



Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

Yes, it has been a long, cold, snowy winter, but it has been a very busy winter for MGCSA. The committee assignments have been made for 2014 and board members have been busy planning for the coming year. The Education Committee is deep into planning for the 2015 Green Expo and Mega Seminar. The Research Committee has been working on the Membership Driven Research for 2014, Rounds for Research and the Gun Raffle fund raisers. The newly formed Finance Committee is meeting to discuss the 2014 budget and update the current SOP, now that we have combined the Secretary and Treasurer's positions. The Environmental Committee has met several times with regulators discussing the concept of an environmental certification program for golf courses that could lead to considerations in the event of water shortages and restrictions. The Membership Committee has been working on outreach opportunities

for Equipment Managers and outstate members. All of these initiatives would not be as successful without the energy and commitment of our Executive Director, Jack Mackenzie. Between the outreach events, meeting with regulators, representing MGCSA at focus groups, for everything from groundwater issues to pollinator issues and more, Jack is a very busy person. All of these things move our association forward on a daily basis serving our membership.

One of the many interesting opportunities that Jack MacKenzie has been working on is representing our profession in meetings with individuals concerning the plight of pollinators in our state. Yes, that's right, the bee people. I have always been fascinated with the art and science of beekeeping. Like so many people, I have until recently sort of taken bees for granted. With the recent problems caused by the colony collapse phenomenon and the subsequent scrutiny that neonicotinoids have come under, bees and beekeeping are gaining the

attention of the public, regulators, legislators, and of course the media. The fact that our Executive Director has been engaging the collective bee community in conversation has led to some interesting discussion about the positive role golf courses can play in providing habitat for pollinators. I don't know if we have any definite outcomes to talk about at this time, but the possibilities are there and MGCSA is positioned well to provide its members with opportunities to be a part of the solution to this growing concern across our state.

In my last President's Message, I mentioned that one of the initiatives that I feel is most important is engaging our members to participate in their association at the highest level they can. A participating and engaged membership is one of the most important components of a healthy and viable association like MGCSA. If you have recently been approached by a member of the Board of Directors, Committee Chairman or Committee member to serve on a committee, please consider the opportunity to work for your association and learn more about our goals and how we work

to achieve them. I guarantee you the commitment is minimal but the rewards are great. It has been proven time and time again that the more members we engage through the committee system, the more ideas that will be generated and the more connected the Board of Directors and our management will be with our membership. Committee service is so rewarding for those who participate and it is a great avenue to give something back to your association and your profession. Please consider picking up the phone or send an email to any board member or committee member and let us know you are interested in participating in a vital part of your association and they will get you started.

The snow will be a distant memory soon and our season will be ramping up quickly no doubt. Before you get too busy, please give some consideration to volunteering and serving your profession and MGCSA. In the meantime we will continue to work on behalf of our membership to advance the profession and MGCSA. I wish all our members a great start to the 2014 season!