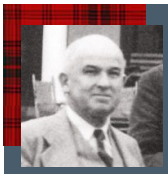
The American Society of Golf Course Architects was formed in 1947 when a group of designers banded together to "organize and promote good fellowship among golf course architects."



#1 William P. Bell

'Billy Bell' held several golf jobs, including caddie master and course superintendent, before entering the golf course design profession in 1920. He would forge a strong reputation with numerous projects along the West Coast, serve as ASGCA President from 1952-53 and provided the routing for Torrey Pines, which his son, Billy Bell II, made a reality following Bell Sr.'s death in 1953.

Designs include: Stanford Golf Course, Bel-Air CC, Woodland Hills (all California)



#2 Jack Daray

Designs include: Coronado Golf Course (California), Tchefuncta CC (Louisiana), Cascade Hills CC (Michigan)



#3 William H. Diddel

Diddel won five Indiana State Amateur Championships between 1900-12 before working on his first golf course project - finishing off Willie Park Jr's Highland Golf and Country Club. The Indiana native would forge a successful design career, producing many courses across the Midwest, even into his 80s. Many of his projects had a small budget, leading Diddel to get creative, designing courses without bunkers or in the way he shaped fairways and greens.

Designs include: Northwood Club (Texas), Meridian Hills, Beechwood Golf Course (both Indiana)



#4 William F. Gordon

Designs include: Saucon Valley CC (Grace Course), Sunnybrook CC (both Pennsylvania), Stanwich Club (Connecticut)



#5 Robert Bruce Harris

Designs include: Lakewood CC (Louisiana), Grand Forks CC (North Dakota), Oro Valley CC (Arizona)



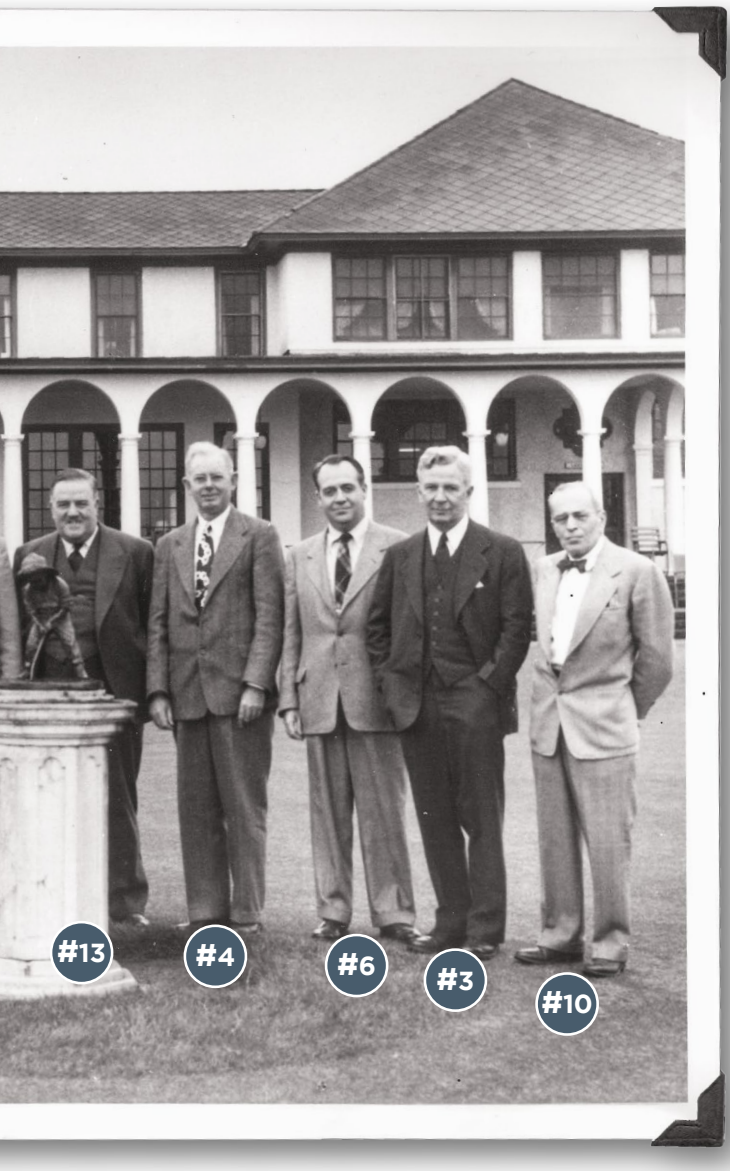
Ten of the 14 ASGCA Founding Fathers attended the first Annual Meeting in Pinehurst, North Carolina, in 1947



#6 Robert Trent Jones

In a career spanning several decades, Jones designed over 400 courses in 23 countries and is regarded as one of the most influential architects of his era. His 'hard par, easy bogey' philosophy is represented throughout his work, and he was one of the first golf course architects to establish his own brand of 'signature' layouts. He became known as the 'Open Doctor' for his work preparing courses to host elite championships.

Designs include: Congressional (Maryland), Hazeltine National (Minnesota), Spyglass Hill (California), Valderrama (Spain)

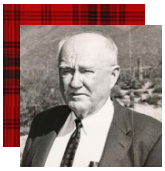




#7 William B. Langford

After earning a degree in civil engineering (and starring on the golf team) at Yale, Langford formed a golf design firm with Theodore Moreau, which had great success in the Midwest before the partnership dissolved during World War II. Langford went solo and by the end of his career had produced over 200 golf courses. He was a two-time ASGCA President and was an advocate for shorter courses; he discussed the potential of six-hole layouts on smaller sites at the 1952 Annual Meeting.

Designs include: Lawsonia Links (Wisconsin), The Wakonda Club (Iowa), Harrison Hills (Indiana)



#8 Robert F. Lawrence

Designs include: Desert Forest GC (Arizona), University of New Mexico Golf Course, Desert Greens Golf Course (both New Mexico)



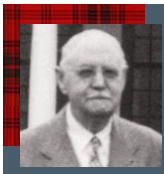
#9 Perry Maxwell

Designs include: Southern Hills, Dornick Hills Golf & Country Club (both Oklahoma), Prairie Dunes CC (Kansas)



#10 J. B. McGovern

Designs include: Overbrook Golf Club (Pennsylvania)



#11 Donald Ross

Born and trained in Dornoch, Scotland, Ross moved to the U.S. in 1899 where he, in the first four decades of the twentieth century, designed more than 400 courses and became one of the best-known golf course architects of all time. Ross is known for his efficient routings, angles of play and 'crowned' putting surfaces. He served as honorary ASGCA President in 1947.

Designs include: Pinehurst No.2 (North Carolina), Oakland Hills (Michigan), Seminole (Florida)



#12 Wayne Stiles

Designs include: Thorny Lea Golf Club, South Shore CC (both Massachusetts), Brigantine Golf Links (New Jersey)



#13 Stanley Thompson

Thompson is often regarded as Canada's most successful golf course architect, having designed or remodeled 120 courses over 40 years, the vast majority in his homeland. Known for his work in dramatic mountain terrain, Thompson's design style included many memorable short holes, including the Devil's Cauldron at Banff, a 170-yard drop shot over a glacial lake to an amphitheater green located beneath Mount Rundle.

Designs include: Jasper Park, Banff Springs (both Canada)



#14 Robert White

Designs include: Richmond County CC (New York), Swamp Fox Golf Club (South Carolina), Green Brook CC (New Jersey)