

If the only folks who show up are the ones against us and our products, how do you think the politicians are going to learn?

Do you watch sports on TV? I do, but not too much. I would rather participate in the sport or activity than watch it. Now I'm not saying that I won't sit and watch hours of the Masters or the super bowl on television, but I just can't seem to sit down and watch a sporting event for any amount of time without falling asleep. Heck, I've even fallen asleep at a Dolphins game but I'm sure you're not too surprised at that.

Now if I'm on the sidelines at one of my kids' sporting events, that's a little different. I watch every play with the enthusiasm of a 5-year old on Christmas morning.

Why? Because I am involved! I keep track

of the score, I cheer for our team and will even wear team colors to show my spirit. I guess I do this because it's a little different... it's closer to home if you know what I mean. I guess I would probably watch more sporting events if it

were a little closer to home, and I were more involved.

Here's an idea for a game that is close to home for all of us: What if you could play a game and the outcome of the game could be determined not only by the team with the best players but by the team with the most spirit. That's right. let's not only let the team play but get the fans involved too... all fans. It's their team against our team and their fans against our fans. Ok, the game is set but do we have to have a prize to play for?

I've got it. How about we play for Nemacur? No, can't do that one; we already lost it. How about we play for MSMA? No, that game is already being played and it's in overtime.

I've got it! Let's play for fertilizer!

What's that, you say? This game has already started! But how can that be? Some of the team members (you) aren't on the field yet? The players on the field are doing their best but we are greatly outnumbered. Most of the fans (your members) don't seem to know about the game at all.

How can we win this game – which will be determined by the involvement of the players and their fans – if we are so out-numbered? This really surprises me because if the team

and fans don't get involved soon, we're going to lose this game too. And it's a home game. I don't know about you, but I would hate to lose the ability to fertilize my home turf with what I need and when I need it.

The contest for the use of fertilizers (quick and slow release) is going on in just about every county in Florida. The fans (our members) don't even know that this is going on and, without their support, it will make it a lot harder for the team to succeed.

And this is not the only game being played. What about phosphorus?

There are counties trying to ban any use of phosphorus. If true, peer-reviewed science were being used, I don't think I would mind so much, but to blindly ban products that can be so important to our business is just wrong. How can the fans (our members) help?

Glad you asked.

Who do you think votes for these city and county commissioners? Who votes for these rules changes? Let them know the facts on turf and fertilizer use. Remind them that playing golf is game, but operating a golf course is a business. Show them the science and ask for their support to counter activists' wild claims at commission meetings and before they go to the polls.

I love analogies and this is the best one I could come up with to ask you to get involved. You don't have to stand on street corners and wave signs or picket city hall. Just educate your members, the folks you see every day on your golf course and ask your general manager to help spread the word to other GMs and you do the same through your superintendent chapter.

Yes, it would definitely help those few road-weary warriors out there who are trying to preserve products that we use every day if you attended some of the stakeholder meetings in your city or county. If the only folks who show up are the ones against us and our products, how do you think the politicians are going to learn? They are going to grease the squeaky wheel. It's time for us (for you) make some noise of our own: "Two bits, four bits, six bits a dollar! All for turfgrass stand up and holler!"

P.S. Just got a call from Coach Bruce Adams over at Team South Florida Water Management District. He wants us to get up a team to play the water restrictions game. Says it's important we show up for the scrimmage. Anyone willing to try out?

No Time for Spectator Sports



Craig Weyandt
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