Bloch vows research to continue

By Mark Leslie

The new president of the United States Golf Association confirmed the organization will remain dedicated to turfgrass and environmental research, and predicted a wide range of results exciting to the industry.

Stuart F. Bloch, an investment broker in Wheeling, W.Va., who has a long history of involvement with the agronomy of golf courses, said: "The Executive Committee is behind this research 100 percent. We make a lot of money in the U.S. Open and I think, what better way to spend it than research?"

Bloch, a golfer for 49 years, was green committee chairman at his club for 18 years and has served as a USGA board member.

The successor to C. Grant Spaeth of Palo Alto, Calif., he said he has gotten "a lot out of golf... and not many people... do when you get involved like this. And when you get to be president, then you've really got the ultimate experience."

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From wetland to country club, American architect Gary Roger Baird made magnificent use of his design skills and the construction know-how of developers of The Royal Gems Golf and Sports Complex in Bangkok, Thailand.

An 11-foot-high levy needed to be built around the property and the land was drained before construction could begin on the $100-million project. Baird said 75 laborers worked four months hand-laying the stonework in the double-tiered sand bunkers.

Photo courtesy of Gary Roger Baird Design International, Ltd.

EPA not doing enough to curb pesticide use, advocate says

By Peter Blais

The golf industry and federal government are not doing enough to keep pesticides off golf courses, according to the head of an anti-pesticide advocacy group.

Jay Feldman, national coordinator of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, made that charge during last month's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Conference and Show in New Orleans.

Joining Feldman on an environmental panel were Victor Kimm, the Environmental Protection Agency's deputy assistant administrator for pesticides and toxic substances, and ABC Television's John Stossel, news analyst and environmental reporter on the show 20/20.

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Wetlands expert advises: Use common sense

By Peter Blais

With revisions to the federal wetlands laws still months away, golf course developers need to follow some common sense guidelines when building near the environmentally sensitive areas, according to a landscape architect.

The Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate proposals with two criteria in mind, according to Barbara Beall of The LA ... at the recent Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Conference and Show in New Orleans.

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