

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Hot spots are a maintenance nightmare, but a superintendent has devised a way to cool them off 62



THE ROYAL TREATMENT

Britain's Prince Andrew (right) presents American William Montague with his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, the highest international honor of its kind. See page 18.

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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.

Golf course maintenance expenses rose just 4.9 percent in 1992 at private country clubs, compared to 9.8 percent the year before, according to a preliminary study of 90 courses by the accounting firm Pannell Kerr Forster. The survey is part of its annual *Clubs in Town & Country* report involving hundreds of private clubs nationwide.

Payroll and related costs (which make up about two-thirds of course maintenance budgets) rose a mere 3

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WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES...

Who's liable? Golf course owners and managers want to know. One man's legal opinion can be found on page 43.

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.

You know those televised fly-overs of golfholes? Hawkins' Geoscience Golf Development Services has developed a computer program to create similar three-dimensional animations of proposed golf courses. The digitized animations are transferred to videotape, creating a VHS-ready fly-over before dirt is ever moved.

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The celebrated Winged Foot elm was taken down in February.

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.

Dr. R.J. Stipes of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., one of the leading American tree scientists, said the new compound, called Alamo, is effective against Dutch elm disease, which is believed to have killed the Winged Foot tree. Alamo — the ornamental

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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).

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 protectionist, 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

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