

Landscapes Unlimited unseats Wadsworth

By MARK LESLIE

"Above and beyond the call of duty." According to clients, that exemplifies the work of Landscapes Unlimited Inc., the Lincoln, Neb.-based firm that has been named Golf Course Builder of the Year for 1992 in a *Golf Course News* poll.

This year GCN followed its annual poll of golf course architects and builders by surveying clients of the firms that had been nominated for the award. Landscapes Unlimited received extraordinarily high marks, as did Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield, Ill.; American Golf Course Construction, Inc., of Plano, Texas; Fairway Construction of Temecula, Calif.; Guettler & Sons, Inc. of Fort Pierce, Fla.; and Kenova Construction Co. of West Palm Beach, Fla. Wadsworth had won the award the first three years.

The award is "something I and my people will be very proud of," said Landscapes Unlimited principal William Kubly. "We work very hard to do quality work — whether it's a \$1 million or \$8



Bill Kubly

million job, and it means a lot to be recognized by the people we work with every day."

Although Kubly created the company in 1976, Landscapes Unlimited's growth has been almost explosive the last several years.

"We had a 23-percent increase in business in 1992 — our best volume ever," Kubly said. "We're doing 80 percent more work now than four years ago."

With that growth has come a larger labor force — ranging from 150 in the winter months to 350 — and an increase from three to five project managers. Traveling the country directing construction are Kirk Kyster, Mike Oliphant, Roy Wilson, Bob Ryan and Roger Hodges.

They oversaw the building of seven golf courses that opened in 1992 and another eight that

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It's Hammock Dunes & Ocean Course

By KENT R. DAVIES

"Peer recognition is the most gratifying of all. It's a great honor." This summed up Tom Fazio's feelings upon learning that his Hammock Dunes design in Palm Coast, Fla., had been named the Best Seaside Private Course to open in the last five years.

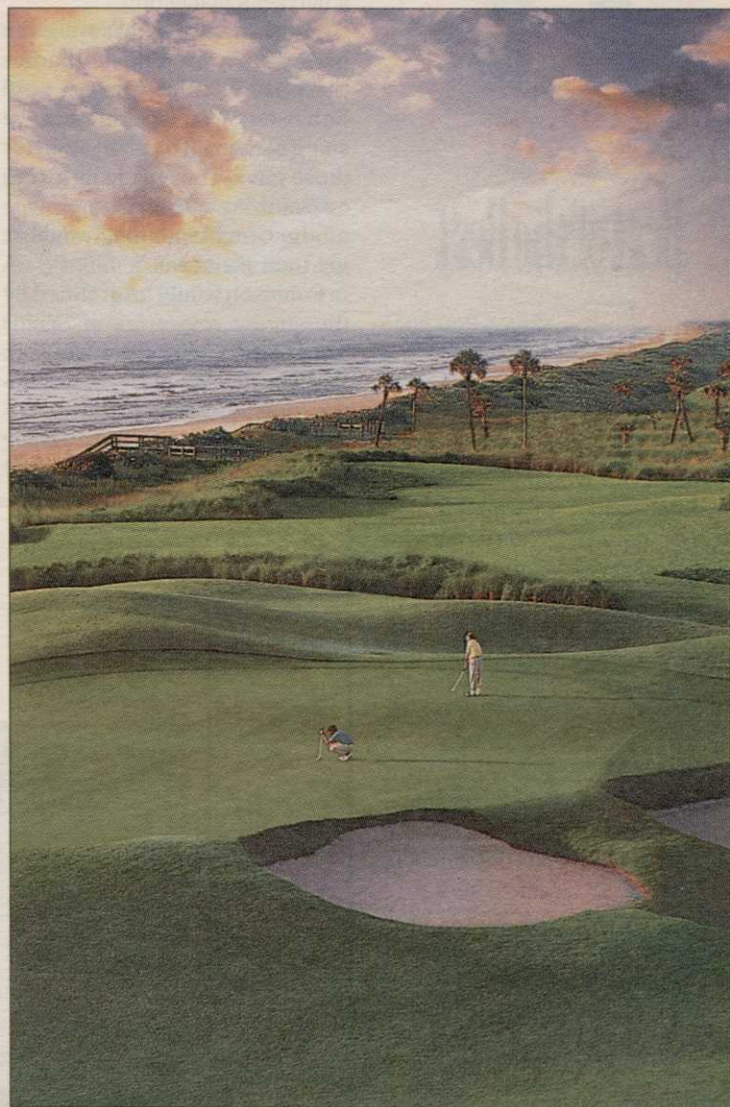
And Pete Dye "loved it" upon learning that his Kiawah Island Ocean Course in South Carolina won top honors as the Best Seaside Resort/Public Course. Both awards were determined by the votes of architects and builders nationwide, as surveyed by *Golf Course News*.

Tom Fazio's Pelican Hill placed second in the resort/public course category with Robert Trent Jones, Jr. nabbing third for The Links at Spanish Bay.

"Variety" and "a very natural look" are phrases often heard by Dan Malizia, head golf pro at Hammock Dunes, when his members and their guests describe completed rounds. These are just the descriptions Tom Fazio loves to hear, because he wants his courses to be unique. "I want them to look like they've been there a long time," said Fazio. "To appear to fit so well, it must not have been a big job to design — no matter how much dirt had to be moved."

Variety is a major tenet of any

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A striking sky frames no. 18 at Hammock Dunes, a Tom Fazio design.

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Arvida gets the nod from builders and architects

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not all single fairways.

Johnston Golf Design Group's Clyde Johnston said he's proud of his association with Arvida in developing their Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. He found Arvida personnel "extremely conscientious with the quality of their product and their sensitivity to the environment."

Arvida was "really interested in protecting the environment and not just following the book of the law. They didn't try to get away with anything. They hired all the proper consultants and worked their way through the permitting

process."

Arvida doesn't just develop lots, according to Johnston, but expertly builds in the feeling of belonging to a real community. "They put a greater emphasis on community than a lot of developers who just go out and build a subdivision and put a golf course in to sell lots," he said. The Jacksonville course recently received an award from the Southwestern Builders Association as best recreational community.

Linn noted that Arvida "has the equation worked out. They bring a lot of experience with them. They let the golf course at Weston Hills become the center piece of the

community." Linn said he values both the integrity and ambience of Arvida's golf courses. They have an inherent value within the community and independent of it, he said.

Linn also likes Arvida's "intent that each project have a different identity by using different architects. Even when they do multiple courses in a project they use different architects for each course."

Clyde Johnston and Gary Linn both found their association with Arvida to be a valuable learning experience. Johnston, a land planner, now incorporates this

sense of community in other projects by convincing the developers that this community effort works.

Johnston said he also found the people at Arvida "to be a lot of fun to work with. They were nice people and they respected my opinion. They all worked well together."

In an age of *total quality management*, tight financing for golf communities, and fierce competition, Arvida has been recognized as a leader by understanding what more and more Americans value in the 90s — a sense of total community and environmental sensitivity.



Best of the Best

By the seaside

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Fazio design and "Every golf project and hole must be special," he said. "That's our job and people expect it." At Hammock Dunes, Fazio faced a challenge in creating unique settings for each hole because the land forms were the same in many areas. Even though he designs up to 90 holes a year, Fazio said he "can't imagine doing any two alike. It would be boring and not any fun to go to work."

Greg French, head golf pro at the Ocean Course, found his association with Pete Dye to be a match made in heaven. Because Dye had previously worked with the folks at Kiawah, Dye was considered "basically a part of us," said French. "Pete literally begged to design it."

French finds the most unique thing about Dye's work is his disdain for blueprints-driven design. He moves to each site during construction and prefers being called a builder or even a foreman. French often observed Dye "dropped to his knees, smoothing the sand."

The Ocean Course presented special challenges not many designers face. It's bounded by beach front and natural marsh areas, creating special erosion and habitat protection problems. The sand dunes, reconstructed to their specifications following Hurricane Hugo, are covered by sea oats and other natural vegetation planted by migrant workers, who were put out of work in the fields by Hugo's destruction.

Dye said his greatest pleasure comes from the U.S.G.A and Clemson University, both of which consider the Ocean Course one of the most environmentally sensitive golf courses in America. Dye protected the sensitive marshes by running pipe down the middle of every fairway and recycling the water and chemicals to an irrigation lake for storage. This system, at little cost, self-contains the chemicals within the property while recycling 90 percent of the rainfall.

Tom Fazio's big opening this spring will be The Virginian in Bristol, Va. He describes it of "Hammock Dunes and Shadow Creek quality."

Pete Dye has just finished the Speedway Golf Course inside, of all places, the Indianapolis Speedway. Calling it "the damndest thing you've ever seen — with telephone poles, inexpensive housing, and railroad tracks on one side, and the race track on the other." Dye's next hands-on project will be on the southside of Pittsburgh at the Menacolin Resort.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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