

# A

tree, a boulder and a piece of sod walked into the Lake Omigosh 19<sup>th</sup> Hole and Whine Bar...

**Bartender:** "Hi guys.

What'll you have?"

**Tree:** "I'd like a glass of water with a shot of soap; I need some phosphorus to pick me up.

**Bartender:** "Sorry. Can't sell any phosphorous during the summer rainy season. It might wash into the bay."

**Tree:** "Well, where does the phosphorous go now when the soap goes down the drain? The county dumps its treated water directly into the bay? I don't live near the bay and I need that phosphorus to make my roots strong so I don't blow over in a storm."

**Bartender:** "Sorry pal. That's the law. No P for plants in the growing season, and that goes for you, too, Sod Guy."

**Tree:** "OK then, just water with lemon."

**Bartender:** "No can do. Lemons are out of season and would have to be shipped from California, and due to the new climate change laws limiting emissions by trucks and planes, no more fruits or vegetables will be shipped cross-country."

**Tree:** "OK, just a glass of water."

**Bartender:** "Coming up. That's five bucks. We are facing a water shortage. We have to charge for water to discourage consumption and pay for the electricity to make the ice for your drink. You know how bad those power plants pollute. The money will be going for the construction of giant wind and solar farms nearby to power everything."

**Boulder:** "What if the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine for awhile?"

**Bartender:** "I don't know anything about that. The manager said something about having to close down from time to time for power grid priorities."

**Boulder:** "You guys aren't having it easy trying to get water to survive, but I have problems too! I used to be a mountain. Thanks to erosion, I'm now down to a boulder and my future isn't looking bright. Next I'll become a rock, then a stone and a pebble and eventually just sand

## A Tree, a Boulder and Some Sod Walk Into a Bar

BY JOEL JACKSON



IF EPA HAS ITS WAY

I CAN ONLY TAKE

A DRINK TWICE

A WEEK NO MAT-

TER WHERE I LIVE

— WASHINGTON

STATE, KANSAS

OR FLORIDA.

grains. When my sediment is runoff in a stream I'll be blamed for polluting the waterways."

**Sod:** "If EPA has its way I can only take a drink twice a week no matter where I live — Washington State, Kansas or Florida. And I have to undergo an operation to remove 40 percent of my body so that when I do drink there will be less of me needing water. Frankly, Boulder, it amazes me that people don't realize that using me along those waterways will keep your sand out of the rivers and lakes. By cutting back on the amount of grass there will be more dust in the air, and more storm runoff actually causing worse problems than before.

"Sure, every now and then I need some plant medicine to get over a disease or fight off weeds, but look how people pamper rose bushes and then they get stuck by thorns for their trouble. What did I ever do to hurt anyone? Have you seen Fido or the kids romp around in rose gardens, ground ivy beds or cordgrass clumps?"

Sorry, there's no humorous punch line to this farfetched fable. This fantasy was inspired by the U.S. EPA telling a recent delegation from the Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, while discussing NPDES and the Numeric Nutrient Criteria issues, that EPA doesn't answer to Congress.

Take action. Respond to those GCSAA Action Alert requests. Write your legislators. They might have a different opinion on EPA's attitude.

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*Certified Superintendent Joel Jackson is Executive Director of the Florida GCSA.*