

# Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

## Not in This Lab

As the president of an A2LA accredited physical testing laboratory, I read with interest your "Per Test Needs Evaluation" article in the November issue. The article claims that "labs feel that if they tighten up their tolerances, they will lose customers, critics of the test say. So they widen the tolerances and lean up the mixture by using less peat."

That statement is an absolute lie. I do not know who the unnamed critics are, but they have no clue about the science and thought processes that we go through to make root-zone mixes.

Our laboratory makes and tests hundreds of root-zone mixes a year. Our evaluations are based upon standard test methodologies that we have been performing for many years. We simply want to help our customers build and/or maintain a golf course that will perform at a high level for many years.

**Sam Ferro**

**President**

**Turf Diagnostics and Design**

## An Alternative

Let's get back to some basics. The business of growing the grass on a golf course is just that: growing grass. I don't know why this has to be expounded upon as though we were contributing some sort of earth-shattering development for the benefit of mankind for evermore.

We do our best to keep our courses in desirable condition. In turn, our company makes profit and we support ourselves and our families. In short, we provide a service, and our company pays us for it.

The PDI to me is all about power. We are being led to believe that we need to build up our image so that we have more influence and power. People seem to feel that the more power they

have, then the more respect they will earn.

Respect in your profession is great, but all it takes is a superior who doesn't like you and you're gone. There's nothing GCSAA can do about that.

I can see that the GCSAA is trying to elevate our profession and help us all get ahead and make more money and have more job security. This is a good thing. But segregating the association into different member classes almost "forces" your members to be required to do a particular thing and behave in a particular way in order for him or her to receive full backing of the association.

As a professional greenkeeper, I can offer you my viewpoint: On any given day, I can be called upon to turn a wrench, operate equipment, walk behind a spreader, put on a spray suit, trim a tree, rake bunkers or pick up trash. I do these things willingly and without hesitation.

As for my image, the one that the GCSAA is so concerned about, I'm not going to go out and try to tell people what to think about me or the industry. I would hope that my conduct as a person and as a professional would do the talking for me.

Has the time come for an alternative association? I would appreciate your comments. You can reach me at [greenkeeperjim@annapolis.net](mailto:greenkeeperjim@annapolis.net)

**Jim Black**

**Twin Shields GC, Dunkirk, Md.**

**Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Larry Aylward at [larryward@advanstar.com](mailto:larryward@advanstar.com), fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.**

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