Salting water solutions
For Gainey Ranch, its own effluent plant turned the trick; for Ocean Reef, it was ocean water. The tests are final. Long-term results are in for the national Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass tests. 

All-sand recipe
Mike Hurdzan, PhD and architect, challenges the norm in greens construction. 

Would Americans play more?

Percent responding "yes" 
20 40 60 80

Stricter pesticide laws in the making
A growing number of communities are proposing laws restricting pesticides since last summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that federal law cannot stop local governments from regulating their use. The result could be thousands of unscientific, contradictory regulations making it harder for golf course superintendents and others in the turf industry to do their job, according to those supporting recently proposed legislation allowing federal law to preempt local ordinances.

Flood devastates Texas courses
By Peter Blais
Jack and Melissa Fletcher stood along the banks of the Brazos River Christmas Eve watching the rain-swollen waters rise at the rate of an inch per hour and drown their nine-hole course. "It died a slow death," recalled Jack, who helps daughter Melissa manage Valley Lodge Golf Club in Simonton, Texas, 30 miles west of Houston. "It was a very helpless feeling." Valley Lodge was one of many courses suffering major damage from the heavy rains that deluged eastern Texas in late December.

Strategic plan critical challenge to club managers' association
By Peter Blais
Jack Sullivan found his bride and a career on the golf course. The newly married Sullivan, a high school teacher in Fairfield, Iowa, when he met Darcy. Darcy's house bordered the fifth tee at Fairfield Golf & Country Club.

The two played a lot of golf together and Jack eventually got a part-time job as the club's bar manager. He quickly became the club's assistant manager and his career was off and running.

That career has taken him to The Whicota Club in Des Moines, Iowa, Nakoma Golf Club in Madison, Wis., and his present employer, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.

"This is the first time I've been at a club without a golf course," said Sullivan, who came aboard Grosse Pointe in 1987. "Basically, I've traded in the golf course for a bar. Where I used to worry about green speeds, weather conditions affecting the course and helping the superintendent deal with turf diseases, now I worry about water levels, how weather conditions affect the fleet and helping the harbor master plan boating activities.

"I grew up in the golf business as a manager and I closely follow the golf industry. I'm still a golfer, although my game has suffered from not having a course out the back door. My handicap used to be in single digits. Now it's up around 18."

As CMAA president, I represent the entire club industry. Two-thirds of our members manage country clubs with golf courses. As the association goes through our strategic planning process over the next 18 months, what we do will be strongly dictated by the golf industry."

Completing that strategic plan will be Sullivan's primary goal during his two-year term.