NIMBY? No way! Property rights activist on the mark

Property ownership. To some people it is more important than freedom of speech and religious freedom. The world over, land has been attacked by foreign countries, over-taken by national agents and gobbled up by power-hungry expansionists for 6,000 years.

Today, in the United States, the attack is from within the framework of our own society. And it is infuriating because the property owner doesn’t see a militia approaching to confiscate his land. The “militia,” in fact, is his own county, state or federal government whose “weapons” are its land-use and environmental regulations.

It is debatable how principled or unprincipled this group is. I think they are generally OK folks. Fine. Upstanding. Yet, just like “We are all sinners and have gone astray” — this group — which would tell you what you can and can’t do with your land — has gone astray.

But if I think we educate them, many can be saved,” so to speak. We can turn their weapons into plowshares by feeding them right scientific knowledge instead of the pseudo-science they operate in — especially in the realm of golf course development where they constantly claim chemical use is as dangerous as on tillered farmland.

We often report on scientific studies disproving that notion. And we can show them one of the main ingredients that made the country strong and true — landscaping and irrigating in search of greenery.

Some of these government regulators — many of them our neighbors — are simply misinformed many times, and can be dissuaded.

For instance, whoever authored my town’s regulations just didn’t consider all the scenarios when writing the restrictions. In my country lane, I would not like my home to be surrounded by mobile homes (Consider me a NIMBY?). But if

In fact, the proper description for their minions should be “Greens” (a reference to the current European political movement, akin to the 19th century Luddites). Few members of the “environmentalist” movement are professionals in the environmental industries (farming, golf course and landscape maintenance, et al.). Fewer still do anything more than dovote their money and go back to eating their hydroponically grown foods.

These “Green” organizations care very little for the factual research or scholarship like Dr. Stewart Cohen in Cape Cod, Dr. Tom Waterikes at Penn State, or Dr. Harry Niemczyk at Ohio State. Hard, cold facts are blasphemous, and run contrary to the pseudo-scientific dogma of these zealots.

The real goal of the “Green Movement” is, and has always been, political power in the form of anti-capitalism, anti-humanism.

The tragedy of all this is that the Greens seem to have the attention of far too many unreformed members of our society. These “eco-warriors” (lawyers and lobbyists, al.) have worked very hard to place guilt on all who do not side with them (“...they who are not with us, are surely against us.”) They convince the citizenry that golf is inherently “elitist” and “destructive” to bunnies, rabbits and people, alike. They easily sway local, state and the federal governments with gloom-and-doom predictions, making it easier for elected officials to side with pseudo-science (who among us would vote to

willfully destroy the ecosystem”), than to stand beside fact.

I applaud the editorial staff of Golf Course News for its coverage of these issues. Those of us who love the game of golf, and are working to make our industry good stewards are the true “environmentalists.” Still, we must endure having our good names and our successes grossly ignored.

We have much good news to tell the non-golfing public, I know that many just another voice in the choir of golf advocates. I would suggest that we make a concerted effort to stop our “preaching to the choir,” and start “shouting from the mountains.”

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