

experience. What made it amazing was not that we were all successful superintendents, or we all did unique things to manage our courses or provided revelations to the people that brought us together that will change the industry. What was amazing is that ten total strangers from all across the country got together and exchanged thoughts and ideas feely and honestly like they were lifelong friends. I came away from the experience realizing one thing for sure: that there is a bond that every superintendent has, for the most part, with each other. We are almost all cut from the same cloth. No matter where or what type of club we work at, we all have similar issues we have to deal with. We can all relate to each other. I would call that a brotherhood- the brotherhood of golf course superintendents.

There are other professions that can be called brotherhoods I suppose. Any profession in which a person's life is on the line like police and firemen come to mind as a brotherhood. Certainly there is a brotherhood to our fighting forces. But for what is kind of a solitary existence growing grass and managing a crew, there sure is a lot of camaraderie when we

all get together. That's what I experienced with this group, and I made what will be lifelong friends in a few short days.

I bring this experience up to implore you to branch out if you are able. It is such a valuable thing to get together with other superintendents and exchange thoughts and ideas, or even just complain if that's what you need. They get it, they understand believe me. I also implore you to do it on a face to face basis. The brotherhood is exponentially stronger over a meal or a beer than over an electronic device. There is no substitute. Chat rooms can only take it so far. Twitter is a one and a half way street. There are plenty of opportunities locally to bond with other guys just trying to do the same job you are. Take advantage of them. With that, I hope 2014 was a solid season for you all, and we will see you in 2015 at the Northern Green Expo.

By the way- doesn't Brotherhood of Golf Course Superintendents ring truer than Golf Course Superintendents Association of America? Maybe I should contact Lawrence.....