

New Blood

Our intrepid architecture editor

profiles the up-and-comers of design

There are more up-and-coming golf course architects doing interesting work than in any period since the early 1920s. With that in mind, we're not going to claim this to be the end-all and be-all of guides because we're surely leaving out many worthy talents.

If you're contemplating a restoration, redesign or have a friend who wants to build the latest and greatest course, here are several architects who may not have the name recognition, huge office staff, ASGCA membership or fawning entourage, but are fresh faces worthy of consideration.

Introducing:

Brian Curley and Lee Schmidt

The buzz: Talented duo making a name in the desert with new "Skins Game" course, the Landmark GC, in Indio, Calif; the ultra-private Plantation GC in Indio; and the Goose Creek in Ontario, Calif., a model for quality affordable golf. Curley and Schmidt are known for keeping costs down while providing attractive designs.

Now playing: The Palms, Indio, Calif.; Oak Val-



B Y G E O F F S H A C K E L F O R D



Brian Curley (left, page 24) and Lee Schmidt offer myriad bunker styles, such as these on the 15th hole at The Palms in Indio, Calif.

ley GC, Beaumont, Calif.; Landmark GC; Goose Creek; The Plantation GC.

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Annandale CC, Pasadena Calif.; Great Southern GC, Gulfport, Miss.; Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego.

Coming attractions: An unnamed 36-hole course for a Beaumont, Calif.-based PGA facility; Siena GC in Las Vegas; a Mandalay Bay Hotel course in Las Vegas; Santa Fe Valley GC in San Diego; and Royal Oaks CC in Houston (with Fred Couples).

Influences: Schmidt worked with Pete Dye for 20 years and was a senior associate with Jack Nicklaus for seven years. Curley says he has more classic influences, such as the California work of Alister MacKenzie, George C. Thomas Jr. and A.W. Tillinghast. He also cites Dye as an influence.

In their words: "We don't have a design style. We have done all kinds of bunkers styles, and we rely heavily on varying the strategy of holes throughout a course. We provide wide landing areas and alternative routes of play."

How to reach Curley and Schmidt: phone — 480-483-1994; e-mail — schmidt_curley@msn.com

Mike DeVries

The buzz: A hands-on builder of stunning bunkers with a passion for classic strategic style. With superintendent Kris Shumaker, DeVries helped turn a potential committee nightmare course (six co-designers) at Pilgrim's Run GC in Pierson, Mich., into one of *Golf Digest's* Best New Affordable Courses in 1999.

Now playing: Pilgrim's Run GC.

Noted restoration/master planning projects: Meadow Club, Fairfax, Calif. (1927, Alister MacKenzie); St. Charles CC, Winnipeg, Manitoba (nine holes by MacKenzie, nine by Donald Ross and nine by various architects).

Coming attractions: The Kingsley Club, Kingsley, Mich.; Crosswinds Golf Links, New Era, Mich.; Stonegate GC, Muskegon, Mich.

Influences: Alister MacKenzie, Perry Maxwell, Tom Doak, Tom Fazio, architects and courses from the Golden Age. In high school and college, DeVries also worked at Crystal Downs CC in Frankfort, Mich.



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In his words: "Great designs are built on-site by reacting to what's inherent in the landscape. By seeking out the diverse characteristics of a site, more options and variety will be designed into the golf course strategy."



Mike DeVries Pilgrim's Run GC in Pierson, Mich., was one of *Golf Digest's* Best New Affordable Courses in 1999.

How to reach DeVries: phone — 231-933-9169; e-mail — mike@devriesdesigns.com; Web site: www.devriesdesigns.com

Ron Forse

The buzz: Noted restoration specialist who developed highly regarded "Ground Rules for Restoration" is finally getting the chance to create his own grounds for golf. His restoration work at 11 A.W. Tillinghast courses and 22 Donald Ross tracks should make for fascinating influences for his own designs.

Now playing: Royal Oaks GC, Lebanon, Pa.; Deer Run GC, Gibsonsia, Pa.; Stonington CC, Stonington, Conn. (second nine).

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Pine Tree GC, Boynton Beach, Fla.; Indian Creek CC, Miami; Salem CC, Peabody, Mass.; Saucon Valley CC (Old, Grace & Weyhill courses) Bethlehem, Pa.; Lehigh CC, Allentown, Pa.; Newport CC, Newport, Pa.; Golden Valley CC, Golden Valley, Minn.; Riviera CC, Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Coming attractions: Donegal Highlands GC, Donegal, Pa.; Freestone GC, State College, Pa.

Influences: Every classic architect; old and current classic golf architecture writers.

In his words: "I have a strong tendency to use crowns or ridges to reward or deflect along the preferred line of play. I have the ability to work with any style of bunkering and green design — restoration or new."

How to reach Forse: phone — 724-438-1727; e-mail — forsedes@bellatlantic.net

Gil Hanse

The buzz: Former Tom Doak associate is making a name for himself with old-style, hand-built gems and low-profile restoration work. He became just the third American selected to design a course in Scotland when he was commissioned to do the new Crail course. The original Crail is one of the oldest courses in the world.

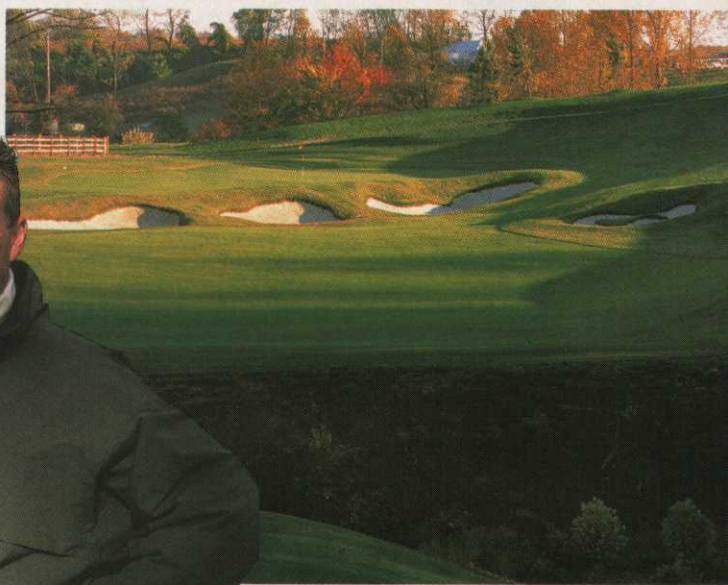
Now playing: Craighead Links at Crail Golfing Society, Crail, Scotland; Inniscrone GC, Avondale, Pa.; Tallgrass GC, Shoreham, N.Y.; South Fork CC, Amagansett, N.Y.

Noted restoration/master planning projects: Merion GC, East Course, Ardmore, Pa.; Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass.; Fenway GC, Scarsdale, N.Y.; Plainfield CC, Plainfield, N.J.; Century CC, Purchase, N.Y.; Lancaster CC, Lancaster, Pa.; Gulph Mills GC, King of Prussia, Pa.

Coming attractions: Capstone Club, Brookwood, Ala.; Applebrook GC, Malvern, Pa.; Rustic Canyon GC, Moorpark, Calif.

Influences: Alister Mackenzie, A.W. Tillinghast, Tom Doak, Bill Coore, Bill Kittleman.

In his words: "Our group tries to lay courses upon the land, using the natural features of the ground to dictate strategy,



Gil Hanse (left) is making a name for himself by leaving his design mark on courses such as Inniscrone GC in Avondale, Pa.

character and interest. For restoration projects, we are fiercely loyal to the original design intentions of the architects that created the courses."

How to reach Hanse: phone — 610-651-2977; e-mail — punchbwl@aol.com; Web site — www.hansegolfdesign.com.

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Ken Kavanaugh

The buzz: Illinois native is making a name for himself in the West with several excellent designs completed at an affordable price.



Ken Kavanaugh's game is quality design at a fair price, as the Longbow GC in Mesa, Ariz., attests.

Now playing: Oregon GC, West Linn, Ore.; Orchard Valley GC, Aurora, Ill.; Longbow GC, Mesa, Ariz.

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Dell Urich GC, Tucson, Ariz. (formerly Randolph Park); Raveneaux CC, Spring, Texas.

Coming attractions: Seven Canyons of Sedona, Sedona, Ariz.; The Homestead at Murphy Creek, Aurora, Colo.

Influences: Donald Ross, George C. Thomas Jr., Alister MacKenzie, Perry Maxwell, Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw, Andy

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Banfield and Kevin Sutherland.

In his words: "I don't ever want to be known for a certain recognizable style of course. Rather, the style is unique to a particular project. The marriage of client criteria and site characteristics always yields a unique golf course. I favor golf in a natural setting where memorability is achieved by design variety in terms of playability, land form, color and texture."

How to reach Kavanaugh: phone — 520-323-8232; e-mail — glfdesign@aol.com

Ron Kern

The buzz: Indiana architect is using classic architectural influences to build and remodel several Midwest courses into fresh designs.

Now playing: Fox Run GC, Eureka, Mo. (co-designed with father, Gary); Hanging Tree GC, Westfield, Ind.; Pebble Brook GC-North, Noblesville, Ind.

Coming attractions: Purgatory GC, Noblesville, Ind.; Twin Oaks GC, Hartford City, Ind.

Noted restoration/renovation projects: Evansville CC, Evansville, Ind.; Wabash Valley GC, Geneva, Ind.; CC of Terre Haute, Terre Haute, Ind.; Winding River GC, Indianapolis; Wabash Valley GC, Geneva, Ind.

Influences: Bill Diddel, George C. Thomas Jr., Alistair MacKenzie, Donald Ross, James Braid and retired superintendent Dwight Ladd.

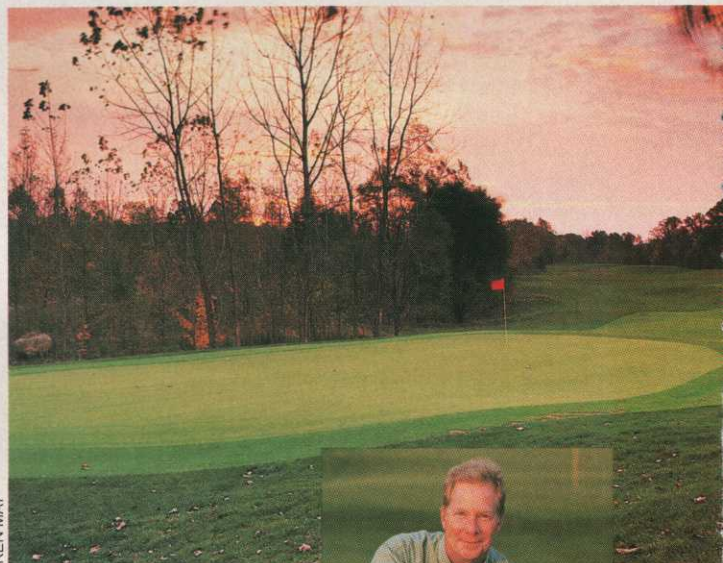
In his words: "I don't have a specific style I impose on a site. Routing is the soul of the course — integrating the natural topography into an interesting variety of shot values, hole lengths and par sequence is paramount for a good design and reasonable construction costs."

How to reach Kern: phone — 317-580-9083; e-mail — rkern@indy.net; Web site — www.ronkerngolfarch.com.

Ron Kern is using classical architectural influence to build and remodel Midwest tracks.

Tim Liddy

The buzz: Pete Dye's engineer and confidante is making a name on his own with a mix of excellent public and private low-



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cost, intriguing designs. Liddy's Trophy Club was named one of *Golf Digest's* 1999 Best New Private Courses.

Now playing: Rock Hollow GC, Peru, Ind; The Trophy Club, Lebanon, Ind.

Noted redesign or restoration work: Fort Harrison State Park GC, Indianapolis.

Coming attractions: Cambridge GC, Evansville, Ind.; Hickory Stick GC, Greenwood, Ind; Bloomfield City GC, Bloomfield, Conn.

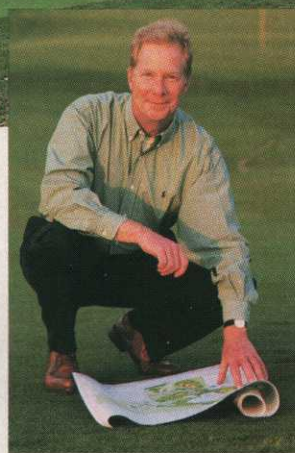
Biggest influences: Dye, Donald Ross, Seth Raynor.

In his words: "I try to create golf courses with enduring values for my clients. I spend half my time on my work and the other half as project architect for Dye, usually on his Midwest projects. All of the important criteria and principles that we strive for on Dye's \$10 million golf courses also apply to my modest budget courses."

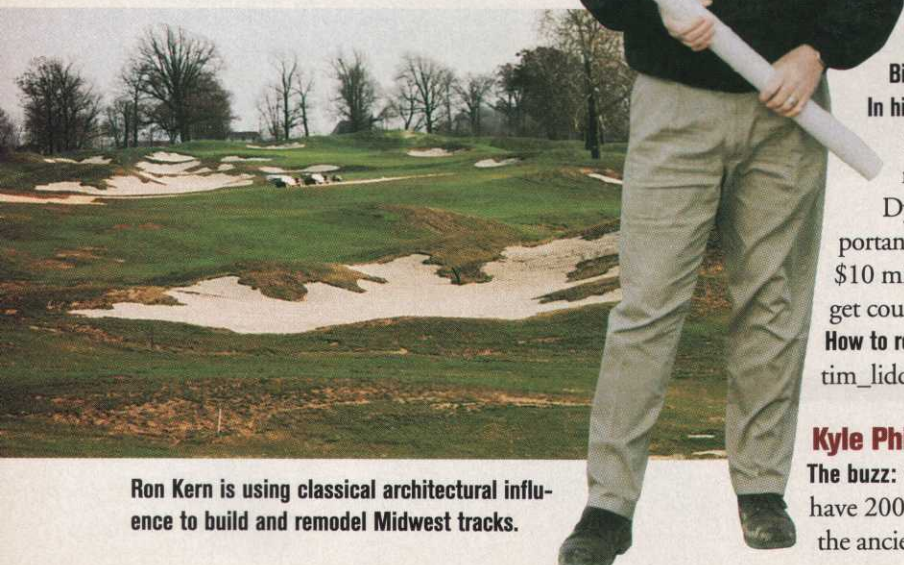
How to reach Liddy: phone — 765-759-8697; e-mail — tim_liddy@iquest.net.

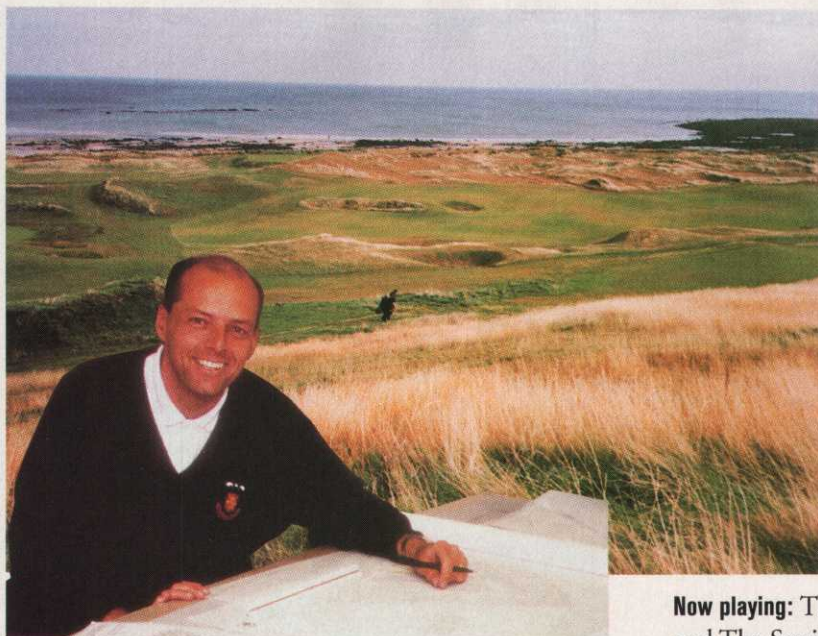
Kyle Phillips

The buzz: California-based international designer may have 2000's most-talked-about new design, Kingsbarns, the ancient-looking links near St. Andrews, Scotland.



Tim Liddy's intriguing designs include Rock Hollow GC in Peru, Ind.





Kingsbarns, designed by Kyle Phillips, may be the year's most talked-about new design.

Now playing: Numerous worldwide projects as an associate for Robert Trent Jones Jr., including Granite Bay GC in Granite Bay, Calif; Resort at Squaw Creek in Squaw Creek, Calif; and Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley, Maine.

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Robert Trent Jones GC, Manassas, Va.

Coming attractions: Kingsbarns Golf Links, Scotland; Morgan Creek, Sacramento, Calif.; The Grove Estate, London.

Influences: Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Robert Trent Jones Jr., H.S. Colt, A.W. Tillinghast, Alister MacKenzie.

In his words: "Golf courses should be designed to fit seamlessly into the land rather than as individual pieces built on top of the land. I try to vary the shot angles and challenges to create multiple choices of attack."

How to reach Phillips: phone — 916-797-2141; e-mail — golf@psyber.com.

Dan Proctor and Dave Axland

The buzz: The longtime Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw shaping and construction supervision team is earning accolades for Wild Horse GC, a low-budget public access masterpiece in Gothenburg, Neb., that captures some elements of Coore's and Crenshaw's Sand Hills GC in Mullen, Neb. — but shows its own distinctive design.

Now playing: Delaware Springs GC, Burnet, Texas; Wild Horse GC.

Coming attractions: Bayside GC, Ogallala Neb.

Influences: Coore, Crenshaw, George C. Thomas Jr., Perry Maxwell, Pete Dye, Donald Ross.

In their words: "We simply strive to restate common themes that have always been the foundation for fun golf. Site dic-

tates the design. Factors such as slope, scale and wind angles are a few of the variables to be considered along with the client's directive. We try to keep it simple."

How to reach Proctor and Axland: phone — 308-239-4478; e-mail — norskax@islc.net.

Bobby Weed

The buzz: Weed, the former Tournament Players Club superintendent, Pete Dye protégé and in-house PGA Tour designer, has created a small but excellent team to do a variety of work. Philadelphia's Glen Mills GC and St. Paul, Minn.'s Stoneridge GC figure to be two of the most talked about designs opening this summer.

Now playing: The Olde Farm, Bristol, Va.; The Slammer and The Squire, World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Fla.; Amelia Island Ocean Links, Amelia Island, Fla.

Noted redesign/renovation projects: Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, Ponte Vedra, Fla.; Timuquana CC, Jacksonville, Fla.; TPC of River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn.

Coming attractions: Glen Mills GC; Stoneridge GC; Bee Cave GC, Austin, Texas; The Golf Club at Fleming Island Plantation, Orange Park, Fla.

Influences: Pete Dye, William Flynn, C.B. MacDonald, Seth Raynor, Walter Travis, Tom Simpson.

In his words: "My design style mixes the old with the new in an appropriate fashion. Our group strives to utilize the natural features of the ground. Our primary concern is to always design a strategically interesting hole — those that leave something to be discovered each time they are encountered. Golf courses were meant to be patiently uncovered — not revealed all at once. Reducing maintenance and returning to more basic golf course design are important priorities for me and my group."

How to reach Weed: phone — 904-249-3005; e-mail — bweed@jax-inter.net. ■



MARCY J. APPELBAUM

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