



# Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

My favorite time of the year has arrived.

What makes it my favorite time of the year? Well, there are a number of things that come to mind. First of all, I look forward to tipping the work/life scale a little more evenly weighted toward the life side. There are a lot of things that go into that process. On the work side, I can look back on a season and evaluate our successes and accomplishments. I can look at our failures and identify areas where we can do better for next year. For us, it is also budget time, so there is always the anxiety concerning the budget process and how the outcomes will affect how well we perform next year. I also love the weather. The almost daily changes, the colors, the brisk breeze.....you know the drill. Good times- so I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

I also look forward to the planning process for next year. Whether it is the chemical and fertilizer plan, the staffing plan, capital

projects or anything else we want to do next year, the process is always interesting. I involve my assistants in this process as much as possible so they are immersed and engaged throughout the year and know the why and how of everything we do. It is great experience for them and trains them in the value of good planning yielding best results.

My challenge every year at this time is to make the best transition to winter activities and ensure my key staff remain engaged while reaping the benefits of the down time. I always think we can do more planning and seldom seem satisfied in the spring that we have done enough to prepare us for the coming season. Maybe that is just the long winter, or maybe it is just me over thinking it. I'm pretty sure there a few guys like me out there who feel winter is way more than snow removal, equipment repair and cribbage. To those who do feel that way, I hope you find what you are looking for.....pretty sure I will still be looking!

As MGCSA President, I look back on the past season and feel pretty good about our association and the accomplishments we have had. Member outreach this year has been very successful and the association has touched more members in more ways than ever before. We have succeeded in our mission to bring the MGCSA and its benefits to members in outlying areas who do not have the opportunity to participate in all the activities that we have in the Twin Cities metro area. The attendance numbers at these events have grown throughout the year due to the support of our Affiliate members making these outreach events more affordable and bringing valuable education and information to each event. Thank you to all our Affiliate members who see the value in supporting this worthwhile initiative and we look forward to continuing this effort next year.

Affiliate members and the support we receive from them play a key role in the ability of MGCSA to provide services and benefits for our members. Their generous support

drives educational opportunities, networking opportunities, social gatherings and is an essential part of the success of MGCSA. To all those Affiliate members who have supported us in the past and continue to support us in the future, we owe you a big thank you. So, the next time you are planning a purchase, ask your sales representative what their company does to support MGCSA and make that part of your decision process. Supporting those who support your association and your profession is the best way of saying thank you!

In closing, I would like to announce that the Board of Directors has recently completed a new multi-year agreement with our Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. We are excited that Jack will continue to be the face of our association, building bridges, establishing meaningful relationships and telling our story of professionalism, environmentalism and education. Thanks Jack, for all you do and we are glad to have you with us for the foreseeable future!