**For Immediate Release**

RE:  Zoar Memorial Amateur Championship

DOVER, Ohio -- The inaugural Zoar Memorial Amateur Championship will be played May 23-24 at Zoar Village Golf Course.

The 36-hole tournament is open to any low handicap amateur in Ohio and surrounding states. The tournament also will feature a senior division for those over age 50 this year.

In addition, the tournament also will serve to remember the significant contributors to the local golf scene.

This year’s honorees are brothers Larry and Ernie Frank, and William Kobel and Glen Apple.

Larry Frank was the brainchild behind the development of Zoar Village Golf Course. Hailing from a large family, Larry in 1973 approached his brothers, including Ernie, his sisters, and others with the idea of building a golf course in northern Tuscarawas County.

Larry ultimately assumed the position of general manager when the course opened in 1975. He held that title until his untimely death in 2007.

Ernie, a retiree from the Soil and Water Conservation Service, was instrumental in identifying the many parcels that would become the course. He served as a Zoar Village Golf Course board member and adviser until his death in 2014.

Kobel served as Zoar’s first superintendent while handling similar duties at Union Country Club in Dover, where he served from 1971 to 1977 and again from 1979 to 1987.

Kobel learned his craft while a student in the University of Massachusetts’ renowned Stockbridge School of Agriculture turfgrass management and science program.

In addition to Zoar and Union Country Club, he did stints at Mayfield Country Club in South Euclid, Hawthorne Valley Golf Club in Solon, Darby Creek Golf Course in Marysville and Bangor Municipal Golf Course in Bangor, Maine.

He also served as president of Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendent Assn. in 1985.

Apple, a retired teacher from Medina, has won numerous amateur events. He is considered to be the consummate “gentleman golfer” and now serves as an instructor at summer camps for chapters of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana.

Apple’s golf resume speaks for itself:

--Four-time state champion, four-time runner-up and two-time senior champion of the Ohio Public Links Assn. annual tournament.

--Three-time runner-up of the Ohio Golf Assn. State Amateur Tournament and five-time champion of the Ohio Golf Assn. Mid-Amateur Tournament.

--Four-time match play champion of the Northern Ohio Golf Assn.

Apple is a member of Ohio Golf Hall of Fame, the Ohio Public Golfers Hall of Fame, Northern Ohio Golf Hall of Fame, Columbus Golf Assn. Hall of Fame and the Medina County Hall of Fame.

Zoar Village Golf Course is located in northern Tuscarawas County at 8229 Dover-Zoar Rd. just off Rt. 212.