

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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Faubel signs off after exciting year as president

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"We're determined to show that superintendents want to do the right thing and are good stewards of the land. If we ever find something we're doing is hurting the environment, we'll stop those practices."

Faubel and PGA President Patrick Reilly also stressed the need for the members of their organizations to cooperate. "The superintendent and pro can work together to let the club's members and the community know what is happening environmentally. It's not something the superintendent should do alone."

A meeting of the major industry organizations is being planned later this year to discuss each organization's responsibilities regarding the environment, Faubel said.

Satellite classes

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the continued high quality standards being set for golf courses around the world.



Dr. T. Bowyer

Golf contractors, architects and owners may find particularly useful the latest techniques in management of warm-season grasses, he said.

Bowyer has been nominated to serve on Lake City's golf and landscape operations industry advisory committee, which offers advice on new academic programs in the sports field.

Va. project OK'd

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—Construction of a private golf course in the Glenmore subdivision east of this community, near Shadwell, will begin in the spring and should be playable in 1993.

The development on 1,195 acres bordered by U.S. 250 to the north and the Rivanna River to the south and west will include a clubhouse, equestrian center and 750 homes.

'If we ever find something we're doing is hurting the environment, we'll stop those practices.'

— Gerald Faubel

Manufacturers have answered the needs of superintendents, Faubel said, by developing equipment such as the rotary groomer that allows for a higher cut with no drop-off in putting conditions, and the water jet aerifier that permits aerifying of rocky soils.

Faubel has been on the road 160 days in the past year. His travels have taken him to Canada for the annual golf tournament between the two countries' superintendent or-

ganizations; England to visit BIGGA headquarters and the Sports Turfgrass Research Institute; and Spain to help develop the Volderama Masters Scholarship for a Spanish student to study at a U.S. turf school.

"The GCSAA and our industry have really elevated the superintendent to a position of respect. Wherever I've gone, I've always been treated with respect by people who want to know what is happening. The environmental issue has really brought the superintendent to prominence," Faubel said.

While no one can surpass superintendents in technical knowledge, they need improvement in managerial skills, Faubel said.

"Meeting the challenges of the coming decade while staying competitive is our greatest challenge. We will meet the envi-

ronmental challenges. But we have to be good managers, especially on the business side," the outgoing president said.

Now that his term is done, Faubel is looking forward to spending more time watching over his home course, Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club. He is also starting a new business, a search firm matching courses with superintendents. His partners are former Michigan State University Turf Program Director Ken Payne and Robert Trent Jones Sr.

As for his successor, new GCSAA President Stephen Cadenelli, Faubel said: "He'll do a tremendous job. He has a great vision of where this organization should go. He comes from a teaching background and he's already had a big impact on our educational system. He'll be a tremendous benefit to the GCSAA."

Texas courses covered against threat

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no matter what you do to protect it. We feel this is insurance against the widespread, no-rhyme-or-reason type damage we suffered," he said.

Nevertheless, he said he has every confidence the covers will work."

To make certain the covers do the job, Fabyan called all CCA superintendents in the region together for a how-to-use, when-to-use session at Kingwood Country Club near Houston.

"Quenton Johnson put together a slide presentation that showed a crew performing each step of the deployment task. We also recommended a trial run on every green at every golf course, so that when the temperature was dropping and the wind was gusting to 30 miles per hour the guys wouldn't be out there trying to figure it out for the first time."

There is a trick to deploying a 200-pound polyester cover so that the entire putting surface is protected and a minimum amount of the rectangular-shaped blanket is wasted.

"How you lay the rolled cover down and

which way you roll it out determines how precisely the green is covered," Fabyan said.

Once the best way is ascertained, Fabyan asked his colleagues to write instructions for deploying each blanket on the specific green for which it was designed.

Though there are several methods for anchoring the blankets, the CCA superintendents elected to go with sod staples — four-inch-long, U-shaped pins set about five feet apart.

Asked when to lay the covers, Fabyan said: "If it is going down to 20 degrees and the weather has been cool previously, the covers should be strongly considered. If the forecast is for a 20-degree low tonight, followed by a freeze the next night, just do it!"

Fabyan added that, while conditions will determine when the covers are used, the demands of golfers will most likely determine when covers are rolled back or removed completely in this area of year-round golf.

Why would Fabyan go to so much trouble to recommend covering greens when, in the past, Bermudagrass winter kill was considered just one more greenkeeping headache with no cure?

Fabyan measures the cost and extent of the devastation in his region against the purchase price, labor cost, and deployment problems associated with covers, and still finds ample justification for use of technology new to his region.

"If the covers last about six years, as they should, they are worth the initial cost even if we only have to use them one year out of six," he said.

The superintendent also believes in a modern, aggressive approach to an old situation.

"Twenty years ago, one-quarter inch was as low as greens were cut. Now we cut at one-eighth inch during some of the growing season. We are putting more stress on greens with lower cutting heights and more play," he said. "With less play and higher mowing heights, we may have had less damage and no need for blankets at all. But this isn't 20 years ago and we don't have to just sit and hope for the best."

Frances Trimble is a freelance writer based in Houston, Texas.

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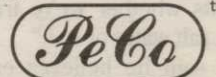
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