



University of Wisconsin - Whitewater



FP&M / SHOP TALK



## The Director's Corner

The fall season is passing by quickly. It won't be long and the leaves will all be on the ground. Mowing equipment is being stored and snow clearing equipment is being made ready for action and the coming winter. As is customary, now is generally the time to check tires, antifreeze, ice scrapers, flashlight batteries and other winter protections. This is also the time of year when the basketball season is beginning and the football team is marching ahead in the postseason. Go Warhawks!

Sustainability and energy conservation at UWW continues. Preliminary information from the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration indicates that, when compared to energy use in fiscal year (FY) 2005, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has reduced energy consumption 2.2% in FY 2006, 9.8% in FY 2007, and 17% in FY 2008. The energy use reductions are measured on a per square foot basis and are weather adjusted to compensate for seasonal temperature changes.

Recently activated is a University web portal that provides sustainability information and updates on green initiatives at UWW. <http://www.uww.edu/sustainability/>

Approved for installation and repair are various steam condensate and supply piping sections on campus. Additional heating plant projects include cooling tower enhancements, a significant steam trap and lighting retrofit. Repair or replacement of these heating plant components will improve system reliability and improve energy efficiency.

Also approved for installation are window replacements at Andersen Library and General Services buildings. These window replacements will provide for better temperature retention while reducing or eliminating temperature increases by ambient light through the window glass.

Investigations, analysis and engineering studies continue for installation of a solar photo voltaic array on Hyland Hall roof south wing and additional lighting changes to LED in parking lots, on buildings and along sidewalks.

Soon, the Sustainability Council will begin work on the second UWW RecycleMania competition. As a result of last year's competition, recycling on the UWW campus has been noticeably and consistently improved. The recycling or diversion rate has increased from about 22% to about 28% or 29% on a monthly basis.

Recent and historical evidence shows that the most significant global impacts on sustainability and conservation are a result of individual attention and choice.

*Greg Swanson  
Director, FP&M*

### FP&M November Birthdays

The following employees are celebrating birthdays this month:

Mark Bellrichard  
Heather Raglin  
Ken Lindholm  
Vivian Hahn  
Bryan Bidwell  
Dave Holly  
Robin Rabe

### Quote of the Month

The economy depends about as much on economists as the weather does on weather forecasters.

*Jean-Paul Kauffmann*



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Suggested changes to the monthly newsletter format as well as electronically submitted articles are welcome. E-mail to [durank@uww.edu](mailto:durank@uww.edu)

## Landscaping & Grounds Garden Spot

Happy Turkey Month Hort-heads. Well, the season is about over, I hope your gardens and landscapes were the envy of your neighborhoods. I also hope someone out there envied our neighborhood as well.

As you are all hopefully aware by now, there is not a whole lot to do in November except maybe raking leaves, some watering and cleaning out some junk so you can make room for more junk. You all know the drill. Here at FP&M we are also clearing out summer junk for winter junk. I guess you could say that we are junkies. I suppose I should mention that even though junk is being swapped around, we are still trying to enhance our campus green spaces. Any day now we should receive 1000 tulip bulbs that will be planted on the south side of the CA. It will be downright hallucinogenic! We are also waiting for the delivery of 1,000 spring blooming crocus and 1,000 more tulip bulbs for the Visitor's Center. It will be simply mind altering next spring.

In a space south of Hyland we are building a native stone wall. We are constructing the wall because after construction we inherited a hill that is virtually un-mowable. Next year we will plant junk above it and again, it will alter your minds. Some of you are probably aware that the Harry Tarpley Memorial Greenhouse has been completed and is functioning. We raised over 3,000 native grasses that have been planted around campus this fall. We are replacing high maintenance foreign junk with low maintenance native junk. Like I said, we are junkies.

What else is going on? We will be fertilizing (winterizing) all the new sod installed at Hyland. We would generally not do this because of budget constraints but the sod, in our opinion, was an inferior sod loaded with annual weeds. We need to make sure that next spring the grass is thick and lush so creepy little annual weed seeds cannot germinate and compete for light and nutrients. Another grass related item is the tilled crop circles near the Observatory/Log Cabin area. We will be seeding our native Little Blue Stem grass in these areas. No mow, no fuel, no carbon into the atmosphere. We call it a sustainable win-win.

Speaking of sustainable, I recently made some recommendations that addressed the impending Emerald Ash Borer invasion to our area. If it is not here already, it will be. First of all, there are 308 ash trees on the campus proper. Do we remove all of our ash trees and replant other species? Do we treat all of our ash trees every year forever? Do we pick out say, 100 to 150 desirable ash specimens, remove the rest and replace in kind? At this time it looks like we will treat half yearly and slowly remove the other half and replace. Unfortunately, in this day and age of sensible sustainability, does saving any ash tree make sense? Do we spend thousands of dollars every year forever to save these trees or do we practice sustainability which would require removal and replacement? Let me know what you think.

What else is going on around here? Recently a question was posed to me: Steve, what can we do to provide a wow effect on the mall between Hyland and the UC? My answer was a question; will it require attention from our staff? You know the answer, of course! Well, believe it or not, sometimes you have to weigh your staff's ability to add more when you're working with less. We are close to the saturation point. So how can we wow people with a landscape truly low in maintenance needs? Stay tuned! We are working on it. Other items that we are working on this fall will be the seeding of two acres of Prairie with the Hoffman family, finding a location for the Neil Sawyer Sustainable Prairie Garden, picking up obscene amounts of litter, chopping and sweeping leaves, mulching the new garden at Winther, putting the roses to bed and so on and so on. Another item we will be preparing for will be snow removal at the football field. Go Purple Martins! I'm sorry but Warhawks to me implies violence and we don't have Warhawks nesting on campus—we do have Purple Martins. As long as I am digging myself into a hole, let me convey my sorrow to my buddy Rush Limbaugh-ha ha! No NFL for you! Again, ha ha! Ah, that felt good.

I want to end my November Garden Spot and my final Garden Spot by saying thank you for putting up with me for these past years. I hope you all learned something about horticulture and, in so doing, now realize what we do for you and this campus. So I leave you with my nose to the wind and my eyes on the horizon. It has been fun.

Shout out time, I want to convey my condolences to the family of our dear colleague Michael Bartos who just recently passed on. I also want to express my gratitude to my friend Bill Wajerski for being a good friend for many years; we'll see you and Mike sometime later.

*-Steve Bertagnoli,  
Buildings/Grounds Supervisor*