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 grass 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.

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 green at Winged Foot Country Club's East Course.

Effective treatment for Dutch elm emerges too late for Winged Foot
By Mark Leslie
Dr. R.J. Stipes of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., one of the leading American tree scientists, said the new compound, called Alano, is effective against Dutch elm disease, which is believed to have killed the Winged Foot tree. Alano — the ornamental

Bridging the 'market gap' with design technology
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.

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).

However, Florida land planners, superintendents, engineers and chemical suppliers are plenty familiar with Browner, who led the state's Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) for just under two years. Opinions vary, but most agree Browner is an aggressive, intelligent, politically motivated person whose views on the environment are essentially pro-tectionist, but not necessarily set in stone.

"We had a lot of clashes with her. She has a very strong personality," said Bobby Brantley, former lieutenant governor and state representative who served as the first executive...
Floridians familiar with Browner appraise new EPA chief

Continued from page 1
director of the Florida Golf Council. "Her original impression of
the golf industry was not good. She thought it was a frivolous
game that wasted water and used
too much pesticides.

"But she's a very dedicated per-
sion, a person the golf industry
should view with an open mind.
She definitely went through a
transformation [in Florida]. I think
towards the end of her tenure,
she realized you can accomplish a
lot more by working with all the
industries affected. Hopefully,
she'll take that attitude into this
new arena."

Bob Yount has sat through nu-
umerous meetings with Browner.
Yount is executive director of the
Orlando-based Florida Turfgrass
Association, 38 percent of whose
membership is superintendents.
"Generally, I think she was very
realistic in her approach to protect-
ing our environment," he said. "A
politician? Yes. But a very practical
person. If there's an opportunity to
compromise, she is very receptive."

Tom Benefield served as presi-
dent of the Florida Golf Course
Superintendents Association from
1991-92, during which time he saw
a lot of Browner — usually con-
cerning effluent issues. Browner
wanted to charge golf courses for
its use, and Benefield — the head
superintendent at Ballen Isles
Country Club of JDM in Palm
Beach Gardens — led the fight
against effluent charges.
"She sure is on a fast track," said Benefield, who noted the 55-
year-old Browner was appointed
to DER by Gov. Lawton Chiles in
early 1991, then worked on behalf
of the Clinton ticket beginning in
the fall of '92. "Generally speak-
ing, she's a politician more than
an environmentalist, an environ-
mental politician, I should say.
"I don't think she saw golf
courses in a very good light at the
outset. She was very approach-
able for meetings, which was un-
usual. And we made some inroads
with her and her staff. But some
of that was because you have effluent
and some of it was her staff.
"As with any huge bureaucracy,
there's too much for one person
to deal with. Carol relies heavily
on an inner circle of people. If you
evaluate the staff and reach out to
the director, you can make a dif-
ference because the staffers don’t
like to be ignored."

"What effect did she have on the
golf industry in Florida?"

Well, golf courses have not been
charged extra for effluent use and
Yount points to several golf course
issues that elicited Browner’s par-
ticipation and support. For example,
according to Yount, Browner op-
posed legislation that would have
created a distinction between agri-
cultural and recreation water use
(though Brantley hinted this ges-
ture was Browner's obligatory
stance in a political trade-off).
"Indeed, Browner has garnered
groundwide praise for her tough,
bartering stance on wetlands pro-
tection. She may be best known
for her habit of demanding the
preservation of wetland space in
return for permit approvals.
"But there's one big problem
with Browner's policy," said Steve
Beeman, president of Ecoshores
Inc., a wetland mitigation and cre-
aton firm located in Port Orange.
"She is more in favor of protect-
ing existing wetlands as a tradeoff
than the creation and mitigation
of wetlands as a trade-off. When
you take this approach, you've
actually done nothing because
those wetlands were already pro-
tected.
"It looks good, but you've saved
nothing."

Do these Floridians have any
advice for colleagues around the
country who may have occasion
to deal with Browner?
"I would tell them to have their
facts in order, and present them
in a logical manner," said Yount.
"Across the board, she's very fair."

Benefield reaffirmed the virtue
of patience, and added that
Browner listens to her own people.
"You have to be persistent, and
you can't lose your temper," he
said. "And it wouldn't hurt to find
someone inside her department
who will take time to understand
and work with you."

Benefield agrees: "I think my
advice would be to educate her.
Staff listens to them."
Beeman disagrees: "I didn't find
that to be the case. The staff people
here in Florida were encouraged
to be less believing of private sec-
tor scientists than the government
scientists. And she encouraged
that view."