green.

The third and eighteenth greens have been put into bent, and a noticeable improvement is observed, especially on No. 3, which with its decided slope had been too fast.



A. J. PRENTICE  
*President Pine Lake Country Club*

## Willie Park Was Architect

**P**INE Lake course was laid out by Willie Park in 1915, but the present 18 holes were reconstructed seven years ago. While the land is flat, fifty per cent consisted of virgin forest,

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giving the golf architect an excellent opportunity to plan four or five fairways lined by beautiful trees and giving a splendid setting for the greens.

Several of the fairways consist of a light sandy soil and these holes have been watered artificially for the last three seasons with splendid results. The fairway grasses are mostly redtop, blue grass and fescue, while the grass on the greens and tees is Norfolk bent.

The trees which divide most of the fairways have added greatly to the beauty of Pine Lake, and, incidentally, have created havoc with golf scores. However, as each spring rolls around the members note new tree plantings around the course, indicating that the development in this respect is not yet complete.

### Lombardy Poplars Are Used

**I**N LANDSCAPING the course, Lombardy poplars have been used extensively on account of their beauty and the fact that the branches are not scraggly, the leaves come out early in the spring and remain until play is practically ended in the fall and being small the leaves blow off the course. These qualities make the Lombardy poplar an ideal tree for golf courses. Norway maples and elms come next in order. Over one thousand trees and some twelve hundred pieces of shrubbery have been planted during the last three years which

are now maturing and promise to be a great asset to the club.

The greenkeeper, Ernest Way has made a specialty of economy in upkeep and changes made on the course are done with this in mind. The surrounding territory about the greens is so shaped as to enable the use of large mowers, thus reducing hand labor. Also the planting



NUMBER 2 GREEN, PINE LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

of trees and landscaping is placed only where the work of the large mowers will not be interfered with.

While Mr. Way uses some compost he is a strong believer in chemical fertilizers, in fact he believes he has discovered one of the best chemical fertilizers for bent or any grasses used on greens or fairways. This fertilizer possesses wonderful qualities and is splendid for weed control and unexcelled in the treatment of brown patch.

The greenkeeper crew consists of nine men including the superintendent and the course is divided up allotting each man a certain portion to take care of, thus creating competition. The mowing equipment consists of two tractors and two gang mowers, while Pennsylvania hand mowers are used on the greens.



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