

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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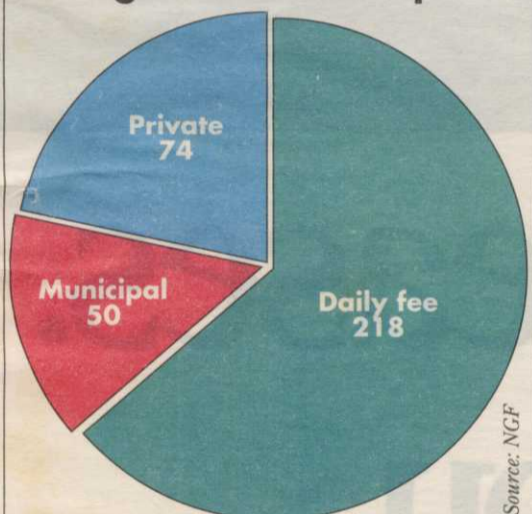
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Bloch vows research to continue

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



Stuart Bloch

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 get the chance to put as much back in the game as you 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.

THE CASE AGAINST PESTICIDES

The environmental community's long-term goal is to work together with the golf industry and EPA on pesticide use, Feldman said. But in the short term, EPA Programs are inadequate, he added.

Over 600 potentially active ingredients, many of which are found in golf cure pesticides, have not been adequately tested by the EPA, Feldman said.

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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 Group in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., who spoke at the recent Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Conference and Show in New Orleans.

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Shields is TPC's Super of the Year

By Peter Blais

Tighue Shields of the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale near Phoenix has been named the TPC system's Superintendent of the Year.

Shields, 41, has worked in course maintenance 22 years,

including 15 at Arizona Country Club. He worked briefly at TPC at Star Pass in Tucson before taking over at Scottsdale in 1989.

"Tighue is one of the best managers in our group," said Cal Roth, director of maintenance

operations for the TPC network's 12 courses and PGA Tour Investments. "He runs a truly professional operation. The course is immaculate every day. He is organized and his crew is motivated and well

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NEWSPAPER

New USGA president pledges research will continue

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Bloch said the USGA is "on the cutting edge of a lot of exciting programs."

Environmental and turfgrass research is at the top of the list.

"The service we're providing golfers will only get better in the area of agronomy," he said. "Environmental research projects are overdue and hopefully we'll stimulate other people, other companies outside the sphere to invest."

"As long as we can see results, we

are not going to back away from it."

Noting that the USGA is in the beginnings of a 10-year turf research program, Bloch said: "We're beginning to see the results. New and improved grasses is a tremendous asset in the hands of superintendents because they are region-specific."

He cited:

- Buffalograss improvements, which is "exciting when you consider we're going to have a water shortage on this planet some day."
- Seeded Bermudagrass, which

is "long overdue and it came from our efforts."

- A lot of improved bentgrasses that will be introduced.

- Zoysiagrass, which "will be much more a grass of choice over the next few years."

- Poa annua, which he called "the real kicker."

"The result of this research is that we are going to be able to seed poa annua. And if you can seed it you can do a lot of things with it. You can develop species that are

really resistant to heat in the transition zone. Just think of what use there might be for overseeding Bermudagrass greens with poa annua instead of ryegrass. Poa gives better putting surfaces."

Bloch said the USGA is doing "a lot of exciting things that will help the superintendents and architects."

"We're working together with them. There is a lot of give and take on what they need and what we're trying to do, and how we can help each other. We're basically there to help them."

Bloch also pointed to environmental studies.

"The fate of chemicals and the need to know is getting more and more intense," he said, "because the lead time to build golf courses is getting longer and longer as the environmentalists demand this information."

Ultimately, Bloch said, the golf industry must show environmental and governmental bodies that building golf courses is a positive, not negative force for nature.

"The effect on the water table is one area of study. Another area is the use of effluent. It's a reason to build golf courses... The more research we can provide on what happens with fertilizers and pesticides, the more environmental and governmental bodies will be comfortable with building golf courses," he said.

"We've just completed the first year of fate studies, and I think people will be surprised just how little effect there is. But it's too early to report that. Within the bounds of capable use, this research will show that a golf course is not a contaminant."

"As a matter of fact, with the Audubon (Wildlife Sanctuary) program we may be able to show that we're a wildlife refuge and a place that is adding rather than subtracting."

Bloch foresees that in the next few years, the industry will see:

- speeded-up approval for construction permits;
- new grasses that will use less fertilizer and water, saving golf courses money; and
- better conditions on which to play the game.

"I think we're at about the level of spending that will get that done," he said.

But Bloch said it is time for the Turfgrass Information Service (at Michigan State University) to stand on its own.

"There are other organizations that should step in, like the GCSAA, architects and builders. GCSAA has large membership and the financial capability to provide this service for their members as they become more computer literate," he said.

Resort community wins town OK at Mammoth Mtn.

MAMMOTH MTN., Calif.—The town council has approved a 210-acre resort community at Mammoth.

The \$50-million first phase will include an 18-hole golf course, 200-room full-service hotel with restaurants, conference and convention facilities, golf clubhouse amenities and 40 to 60 single-family homes.

When Lodestar at Mammoth is finished, it will include two resort hotels and many year-round activities, as well as retail shops and restaurants along a lake.

The 6,400-yard, par-70 golf course is designed by Cal Olson Golf Architecture of Costa Mesa.

Revolutions Underground.

This means greens dry faster after rain or irrigation. And it causes less injury to the grass. Result?

Deeper roots, as confirmed by four years of independent research at Michigan State University. This should lead to healthier, stronger turf.

No more cores either. Or paying a crew for cleanup and top-dressing. Just one operator is required. These savings can cut your aeration costs dramatically. And, best of all, your golfers can play without delay. Think how much that can mean in minimal loss of greens fees.



What's more, this remarkable machine can also be used on tees, fairways or anywhere you need aeration relief.

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