

Architects pick Zoller for Ross Award



John Zoller

The American Society of Golf Course Architects will present its coveted Donald Ross Award to former Northern California Golf Association Senior Executive Director John Zoller.

Zoller's selection "acknowledges the organizers, builders and superintendents of all new golf courses," said ASGCA President Robert Trent Jones Jr.

The award will be presented on March 26 at the organization's annual meeting at the Inn at Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula in California. It is given annually to a person who has contrib-

uted to the growth, understanding and public awareness of the importance of golf course architecture to the game.

Jones cited Zoller's "lifetime of service to the game," adding: "John has literally done it all within the game of golf and the business of golf since he first hoisted a golf bag in Hamilton, Ohio, a half century ago.

"As a recipient of the Donald Ross Award, John Zoller is recognized as an outstanding representative of the many people without whom the ASGCA's architectural efforts could not flourish."

Jones said: "We honor a golf course superintendent, a club manager and true gentleman who has played and contributed to the game of golf magnificently for more than 50 years.

"From caddy to turfgrass expert, and from the workshop to the front office, John Zoller has been everything to the game of golf. He has the unique distinction of having supervised and advised on all seven golf courses within the hallowed gates of the Del Monte Forest on the Monterey Peninsula."

As executive director of the Northern California Golf Associa-

tion, Zoller led one of the largest associations in the country from 1980 until retiring in 1989.

A major accomplishment during that time was development of Poppy Hills Golf Course at Pebble Beach, which marked the first time in North America that a golf association of volunteers had financed, built and operated its own course for the benefit of its 110,000 members and the golfing public. Poppy Hills will host the National Intercollegiate Championship in June 1991.

The NCGA's effort is now "a blueprint for every state and regional golf association in North America," Jones said. "What better way to establish and make available to players of all skill levels true championship facilities ... to conserve the open-space environment ... to foster 'open to the public' golf courses of high caliber all over the country ... to meet the exploding demand for our grand and glorious game?"

"Every golf course architect appreciates what John has done personally to enlarge and enhance our profession."

Gruber Ohio's Man of Year

Coldstream Country Club superintendent Calvin Gruber was hailed as Man of the Year and Hinkley (Ohio) Country Club superintendent Jean Esposito was presented the Professional Achievement Award by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation at its Conference and Show in December.

Meanwhile, the OTF installed a new slate of officers including President John Fanning of Cincinnati, a sales representative for the Kentucky turfgrass and seed supply firm of George W. Hill Co.; President-elect Joe Motz, owner of Motz Inc. lawn-care firm in Cincinnati; Vice President Paul Jacquemin, who owns Jacquemin Sod in Marysville and works at Morral Chemical in Plain City; and Treasurer Bill Pound of the Ohio State University Department of Agronomy Extension.

Gruber has been superintendent at Coldstream since it opened in 1960 and has kept the Cincinnati course in condition to maintain its Top 100 standing from Golf Digest every year since.

Cited by Fanning as a national leader in golf course groundskeeping, Gruber is known as the originator of lightweight mowing on fairways.

Esposito, the long-time superintendent at Hinkley, was honored for her active work for the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association, which she has served as president, and for her civic work in the community.

OTF also honored outgoing President Jim Sharp, an irrigation specialist with Century Equipment in Pemberville, and presented service and appreciation plaques to outgoing Directors Bruce Augustin, Ted Pasko and Richard Foote.

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