

Annual tourney a benefit to golf

The Prestonwood Country Club team from Cary, NC took first place in the 10th Annual John Deere Team Championship Golf Tournament at Pelican Hill Golf Club, Newport Beach, Calif.

Winning team members: Ron Gilmore, superintendent; Greg Guman, Golf Professional; Don Thomas, club manager; Vance Heafner, club president; and Chris Revels, representative of John Deere golf and turf products distributor Revels Tractor Co., Inc.

Recognition for golf course personnel

The international tournament was initiated in 1987, as a way to show appreciation and recognition for the people who work behind the scenes at a golf course.

"These are not just great teams of golfers, but great teams of golf course professionals," says Jeff Gredvig, general manager of John Deere's Commercial

Grounds Care Products Division.

"John Deere is proud to recognize these teams not only for their skills on the course, but for helping design and maintain courses that challenge the skills of every golf enthusiast," says Gredvig.

Competing teams were composed of the golf course superintendent, the golf professional, the club manager and club president (or two other members of the top management team).

The teams were later joined for the tournament finals by a representative from their local Deere golf and turf products distributorship.

Stiff competition

Each team competes locally to determine its slot in the finals. A total of 924 teams played in 32 local tournaments in preparation for the final. The Prestonwood Country Club team earned the right to compete by winning from among 32 teams at the local tournament held at Grandover



Prestonwood Country Club's winning team. From left, Ron Gilmore, superintendent; Greg Guman, golf professional; Don Thomas, club manager; Vance Heafner, club president; and Chris Revels, Revels Tractor Co.

Country Club, Greensboro, N.C. The local tournament was sponsored by Revels Tractor Co. of Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

The tournament does much to support two major industry associations. John Deere contributes \$20 for each of the teams competing at the local tournaments to either the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Foundation or the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Scholarship fund.

"John Deere has always felt that it's important to give back to the industries we support," says Gredvig. "Over the past 10 years, John Deere has given more than

\$120,000 to the respective golf course superintendents associations. As a company and as an organization, we're pleased to make this contribution."

This year's tournament resulted in a gift of \$14,220 going to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and a \$4,260 gift to the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

Placing second in the tournament was the team from the Caledonia Golf & Fish Club, Pawleys Island, SC.

Finishing in third place was the team from Desert Mountain Golf Club, Scottsdale, AZ.

All-around team approach to work

Bringing together the various personnel involved in running and supplying a golf course helps them understand each others point of view, improves communication and increase the respect for each person's

responsibilities.

"Superintendents today are more focused on the big picture of how our courses are perceived by golfers, the community and the general public," says Don Hoos, superintendent at Pelican Hill.

"We'll need to incorporate all the education, training, resources and technology available to keep our courses and our role as superintendents in a positive position on environmental issues in the future." **LM**

(Look for more on Hoos and Pelican Hill in our February issue.—ed.)