

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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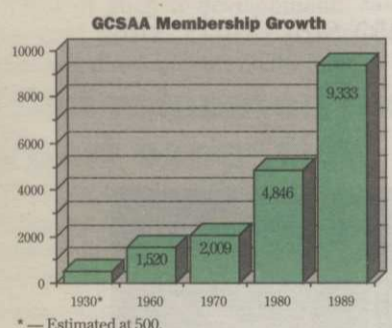
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Changing of the guard

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 Superinten-

dent's Association of America. "All the exhibit space is sold out. We've had to make reservations for more hotel rooms twice already. And we have over 550 people signed up for the superintendents' golf tournament (Feb. 19-20)."
It has been an exciting and very upbeat year for the head superintendent of the City of Aurora, Colo.'s Golf Division

(three 18-hole public courses and a nine-hole par 3), who will continue to serve on the GCSAA's board of directors as immediate past president.
Among his major accomplishments over the past 12 months, Lyon lists:
• The association's strong financial growth, reflected in its new national headquarters in Law-



Dennis Lyon

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Faubel eyes 1990 with aggressiveness, optimism

BY PETER BLAIS
Superintendents good. Government regulators bad.
Gerald Faubel would likely appreciate the humor if a George Bush imitator uttered those words. But he wouldn't agree.
"There's no reason for us to be adversaries," said the incoming president 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 more and more as golf grows. But if the game is to continue its upward climb, then cooperation rather than confrontation is nec-

essary.
"The environment is the biggest threat to the game itself," said Faubel. "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



Gerald Faubel

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The second hole at Royal Lakes Golf and Country Club in northeast Georgia shows the handiwork of architect Arthur Davis. For more on new courses see pages 14 and 15.

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 14,000 copies around the state for signatures. When the Supreme Court ruled that the word "permit" must be replaced with "provide," OAFB's petitions were invalid and it entreated the court to rescind its decision.
"As far as we're concerned, they (the high court) can wait until April or May for a

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Underground tanks endangering courses

BY MARK LESLIE
Citing frightening statistics about the life of underground storage tanks, technical environmental consultant Mary Malotke of Cincinnati, Ohio, warns golf course superintendents to beware that their own situations may become very costly problems.

Many golf courses have underground storage tanks and could face "major dollar costs" to clean any spills of hazardous wastes, Malotke told an Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show audience.
Malotke, president of Tencon, Inc., said there are 4 million underground tanks in

the United States and their average age is 17 years.
"Insurance is required on these tanks, yet we are finding that insurance companies won't cover tanks over 15 years old," she said. "There is a 77-percent chance of leak-

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Faubel

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second homes. But there are golf courses on the drawing board in Michigan and Vermont that have been stopped by environmental concerns."

Faubel said he sympathizes with those who sit on environmental boards, especially at the state and local levels. While their intentions are good, most are not trained environmental scientists. And what research is available to them regarding subjects like pesticide use, has usually been done for agriculture, not golf courses.

That information gap is often

also the case at the federal level, he added.

If regulators are to make sound decisions regarding golf course practices, groups like the GCSAA must provide the government with specific, scientific information on the effect golf courses have on the environment, said Faubel. Much of that research will come from the joint GCSAA-United States Golf Association's Research Committee, of which Faubel is a member.

"They (environmental boards) are saying no to things we want to do that would actually help the environment. We need to provide

them with specific information that will allow them to make decisions based on fact rather than emotion," said the new superintendents' association president.

Faubel uses the word "we" frequently when discussing the game's future. The need for cooperation extends to the various associations that benefit from golf — the GCSAA, USGA, National Golf Foundation, Professional Golfers' Association, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders of America, Club Managers Association of America, National Club Associa-

tion, etc.

"It's the game of golf that's the important thing, not protecting someone's particular turf. In the past, there hasn't always been total cooperation. But we have much better cooperation today than we did five or 10 years ago," said Faubel.

"For example, say you wanted to add a new clubhouse. The bank would probably ask for an environmental audit of the whole course before approving the loan. The new building would affect the superintendent, the head pro, the club manager. So the superintendent

needs to have his operation in top-notch condition or the whole business suffers."

How did Faubel come to the profession?

"Originally I planned to go into agriculture," remembered the Iowa State University graduate who grew up working on Uncle Jess Meyer's Washington, Ill., farm. "But I got a summer job as a night water-man (at Washington's Hillcrest GC just outside of Peoria) while I was in college. That got me interested in becoming a superintendent."

Faubel enrolled in ISU's turf management program. His one-year internship between his junior and senior years at Fond du Lac, Wisc.'s South Hills Club turned into a five-year stint during which he moved up from intern to superintendent while finishing his degree winter semesters.

"I knew I was in the right field almost right away," said Faubel. "I went to a superintendents meeting, looked around and saw a lot of grey hair. People who stayed home from the war (World War II) took care of the courses in those days. A lot of those people were getting ready to retire by the 1960s. A young guy with a college degree in the profession was almost unheard of. I saw a tremendous opportunity here."

After receiving his degree in 1969, Faubel accepted the head superintendent's post at Saginaw Country Club. Little is known about the course's architectural history other than a priest laid out and built the 110-acre facility with a team of mules just before the turn of the century. Faubel has tended the turf there the past 20 years.

"It's a wonderful community," he explained of his decision to stay at the central Michigan club for two decades. "I've been actively involved in the community, doing things like chairing the Parks Commission. The state's nice. The golfing people are nice. It's just a nice place to live."

Much has changed over the past 20 years. Faubel recalls using a scoop shovel to top dress his course. New greens were built with loam dug and mixed on site. All watering was done by hand. That has all changed.

"The technology we can use now is just fabulous," he enthused.

That technology figures to get even more sophisticated as Faubel leads the superintendents' association into the 1990s.

"I'm very honored to think my peers have elected me to this post," he said. "My hope is that I can move the association forward through my leadership."

Faubel had only plaudits for his predecessor, Dennis Lyon.

"Dennis has done a marvelous job," said Faubel. "He brought a lot of talents that were sorely needed. His experience working with government associations and his organizational skills were a great help. He sees the GCSAA

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Lyon

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rence, Kan. Bids on the \$4 million project were opened in December and ground broken in January. "It will carry us well into the next century. It was built with growth in mind."

- The climb in membership from 8,000 to 9,000 over the past 12 months. "It shows two things - the strength of golf in the United States and that we as an association provide a valuable service."

- Forging good relationships with the Environmental Protection Agency and federal legislators. Lyon made two trips to Washington, D.C. this year. "The EPA is comfortable coming to us to get our opinions on certain things."

- The certification of the 1,000th member as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). "I've been involved with that since 1983. It's a very valuable program and is well accepted throughout the country."

- Developing a stronger, international relationship with other superintendents' associations. Current vice president Gerald Faubel and secretary/treasurer Stephen G. Cadenelli were very well received at the recent Canadian superintendents' annual conference. Lyon spent 10 days in Japan, meeting with 400 superintendents and laying the groundwork for many to become GCSAA members. An international roundtable discussion is scheduled (Feb. 24) for the Orlando conference and heads of the Canadian, Japanese, Australian, Swedish, British, French and German superintendents' associations are expected to attend.

- Working closely with the GCSAA-United States Golf Association joint Research Committee, which is expected to approve funding research on the environmental impact of golf courses this year. "We need to demonstrate empirically the positive impact of golf courses and dispute the often illogical claims that golf courses are detrimental to the environment."

Since the GCSAA is primarily an educational association, it must continue its seminars and conferences that can help the superintendent to better do his job and enhance his professional status, according to Lyon.

The organization also needs to make the public better aware of the qualifications necessary to be a superintendent. One way it will do so is through a 30-second television spot that will air on ESPN this year.

"We're hoping this will heighten the public's awareness of what it is we do," said Lyon.

Lyon said he has enjoyed working with the board of directors and GCSAA staff and representing the

Faubel

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becoming an international organization and helped develop closer ties with superintendents in Japan, the Far East, Canada and Europe. He put the emphasis where it was needed."

association at major championships.

His dual responsibilities as GCSAA president and Aurora golf chief have sometimes been stressful and left less time for his wife and four children. So while he will miss the post, he looks forward to getting even more involved with things like coaching his 11-year-old daughter's soccer team which won its league championship this fall under Lyon's guidance.

As for his successor, Gerald Faubel, Lyon said: "Jerry is a very intelligent, articulate individual who is committed to the organization's goals. He'll do an outstanding job as president."

GCSAA's elections set

Incoming GCSAA President Gerald L. Faubel's fellow officers for 1990-91 will be elected during the GCSAA's annual meeting Feb. 26 at the Orlando conference and show.

Vice presidential candidates are Stephen G. Cadenelli of the Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J., and William R. Roberts of the Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.

Three candidates for director will be elected for two-year terms. Nominees for director are Joseph G. Baidy of Acacia CC in Lyndhurst, Ohio; Charles A. Clark



Stephen Cadenelli

of Broadmoor GC in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Cecil C. Johnston, of Avila Golf & CC in Lutz, Fla.; Charles T. Passios, CGCS, of



William Roberts

Hyannisport (Mass.) Club in Hyannisport, Mass.; and Randall P. Zidik of Rolling Hills CC in McMurray, Pa



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