

# 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 supers 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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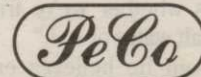
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