We'll continue to work hard at enhancing the professional image of the superintendent through a comprehensive and effective public relations program. We want a clearly defined government relations program that allows us to work effectively with Washington and to continue strengthening chapter relations. We're also looking to reach the 15,000-member mark and bring in more public golf course members through an aggressive membership drive.

"As for what I bring to the job, I think I have a unique blend of daily superintendent knowledge and construction experience that has allowed me to develop ties with architects, builders, and other allied associations. I also have an advanced agronomy degree and feel that I'm a good writer and speaker. That should help me represent the association.

"I came to Naples National three years ago knowing I was going to be very involved with the association into the foreseeable future. Charles Benton, the club president and one of its founders, let me know the membership was behind me 100 percent. I'm very grateful for their support."
Supers salute Hiers

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The Audubon Society, in concert with the U.S. Golf Association, administers the Audubon International Program for Golf Courses, whose recipient is chosen by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America board of directors based on exceptional environmental contributions to the game of golf. Superintendents' image as stewards of the land will be presented to Hiers at the opening ceremonies of the GCSAA International Conference and Show in San Francisco.

William Timothy (Tim) Hiers, a certified golf course superintendent, has fought for years to illustrate that superintendents are environmentalists of the first degree. Now at Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla., the first Audubon Signature facility and a worldwide model of environmental excellence, he received the first-ever John James Audubon Steward Award and the Florida Region Environmental Steward Award last year.

A member of the GCSAA Government Relations Committee and co-chairman of the Florida Turfgrass Associations External Affairs Committee, he was recently named the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association's government liaison. Hiers has actively presented the case for golf courses regionally with tours for schoolchildren, seminars and local speaking engagements.

"I can tell you in individual categories where other superintendents have done better than we have," said Hiers. "That's where I got a lot of the fodder for doing this. And if it had not been for a company like Collier Enterprises and someone like Jeff Birr, who are committed to giving me that opportunity and then backing me up with the necessary resources, we wouldn't be talking. Collier Enterprises was committed to this as much as we were. You have to have not only financial, but moral support." He also credited his staff, Collier's architect, Arthur Hills of Toledo, Ohio, and his lead designer, Mike Dasher.

Perming the work for the Signature Program is a money-saver, he said, pointing to much lower costs for electricity, pesticides, fuel and manpower.

"It is good for the game, good for the environment and good for business," Hiers said.

Having completed the Collier's Reserve project, Hiers said he could do it "20 percent better a second time.

Passing these tips along to the general public are next on Hiers' agenda. He has speaking engagements scheduled at turf industry events, and is constantly addressing schools and civic organizations. He also leads schoolchildren on tours of Collier's Reserve, golf course news.

because "observation is worth a lot more than dissertation."

"As long as we're involved, we can help pass laws that make sense. But as long as we have politicians and people who label themselves as environmentalists writing laws, they are always going to be superfluous, extreme, capricious and counterproductive," he said. "Superintendents have been and will continue to be the leaders in many of these [environmental] areas. We're in the trenches. We're the ones who have to deal with the regulators and the fire marshals, EPA and club members."

Harivandi & Engelke

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Harivandi is also spearheading research projects to reduce green waste, especially grass clippings. A law was passed in California in 1989 which requires all municipalities to reduce solid waste by 25 by 1995, and 50 percent by 2000. The Alameda County specialist found that much mowers are a great help. Also, he said, "You can use slower-growth grasses, apply more effective growth regulators with not much toxicity, use recycling mowers and manipulate your fertilization program to slow growth. The combination will reduce the amount of clippings tremendously. You can basically eliminate the grass clippings."

The 1982 and 1992 recipient of the Northern California Turfgrass Council's Research and Education Award, Harivandi was the GCSA of Northern California's selection for its Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

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