



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines

I would like to start by saying thank you to all for the support as I enter the position of MGCSA President. I

can assure you this is quite an honor, in my opinion. The last several years as a Board member have been quite an education. The daily operations of the Association aside, the passion that the Board members, past and present, serve with is remarkable! I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have or are serving this great association.

I would also like to thank everyone who gave me support, encouragement, well wishes and a pat on the back during the short period of unemployment as Windsong locked the doors in early December. Believe me, there were several anxious weeks there. In fact, I considered withdrawing my name from consideration as MGCSA President. I felt taking that roll while not being gainfully employed within the association would be a mistake. The Board and several past presidents encouraged me to follow through on becoming President. With that echoing in my head I decided to remain on the ballot. As it turns out, shortly after that Windsong has a new owner, I get re-hired in my former position and it seems things hardly skipped a beat. If someone knew something a heads up would have been nice!

I have been working in the golf course maintenance field for almost 30 years now. Serving on the Board or any committee is a small way for me to give something back to the industry that has been so very good to me. I would encourage all to entertain the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I am proud and humbled to be in the position I am right now.

The MGCSA is entering a new and exciting day with the hiring of a true Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. Jack will serve us well as the industry sees more regulation and scrutiny. His presence at the Capitol on our behalf will be invaluable as we move forward. Jack's outgoing personality will be an asset as well as we try to grow our association in membership and member services. He is currently working on a new and much improved MGCSA website, BMP's, learning accounting and all else that goes along with running the daily operations of our association. I am looking forward to working with Jack as we enter a new day for the MGCSA.

In closing I would really like to mention my wife, Kristin. The last two months was as bumpy a road as I have ever been down. Unemployed with a 2 year old and a 6 month old was quite an anxious time. I cannot put in words how much her support and love helped me weather that storm, as short as it was. I believe we are stronger for having gone through this turmoil. My point here is we have very difficult jobs. Very rewarding jobs, but difficult. On many occasions we don't get to spend the time with our families during the golf season. I had three weeks of being a "stay-at-home dad". The three short weeks with my kids will be forever in my daily thoughts. I enjoyed every minute of it! As we enter the 2012 season take a few minutes to reflect on your life, family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues. We as golf course superintendents are a very lucky bunch to have the support of these people. Never in my life has this been as clear as it is today!

Best wishes in the coming year-

Scottie Hines, CGCS