



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Well, here we are, September 2012. To me this seems like one extremely long year....I know, it isn't over yet! I guess it was a long year as most of us were open 3-4 weeks early!

I have always loved autumn in the golf world. Any turf pressure from drought or heat is minimal. Disease pressure is low, although it always seems we have a late season outbreak of dollar spot. I think the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October are the best golfing weeks of the year! Warm enough but cool enough. No humidity, course conditions are usually spectacular. Does it get any better?

It is also a time for my "therapy" sessions with Mother Nature. She kicks me in the shins all summer long but there is something to be said about watching the sunrise over the misty water as a 6-pack of woodies swoop in on your decoys. Or the damn red squirrel that keeps chattering at you as the sun sets while sitting in your tree stand waiting for that adrenalin rush when the "big one" steps into range. I welcome those sessions with or without the woodies and the big one. Helps me remember just how lucky we are to do what we do.

Yesterday was September 11. The 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9-11 terror attacks. I hope everyone took a moment and said a good word for all those affected by that tragic day. I could see Manhattan from #4 Upper green at

Baltusrol. That day is forever marked in my mind.

Hopefully everyone is getting comfortable with the new website as I think it is great and will just get better over time. I also hope the digital Hole Notes is being better accepted. Initially I thought not having the hard copy in my hands would take a little away from the reading experience. It hasn't, in fact, I read it in a more timely fashion.

There have been some major changes to the GIS this year. The biggest change is the length of the show. It is all compressed neatly into one week. I think this is a great change with shrinking budgets and a lot of guys are reluctant to be away for that long. I am interested to see how the attendance numbers pan out.

I hope some of you will consider playing in the National Championship/Golf Classic now that the schedule is shortened. I truly feel that tournament is one big education event. You have the opportunity to play with up to 9 different superintendents from around this country for about 15 total hours. I should have asked Jeff Pint to throw in a few words as last year was his first experience playing. He would agree that the golf tournament part of the show is indeed an educational focus group.....you just get to play golf during the talks!

Enjoy the cooler temperatures. Take some extra time for family and friends. Get all you can out of your "therapy sessions". See you next month at the Wee One and Fall Mixer!