



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Welcome to August. I hope everyone is relaxing a bit in the cooler temperatures. I actually had to keep a jacket on all day Last

Wednesday. That was a nice change! I am also a fan of the nighttime temperatures dipping into the 50's! It won't be long before College Football starts and shortly after that the real therapy sessions start.... hanging in a tree with a bow waiting for Bullwinkle to stroll by. Oh yeah, I just love the solitude and din of the woods. Gives you a chance to reflect on all the good and bad from the previous season.

I hope everyone has had a chance to check out the new MGCSA.org. I think it is a wonderful and much needed upgrade! Thanks to Jack MacKenzie, Bob Porter and all the others involved in developing the new site. Well done! As additional modules are added it will only get better and better.

On the GCSAA front things seem to be progressing well with the farm bill and the efforts to reduce further regulations on us as end users of chemicals and fertilizers. New on the lobbying front is the U.S. Agricultural Sector Relief Act of 2012 (H.R. 6194). This will allow agriculture, golf courses included, to be able to use Methyl Bromide for "critical uses". As we know, MeBr is a great soil fumigant that has many applications in golf and agriculture.

The Government Relations Committee has decided to focus on water use and conservation for its sessions at the GIS in San Diego this coming winter. One session will be an "Answers on the Hour" on the show floor Thursday at 12:00.

Another will be at the Environmental Programs Session on Wednesday afternoon. The topic will be "Politics of Water. Golf Industry Involvement Leads

to Practical Public Policy." The focus will be on case studies in regulator/superintendent collaborations to keep us ahead of and less regulated as restrictions on water use get tighter.

The final piece will be "Got Water? Water Availability, Reductions and Efficiency in the Golf Industry." Panel members will discuss issues including overall water availability, potential restrictions and technical advances in irrigation equipment that will lead to more efficient water use. This will be held at the Government Relations Session on Tuesday afternoon.

I would like to share a new twist to an old process we started this season at Windsong. It is no secret, no one likes the aerification process. In the past we have typically aerified twice per season: ¼ inch tines in the spring and ½ to 5/8 inch in the fall. Basically the course was out of play for 3 weeks depending on recovery. This year we moved everything to a once per season aerification in the first week of August. Yes, August. Why August? Simple, the first week is always slow here. I have my staff at full capacity. The days are long. There is no frost. Soil temps are high and recovery is fast. Need to be aware of how quickly things can dry out with holes poked in them, however. Tees and approaches were done with ½ inch hollows. Fairways were done with 5/8 inch hollows. Tees were done the first time with ½ hollow tines then AGAIN at a slight angle with ¼ inch tines. We completed the entire course in 4 days. Obviously, this just happened. I do not see any issues at this time. I feel we will recover in the same amount of time if we only did greens once. Jury is still out, but I am confident this will work out just fine.

Our Independence Day, August 15, is right around the corner! Enjoy the cooler temps and try to find some time to do the things that have gotten away from you in, yet another, difficult Minnesota golf season.