



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS

Here we are at the end of May. I feel like the season has just started and I cannot believe how far behind I seem to be. How does this happen so fast? We just can't seem to catch a break with the weather. If it isn't raining sideways, it's 90 and blowing. If it isn't 90 and blowing, it's 63 and ugly out. It really seems we are trending to have a year of extremes. Not exactly what we need as many of us are trying to get some recovery of fine turf and just get caught up. I am anxious to see what all this does to the drought monitor.

It is times like this it is easy to forget about the important things in life. I do not know who wrote the following or if it really happened. I have it printed and look at it from time to time to remind myself of the important stuff. Enjoy:

*A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.*

*He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.*

*The professor then picked up a box of pebbles, poured them into the jar and shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.*

*He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.*

*The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.*

*He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'*

*The professor then produced two bottles of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand.*

*The students laughed.*

*'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.'*

*The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions - and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.*

*The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.*

*The sand is everything else - the small stuff.*

*'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.'*

*The same goes for life.*

*If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.*

*Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.*

*Spend time with your children.*

*Spend time with your parents.*

*Take your partner out to dinner.*

*Play another 18 holes of golf.*

*There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.*

*Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter.*

*Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.*

*One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beers represented.*

*The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked.'*

*The beers just show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend.*

I think that about sums it up. In fact, I think I will put a mayonnaise jar filled with golf balls on my desk, maybe on the book shelf at home to keep me a bit more grounded when I feel like I do right now.

Best of luck in 2013