



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President for, arguably, the best group of superintendents, assistants and affiliates in the country. The past two years have been more fun, stress and work than I could have expected. Looking back, I am not sure where two years have gone? I do, however, subscribe to old adage: “Time flies when you are having fun!” So I will move forward knowing that the last two years have been fun!

We, the MGCSA, have made significant changes during my tenure as President. We made a change by hiring a true Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. We have made changes internally with the committee structure. We initiated the Environmental Stewardship Committee to spear head the completion and implementation of BMP’s in respect to water quality, water quantity, nutrient fate and pesticide fate. We have engaged our allied associations; MGA, Minnesota Section of the PGA,

Minnesota Chapter CMAA and the Mid-West GCOA to partner with us in our regulatory efforts. Our relationships with state agencies: DNR, PCA, BWSR, Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota have never been stronger. We have positioned ourselves as educated turf professionals with these associations and state agencies. I feel strongly that this will pay us big dividends as we partner with these people to self-regulate.

I know you have heard it in the past from me, but I would like to stress how important it is to give back to our great industry. Volunteering at the committee level, attending educational offerings, supporting research, sitting on the Board of Directors are just a few of the ways to accomplish this. It is important to understand that it is up to us to carry our torch, tell our story and advocate for what we see as beneficial to ourselves and our profession. No one else will do this for us. Take the time, get involved. It is well worth it at the end of the day.

Speaking of involvement, I would

like to call out our Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. Everyone knows Jack is passionate, outgoing and a great advocate for us. Do you know all the ways Jack does this? Probably not.

Jack sits on or is involved with the following groups on behalf of us, the MGCSA: The Stormwater Taskforce, The Turfgrass Working Group, The Pesticide Management Plan Committee, MN Dept. of Ag. Applicators Category E SMEG, MN Dept. of Ag. Bee Pollinator Stakeholder Group, the Anoka Community College Advisory Committee and the NGE Strategic Planning Committee. He has been to Capitol Hill to represent us in the egregiously large water fee increase hearing. I know I am missing more than one thing from this list but I think it is important to understand what our ED does for us beyond managing the Association. Thank you Jack.

As I take a step back from almost 10 years of serving on the Board of Directors, I know the MGCSA is in great hands with the leadership at the helm. I would like to thank those who served before me and those on the Board now for your contributions in

shaping our profession and livelihood. I would like to thank my staff, Todd Kranz, Justin Ellison, Jon Dailing and Bret Foster. Leaving the course for meetings and other functions was much easier and less stressful knowing I left it in your capable hands and watchful eyes.

Support of ownership and upper management is important as well in making the commitment to serve on boards and other committees. I would like to thank David Meyer, Bob Lamp and General Manager, Jim Kidd for their support and understanding in my endeavors to give back.

Then there is my family: my wife Kristin, son Leighton, daughter Olivia and mother-in-law, Jojo. Knowing I have the support at home makes everything I do that much more fun. I love you all very much.

Finally, thanks to you. You elected me President when I wasn't even employed. That gesture alone meant a lot to me. I will never forget it. At the end of the day, I hope in your eyes I have served this association well. I have certainly enjoyed every minute of it.