

Fazio Golf Designs: Personnel checklist

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — A 10-person team that works alongside, not under, one another — that describes Fazio Golf Designers Inc. according to Tom Fazio.

"These 10 people all get along. It doesn't matter who we match, they all work together and get the job done. They all worked at different stages and different levels — alongside rather than under each other," Fazio said.

Fazio Design's sheer numbers as well as talent have allowed the company to grass 5-1/2 golf courses in 1993, including the Canyon Course at Pelican Hill in

Newport Beach, Calif.; Cowboy Golf Course at Oklahoma State University; Glen Oaks in Des Moines, Iowa; Old Overton Club in Birmingham, Ala.; and an addition to Pelican's Nest.

The Fazio Ten are:
Andy Banfield — The man behind award-winning Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, Nev., he was a key player in the design of Pelican Hill and is now involved with The Quarry at La Quinta, Calif.

Jan Beljan — A member of Fazio Design for 12 years and one of two women in the American Society of Golf Course Architects, she's been involved with PGA

National, Pelican's Nest, and Gateway in Ft. Myers.

Blake Bickford — Starting as a shaper a half dozen years ago, he was the key person building the Short Course at Pine Valley in Clementon, N.J., finished the Pine Barrens Course at World Woods in Homasasa Springs, Fla., and is now at Galloway National at Atlantic City.

Lou Cappelli — A shaper since 1962 for George and then Tom Fazio, he has worked on most of the company's courses. "A designer with a bulldozer," Fazio called him.

Charlie Feeley — With the

firm 20 years, in Florida most of that time, he was involved with Pelican's Nest and PGA National.

Tom Griswold — Joined the company about 10 years ago, he has been involved recently on the Old Overton Club with Jerry Pate, on Uwharrie Point in Denton, N.C., along with Marzolf, and on the new course in Atlanta called White Columns Plantation for Fuji Development Group.

Tom Marzolf — With Fazio for 10 years, he was involved with Wade Hampton in Cashiers, N.C., Uwharrie Point, Caves Valley in Baltimore, and Champion Hills in Hendersonville, N.C.

Steve Masiak — With the company since PGA National was built 1980-81, he is a former shaper

who started out as a superintendent and has worked on the Pine Valley Short Course, Hammock Dunes in Palm Coast, Fla., Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto, Fla., Lake Nona in Orlando, Fla. and John's Island West in Vero Beach, Fla.

Kevin Sutherland — A Wadsworth Golf Course Construction Co. project manager for a decade, this Michigan native joined Fazio four years ago.

Dennis Wise — Along with Sutherland, he was in charge of Treetops in Gaylord, Mich., considered one of the best new courses of 1993. He has been with the company six years and is living in Kansas City.

Fifteen years ago, Mark Cox, former director of the PGA and head of Wilson Sporting Goods, gave Fazio the best advice he's ever received.

"He said, 'You're going to have to hire people and train them to do your job so you can do more and better things,' Fazio recalled. "I didn't accept his thoughts then. But now I thank him all the time."

Fazio, Banfield

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golf course. There's enough influence so we don't have a mold."

The greatness of the team "all goes back to Tom Fazio," said Marzolf, who finished second in the balloting for top associate. "He's such a good teacher. Over the years he's spent a lot of individual time with us and brought us along."

Before dirt is turned, Fazio, Banfield and their colleagues spend a lot of time studying a site to place golf holes where they fit in naturally.

"Our goal is not to move a lot of dirt or regrade. Our goal is to walk the site and find the best 18 holes that exist there. That is a very basic philosophy but it's the main theme of what we're about. And people seem to like our golf courses because they look like they've always been there," said Marzolf. "That's Tom Fazio's design philosophy and it's the one thing that ties all the design associates together as a team. We all believe strongly that this is the way to do the work."

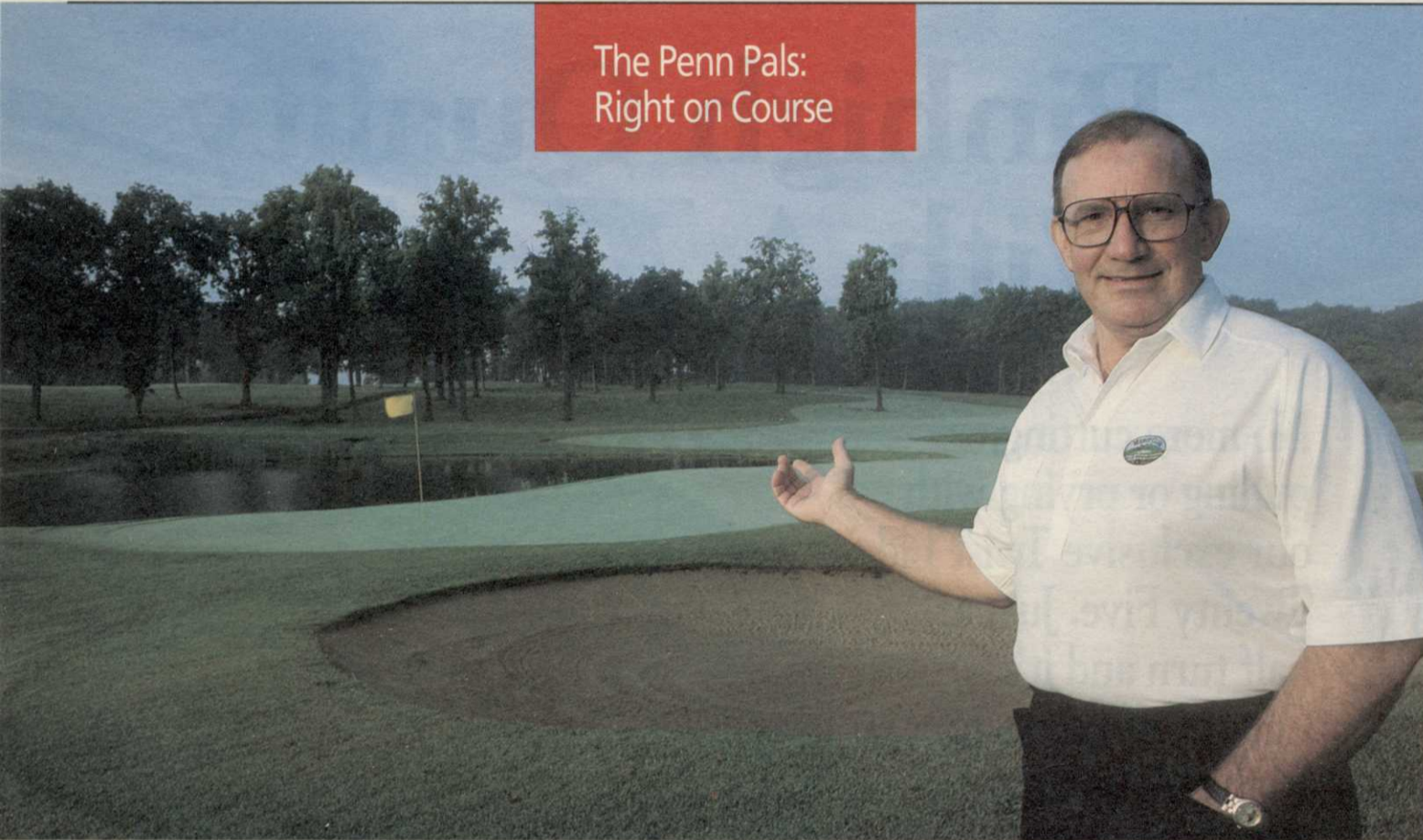
"Tom's a genius. He's the best alive today in routing golf holes. That's the secret to his year-in and year-out success: We're putting holes in the right locations."

For Banfield, his two decades in design fulfill a dream that began when he was a teen-ager caddying and playing junior golf in Connecticut, playing such great courses as Winged Foot, The Stanwich Club and National Golf Links. After earning a degree in mining engineering and being unable to find a job in land reclamation, he decided he could design better courses than the new ones he was seeing. Plus, "I wanted a job I could do as an individual."

Cal Brown of *Golf Digest* in Norwalk, Conn., suggested he contact Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye or George and Tom Fazio.

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GOLF COURSE NEWS



Oscar Miles, CGCS, overlooks the 6th hole at the Merit Club, Libertyville, Illinois.

PennLinks Greens. Penneagle Fairways. Penncross Tees. The 'Penn Pals' Are Picture Perfect At The Merit Club.

Superintendent Oscar Miles, with Club President Ed Oldfield's affirmation, specified all the grassing of this Robert M. Lohmann designed club. With a clean canvas and open palette, Oscar began with PennLinks greens, Penneagle fairways and Penncross tees, framing them with bluegrass/fine fescue/wildflower and prairiegrass roughs. You couldn't paint a more attractive picture.

Oscar chose PennLinks greens for its rapid establishment, marvelous root system, a crown and stolons that take topdressing, upright, grainless qualities and good, consistent color ... the best putting surface available.

He selected Penncross for tees because they recover from divot scars more quickly.

And the Penneagle fairways? Oscar chose Penneagle for its upright growth, reduced thatch development, low nitrogen requirement and good drought and dollar spot resistance. He seeded at 80 lbs. per acre for immediate turf development and

erosion control. The fairways were playable in 8 weeks. Oscar's crew usually mows fairways in the evening and leaves the clippings; recycling nutrients while reducing removal and fertilizer costs.

Oscar articulates it best: "The unique coloring of the 'Penn Pals' contrasts beautifully with the grassing around them, defining the target areas. And with the dew on the bents early in the morning, they're a marvelous work of art."

Tee-2-Green Corp.

Post Office Box 250
Hubbard, OR 97032
800-547-0255
503-651-2130
FAX 503-651-2351

Oscar L. Miles

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