What Do You Want for Christmas?

Golfdom asked several superintendents on its advisory board what they'd like Santa Claus to bring them for Christmas. It's obvious to us that superintendents aren't a materialistic bunch. Here's what they had to say:

"With all the craziness going on in the world, it's very hard to focus on the holidays. That said, I realize we all have jobs to do and in the words of President Bush, 'We will prove to the world that we have the best educated, most productive work force in the world.' My No. 1 wish for Christmas is to prove the President right. I also want to see peace and harmony and terrorism wiped out so my three boys — ages 16, 14, and 9 — can enjoy the freedom this great country has to offer, and never experience the ugliness of fear and war. On a lighter side: A nice, relaxing vacation with my family on a desolate Caribbean island — away from work, the media (sorry) and technology — would be awesome."

Jerry Coldiron, CGCS, Boone Links/Lansing Pointe GC Florence, Ky.

"Besides wanting good health and safety for my family, I want loads and loads of snow to ride my new Arctic Cat 500ZL snowmobile. Mother Nature rules my life in the summer and in the winter!"

Steve Hammon, superintendent, Traverse City G&CC Traverse City, Mich.

"With the PGA Championship being played here next August, I would like a cool, dry summer for the obvious reasons."

Jim Nicol, CGCS, Hazeltine National GC, Chaska, Minn.

"An irrigation lake that always stay full. Golfers that know how to repair ball marks — and do. A sprinkler head that works and never weeps. Golfers that learn the game somewhere else. Seasonal staff that shows up on time. Salesmen that make an appointment first and don't just show up. To have gotten into this business I love 20 years sooner, and that it would last 20 years longer. Good health and happiness to my fellow superintendents — and most of their pros."

Tom Kastler, superintendent The Club at Runaway Bay, Runaway, Texas.

"What I want most is a vacation to Mexico with my wife (I know that's what she's getting me). I need time with her after all the things that have been going on this summer and fall. We're going for five days over the New Year, and I'm looking forward to the time away."

Cliff Beckmann, superintendent The Westin Salishan Lodge & Golf Resort Gleneden Beach, Ore.

"I want peace — that goes without saying. I also want the world I once knew — where you can move around freely, and you have no fears of getting on airplanes and opening your mail."

Bob Braunke, CGCS Tidewater GC & Plantation, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"I don't want much. We have grandchildren and a large family, so I'd just like to stay close to home for the holidays and catch up on everything."

Ken Sakai, CGCS, Golf Pacific Management Group Anaheim, Calif.