

Briefs



FITZGERALD MAN OF YEAR

CINCINNATI — Former Ohio Turfgrass Foundation president and longtime Century Toro, Inc. Vice President John Fitzgerald received the Professional of the Year Award during December's OTF Annual Conference and Show luncheon in Cincinnati.

Fitzgerald was one of the founders of the OTF annual conference and show 23 years ago, according to Century Toro President Bob O'Brien. He helped sell booths at the show before joining the OTF board of directors in 1972. He became OTF president in 1978 and served on the board of directors a dozen years.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, Fitzgerald worked for Quick Manufacturing and later a Toro distributor in Memphis, Tenn., before joining Century Toro in Cincinnati as a commercial salesman in 1962. He eventually became head of Century Toro's Cincinnati/Dayton office and the company's commercial division before assuming the vice presidency of the commercial division in 1985.

MOTZ NEW OTF PRESIDENT

Joe Motz, president of Motz Sports Turf Inc., succeeded John Fanning as OTF president. Paul Jacquemin is the new vice president and Ohio State University Professor William Pound treasurer.

Jim Loke, superintendent at Quail Hollow Golf Club in Mentor, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors. He joined returning trustees Fred Bosch, Sue-Ann Brown and Tom Walker who were re-elected to three-year terms.

\$118,650 GRANTED FOR RESEARCH

Research grants totaling \$118,650 were awarded to OSU researchers John Street (\$11,700), Harry Niemczyk (\$29,500), Bill Shane (\$27,000), Karl Danneberger (\$29,500), Bill Pound (\$5,000) and the OTF Turfgrass Research Facility (\$15,950).

USGA HIRES SPECIALISTS

FARHILLS, N.J. — The United States Golf Association Green Section has named Kimberly Erusha manager of technical communications and Nancy Sadlon environmental specialist.

Erusha's appointment will enable the Green Section to better provide turfgrass science information and golf course management programs to its 15 regional agronomists and the more than 7,100 USGA member clubs and courses.

Sadlon joins the USGA in the watch of its increased commitment to turfgrass research.

"Golf course construction and maintenance practices, and their effects on the environment, increasingly draw the attention of regulatory agencies, environmental groups and the public," said Jim Snow, national director of the Green Section. "The addition of an environmental specialist and a technical communications specialist to its staff will put the Green Section in a much better position to address golf's environmental challenges in the 1990s."

Crackdowns expected against underground tank law violators

By John G. Casana, Ron Steg and GCN Staff

Federal and state agencies are beginning to talk tough as deadlines for installing leak detection devices on underground storage tanks come and go.

"If your tank leaks you're going to get caught," warned federal Environmental Protection Agency scientist Michael Kalinoski, whose agency can fine the owner of a non-conforming tank up to \$10,000 per tank per day.

"At the point you have a leak, you're in real

trouble. Leaks don't go away. They can take from one to five years to discover and cost millions of dollars to clean up. It's better to confront the issue now rather than pay for it later."

Confronting the issue involves several steps. Federal law required all USTs to be registered with the appropriate state environmental agency beginning in May 1986. Newly installed systems must be registered within 30 days.

Kalinoski estimated 90 to 95 percent of all tanks have been registered. Ignorance of the

law is likely responsible for most of the non-registered tanks, although a small percentage are probably ignoring the law in the hopes they won't be caught, he acknowledged.

"We have fined tank owners in a couple of cases where (non-registered) tanks have leaked," Kalinoski said.

"At some point, ignorance of the law won't be a defense," added Chris Schulz, public information officer with the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office, which is responsible for

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CCA beats winter kill before it hits

By Frances G. Trimble

The extensive winter kill suffered at Texas golf courses last year may have a positive side.

One group of Southwestern superintendents intends to put the devastation in the past by taking a giant stride forward into the future.

Charles Fabyan, regional superintendent for Club Corporation of America's 22 golf facilities in Texas and Oklahoma, calls CCA's recent decision to buy green covers at \$700 apiece "a tough decision to make."

Tough, because Fabyan's region could just as easily not experience killer cold conditions this year. Or, the area — known for freakish weather — might have another damaging cold spell before April.

Lingering memories of "the hassle of fumigating and re-planting 142 putting greens" at a cost of \$250,000 led Fabyan and CCA to buy protective blankets for all 22 facilities.

Fabyan believes the technology has come



Club Corporation of America superintendents learn how to lay down course covers at a training session at Brookhaven Country Club.

Photo by Quenton Johnson

of age in the Bermudagrass belt because of the success of a colleague in Dallas.

Fabyan says that in preparation for the winter of 1989, Quenton Johnson, the greens superintendent at Brookhaven Country Club a 54-hole facility, bought covers to protect 14 newly planted greens.

He added, "The ones Quenton covered

survived, and the fact that they did led us to believe covers would be useful for all our greens under the right conditions."

Fabyan cautioned that he doesn't feel anything absolutely guarantees against winter kill. "It can always get cold enough and stay cold long enough to kill Bermudagrass,

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Environment dominated Faubel's presidency

By Peter Blais

Gerald Faubel hopes people will remember his term as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America as a time when the entire golf industry focused on the importance of the environment.

"We've policed ourselves, we're truly concerned and we will act," said the outgoing GCSAA president. "You don't see many industries that do their own research, find fault and make changes without government force."

Faubel said he has thoroughly enjoyed his year as president, which ends during this month's GCSAA Annual Conference and Show in Las Vegas.

"It's been a real pleasure to represent an organization dedicated to teaching its members relevant subjects. We've gotten tremendous cooperation from everyone in the industry. (PGA Tour Commissioner) Deane Beman has even recognized the importance of the golf course superintendent in



G. Faubel

getting the environmental matter taken care of."

Faubel has stressed the need for cooperation rather than confrontation between the golf industry and environmentalists. During the past year, EPA administrator Anne Leslie was named to the United States Golf Association Environment and Research Committee; GCSAA secretary/treasurer Bill Roberts testified before a U.S. Senate hearing on the environment; the USGA and the New York Audubon Society started a program that will make golf courses bird sanctuaries.

"(EPA Associate Administrator) Lewis Crampton said at the Golf Summit how much he appreciated the GCSAA's effort to work with government agencies," Faubel said.

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Satellite turf campuses proposed

From staff reports

Southern Turf Nurseries President Dr. Tim Bowyer hopes to create satellite campuses internationally to train golf course superintendents and other turf managers.

"The structure for such education, as well as the information itself, has been well selected and applied at Lake City (Fla.) Community College for years," he said.

"Basically, we plan to provide educational material in language comfortable to proper local authorities to reduce learning time. It has been our company experience that those executives with whom we are in contact with in Europe, Africa and Asia relate better to our message if given easy-to-understand information in a comfortable setting. They, in turn, pass along this newly acquired knowledge to company personnel."

Bowyer believes involvement of institutions such as Lake City Community College on an international level is almost essential to

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