Critical issues aired at Golf Summit

The month of November was a big one for the golf course industry. As you see on our front page, there was some news coming from the third annual John Deere Team Championship. As reported last month, this event teams a PGA club professional with the superintendent and two other board members (ideally the club president and general manager) from the facility. Great camaraderie is developed in the teams and ideally a better working relationship back home. I did have a chance to play a few desert courses. Most memorable was the Nicklaus Desert Course. I feel it is a fair test for an 18 or under handicap.

The course is in great condition, and I even made a birdie on the #1 handicap hole (#19). Golf continues to flourish. As we heard at the summit, some real estate developments tied to golf facility may be hurt because of the down economy.

However, established facilities and stand-alone courses will continue to attract new players and grow even stronger in the coming year.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Charles E. von Brecht
Publisher

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Comment

The ultimate amenity

Golf courses are one of today's most sought-after amenities. Many areas of the country are significantly short on golf courses.

According to the National Golf Foundation, the number of golfers is expected to increase from 21.7 million to 30 million in the next 15 years. The NGF estimates the United States will need 4,500 more golf courses to accommodate these golfers.

Many will be centerpieces of residential communities, as more people discover the pleasure of living next to an attractive fairway. It's not just golfers who desire a green in the backyard. In some golf course communities, as many as 80 percent of the residents do not even play golf.

Because of their desirability, golf courses have become increasingly important in rezoning decisions. In working through many rezoning cases with neighbors, we have found they usually favor golf course community proposals. Adjacent homeowners understand that a golf community enhances the neighborhood and increases property values.

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