

Nature: Beautiful and BEASTLY

By Bernard Luongo



As I write this article for our newsletter, we are enjoying our 13th event of the season. Some of the previous events were clippers. No, not the Yankee Clipper Joe DiMaggio; Artic clippers of the one to two inch variety. But today we get special treatment. A good old fashion Nor-Easter. What I find most difficult about snow management is that every event is different. Start time, finish time, dry powdery snow, wet heavy snow, one inch, one foot, blowing drifting snow, freezing rain, the whole gambit, and you have a very small window of opportunity to complete your tasks to try to make your properties safe for the opening of school. Very daunting to say the least.

Preparation is the best tool that you have to combat any storm. Functioning equipment works well also. Other than watching the weather every minute hoping the thing misses us, the following is how we prepare for an upcoming event.

All of our tractors and vehicles start every event with a full tank of gas or diesel. Snow blowers are all topped off along with our back pack blowers. We make sure all of our five gallon containers are full of gas and diesel in case we cannot get to our tanks at the bus lot. We mix-up four gallons of two cycle oil for our back pack blowers and our chain saws. We have many trees on our property that sometimes don't make it through the storm. As with any event equipment breaks down. If you have some parts in stock you can get that piece of equipment up and running during the same storm, which in my book is a feather in your cap and allows management know you are paying attention to your business. We stock extra shear pins and belts for all our snow blowers including shoes for

them and our large plows. We have extra pails of hydraulic fluid for our tractors and quarts of fluid for our plows. Extra chains for our chain saws just in case. Plenty of two cycle oil also. We do stock some parts for our plows, just the basics though. Extra snow shovels and spreaders in case they break or malfunction.

At Northern Burlington County School District we have eight parking lots and about four miles of sidewalks. A lot of product is spread. I always try to stay two major events ahead or four smaller events ahead of the amount of product we use. Because every event is different, make assessments of how much product you used during each event and this will help you stay ahead of the curve. There is nothing worse for your department than running out of product. Equipment failure happens during events; it is the nature of the beast and out of your control - the other is not. So be prepared. If you are paying attention to the weather and the signs around you there will be plenty of time to prepare. All you have to do now is wait for the event.

On a lighter note ... In our house hold we have a weather predicting cat. She is four for four in predicting the severity of winters. Depending on how much weight and fur she puts on tells me how bad a winter it is going to be. In early December she looked like a well fed tick. Need I say more? Pay attention to nature and her wildlife. They know better than we do. Until next time. Keep on plowing.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and SFMANJ member.

Commitment that's more than skin deep.

50th TURFACE ATHLETICS™



Turface Athletics' involvement in the game has run deep for the last 50 years. We've teamed up with grounds crews across the nation over the decades to provide safe and playable fields at every level of play. We are dedicated to providing meaningful industry support focused on responsible field education and consistently delivering the best products in the industry.

Celebrate with us and you can win all year long! Visit www.turface.com/50years.

 Find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/Turface](https://www.facebook.com/Turface)

TURFACE ATHLETICS™

The #1 Conditioner on America's Most Playable Fields