

The 17th hole at Black Diamond in Lecanto, Fla., voted the best private course built in the last five years in a recent architects' survey.

Photo by Mike Klemme/Golfoto



Fazio's gems shine in poll

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Fazio, who is building a second 18 holes at Black Diamond, said: "If you were to come to the course the first time, you're in shock with the quarry — the five holes (13th to 17th) around the quarry are so dramatic, sensational, bizarre and tremendous in terms of playability, they have so much individual character, the angles, the variety in the way they play, the wind direction.

"But when you talk to someone who has played the course a couple of times, they say the front nine may be as good or better than the back

nine. And I always thought that.

"We had a wonderful piece of land to work with in terms of being able to place the course on the land and flow the course through the contours. With the sand-base soil conditions, we were able to sculpture the golf holes into the ground and create some very interesting forms and features and a tremendous amount of variety in the land forms on the front nine."

Fazio said that when they knew the course would turn out well, they located the entry road along the edge of the quarry so visitors would see it as they drove in.

"What looked like the most negative thing on the site, something you'd want to hide, worked out to be the most positive," he said.

Asked to equate building Black Diamond to designing the world's first interactive, or personal computer, Olson said: "We had a vision of what the future of computing would be. We knew we really had hold of something. We knew it. We felt it. And it was our drive to accomplish it."

"The same thing with the golf course. We wanted an experience that appeals to the greatest number of senses. That's probably what we've accomplished."

Olson said golfing is "more than a sporting experience. It's a landscape experience. The more you can do to enhance the landscape part of the experience, the better the project will be."

ASGCA elects new officers and members

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — The American Society of Golf Architects voted in Mark McCumber and five other designers as associate members at the society's annual meeting here in May.

McCumber joined Jack Nicklaus as the only touring pros in the 112-member association.

Also accepted were Bobby Weed of Ponte Vedra, Fla., well known for his design work on Tournament Players Courses for the PGA Tour; McCumber associate J. Christopher Commins of Orange Park, Fla.; Dana Fry, a designer for Hurdzan Design Group in Columbus, Ohio; Brian Huntley of Arthur Hills and Associates in Toledo, Ohio; and John Harbottle III, who owns his own company in Greenbrae, Calif.

Arthur Hills was elected the president of the association, succeeding Tom Clark. Joining Hills for the 1992 term are Vice President Gerald Matthews of Lansing, Mich.; Secretary Donald Knott of Palo Alto, Calif.; and Treasurer Jeff Brauer of Arlington, Texas.

The board of governors includes Clark and Brian Ault, both of Kensington, Md.; John LaFoy of Greenville, S.C.; David Rainville, Tustin, Calif.; Bob Lohmann, Marengo, Ill.; Denis Griffiths of Braselton, Ga.; Alice Dye of Delray Beach, Fla.; Willard Byrd of Atlanta, Ga.; and Bob Moote of Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

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