



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Welcome to summer! Wow this last week has just been a scorcher! Heat advisories almost all week. This should set us up for another bout of severe storms yet again? I know I chatted with a few local superintendents after last weekend's Biblical rain.

Windsong took four inches of rain in just three short hours. Many others had more than that. I hope everyone survived with little issue. Trying to finish a landscape project here has not been fun.

How about the mosquitoes and gnats? I have never used as much bug spray as I have this year. They are absolutely atrocious. Have you ever seen them this aggressive? There are spots here that if you stop it is a matter of seconds before you are covered with hundreds of bugs. I saw a news report that stated the mosquito population was up 300%. Don't you wish our salaries reflected that kind of raise for working in hazardous conditions?

For a year that started late and was fairly tame early, it has become an exercise in managing heat, rain, more heat, more rain, mosquitoes, gnats, staff health and attitude and family life. It suddenly feels like it should be late July! The only thing I have seen to make it a bit less stressful is we have had little to no disease issues. As I have said for years...Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average.

Other than the weather and insect issues, not much has changed from the last message. That said, there was a very interesting GCSAA Government Relations Update Webinar yesterday. It updated much of the issues I have been commenting on as the year has progressed. The key topics were the Farm Bill and Immigration Reform. Both sides have passed their version of the Farm Bill. The NPDES fix is included on one side and absent from the other. Only time will tell where it will land. Immigration Reform was another big topic. Once again, that looks as if it will stall and leave us in the same boat we are currently in.

I wish everyone the best as we trudge through this heat wave. Stretches like these are a grind on everyone. Superintendents, assistants, interns and families are all affected by these weather episodes. Make sure your staff is getting the needed rest to keep them as sharp as possible. A staff that is healthy and sharp makes managing this weather much easier than if they are burned out, unhappy and snippy with each other. Take the time with family as well. It is hard to come home after 12-14 hours in this heat and be a fun dad or mom but it is important to make the effort at the very least.