



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Well folks, here we are, half way through August. Where does the time go? Seems like we had snow on the ground last month! Mother Nature sure is funny. As I have said in the past: Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average. I am sure there are very few of you out there who can complain about the last 4 weeks of early September weather. I know it was a nice break for my staff.

Speaking of mid-August, my mantra has always been: If grass isn't dead by August 15, you almost have to try to kill it. The nights are cool. The days are noticeably shorter. The sun angle is getting less intense. Yes, we might have a few more days that bump the 90's but it won't last long. We have all the other factors working in our favor as well.

I know many of you are gearing up to start the aerification process. Fortunately, we are done with that process here at Windsong. All fine turf areas were punched the first full week of August. I wish everyone the best in getting it all done, hoping equipment and weather cooperate. It is a grueling week or so to get it all done but we cannot ignore the long-term benefits of aerification.

I wish there was some interesting and enlightening bit of information to disseminate to you but there really isn't much. We are at a stalemate with the DNR on presenting the BMP's for water for their input. They have been slow in replacing/promoting/hiring a new liaison to assist us with finalizing and presenting the BMP's. I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that water use and conservation is squarely on the radar screen of the DNR and other state agencies. Just because we dodged the usage fees skyrocketing this year does not mean we are off the hook. When we do get the feedback and acceptance of the water BMP's manuals it is essential that we have a 100% buy in by all courses, superintendents, owners and anyone else involved at our facilities.

There is not much on the national level. NPDES fix and Immigration reform legislation are in limbo on Capitol Hill. Kevin Clunis, CGCS has agreed to, again, be the MGCSA Voting Delegate. Thank you Kevin for that continued service. The delegate's meeting is scheduled for early October. Stay tuned for an update from that meeting at GCSAA Headquarters.

School is about to start and I hope everyone finds that little bit of time to spend with family before the new school year begins. I know I have been busier than ever, that is a good thing, but I have not been able to find the balance I need with family this year. I hope you have done better than I. I have to say, however, it's a great thing to have a wife that is in the golf business and understands what we go through. Thank you Kristin.

Best of luck as we enter, in my opinion, the best time of the golf season....autumn!