The Savvy Superintendent
A new monthly feature gives supers the chance to share maintenance techniques.

Research Boost
Architect Craig Schreiner has designed a system to catch and treat beach water from all 18 greens.

On the Green
Hot spots are a maintenance nightmare, but a superintendent has devised a way to cool them off.

Study: Course maintenance costs up 4.9%
By Peter Blais
Course managers have done an excellent job trimming budgets while maintaining quality in the face of an ongoing recession, said a private country club industry consultant.

Effective treatment for Dutch elm emerges too late for Winged Foot
By Mark Leslie
Walt Disney animators, move over. Larry Hawkins is center stage at his easel, and while his rendering of Mickey may not compare, his animation of prospective golf courses could win him an Emmy.

Bridging the 'market gap' with design technology
By Mark Leslie
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EPA insights on Browner, from fellow Floridians
By Hal Phillips
WASHINGTON, D.C. — With 100 days of the Clinton Administration behind them, members of the golf course industry are still looking for clues as to how Carol Browner will conduct her business as head of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Effective treatment for Dutch elm emerges too late for Winged Foot
By Mark Leslie
MAMARONECK, N.Y. — Had it been available for public use earlier, a new fungicide may have saved the life of the famous American elm tree that until recently dominated the 10th hole at Winged Foot Country Club's East Course.

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percent a year ago, as opposed to the double-digit hikes of recent years.

Meanwhile, the recession has slowed membership growth. The average number of members fell 1 percent in 1992, compared to a 1.4 percent increase the year before. Dues increased 6 percent, down from the 7.3 percent jump in 1991.

Rising costs and falling memberships have left club managers in a monetary squeeze. "In response to a difficult financial environment, managers have had to cut payroll costs by eliminating waste. They have held back on raises, limited new hires and occasionally eliminated positions," said PKF Consulting Director John Crow, who presented the Country Clubs 1992 Flash Report at February's Club Managers Association of America Annual Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

Course supplies, contracts and other expenses rose faster than payroll costs, but not as much as in past years, Crow added.

As a result of their frugality, managers were able to cut their clubs' average net loss in half from $21,000 in 1991 to $10,500 in 1992.

"The good news is clubs have reduced their losses. The bad news is they are still losing money," Crow said.

"Many clubs were set up as not-for-profit operations. But you have a lot of [private] facilities that were supposed to make money that aren't."

The short-term economic outlook gives managers little chance of further reducing their losses, Crow said. If anything, the red ink is likely to flow more freely.

Having cut about all they can, few financial efficiencies remain, the PKF consultant explained.

"If you start cutting back on the quality of the golf course, it makes it even more difficult to sell memberships," Crow said.

Membership classes to add revenue. To further cut costs. Others have allowed outside play on their courses and created new membership classes to add revenue. Super Quiet. Vanguard 16 hp engine, with extra noise-dampening insulation. Speed, forward movement and reverse are now controlled by a single foot pedal, to simplify operation.

3 New Front Wheel Cut-Off.

Hand valve cuts off front wheel drive to prevent spin-out and provide 2-wheel or 3-wheel power.

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Patented twin rake system utilizes a new pre-rake to create extra firm trap finishes. (See photo.)

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Select from Vanguard 16 hp gasoline engine or optional 12.5 hp Kubota water-cooled diesel engine.

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Super Rake Q is now powered by a new, super quiet, Vanguard 16 hp engine, with extra noise-dampening insulation.

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"New Front Wheel Cut-Off.

Hand valve cuts off front wheel drive to prevent spin-out and provide 2-wheel or 3-wheel power.