Golf Course News taps Fazio, Wadsworth, Landmark for honors

Golf course architect Tom Fazio of Jupiter was named best in the nation by his peers for the third straight year in the annual poll conducted by Golf Course News. Pete Dye, of Delray Beach, finished third in the annual survey of 250 architects.

Wadsworth Construction Co. of Plainfield, Ill. was named the nation’s top builder by the architects, also for the third straight year. Guettler & Sons, Inc., of Fort Pierce, finished fourth.

Landmark Land Co., which operates Palm Beach Polo & CC, took the top spot as resort developer, despite last October’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. Marriott Corp., which operates golf resorts in Orlando and Naples, finished second in the national balloting.

“The courses I did this year are the best I’ve ever done,” said Fazio, whose work includes three of Golf Digest magazine’s Best New Private Courses over the past four years and eight listings among the publication’s listings of America’s top 100 courses. Osprey Ridge at Walt Disney World, which opened last month, is Fazio’s most recent Florida work. Black Diamond Ranch near LeCanto, one of the private courses honored by Golf Digest, is perhaps his best known Florida work.

Wadsworth’s lead over its competitors has grown each year. This year the firm pulled 36 percent of the vote.

Landmark, whose financial woes stem from the failure of its subsidiary thrift — Oak Tree Savings Bank — to meet stricter federal requirements, is best known as the operator of resorts at PGA West at LaQuinta, Calif., Kiawah Island, S.C., and Oak Tree GC in Edmond, Okla.

Tracy D. Moore is the new president of Aquatrols, manufacturer of water management products, which recently moved from Pennsauken, N.J. to larger quarters in Cherry Hill, N.J. She succeeds founder Robert A. Moore, who will remain with the company as a consultant to the R&C and technical service departments. Jim Turner of Sarasota has joined the company as technical sales rep for the southeastern U.S. Chuck Doll of Pittsburgh and Ken Mauser of Bakersfield, Calif., also have become Aquatrols sales reps.

Atlanta investor J. Rex Fuqua has acquired 50 percent interest in Bio-Plus, Inc., a producer of granularized and pelletized peanut hulls based in Ashburn, Ga. Fuqua purchased the stock owned by Steve Ivie, who remains as president. The remaining stock is held by members of the Pennington family, which owns the parent company of Pennington Seed.

John M. Licht is the new president and CEO of Duraco Products, a manufacturer of decorative plastic planterware based in Streamwood, Ill. He succeeds Willis R. Barrett, who remains with the company as chairman.

Mike Catalano is a new technical support engineer for the golf division of Rain Bird Sales, Inc., manufacturer of irrigation products based in Glendora, Calif.

As we went to press, Stuart F. Bloch of Wheeling, W. Va., was expected to become the 52nd President of the United States Golf Association at USGA Annual Meeting in Palm Beach Feb. 1. He is the only nominee and, if elected, will succeed C. Grant Spaeth of Polo Alto, Calif. F. Morgan Taylor of Hobe Sound, a veteran member of the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee, was the only nominee for treasurer.

William J. McMillan, assistant general manager of the John’s Island Club in Vero Beach, became the 5,000th member of the Club Managers’s Association of America in November.