WALKING TRAIL

CAMUSFEARNA GORGE

EAST CROFTS

WETLAND

EMPLOYEE PARKING

HOLD/RETENSION POND

CARRIAGE HOUSE

HELI-PAD

HIGHLAND SCOTTS TRAIL

MOUNT OLIVE ROAD

MANOR HOUSE

FUTURE SPA AND PARKING

EXISTING SPA

Location:
Rockbridge, Ohio

Architect:
Michael Hurdzan, ASGCA
Hurdzan Golf Design
www.hurdzangolf.com

Project summary:
The Glenlaurel resort in Ohio wanted a fun, unique golf experience for its guests. Hurdzan Golf Design provided them with an eight hole 'sand green' golf course reminiscent of the late nineteenth century, cut out of a pasture with minimal application and maintenance requirements.

www.glenlaurel.com/amenities/golf

Photos: Glenlaurel

The eight-hole course was simply cut out of pasture

Glenlaurel is an intimate resort billed as 'a Scottish Country Inn', offering accommodation, a spa and dining. Wanting to add a very low cost, but unique and fun-to-play golf course, the owner Greg Leonard approached Ohio-based Michael Hurdzan, ASGCA to provide a solution.

Hurdzan's answer was a course with grassless tees and greens, cut out of a pasture. To keep costs as low as possible, irrigation, drainage, bentgrass, rootzones and golf course paths were eliminated. Chris and Michael Hurdzan laid out the course and Leonard constructed it himself, by mowing fairways and coring tee and green wells, which were then filled with sandy loam and compacted.

The course was then ready to play. It consists of eight holes of between 45 and 218 yards and the resort rents early twentieth century wooden-shafted clubs and half-distance golf balls for those wishing to experience it the traditional way. Players use a

"The entire golf course was constructed at a small fraction of the cost of a single golf hole on a conventional golf course"

mold for shaping a mound of moist sand from which to play their tee shots, and the scorecard has a 'stymie' ruler and hole with names rather than numbers and yardages but no par.

Michael Hurdzan explains: "The entire golf course was constructed at a small fraction of the cost of a single golf hole on a conventional golf course with grass greens, and maintenance is similarly fractional." He adds: "By the way, Major champion Tom Lehman learned to play golf on a sand green golf course, just like Glenlaurel."