Changing of the guard

Lyon ushers out successful term with GCSAA

BY PETER BLAIS

This month's 61st annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Golf Course Conference and Show will be the highlight of outgoing president Dennis Lyon's term.

"The Orlando conference (Feb. 19-26) will be the largest and best yet," said the head of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. "We're both trying to get the same thing. We're working together with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to gain knowledge so we can have an environment that's healthy for everyone." Superintendents and environmentalists are coming to blows rather than confrontation is necessary.

"The environment is the biggest threat to the game itself," said Faulbel. "The growth of the game could be stopped quicker by environmental issues than anything else, even quicker than a change in the tax laws. Right now the tax law is very beneficial to golf course development because of the tax deduction for soil erosion."

Oregon's burning vote in doubt

BY MARK LESLIE

A governor's ballot initiative that Oregon seed growers feel would cripple their production has been delayed by a snafu in its wording.

Oregonians Against Field Burning committed an error that might cost the organization the latest battle. Confident that the U.S. Supreme Court would uphold wording in the petition that said the proposed field burning law would "permit" (rather than "mandate") reduced field burning, OAFB printed 20,000 petitions and mailed them. Now the tax law is very beneficial to golf course development because of the tax deduction for soil erosion.

Oregonians Against Field Burning committed an error that might cost the organization the latest battle. Confident that the U.S. Supreme Court would uphold wording in the petition that said the proposed field burning law would "permit" (rather than "mandate") reduced field burning, OAFB printed 20,000 petitions and mailed them.

Continued on page 40

Oregonians Against Field Burning committed an error that might cost the organization the latest battle. Confident that the U.S. Supreme Court would uphold wording in the petition that said the proposed field burning law would "permit" (rather than "mandate") reduced field burning, OAFB printed 20,000 petitions and mailed them. Now the tax law is very beneficial to golf course development because of the tax deduction for soil erosion.

Continued on page 40

Continued on page 17

Continued on page 17

Continued on page 17

Continued on page 17
Oregon

Continued from page 1
t ruling, which would give them
(OAFB) less time to collect the
signatures," said Leah Nelson of
the Oregon Seed Council. She
noted that 65,000 valid signatures
must be turned in to the secretary
of state's office by July 8.

Oregon's 700 seed growers and
70 seed companies provide all U.S.-
produced ryegrass, bentgrass,
Chewings and creeping red fes-
tuce, half the U.S.-produced tall
fescue and about one-fourth its
bluegrass. Between mid-July and
the end of September each year,
the 800 farmers who grow seed
burn their fields to purge them of
the weeds and disease that endan-
ger the grass seeds.

In 1988 when one farmer was
burning a field, the wind changed
direction and blew smoke across a
highway, causing a seven-death,
37-car accident. Since that time,
the Oregon seed industry and its
Seed Council have been lobbying
against proposed field-banning
legislation.

The state now allows burning
on 250,000 of the 300,000-plus seed-
producing acres, and the farmers
must pay $3.50 for every acre they
burn.

The state legislature last sum-
mer voted down a measure that
would have reduced the amount of
burning and increased the fee. But
Gov. Neil Goldschmidt has joined
with one state senator and one
representative to write an initia-
tive that, if passed, would by 1995
cut the acreage to 50,000.

The Environmental Quality
Commission, which oversees the
program, would be allowed to fur-
ther reduce the maximum acre-
age or ban burning entirely if it
certifies that an economically fea-
sible, environmentally acceptable
alternative exists.

The proposed law would also
change the fee structure to include
a $1-to-$2 per-acre registration fee,
and charges of $2 per acre for pre-
pane-damaged burning, $8 per acre
for field burning and $3 per ton for
burning stacks or bales of hay.

Nelson said the initiative would
also make stack burning illegal in
September 1997, "which would
really cripple us."

Opponents of the burning say it
poses health and safety dangers
and harms the tourism industry.

Nelson said the per-acre fee that
farmers pay is used to help fund
the Environmental Quality Com-
nision which is supposed to fi-
nance research to find new ways
to purge the fields.

"At what they have spent all the
money on the administrative pro-
cess, so that for two years in a row
there has been no money for
research, which is bothering the
growers a lot," she said. "We fund
somewhere in the neighborhood
of $800,000 a year and they're
spending $750,000 on administra-
tion, so we all feel a bit ex-
travagant."

Despite the delay in the courts,
the Seed Council is assuming the
Oregonians Against Field Burn-
ning will get the necessary signa-
tures on its petition.

Yet, the council discovered in a
poll that if the petition gathers
enough votes by July 8, the indus-
tory would win in the November
voting if it can effectively show
voters how critical it is to the state.

The seed industry employs
10,000 and contributes $750 mil-
lion a year to the state.

"If people find out that that
money and those jobs will be af-
fected by them voting for the initia-
tive, we have found (in the poll)
that they will not support it," Nel-
son said.

The council has mounted a drive
to raise the $1.5 million to $2 mil-
lion it feels it needs for such a
campaign.

It is raising funds among the
growers, seed dealers, implement
dealers, chemical dealers, bank-
ing associations, and others who
have a relationship with the seed
industry.

"We are holding the funds until
we find out if the initiative will get
on the ballot," Nelson said. "If we
wait until July, it's too late to put a
campaign together. If they don't
get the signatures, we will refund
the money we raised from the
growers."

Meanwhile, an initiative that
would mean an out-and-out ban to
field burning is still being circu-
lated. But supporters have gotten
only about 21,000 signatures in
about one year.

People who wish to contribute
to the seed industry campaign can
make checks payable to Oregoni-
ans for Agriculture at 866 Lanca-
ter SE, Salem, Ore. 97301.

Tax board checking for
discrimination

The California tax board is sur-
veying private clubs across the
state, reviewing articles of incor-
poration, bylaws, club regulations
and other documents to determine
if any are using discriminatory
practices.

Club members lose their ability
to deduct club-related business
expenses on their state tax returns
if their club is found to be restrict-
ing any service or facility.

The tax board has ruled that
separate tee times for men and
women is discriminatory. Men's-
only grills and card rooms might
also be ruled discriminatory.

FEBRUARY 1990
Golf Course News 17

at thrives under pressure.

mentals, you can depend on it to keep all the
grounds you care for healthy and disease-free.

Add the fact that CHIPCO® brand 26019
fungicide is available in two convenient formula-
tions—wettable powder and smooth-pouring flow-
atile—and it's easy to see why it has become the
disease control of choice for quality-conscious
superintendents across the country.

This year, invest in the best: CHIPCO® brand
26019 fungicide. For turf that thrives under pressure.

Chipco 26019
Fungicide

©1990 Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company

For free information circle #116

©1990 Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company