

Fearis assumes presidency at Orlando conclave

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ORLANDO, Fla. — David Fearis, a 31-year member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will be elected president of the national association at February's International Conference and Show here. Fearis, 52, is head superintendent at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., and has served on the GCSAA board since 1993. He responded recently to a list of questions posed by Golf Course News.

Golf Course News: What will be your primary goal during your year as GCSAA president?

David Fearis: If I had to list a primary goal, it would be the education of the employer/influential golfer. If we can educate this group to better understand the golf course superintendent's job, the result could be increased job security, recognition, compensation, and job opportunities.

This actually is part of the mission statement of the membership standard's initiative. Right now, job security isn't a description often found in our profession. You hear numerous stories about a golf course superintendent who has been at a golf facility for 10 to 15 years and has one bad year and is fired.

Why? Because in many cases, that employer/influential golfer doesn't understand our jobs. We have raised the standard of golf course conditions so high that many golfers expect this year after year. Yet we are still dealing with Mother Nature.

GCSAA is working to provide programs

to educate the employer/influential golfer.

GCN: What is GCSAA doing to help superintendents move along their career paths and up into positions such as general manager, director of golf, etc.? Anything similar to the PGA's Career Links program?

Fearis: The obvious one is education. We are offering an increased number of seminars dealing with business, management and communication skills.

Also, we now award external Continuing Education Units for approved seminars offered by other associations like the PGA, CMAA or companies like National Seminars, Padgett Thompson, Fred Pryor, etc. These companies and associations offer many good seminars dealing with subjects, other than agronomics, which could further the golf course superintendent's skills to allow him to become a general manager or a director of golf.

The mission of the membership standards initiative is to increase the value of the golf course superintendent in the eyes of employers and influential golfers, resulting in increased compensation, security, recognition and job opportunities for qualified members. To me, this means showing employers that the superintendent has a high level of education, manages the largest staff, budget, and asset at a golf facility, and is therefore very qualified to become a director of golf and/or a general manager.



David Fearis

GCN: Are superintendents making use of new information technology — like the Internet?

Fearis: Definitely. The GCSAA's website alone receives over 1 million hits per month.

Also, GCSAA offers a complete turf management course on the web. This course is offered by the Penn State World

Campus and consists of six different courses dealing with turf management. Each successfully completed course offers 4.5 CEUs. You can access Penn State's class through the GCSAA website.

Also, a self-study, correspondence course entitled, "Responsible Pesticide Use for Golf Course Superintendents," will make its debut at the conference in Orlando. This course will also be offered over GCSAA's website.

GCSAA considers these new learning technologies so important that it has created a new department, Learning Systems Innovation & Design. A department goal is to find new ways to educate members through modern, technological means.

GCN: We ran an article recently on superintendents leaving the field because of mounting job pressures. Have you seen an increase in burnout among experienced superintendents? As a longtime superintendent yourself, what would you recommend superiors do to avoid burnout?

Fearis: I don't know if burnout is new among experienced superintendents. We are much more aware of it because of our im-

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Tampa courses offer challenge for tourney

By ANDREW OVERBECK

TAMPA BAY, Fla. — Participants in the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship will have to negotiate tall pine and cypress trees, large waste bunkers, and the occasional alligator at three of the demanding Innisbrook Resort golf courses.

The tournament, which will be held in tandem with the 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show, will be held Feb. 8-9. Toro Co. is again sponsoring the event that will be held at six different golf courses in the Tampa area.

Defending champion Al Pondel, superintendent at Deerfield Country Club in suburban Chicago, heads up the field of nearly 700 golfers who are divided into several flights based on handicaps.

Pondel won last year's El Nino-shortened event by shooting a blistering 69 on the opening day of the tournament. He held on to win over runner-up Tim Scott, superintendent at Stony Creek Golf Course in Addison, Ill., after rains canceled the second and final round of play.

"I came out and tried to get through the first round with a good score. I hit the ball well, hit a lot of

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GCSAA to honor Pebble's Horton with Environmental award

ORLANDO, Fla. — Citing him for efforts that "personify what superintendents strive for each and every day," the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has chosen Edward C. "Ted" Horton to receive the 1999 President's Award for Environmental Leadership.

Horton, vice president of resource management at Pebble Beach Co., will be honored at the Golf, Government and Environmental General Session scheduled at 8:45 a.m. Feb. 12, at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

GCSAA's board of directors selected Horton in recognition of his environmental leadership at Pebble Beach and his pivotal role in the Golf and the Environment Summit process that led to developing the groundbreaking Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States.

"Ted Horton's work has long been respected within the golf industry," said GCSAA president George Renault III. "Golf is truly a friend of the environment, and Ted's efforts personify what superintendents strive for each and every day."

Horton's environmental initiatives at Pebble Beach have included golf course recycling and effluent irrigation programs. He also works with community groups and is widely respected as a speaker on the topic of golf's environmental impacts.

The awards ceremony also will include presentation of the national winners in the GCSAA Environmental Steward Awards (ESAs) competition. The ESAs honor environmental excellence among golf courses and recognize the innovative practices their superintendents use to protect, preserve and enhance golf's environment. The session will conclude with a panel discussion with top executives of the allied associations of golf discussing their associations and their views on the role of the golf course superintendent.

The President's Award for Environmental Leadership was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

...and Florida's Jones with Distinguished Service Award

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has confirmed that longtime superintendent Dan Jones will receive the association's 1999 Distinguished Service Award.

Jones was superintendent at Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Fla., from 1980 until his retirement in April 1998.

He is currently the East Coast sales manager of Toro Liquid Ag, Inc.

The award will be presented to Jones during the opening ceremonies at the GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show here, Feb. 8-14.

Jones is being recognized for his 33 years in the turf industry, where he has been an innovator and leader in the

business. He was instrumental in the late 1970s in bringing the white amur grass carp into the state to help control aquatic weeds and reduce the amount of chemicals used in waterways.

Jones has served as president of the local Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida GCSA, president of the Florida Turfgrass Association and was the editor and publisher of the national award-winning magazine, *The Florida Green*, for 13 years.

He has been named editor emeritus in honor of his contributions to the growth and success of the magazine.

In 1987 Jones received the Florida GCSA Distinguished Service Award and also received the Florida Turfgrass Association's Wreath of Grass Award.

Outgoing president off to warmer climes

By PETER BLAIS

NAPLES, Fla. — Eagle's Creek Country Club here has hired outgoing GCSAA President George Renault, as head superintendent. Renault assumed his new position Jan. 1.



George Renault

Eagle's Creek, a private, 18-hole layout, opened in 1980. Renault's first projects at his new club will include rebuilding the greens and installing a new irrigation system.

"It was a better opportunity," Renault explained of his move from a Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., where he served as head superintendent for the past eight years.

Prior to Burning Tree, Renault was head superintendent at Chevy Chase (Md.) Club; Penderbrook Golf Club in Fairfax, Va.; and Goose Creek Country Club in Leesburg, Va.

A 20-year GCSAA member, Renault has served on the GCSAA Board of Directors since 1993 and chaired numerous committees. He is also a member of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Golf Advisory Commission, Watson Fellowship Selection Committee and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment [RISE] government issues committee.

Renault earned a certificate in golf and turfgrass management from the University of Maryland. He and his wife, Lucinda, have two children: George, 21 and Lucy, 17.

Bombardier NV goes in both 'golf' and 'drive' mode

The Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle is an environmentally-friendly and quiet mode of transportation. What makes the vehicle unique is that it's designed for the fairways and the roadways. In "golf" mode, the Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle reaches a top speed of 15 mph (to help it comply with golf course standards).

In "drive" mode, for off the

course, the Bombardier NV reaches a maximum speed of 25 mph, providing drivers with a fun and sporty vehicle for getting around town. The Bombardier NV is great for the golf course and the country club, and also for trips to the store or visiting friends in the neighborhood. For more information, contact 888-638-5397.

CIRCLE #201



Trucktor T-Series

Trucktor T-Series: A machine for all seasons

The new Trucktor T-Series Combination Tractor-Truck work vehicles now offer their rugged four-wheel drive units equipped with turf-tread tires and an assortment of gang

mowers, rototillers, front bucket loaders, aerators and overseeders for golf-course construction, repair and maintenance.

Made in Massachusetts, the diesel-powered Trucktor T-Series

(Kubota 4-cylinder 49 and 56-hp, and Continental 66-hp diesel engines) has just won the OEM "Emmie Award" for 1998. For more information, contact 508-748-1200.

CIRCLE #203

GCSAA SHOW PREVIEW

GCSAA Tourney

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greens, and I hit two consecutive 40-foot putts which is something that doesn't happen every day," said Pondel on last year's championship effort. "And this year I feel pretty good, although you never know what's going to happen—if you look at the trophy not too many guys have won back to back."

Pondel, along with defending chapter team winners Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in gross, and California No. 14 net are looking forward to the beautiful courses that await them. Tournament activities will get under way with practice rounds on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5-6, a four-ball championship on Sunday, Feb. 7. The official two day tourney gets underway Monday, Feb. 8.

The following is a brief rundown of the courses that will host the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship:

— **The Westin Innisbrook Resort** will be hosting the event at three of its courses, all of which were designed by Larry Packard.

— **Copperhead** (host superintendent, Rob Giampietro/course rating 74.4, slope 140). The Copperhead course is the home of the season ending J.C. Penny Classic. The 7,087 yard, par-71 course features pine tree-

lined fairways and rolling terrain and demanding long and accurate tee shots. Designed by Larry Packard in 1973, this resort course is reminiscent of a classic Carolina layout.

— **Island** (host superintendent, Carl Collins/course rating 74.1). The Island course stays true to its name with the first six holes featuring lateral water hazards. The remainder of the 6,999 yard, par-72 course features rolling terrain and cypress and pine trees that will require pin point accuracy. The 18th hole which dog legs left over water will provide a stern finish.

— **Hawk's Run** (host superintendent, Mike Blanchard/course rating 70.5, slope 125) The Hawk's Run course may be deceiving in distance, but with water hazards coming into play on almost every shot, the 6,260 yard, par-70 layout will surely test all golfers. In addition to the water, there are also 46 bunkers and a resident 10-foot gator to contend with. This 1992 Packard-designed run is not the place to spray shots.

— **World Woods Golf Club** will be hosting the event at two of its Tom Fazio designed courses.

— **Rolling Oaks** (host superintendent, Quinn M. Kuite/course rating 73.5, slope 136). The Augusta National-inspired fairways at Rolling Oaks, lined

with live oaks, dogwoods and magnolias, roll gently through this 6,985 yard, par-72 layout that is one of the top upscale daily fee courses in the country. The layout features challenges like the 10 bunkers on the par-5 third hole and a 300-year-old live oak tree that menaces the right side of the finishing hole.

— **Pine Barrens** (host superintendent, Robert M. Roessing/course rating 73.7, slope 140). Waste areas abound at the Pine Barrens course which will force golfers to take a more measured approach to their game. The 6,985 yard, par-71 links course is also reminiscent of a Carolina layout featuring plenty of pine trees and rolling terrain. High scores will plague those who find themselves in the native sand waste areas.

— **Southern Woods Golf Club** (host superintendent, John Morrison/course rating 72.9, slope 126) This 6,900 yard, par-72 layout designed by Hale Irwin in 1992 features natural rolling terrain and lush forest areas. The challenge on this course will be the drainage retention areas that border almost every hole at Southern Woods. Land in these grassy holes and you will face elevation changes of 20 to 40 feet from the fairway to the green areas. Strategically placed bunkers and water hazards add further dangers to this otherwise straightforward layout.



John Deere enhances 2500

The new John Deere 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower's cut quality is enhanced by a new cutting unit suspension that is designed to carry the weight of the lift arms on the traction unit and on the cutting units. The 22-inch cutting units are John Deere designed and manufactured and come with eleven blade reels, 3-mm standard bedknives and a smooth front roller.

CIRCLE #202

Vermeer packs stump cutting punch

Packing the most power in Vermeer Manufacturing's premier line of stump cutters, the 106 HP (79 kw) SC1102A stump cutter offers the most significant advancements in stump cutting technology in years—Vermeer's Auto Sweep system. The patented Auto Sweep function better equips the SC1102A to meet the needs of land clearing contractors, golf courses, municipalities, public works departments and rental centers. For more information, contact 1-888-Vermeer.

CIRCLE #205

Textron/Burtner

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Jacobsen and Bunton lawn-care machinery.

Reporting to Burtner will be Philip Trailies who is responsible for turf care in the Americas; L.T. Walden, president of E-Z-GO; Tom Meier, president of Steiner; Bob Grenhart, vice president of finance; and in Europe, Paul Hollingworth will be managing director responsible for the European operations.

Burtner joined Textron in 1980 and held various executive positions with Greenlee Textron, including president. In 1995, he was promoted from Greenlee to Textron's world headquarters as vice president of human resources. In January 1997, he became president of Industrial Components.

Peter Wilson, ex-president of Ransomes, was heading up Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products worldwide, but has since been promoted to president of Textron Fastening Systems (TFS) Europe. Wilson will remain in England and oversee 23 operations across Europe with more than 5,500 employees and revenues exceeding \$ 700 million.

According to Trailies, Burtner's move to Elgin from world headquarters in Provi-

English, Ind.

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However, there will still be four or five fairways susceptible to flooding. That's why Hammond called Hurdzan, who has designed several courses in flood-plain areas.

"It is a tough site with two creeks to work around and a big hill to get on top of," explained Hurdzan's senior design associate David Welchel. "But it's going to work out. We aim to build a golf course that is easy to maintain, challenging and fun."

Construction began Nov. 21 with an official kickoff and "golf course raising." The volunteers and March worked all day to grade the driving range and do some work on the 6th hole. They also worked out a construction schedule and assigned tasks. "The great thing about this process is that it is truly a family effort," said Hammond. "For example, the Holzbog family is responsible for the 5th hole. They have taken it on and know what it will take to get it built."

dence makes sound, geographic sense. "Textron has a fastening office that's being built in Elgin," said Trailies. "So it made more sense to have Burtner outside of Providence and closer to Chicago and closer to Racine."

As far as the ongoing consolidation, "We're about 90 percent there," added Trailies.

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