



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Wow! Can you believe it is just past July 4, Independence Day? I hope everyone had a great holiday with family and loved ones. Seems like it should be closer to Labor Day, doesn't it?

Based on the last 10 days, summer is definitely here! If we don't see any more of that weather this year, that would be fine with me. At least that last stretch was a bit drier than the similar run we had last summer. I find when we get into periods of weather like that it is as important to manage the health, physical and mental, of your key staffers as it is turf health. Long days in that heat dragging a hose is not much fun. Better than shoveling up washed out bunkers, but still not fun at all. Making sure people are getting enough water, rest and food is a real juggling act at times. I still manage to run myself into the ground during these times even though I know I have a great staff around me. I don't know if I will ever learn!

From the GCSAA side of things there is some good news to report on the NPDES legislation. Currently, H.R. 872 has been included in the House Farm Bill Draft Proposal. This would eliminate the need for the NPDES General Permit, etc. to spray on, in and around waters of the US. However, the other side of the aisle let this same legislation drop from the Farm Bill Proposal. I strongly feel more legislation, more fines, more paper-work, more...anything is not the answer. Responsible use of any

product and further education are. As golf course superintendents I believe we are the best educated and most responsible users of any end product.

The GCSAA will be coming out with more "Action Alerts". I strongly encourage everyone to do their part and be heard. Contact your elected officials locally and federally. Be a voice, be an advocate of our professionalism. Our law and policy makers want us to be involved. Please take the time and respond to these "Action Alerts" from GCSAA. If you really feel passionate about some of these issues, be pro-active and contact these people on your own. We are a big industry of small businesses and we are significant contributors to our local economies. We matter and we count for more than just great golf conditions!

One final note: As I see it, we are about 5 weeks from safety. Why? I look to August 15th as the day that if I haven't killed it, I can't. At that point we are losing 3-4 minutes of daylight per day. Yes, it can get hot, but it will not stay hot for long. The sun angle is lower which takes a little stress off things. Disease pressures are lower. We have aerified or are near aerification time. The mornings start getting "crisper". The mist starts to come off the ponds again in the mornings. August 15th, my Independence Day!

2012 seems to be the year of managing extremes. Despite the heat, humidity and all that goes with it find some time for family and loved ones. We are almost there....