



THE FOUR SEASONS TIMES

FSL

WINDSOR, CT

860.688.7130

www.fourseasonsland.com

Spring 2010

Newsletter

Mission Statement

Four Seasons "MAKES IT HAPPEN" as a result of being persistent and consistent to create and offer services that contribute to a more pleasant, trouble-free way of life to benefit our clients, staff, and our community.

Inside this Issue

- 1 **SERVICE:** Earth Day 2010
- 2 **TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**
Tate Wells
- 2 **PROJECT:** Adkins Group
- 3 **COMPANY PROFILE:** KAZ
Equipment/Joe Kazimir
- 3 **TIPS:** Spring Garden Prep.
- 4 **DINNER ON US Contest**

**"Remember that
time is Money"**

Ben Franklin

Bob

Transitioning into Spring

Spring is upon us, and while that is welcome news to most of our readers, it is a huge "project" for us to transition from winter to spring. All of our winter equipment must be maintained and prepared for storage, and it all must take place while our teams are working - on spring projects! Needless to say, our equipment team is always working extra hard during these transitions, and to them we give a huge **shout out** for a job well done.

*By Bob St. Jacques,
C.S.P., C.L.P.
President-Four Seasons*

Speaking of well done, have you started your backyard grill for the season yet? Just a reminder that your grill is one of many items that you should take the time to do "seasonal prep" work to ensure it is in tip-top shape. We give you ideas for garden prep and spring planting tips and tricks in this month's edition, so be sure to take a look. It's worthwhile information that might make the difference between a mediocre garden and one that truly "shines". It also might be helpful in making sure that steak is cooked evenly this spring!

Being of service to others is something that we try to focus on here at FSL, both as a business and personally. This month we are featuring our efforts on Earth Day 2010, which coincidentally is also the "Planet Day of Service". Read about it, and remember: pay it forward! Happy Spring to all of our readers, and as always, please contact us with any questions or concerns that you might have (and don't forget our "Emergency" phone for those unexpected issues: 860.250.2960)

Earth Day 2010: A Day of Service

Windsor's "Riverwalk" Parking Lot: A FSL Service Project

April 22nd marks the date that Four Seasons will be participating in the Earth Day/PLANET Day of Service. Again this year we will be working with the Town of Windsor, this time at their River (Windsor Center) Trail Parking Lot.

FSL will be supplying and installing plantings, mulch and weed fabric, and we will also be clearing and cleaning the woods line of the parking area. This project was selected and organized by Windsor's environmental planner, Cyd Groff.

On April 23rd FSL will also be helping with the annual town wide cleanup, which we have done for many years. Four Seasons also plans on combining the work we have performed for "First Town Down Town" for the many years

of maintaining, mulching and cleanup of the "Town Gateway" Railroad Bridge area on Route 159. We plan on contacting local suppliers to help with donations for this project.

By participating in the PLANET Day of Service, industry professionals throughout the nation will unite to demonstrate their environmental stewardship by giving back to their communities. By participating, we hope to:

- Demonstrate goodwill and environmental stewardship.
- Spearhead town-wide community service.
- Foster teamwork among our comrades.
- Show our commitment to a great cause.
- Revitalize the places that we live, work, and play.

For more information go to: www.planetdayofservice.org



Team Member Spotlight: Tate Wells

Snowmobiles. Boats. Power equipment. What do all of these have in common? They are all machines that FSL's **Tate Welles** loves to drive. Of course, living on a lake allows Tate to use two of these (boats and snowmobiles) with great frequency. Add in the use of power equipment at FSL nearly everyday, and you can see that Tate gets to use some pretty cool stuff—a lot!



FSL's Tate Welles

As a member of the FSL team for over three years, Tate has become accustomed to driving power equipment on a regular basis—and much, much more. He is also the snow operations manager for FSL at the University of Hartford, where he oversees all of the snow removal activities (and gets to drive some cool stuff there, too!). And if that isn't

enough variety, he also gets to handle a large percentage of the FSL drainage/catch basin and blacktop projects throughout the construction season, making him a self-proclaimed “lover” of parking lots and drainage ditches!

Living on Congamond Lake in West Suffield is nice, according to Tate, but

being close to his extended family is even better. “Family is important”, he says, “having them nearby is a good thing. Plus, the neighborhood is quiet, and there are lots of kids”. Tate lives with his wife of one year and his two children.

Tate's interest in power equipment didn't just start when he came to FSL. His prior position was with Poolman pools doing—you guessed it—grading, backhoe and other “dirt” related activities.

Tate's other jobs at FSL are quite varied. “I'll do anything”, he says. “I just appreciate the opportunity that Bob gave me, and I want to do whatever I can to help the company”. That includes pretty much anything, and if it includes a little bit of power equipment driving, then Tate's day is smooth and even—like those parking lots he works on!

FSL Does Work for the Adkins Group At William B. Meyer Co. in Windsor

When moving and records management company William B. Meyer needed to expand their presence in the Hartford area, they contacted the Adkins Group for their building expertise—and for the top quality work that they do.

The Adkins Group does work in a variety of areas, including retail, industrial, and office projects, and in this case, the construction of a new, 128,000 square foot warehouse for longtime Connecticut success story William B. Meyer Co. While based out of state, Adkins' in-state list of successful projects is an impressive one, including such buildings locally as the Liberty Business Park I and II in Bloomfield (100,000 sq ft each), the Pratt & Whitney/Wood Group building (100,000 sq ft), and the xpedx building and offices in Middletown (85,000 sq ft).

As part of the process, when The Adkins Group needed a landscape construction and management firm



Installing Trees at Wm. B. Meyer

to execute the deliverables to their client (Wm. B. Meyer), they chose Four Seasons team. According to Bob St. Jacques, FSL President, it was a great project. “They (Adkins) were super to work for, and it was the

type of project that is right up our alley. Plus, it's practically in our backyard. We really appreciate the opportunity”.

This project was successfully headed by FSL's Site Foreman Ed Bedard, who also did all of the coordinating with Adkins Group. The project, which could eventually include another 150,000 sq ft building for Wm B. Meyer, was pretty extensive, with some pretty awesome statistics:

- 43 Shade Trees
- 31 Flowering Trees
- 32 Evergreens
- 144 Shrubs
- 173 Wetlands Shrubs
- 1,940 Ground Cover
- 10,000 Square Feet of Wildflowers
- 25,500 Sq Ft of “Low Mow”
- 45,000 Sq Ft Detention Pond; and the topper: 75,000 square feet of fine lawn, seeded.

TIPS & TRICKS: Prepare Your Outdoors For Spring & Summer

While beautiful weather may lure you to start your gardening, early season preparation and planning will lead to much greater returns later in the season. We have prepared a series of tips to ensure your garden/lawn is in top shape throughout the season:

- ☑ Get a Soil PH Test. Go to www.fourseasonsland.com and download the soil submission form, or call 860.683.4977(Exp Station phone number)
- ☑ Trim the Trees and Limbs. Hire an arborist and remove the overhanging tree limbs and dead wood.
- ☑ Clean birdbaths and feeders. (really!)
- ☑ Check for signs of growth. Did you remember to plant snow crocus last fall? If not, cut forsythia or magnolia branches to bring inside for forcing.
- ☑ Prep the beds. Remove winter mulch or, if well composted, work into the top layer of the soil. Work

in some leaf mold or well-rooted manure, too.

- ☑ Prune Fruit Trees. Now is the time to trim fruit trees if you didn't prune in winter. Prune before buds begin to break into bloom or you'll stress the tree and get a tiny crop (or possibly none).
- ☑ Perform basic maintenance. Check stonework for frost heaves. Check and clean the deck now so you don't have to do it later; make any repairs.
- ☑ Plant veggies. Hardy vegetables, such as onions, potatoes, artichokes, and some lettuces, should be planted now.
- ☑ Divide perennials. Before plants have begun spring growth is a good time to divide many perennials. Share some divisions with your friends this year.
- ☑ Build new beds. Every gardener needs more beds. This year, put in a flowering shrub bed supplemented with perennials and

annuals.

- ☑ Stop feeding the birds. Take down and clean feeders, put them away until fall.
- ☑ Enjoy the spring show. Resolve to plant more spring-flowering bulbs next fall.
- ☑ Plant hardy annuals. Sow seeds outdoors or transplant seedlings.
- ☑ Apply mulch and more mulch. If you mulch now, you'll have next to no weeding come summer.

Late Spring:

- ☑ Deadhead bulbs. Remove spent blossoms from spring-flowering bulbs; let foliage die back without removing it.
- ☑ Go shopping. Pick out flats of your favorite bedding plants; remember to pick ones not yet in bloom for stronger plants.
- ☑ Prune spring-flowering shrubs. Trim away spent blooms, and thin too-thick branches to rejuvenate older plants.

Sources: Internal, BHG

“Old Fashioned Customer Service” : KAZ Equipment’s Joe Kazimir

If you ask Joe Kazimir (“Joe Kaz” to those who know him) what he enjoys most about running his own business, the answer is clear and unmistakable: working closely with his customers.

“My partner (Eric Olivieri) and I like to think of it as “old fashioned customer service” says Joe. “It may sound corny, but we do make our customers our friends”. Joe and Eric also ensure that their customers have a “short road to the top”, meaning that they are both reachable, essentially, at anytime. “During some snow storms, our phones are on 24/7”, say Joe. It’s that “reach ability” that has helped KAZ grow each year. But just as important, he and Eric “love what we do”. And that comes through loud and clear, as well.

The birth of KAZ equipment started just about four years ago, after Joe decided to leave a local heavy equipment dealer. Having dealt with that type of equipment, he and his partner Eric became the licensed dealer for Takeuchi for this area. The results have been exactly what they had hoped for. “Business is booming”, says Joe, but he is quick to add that they would rather keep their company to the point where he and Eric can continue



KAZ Equipment's Joe Kazimir

their personal service, and not lose touch with their customers. “I’d rather be smaller and know what’s going on”, he says. KAZ Equipment is located at 187 Satellite Road in South Windsor, although Joe also points out that they sell and service a very wide area.

One of the items that KAZ sells and services is the Ventrac, a versatile machine that Four Seasons uses quite extensively throughout the company. (KAZ also is a Snow Contractor for FSL). The Ventrac’s have a wide variety of attachments that allow it to handle tasks of every shape and size—which is why it’s so popular.

Also popular at KAZ is their used equipment, which, Joe says, sells quite well, an area that they’ve seen grow each year.

Joe and Bob St. Jacques, FSL President, have known each other for a long time. Says Joe: “you couldn’t meet a better person—both from a business perspective and a personal one.” Although Joe and Bob share some hobbies (motocross, as an example), they share a similar business philosophy as well: treating your customers with great customer service never grows old.

To reach Joe or KAZ Equipment, call 860.761.0381.



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FOUR SEASONS
LANDSCAPING INC.



How about a \$100 Dinner on Us?

Know the Answer?

Hint: Look inside this issue! Save and Win!

1. How many square feet of fine seed lawn did FSL install at the new Wm. B. Meyer warehouse in Windsor?
2. What is the first tip we suggest for "Spring Preparation"?

Congratulations to our previous winners, Michelle Bossie of Colvest Group, and Jonathan Sygrove of Newfield Construction.

Fax your answers to: 860.688.3856, and we'll select one winner (at random) from the correct answers. Winner receives a \$100 gift certificate.

Did You Know¹...

In honor of Earth Day, here are some Earth Facts:

1. The Earth is approx. 92 million miles from the Sun.
2. The Earth's radius is 3,963 miles.
3. Most of the Earth's atmosphere is called "troposphere", from surface to 9 miles.
4. The "hydrosphere" is a discontinuous layer of water at the Earth's surface.
5. The Moon is 238,900 miles from Earth.
6. Copernicus was the bright guy (get it?) that figured out that the Earth revolves around the Sun (1 full year) and that it spins on it's own axis (1 full day).

1. Source: Encyclopedia Britannica.

Coming in our Next Newsletter:

- **Earth Day 2010 Highlights**
- **FSL: Celebrates 30 Years!**
- **University of Hartford Project**