

Got a Beautifully Brutal Golf Hole? John Deere Credit Wants to Hear About It



They are beautiful yet brutal. They are holes talked about all season, where a golfer cards a nine, yet somehow scores a miracle birdie the next round. John Deere Credit has launched a search to find the most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes in North America.

“Course superintendents and architects are extremely proud of their ability to provide a truly memorable golf experience that entices players to come back again and again,” says Steve Knutson, director of golf and turf leasing for John Deere Credit. “Showcasing their Beautifully Brutal holes is a recognition of their outstanding work to maintain holes that can be both thrilling and maddening.”

During the next six months, golf course superintendents, architects, owners and developers can nominate holes on their courses by submitting photos and descriptions of what makes the holes among the most challenging or brutal in golf. Factors could include the depth of rough, the number and placement of bunkers, location of water, course slope,

speed and undulation of greens as well as the typical scores players post for the holes.

Nominations will be collected from six regions; five in the United States and one in Canada. Entries will be featured on a special contest Web site, www.JohnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles, on posters and in national and local media. A panel of editors and others representing the golf media will select winning holes in each region and choose 18 of the regional winners as the Most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes in North America. The judges include Joe Passov, architectural editor of *Golf* magazine; Jeff Babineau, deputy editor of *Golfweek*; Gary Van Sickle, golf editor of *Sports Illustrated*; and Pat Roberts, publisher of *Golfdom*.

Winning holes will be announced quarterly. Photos and descriptions of the holes will be reprinted in a keepsake calendar. For more information visit www.JohnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles. ■

Worlds Apart, But Close When It Comes to the Issue of Global Warming

By Curt Harler



In some circles, global warming has become more of a conservative/liberal litmus test or social dividing point than an aspect of scientific research. However, the presidents of two nations facing widely divergent climates agree that global warming is a real problem and will have huge impact on water used in all aspects of the Green Industry.

Iajuddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh, and Olafur Grimsson, president of Iceland, addressed the issue of global warming at the gathering of the International Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) in New Orleans in November.

Both top executives stated, in no

uncertain terms, that global warming is a fact. “Climate change is real,” said Ahmed, a former soil science professor at Dhaka University, who studied soils at the University of Wisconsin.

In a separate talk, Grimsson declared the debate “more or less over.” There was no question that Grimsson, Ahmed and most of the audience of soil scientists see the United States as the bull in the global warming china shop. Both presidents said they face visible signs of climate change in their own countries.

According to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Arctic and coastal areas in tropical Asia are extremely vulnerable to projected climate change and its impacts. Iceland, lying just south of the Arctic

Circle, and Bangladesh are therefore at greater risk than other countries.

“Iceland does not need scientific reports to confirm climate change. We see it in the Arctic ice, the receding of our glaciers,” Grimsson said.

Ahmed worries that 11.5 percent of his nation could be under water by 2100 if warming continues unchecked. Although its climate is vastly different than Iceland’s, “IPCC impact assessments identify Bangladesh as one of the most susceptible countries of the world,” he said. “These impacts range from an overall increase in sea level, atmospheric temperature and rainfall to more intense natural disasters in the form of floods, cyclones ... and other consequential impacts.”

A few days after Ahmed’s talk, Bangladesh was hit by a deadly cyclone. ■