

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Crystal Lake,
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PULL-OUT SECTION
Int'l Golf Course Conference and Show
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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY 1990
A United publication

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See us at Booth 5801 at the GCSAA's 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show

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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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Oregon

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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 800 seed growers and 70 seed companies provide all U.S.-produced ryegrass, bentgrass, Chewings and creeping red fescues, 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 endanger 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 summer 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 initiative that, if passed, would by 1995 cut the acreage to 50,000.

The Environmental Quality Commission, which oversees the program, would be allowed to further reduce the maximum acreage or ban burning entirely if it "certifies that an economically feasible, 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 propane-flamed burning, \$6 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-

mission which is supposed to finance research to find new ways to purge the fields.

"But they have spent all the money on the administrative process, so that for two years in a row now 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 administration, which we all feel is a bit extravagant."

Despite the delay in the courts, the Seed Council is assuming the Oregonians Against Field Burning will get the necessary signatures on its petition.

Yet, the council discovered in a poll that if the petition musters enough votes by July 8, the industry 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 million a year to the state.

"If people find out that that money and those jobs will be affected by them voting for the initiative, we have found (in the poll) that they will not support it," Nelson said.

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

It is raising funds among the growers, seed dealers, implement dealers, chemical dealers, banking 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 circulated. 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 Oregonians for Agriculture at 866 Lancaster SE, Salem, Ore. 97301.

Tax board checking for discrimination

The California tax board is surveying private clubs across the state, reviewing articles of incorporation, 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 restricting 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.



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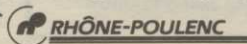
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