



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Well, it is now late October. Many of us are winding down on the 2013 golf season. I hope it was a successful year for you and your respective clubs. In some ways it feels like we just opened up for the season yet, in others, it seems like opening day was two years ago! I guess when you are busy, things seem to just march along at a quicker pace than one realizes. I will leave it to you to decide if that is a good thing or just the opposite.

A ton of things have occurred in the last month or so. Jack MacKenzie, Erin McManus and myself traveled to Fargo, ND to visit with the North Dakota superintendent's group. They are very interested in having some recognition at the national level. Unfortunately, they do not have the required numbers of Class A and SM members to meet the GCSAA's requirements for affiliation. They asked about the possibility of joining with us to have that voice nationally. After some careful consideration, the Board of Directors have decided this can be a win/win. The North Dakota superintendents have the voice nationally, yet retain their identity. We gain members and that directly boils down to more research dollars to the UMN for member driven research. To that end, a letter has been sent to the North Dakota Representative Aaron Porter, Superintendent at Fargo Country Club, offering our position in the merger and a place to be heard nationally. Obviously, this is an ongoing collaboration. An update will be forthcoming when we hear back from our friends in North Dakota.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee is gaining some traction with local and state authorities. John Jaschke, Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, is taking up our cause and will help facilitate us meeting our goals. John's thoughts are to:

- 1) Re-package the existing industry MGCSA Water Stewardship Guidelines to be all encompassing and include water, nutrient and pesticide management as well

as any other environmental concerns.

2) Align agency and industry connections to the golf/turf management work going on at the UMN.

3) Evaluate the development of a comprehensive certification program where by participating golf destinations could get greater water use predictability in exchange for dedicated stewardship efforts.

As water and water quality issues are becoming more and more scrutinized, this is our chance to lead the cart not be dragged down behind it.....or worse, run over by it.

Speaking of water quality, the MPCA issued a news release dated October 8 titled: MPCA water quality report for Mississippi River- Twin Cities shows need for improvement. I had mentioned in a monthly column some time ago that I heard some grumblings at the annual GCSAA Government Relations meeting that the Mississippi River would be the next water system to be the target of a clean-up effort similar to that of the Chesapeake Bay. Here we are. If you would like to read the monitoring and assessment report please go to the MPCA's Mississippi River-Twin Cities Watershed webpage: [www.pca.state.mn.us/ktqhda9](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/ktqhda9).

It is important for you to understand that this is but one of 80 evaluations being developed in the next 10 years for all of Minnesota's major watersheds. Without a doubt, this will not be the last we hear or see of this.

Please enjoy the last days of semi-warmth. Best of luck getting the leaf clean-up done, blow-outs completed, snow mold applications down and covers on. The light at the end of the tunnel (2013) is just starting to shine.

Cheers!