

Jun 14, 2013, 11:55am EDT

Hurdzan: Scottish links course in Hocking Hills built with environment in mind



[View Slideshow](#) - Hole No. 3, Wee Burn

Courtesy Hurdzan Golf Design



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Golf course designer [Mike Hurdzan](#) believes there is a lesson to be learned from the throwback Scottish links course he and his son Chris crafted for the Glenlaurel country inn in the Hocking Hills.

The eight-hole, 1,670-yard course features sand greens and tees and other design touches from the late 19th century and early 20th century. Players can rent 100-year-old hickory shaft clubs and special balls that cover distances like balls did during that era.

With [Chris Hurdzan](#) as lead architect on the project, Columbus-based Hurdzan Golf Design took a low-cost, low-tech approach to [designing the course](#). The Hurdzans routed it on a basic topography map and have the holes following contours of the land. In addition, sand greens and tees are much cheaper to build and maintain than grass ones.

The result, [Mike Hurdzan](#) told me, is a course that cost little to build, doesn't harm the environment and is fun to play in a short period of time – about an hour or so.

Hurdzan has designed more than 400 courses, including top-shelf ones such as Erin Hills in Wisconsin where the [U.S. Open will be played in 2017](#). But he thinks there is a place for courses such as the Scottish Links at Glenlaurel, saying they can help reverse the decline in people playing golf, especially those who quit because of frustration with five- to six-hour rounds at conventional 18-hole courses.

“This whole retro thing has an enormous amount of value,” Hurdzan said. “We need golf to be inexpensive, environmentally conscious and fun. This course does all those things.”

The course opened for Glenlaurel guests last year. Now the inn is planning a grand opening June 30 for invited guests and the news media.

You can see some course photos in the slideshow and also read about Glenlaurel and its links course in [stories by freelancer Cindy Bent Findlay](#) in this week’s print edition of *Columbus Business First*.