



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Well, here we are just past Memorial Day and if you are like me, it seems more like July

than June! The season started early and the weather has been a bit crazy. This makes it all just a little more fun!

I wish I had some exciting news to fill you in with. Unfortunately there really has not been much going on. Work continues on the website. I think everyone will be very impressed with it when it launches. The digital Hole Notes seems to be well read. The “hit” numbers have been exceptional and it is great to be able to track how many times it has been opened. This will help selling advertising and it will give us a barometer for how we as an association are doing.

In the past week or so there have been some e-mails sent out on legislative causes that need to be addressed:

****GCSAA needs your chapter members’ help in reaching out to the members of the House Agriculture Committee to ensure that H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011, is included in the House Farm Bill and final 2012 Farm Bill.**

****The House of Representatives**

Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee will be taking up HR 4965 on Thursday that would prohibit the US Environmental Protection Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing the “Final Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act.”

More and more of these “Action Alerts” will be coming across your desk. Please take the time to contact your representatives and lobby to have these issues addressed in our favor. They are important to all of us!

Having just been to Washington DC with the GCSAA Government Relations Committee and meeting with staff members in several Representative and Congressmen/women’s offices, I can attest they care about us. They want us to be vocal about our issues. The louder we speak, the more attention these issues will get. The more attention they get the more likely we will get things swayed into our favor. We need to be loud and unified.

I know this is a very busy time of year for everyone. It is the time of year for invitationals, club championships, graduations, crazy weather, etc., etc. I urge everyone to take the time and contact your officials on any and all issues that affect us. These messages can be positive or negative. The key is to be heard! Together we are a big voice.