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July/August 2010

**2010
Meeting Sites**

Sept 14: Okemo G.C.
Trade Show/Annual Mtg

Oct 4: Burlington C.C.
Mike O'Connor Tourney

**Upcoming Events
Calendar**

September 27, 2010
7th Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic
Golf Tournament
Fenway Golf Club
White Plains, NY

October 4, 2010
Tournament to honor Mike O'Connor
Burlington C.C.
Burlington, VT.

October 6, 2010
N.E. Supt. Team Championship
Lake of Isles

October 13, 2010
Grounds Crew Appreciation Day
Sugarbush Golf Club
Waitsfield, VT

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**BANNING PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZER ON
TURF, RATIONAL OR RASH ?**
By Dr. Wayne R. Kussow, Proff. Emeritus, University of Wisconsin,

Legislation to ban applications of phosphorus on turf seems to be spreading across the country like a pandemic. Good idea? Probably not. For whatever reason, politicians like logical extremes, which invariably lead to illogical legislation.

Phosphorus (P) runoff into waterways causes eutrophication, i.e., the process in which water is enriched with dissolved nutrients, stimulating aquatic plants to grow and deplete dissolved oxygen. The problem is real and concerns are valid but the source of P runoff is not from turf fertilizer and there's plenty of peer-reviewed research supporting this contention.

In one such study, a comparison between the amount of P contained in surface runoff from fertilized turf and unfertilized prairie grass shows no significant difference over the course of the study (Steinke, K. et al., 2007). In fact, researchers found that during the seasons when the ground was not frozen, run-off from fertilized turf was significantly lower than the unfertilized prairie.

In another study, scientists found that just fifteen meters of turf interrupting surface runoff filtered 89 percent of its sediments (Abu-Zreig, M., et al., 2003.). Another study (Patty, L., et al. 1997.) duplicated Abu-Zreig's results and made the following observation:

"Vegetation within the flow path increases water infiltration and decreases water turbulence, thus enhancing pollutant removal by

sedimentation within filter media and infiltration through the filter surface."

In yet another study, more dissolved P was discovered in leaf surface runoff from living plants than from the soil whether applications of P fertilizer were made or not (Sharpley, A.N. 1981).

Dr. Wayne R. Kussow, professor emeritus from the University of Wisconsin researched phosphorus losses from lawns for six years and has recently contributed his study to a book (soon to be published by the American Chemical Society). In it he writes:

"Regulatory agencies need to be made aware that fertilizer and soil are not the only sources of P in lawn runoff water. A prominent source is vegetation in the landscape (8, 9, 10). How prominent remains to be conclusively demonstrated by further research. Laboratory measurements of P leached with water from grass

(Continued on page 3)

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Director's Message

By Adam Poplawski

As I sit here in my office on a rainy Monday morning, I am thinking about time management and how critical it is in our business since we all seem to spend more time at work than home and how we all need to find time for ourselves and our families.

I am sure most of our days begin well before the sun rises, sneaking around the house in the dark trying not to wake your wife, children, or significant other. Some have dogs that join in the daily routine and you give them a scoop of food and then take care of your morning rituals. As soon as you can, you take a look at the sky, check the rain gauge at home or turn on the weather to see if for some reason the forecast you checked dozens of times in the last day has changed and either it's going to finally stop raining or maybe it's finally going to rain. Or, as for this summer, maybe the heat and humidity are finally going to break.

After giving your wife a kiss, you load yourself & perhaps the dog/s in the truck and off you go. For some the drive is quick and for others the drive may be a bit longer, but regardless, while you are driving and sipping your first coffee you are thinking about whether the irrigation ran last night, who is not going to show up, what projects are going to be accomplished that day or the rest of the week. Then as you pull onto the property you are checking to see if the irrigation ran, looking for hotspots in the dew patterns, noting if anything is amiss. As you sit down to write up the daily assignments, the first cup of coffee is almost gone and you're already thinking about the second cup.

Then you get the crew going and it's onto the daily grind of spraying, watering, fertilizing, being a mentor, being a coach, being a counselor and yes, even being an ass. Superintendents wear many different hats and as you travel about the course, you are constantly on the lookout for anything amiss from diseases, to a fallen rope or an employee that may need a little extra motivation. You may stop and spend time with the Pro to communicate your plans, or to schedule changes to accommodate events that are happening. In your travels about the course, you may answer questions and receive complaints from members; getting complimented and insulted, sometimes in the same sentence, all in an effort to provide the best possible playing conditions on a daily basis.

As the day nears a close, you gather your notes and thoughts and start to plan for the next day. What are you going to water that night or are you going to water at all? What projects need to be completed? What projects need to be started? Finally, for most of us, after a long day, you head home to sit down and relax for a few of hours. As the night wears on you wonder if the irrigation is going to run correctly, did you schedule enough water, too much water, is the forecast going to change and rain when you have water scheduled etc... You make notes on your blackberry or note pad about things you may have forgotten to do that day and at some point you probably start to dose in and out and its off to bed to get some sleep, sometimes while it is still light out.

The picture is probably fairly accurate for most of us, especially for 6 months out of the year when we really don't leave work, regardless of whether you are physically there or not. For those of us with wives, children or significant others, you have to make an effort to give them the time and attention they deserve. I have heard for many years that it truly takes a special woman to be a Superintendent's wife, dealing with the ups and downs of the summer season. Take the time to appreciate your family and set aside at least one night a week to unwind and relax and do something special with them.

Good luck with the rest of the season, Hope to see you all at the next meeting!

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