



James Kirchdorfer – 2013

The designer, supplier and installer of the first multi-row fairway automatic irrigation system in Kentucky at Louisville Country Club in 1962, Kirchdorfer was also a pioneer with high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and his company installed the first wall-to-wall irrigation system in Kentucky at Lake Forest Country Club in 1993, which is now the standard for most courses. Kirchdorfer was a steadfast supporter of turf education and improvement being one of the original organizers of the Kentucky Turfgrass Council, a founding member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) and president of Golf Development Company – which strives to deliver quality golf to everyone. He has received the Winfrey P. Bunton, II Kentucky Turfgrass Man of the Year Award and Perry Dye Service Award. One of his passions was encouraging others to play the game and making the game available to everyone. He founded “Sticks for Kids,” which distributes golf clubs to golf courses for underprivileged kids to learn to play and has over 280 programs in the U.S. He was also a board member of the First Tee of Louisville.