



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Wow! What a crazy run of weather we have had. I can't ever remember a spring like this here or out east. The only thing that seems to be even close to normal have been the last two or three days! Everyone has opened early. Courses are in great shape. I don't know about you, but I have done more hand watering in April than ever. For those in the semi-private and daily fee facilities this has to be a great start to the season from a revenue standpoint! A great start for everyone from the turf side.

The only down side to this is by the time we get to Memorial Day in May, we are going to feel like it is July 4! That said, please take a minute and let that sink in. I have always said that Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average. When will this shoe drop? This spring, this summer or are we in for an early fall and winter? That answer I do not know. I do know we all work crazy hours through the meat of the golf season and our season is going to be at least a month longer this year. I hope, and encourage all of you to make plans now for an extra extended weekend or a few mornings off to catch up on the important things in your life.....family and sleep! Family is important and can easily take a back seat in years like this. I have a young family and I am currently trying to get something on paper to be sure I take that needed time!

I currently accepted a call to sit on the GCSAA Government Relations Committee. The committee is chaired by John O'Keefe, CGCS and co-chaired by Rafael Barajas, CGCS. I have to say I was a bit flattered and honored when I got

the call. Fortunately, my new owner, Dave Meyer and my GM, Jim Kidd, are very supportive of this.

I will be representing MGCSA and GCSAA April 16 – 18 in Washington DC. There is a busy slate of meetings on and around Capitol Hill. We meet with Representative Sam Graves (R-MO-6th) to introduce the GCSAA, We are Golf (WAG) and National Golf Day. We will be discussing the impact of the H-2B Visa program, NPDES, disaster tax relief for golf courses to name a few topics. I will have the opportunity to meet individually with the Minnesota State Representatives in face-to-face meetings. I am currently working with The MGCSAA GR Committee Chair E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS and our executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS for some talking points on issues that affect us locally. I will also have the opportunity to meet with our DC Lobbyists at the Reed Smith's offices. Other topics that will be discussed include, but are not limited to: The Americans with Disabilities Act, fertilizers, labor and immigration, Pesticide laws and regulations, the value of golf and water management.

I must say this is going to be very worthwhile and educational trip. I am excited to be representing our great association at the national committee level and to be representing all GCSAA Members on Capitol Hill. Stay tuned for the update in my next column.

Once again, all the best for a successful 2012!

Respectfully,
Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm Golf Course