

# President's MESSAGE

## Learning a Lesson the Hard Way

I want to preface this message by noting that it was written on April 14, 2008, and that maybe a better title for this message should be "Josh's Therapy Corner."



Just when I thought it was finally over, April 12th punched me square in the gut with snow covered everything. I thought, "This state is a cruel guardian that does not love me and is trying to get me to move out. I'm clearly not welcome here anymore!" For the past couple of months I had set goals for myself:

1. Just get to March
2. Just get to April
3. Just don't lose your mind

I've come to the realization that the one thing this winter was good for, besides helping me hone my plowing skills, was to help me appreciate everything that spring/summer has to offer. I can honestly say that I have never looked forward to an Arbor Day more than I have this year, and I

have never had this many schools request Arbor Day projects. I can't wait to share my passion for trees with the several classes that are going to take part in Arbor Day activities. It seems as if everyone is eager to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather.

Now to the motivational portion of this message. I want to challenge everyone to take advantage of the enthusiasm brought on by the warmer weather. Take this opportunity to promote the benefits of trees and our profession. Arbor Day is a great chance to reach out to our communities, but also strive to recognize the numerous opportunities to promote arboriculture that occur throughout the year. Personally, I'm going to try and remember how it feels to finally emerge from a record-setting winter, and let that drive my enthusiasm until next spring.

Wait a minute! Could Wisconsin not be as bad as I thought? Maybe it's just a concerned parent trying to teach me a life lesson, and I've been the teenager thinking that it will never understand me. I feel better already!

Josh DePouw,  
*WAA President*