Golf's traditions crossed The Pond to America

The period 1900-74 presents challenges, brings innovation

By JIM CONNOLLY

Many of the traditions of golf and golf course design were brought to the United States from England and Scotland at the turn of the century. Early Americans were familiar with golf but did not adopt it as a priority for recreation. There are brief accounts of "attempted" golf in the early 1800s, but the first real golf course was not built until the 1880s.

**PART 3 OF A SERIES**

Charles Blair MacDonald, the son of a Scottish father and Canadian mother, designed the famous National Golf Links of America in 1911. Although he grew up in Chicago, he eventually returned to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where he learned the game of golf and golf design. He brought this talent to the United States and put it to work designing golf courses. He believed a first-class golf course should be constructed from good material, preferably a sandy loam that drained well. He believed in some kind of "fines" turfgrass so the ball would roll perfectly. MacDonald coined the title Golf Architect and is considered by many to be the "father of American golf course architecture." Some said he had an ego the size of Lake Michigan; and a slice that would traverse three counties. Many say he is the mold for today's golf architect.

There were other architects who brought a design flavor from overseas, that large, undulating putting greens with "fines" turfgrass so the ball would run perfectly. MacDonald coined the title Golf Architect and is considered by many to be the "father of American golf course architecture." Some said he had an ego the size of Lake Michigan; and a slice that would traverse three counties. Many say he is the mold for today's golf architect.

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USGA Nature Links targets environmental group support

By PETER BLAIS

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Green industry eyes EPA stewards program

By MARK LESLIE

Washington, D.C. — The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are urging major organizations in the golf industry to join a new program to promote environmental stewardship in pesticide use.

Having already signed agreements with a score of "partner" from the National Potato Council and American Corn Growers Association to 10 utility companies, government officials have set their sights on the golf industry. The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) has agreed to sign on, and the EPA's Anne Leslie said the agency has approached the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), U.S. Golf Association (USGA), American Society of Golf Course Architects, National Golf Foundation and National Golf Course Owners Association.

"Exciting things are happening," said Leslie, chemist and golf liaison in the new Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division. Among them a planned EPA reorganization, faster registration of biological pesticides (see story on page 1), and

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PGA Tour honors top TPC operations of '94

By MARK LESLIE

San Francisco — The PGA Tour's annual Golf Course Maintenance Operation of the Year Award was won by a concerted effort by the entire staff, according to Collier Miller, superintendent at the winning Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Summerlin in Las Vegas.

"The award is not just for the superintendent, but the entire operation. It takes everything — the administrative assistant, the staff, everybody," said Miller, whose course also won the award last year under then-superintendent Gary Myers, now at TPC of Scottsdale. Summerlin's staff fluctuates from 23 to 30, he said.

TPC Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations Cal Roth, who oversees the 14 TPC courses, presented the Operation of the Year Award and others at a banquet here during the International Golf Course Conference.

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MICH. FOUNDATION GIVES $140,000
LANSING, Mich. — Checks totaling $140,000 in support of turfgrass research at Michigan State were presented at the annual awards luncheon at the 65th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Conference here in January. The MTF donated the research money as well as scholarships to a number of students.

ENVIRONMENT TO BENEFIT
HOMOSASSA SPRINGS, Fla. — The third annual Environtron Golf Classic on April 24 at World Woods Golf Resort here will raise funds for the Florida Turfgrass Association's research facility — the Environtron. Hosted by Seven Rivers Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, the tournament will benefit the 3,100-square-foot, state-of-the-art research field laboratory opened in 1993. It was designed to study and develop new technology on the relationship of turfgrass with biological, environmental and cultural factors.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PUBLISHED
Presentations from seven International Turfgrass Society Research Conferences have been published in conference proceedings and a journal. These are worthwhile books that present research data from around the world.

More information is available from Dr. R.E. Schmidt, ITS Virginia Tech., Dept. of CSES, Blacksburg, Va. 24061.

FINLEN, VANDERPOOL HONORED
Heart of America Golf GCSCA presented Immediate Past President Pat Finlen of Quivira Lake CC in Lenexa, Kan., its 1994 Superintendent of the Year award. The Mendenhall Award, given for going beyond the call of duty, was presented to Meril D. Vanderpool of Village Greens Golf Course in Ozawkie, Kan.

GOLF COURSE NEWS
Royal Canadian Golf Association, N.Y. Audubon create program

By MARK LESLIE

OAKVILLE, Canada — The Audubon Society of New York State and Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) have teamed to create the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada, Inc. (ACSSC).

The system will encompass golf facilities, corporate business complexes, schools, farms and backyards, according to New York Audubon President Ron Dodson. It will draw on the expertise and financial support of the RCGA Green Section and the experience of the Audubon, which has pioneered wildlife and ecological preservation efforts at golf course facilities in the United States and abroad.

"People are more comfortable working with a national group of their own country," said RCGA Green Section National Director Terri Yamada, who is also national coordinator of the new system. "We have 88 Canadian golf courses cooperating with the New York Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. They will automatically switch to our system. It will be very parallel to the New York program but operate separately."

The ACSSC will be based in RCGA's offices in Toronto suburb, "It will be up and running in May, and we will hire a biologist in May or June," said Yamada, who added the initial contact with the biologist will run for eight months.

"We want to operate at arm's-length," she said. "Ultimately, we hope to set up the system to do its own fundraising, and to look for other contacts outside golf—such as industrial-commercial properties, schools..."

RCGA has given $15,000 in seed money to the Sanctuary System — much as the United States Golf Association Green Section did for the popular Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

While the Canadian system will be a subsidiary of the Audubon Society of New York State, "the key is that it is a Canadian company and will have a Canadian board of directors," Yamada said.

Further information is available from Yamada at the RCGA, 1333 Dorval Dr., Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6J 4Z3.

Nature Links seeks National Fish & Wildlife Foundation input

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USGA will dispense between 1995-97 as part of the Nature Links program, Snow added. "Wildlife research isn't the same as putting out turf test plots and measuring the results," the Green Section executive said. "It's more complicated than that. As we came around a second round of research funding, we realized agronomists are not in the best position to determine what should be done in terms of wildlife research."

Green Section staff met with environmental and wildlife groups last November in Washington. The issue of how to allocate wildlife research funds came up near the end of the meeting. Snow said one of the major contributors to the discussion was Peter Stangel, director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

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