



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Welcome to June? Or is it April? Temperatures have been below average, disease pressure has been low and we can't seem to string more than a couple days together without rain. Sounds like a fairly easy year so far, doesn't it? Why does it seem that the stress levels are off the charts this year? Those who had damage from the winter are trying to recover. Others are dealing with flooding and just trying to keep up with the mowing. I guess when you deal with Mother Nature on a daily basis, you never know what you are going to get! I have always said it and I firmly believe it, Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average! Anyone for a Thanksgiving Day round of golf.....in shorts?

Things have been fairly quiet on the GCSAA front. Obviously there has been a call to action with the NPDES legislation and immigration issues. I am not sure if anyone knows how all those chips will fall. I would like to remind everyone that it is very important to act on these issues when we are called upon locally or nationally. Sure, the immigration issue, for example, might not affect us directly here in Minnesota. We are being called upon to act as an INDUSTRY not as an individual. Having been on Capitol Hill the last two years for National Golf Day as a representative of GCSAA, MGCSA and the We Are Golf Coalition I can assure you our voice is being heard and it is important.

Locally we are in a holding pattern with the Environmental Stewardship Committee for a number of reasons. The main reason being the DNR is in the process of filling positions that will be the people we will have to deal with directly to move the program forward. Tough to do what we need with virtually no guidance from the agency that has the most relevance. On a lesser note, it is summer, golf season, and everyone is dealing with the day-to-day struggles of running a course. This by no means says we are giving up on the program, just slightly delayed.

Hard to believe we are on the down hill slide. June 21 is the longest day of the year. The days will be getting shorter from here to the end. I hope with all the stress involved with this season everyone is taking some time to do the things they like and spend some much needed time with family. Have some relief in the fact that if we keep having this many rain days we will get time with our families. Those days may likely be inside, but time with family is time well spent.