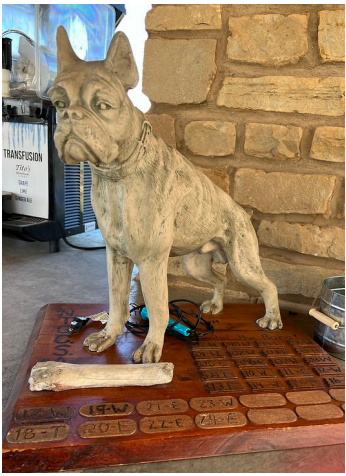


## 2025 NTGCSA Bully Cup - East Prevails - Again!

Led by captain and NTGCSA President, Coby Morrow, the East prevailed once again on a beautiful day at this year's 2025 Bully Cup held at Prestonwood Country Club, The Creeks Course. The West was captained by NTGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Cody Crowther, and we had nearly 70 attendees at this year's event. Thank you to superintendent Andy Wright and the entire staff at Prestonwood for hosting us, and thank you to platinum sponsor Longhorn for sponsoring a great day! The East's victory brings the all-time results to East 15, West 13. There has been one tie in the 28 year history of the event.

Congratulations to our Closest to the Pin proximity winners - Todd Gilmour on hole #4, Austin Brown on hole #11 and Koby Hatch on hole #17. Congratulations to our Longest Drive Winner - Chris Hendrickson.



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## Upcoming Events

Member Social  
April 17, 2025  
TX Whiskey

Stephen Best Memorial Pro/Super  
May 12, 2025  
Stonebridge Ranch - Dye Course

Chapter Championship  
June 2025  
Hackberry Creek Country Club

Family Social  
July 20, 2025  
GlobeLife Field

Summer Scramble  
August 18, 2025  
Iron Horse Golf Course

Other Events and Dates to be announced soon!



## President's Message

I want to begin by expressing how honored I am to serve this association. I know I have big shoes to fill and high expectations to meet, but I am confident that with the support of our board members and our collective focus for the year, we can achieve our goals—and I hope all of you can benefit from our efforts as well. My journey in this role began a bit sooner than expected, due to the sudden passing of our former President, Mr. Mike Upchurch. During his 20+ years in this profession, he had high expectations for the GCSAA and NTGCSA, and I hope to continue his work and make him proud.

I also hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the new year. This time of year always leaves me feeling ready for the dormant grass to turn green again! As I began to think about the goals I have for this association, I couldn't help but want to build upon the work Neil Packard started during his presidency—specifically, his efforts to raise awareness about our profession. This year, I've established a Member Relations/Communications Committee to help us focus on areas where we can grow and improve visibility. Being married to a marketing, advertising, and social media guru has really opened my eyes to the many avenues our association can utilize to spread the word.

Recently, we held our annual awards banquet at Royal Oaks, and personally, I believe it was the best one we've had in recent years. We were able to distribute around \$30,000 in scholarships to members' kids pursuing a variety of college careers. Members like you make this possible, and I can't thank each of you enough for your contributions to our association. If you ever wonder what you gain from being part of this organization, know that you're contributing a small portion to fund someone's education and future.

Finally, we have an exciting calendar of events taking shape for this year. Organizing these events is always a challenge, so if you would like to offer your facility for a half-day event, please reach out to Shannon. Without members willing to host events at their courses and meeting rooms, we wouldn't be able to offer the opportunities we do, so I'd like to thank those who have generously made their facilities available. Additionally, I want to extend my gratitude to our sponsors, who donate their time and resources to help make this association what it is today. Each of you plays a vital role in our success, and as a board, we can't thank you enough.

Here's to no winterkill and mother nature being nice through Spring and into Summer,

Coby Morrow  
Northwood Club



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# 2025 NTGCSA EVENTS

- 4/17 MEMBER SOCIAL - TX WHISKEY
- 5/12 STEPHEN BEST PRO/SUPER - CLUBS OF STONEBRIDGE RANCH
- 6/23 CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIP - HACKBERRY CC
- 7/20 FAMILY SOCIAL - GLOBELIFE FIELD
- 8/20 SUMMER SCRAMBLE - IRON HORSE GOLF COURSE
- 9/24 FALL EDUCATION - SCOTTISH RITE
- 10/21 ANNUAL MEETING - GRAPEVINE GOLF COURSE
- 11/17 SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT - SHADY OAKS CC
- 12/10 CREW CHAMPIONSHIP - TENISON PARK GOLF COURSE
- 1/10/26 ANNUAL BANQUET - FORT WORTH CLUB



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## 2025 Spring Equipment Managers Meeting Recap

The first equipment manager's meeting of 2025 was held in February at Trinity Forest Golf Club. We were fortunate to have Mike Rollins with SIP Peerless Grinder on hand to present his *Cutline is King* presentation. Following the presentation, attendees moved to the Trinity Forest shop for a shop tour, lunch and demos.

It was a great day and the presentation and demos we're beneficial for all in attendance - Equipment Managers, Affiliate Members and Superintendents. Thank you to Tony Bevolo, the Trinity Forest staff and Mike for your help in putting together a great event!

We hope to see you at our next EM meeting this Fall. Details on it coming soon!



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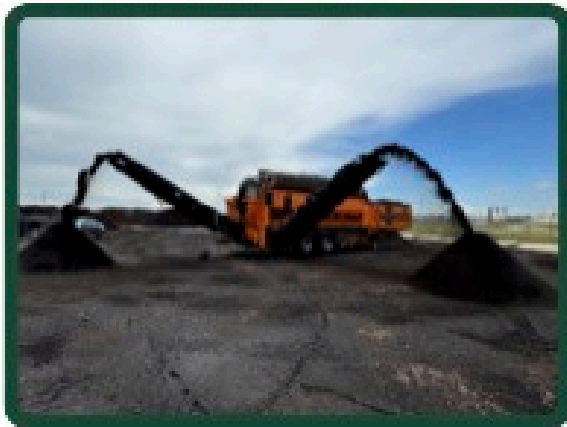


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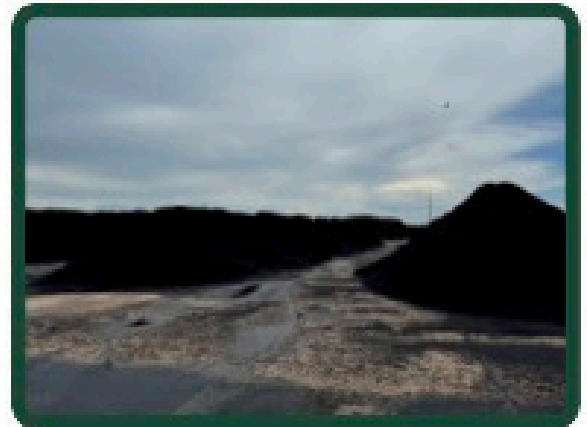


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## 2025 Awards Banquet Recap

Thank you to all that joined us for the 2025 Annual Awards Banquet at Royal Oaks Country Club in Dallas! We awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships to deserving Legacy and Turf Grass Students, and also recognized our tournament and match play winners.

As always, the highlight of the evening was recognizing the 2024 Superintendent of the Year, Assistant Superintendent of the Year and Distinguished Service Award Winners.

Congratulations to our Superintendent of the Year - KD Davis; to our Assistant Superintendent of the year - Rene Cruz; and to our Distinguished Service Award winners - Jim Garrett and Don Lecroy. Be sure to check out the spotlights on these award winners in this newsletter.

Congratulations are also in order for our 2024 Match Play Champions - Frank Darnell and Travis Moore, and to our Runners Up - Brian Sutton and Jonathan Teague. Congratulations to our Chapter Champion - Chris Edmonson; to our Senior Chapter Champion - Charlie Trammell; to our Affiliate Champion - Chris Hendrickson; and to our Assistant Champion - Michael Glosier.

The event concluded with our always popular Casino Night and prizes. Thanks again to all that joined us for a great evening and thank you to KD Davis and Royal Oaks Country Club for hosting us!



**Dusty Daniel**

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**Colby Johnson**

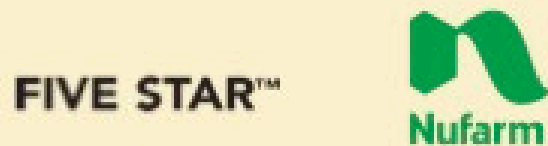
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**Philip Davis**

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## GCSAA Updates

### GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Presented by GCSAA and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

In 2018, the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability. The ELGAs are based on the environmental best management practices that GCSAA recommends all courses utilize.

There are four ELGAs available: Natural Resource Conservation Award, Healthy Land Stewardship Award, Communications and Outreach Award, Innovative Conservation Award

Applications for 2025 ELGAs are open! Find more information and apply at <https://www.gcsaa.org>

### GCSAA Legacy Awards

The GCSAA Legacy Awards competition offers education aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members. Awards of \$1,500 each are funded in part by Grass Clippings and the GCSAA Foundation.

Applications can be found on the GCSAA website and are due by April 15. Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee consisting of three high school educators and three college administrators. Applicants will be notified of their status by mail by June 15 of the year submitted. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution.



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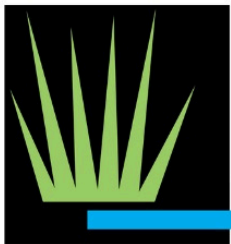
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## Member Spotlight - 2024 Superintendent of the Year

### KD Davis, Royal Oaks Country Club

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I grew up in a small town of 500 or so in Northeast Ohio, Appalachia. It's being taken over by the Amish as we speak...

Q. How did you get into the business?

A. I started out playing golf young and mowing yards to pay for my habit. The superintendent at the Municipal I grew up on saw me out there so much that he offered me free golf if I worked there. I started out in bunkers and weed eater in hand. Eventually I asked him how he got his job - it looked like he just rode around with his dog, or so I thought. He told me he went to Ohio State and got his degree, and so, that's what I did....

Q. Tell me about Royal Oaks.

A. Royal Oaks is an old school club without a house on property. It's a good course to walk. The greens complexes are the teeth of the course as they are mostly pushed up to get out of the floodplain. It is a true family club where kids are allowed to learn the game. Randy Smith, our legendary teaching pro, has set the culture of loving the game and practicing as much as you can!

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A. One thing I still enjoy is the feeling that we can actually "see" what we did each day, whether it was a project or just a mow out. The property hopefully is better off at the end of the day than when the day began.

Q. What has been the toughest obstacle to overcome in your career?

A. I have had some curveballs thrown my way professionally, some warranted and others not. The toughest obstacle in this career in my opinion is finding the balance with family. This career is a basically a lifestyle and can consume you and short your loved ones of precious time if you let it.

Q. If you could play a round of golf with any PGA professional past or present, who would you want to play with?

A. I've been lucky to be around a number of pros throughout my career, including caddying for Jack Nicklaus. However, I would have to pick my childhood icon, Freddy "BoomBoom" Couples. He was just "cool". I played the same irons and modeled my swing after his as much as I could... didn't get the same results.

Q. What is one thing readers don't know about you, that they might be interested to learn?

A. I am still super close with five of my high school buddies from rural Ohio. We met in 6th grade, and all graduated in the early 90's from school. We live in all four corners of the country, yet remain close. We are all meeting in Western Kentucky later this month to celebrate one of their 50th birthdays with a bourbon tour.



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## Member Spotlight - 2024 Assistant Superintendent of the Year Rene Cruz, Tennison Park Golf Course

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I was born in Mexico, but grew up here in Dallas.

Q. How did you get into the business?

A. I was referred by my dad to this job. I started on the crew and after 15 years I was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. I am involved in maintaining the golf course and keeping it in good condition. I really enjoy what I do. My opportunities at Tennison Park have helped me to learn everything I know on taking care of and maintaining a golf course.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A. I like to see the players enjoying the great conditions of the course. It is rewarding to receive and hear compliments about the golf course.

Q. What has been the toughest obstacle to overcome in your career?

A. It would be the technology. I'm old school and I don't like to be inside sitting at a desk. I prefer to be outside working with the crew on course maintenance.

Q. What is one thing readers don't know about you, that they might be interested to learn?

A. Even though I don't play golf, I enjoy keeping the course in excellent conditions for the players.

Q. If you had an hour of free time, how would you spend it?

A. I would like to spend it enjoying my family and friends.

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## Member Spotlight -2024 Distinguished Service Award Winner

### Jim Garrett, PBI Gordon

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I was born in Corpus Christi, TX and lived there until 7th grade when we moved to Ingleside, TX and remained through my high school years. My parents lived there until the late 1990's. My mother grew up in Conroe, graduated from Sam Houston State University in Education, and taught school in the Corpus Christi ISD for over 35 years. My father grew up in Corpus Christi, graduated from Texas A&M University in Agriculture Business and after serving in the US Army in WWII, managed agribusiness companies in the Corpus Christi area for his entire career.

Q. How did you get into the business?

A. I started playing golf when I was in the 7th grade and fell in love (hate) with it. My parents were members of a 9 hole country club in South Texas and we frequently played golf there. One Saturday when I was 16, we played golf and the greens were long and hairy, obviously not mowed. I asked the pro/GM/snack bar attendant/janitor/greenskeeper what the problem was with the greens. He replied that the greens mower (GreenMaster 3) was broken down and it would be the following week before Goldthwaite's could get someone down to look at it. I asked if I could look at it and he replied yes. The spark plug was fouled. I replaced it, got it running, and he said that if I looked after his equipment every week, he would give me free lessons and all the range balls I could hit. That was my first job (unpaid) on a golf course and the rest is history. Later I joined the staff at Oso Beach Golf Course in Corpus Christi during the summers between school years at Texas A&M. During college I worked at the Turf Research Center at Texas A&M for Dr. James Beard, again, maintaining the equipment at the facility.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A. Taking part in the education, growth and advancement of new and experienced turf professionals in whom I come into contact with. Helping these turf managers, and aspiring turf managers, to produce the highest quality turf and have them grow personally to be a strong leader and mentor in our industry.

Q. If you could play a round of golf with any PGA professional past or present, who would you want to play with?

A. Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer or Old Tom Morris.

Q. What is one thing readers don't know about you, that they might be interested to learn?

A. I started my college career studying music at Del Mar University in Corpus Christi before realizing that I would not be able to make a living in music. I still play the piano and guitar and lead the music worship at my church on most Sundays.

Q. If you had an hour of free time, how would you spend it?

A. A family gathering with my wife, children and grandchildren, probably cooking on the grill or smoker.



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## Member Spotlight - 2024 Distinguished Service Award Winner

### Don Lecroy - Metro Irrigation Supply/Horizon Distributors

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. I grew up in Northern California on the ocean at the Oregon state line. I graduated high school there and then moved to Redding, California near Shasta Lake for a couple of years, and then eventually ended up in Fort Worth.

Q. How did you get into the business?

A. I have been around golf almost my entire life. I started working on a golf course when I was 13, and continued through two years in college. I moved to Texas after that, and got into the irrigation business, and then into distribution sales of irrigation and then back to golf course sales irrigation.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A. I think the most rewarding part has been the people I have gotten to know and friendships I've developed over the years. It also doesn't hurt to get to spend my time on some of the most amazing golf courses around.

Q. What has been the toughest obstacle to overcome in your career?

A. I guess the hardest obstacle to overcome was starting out in golf course irrigation sales and not knowing any superintendents. They are a close knit group and it takes time to be accepted. But once you are it is well worth the time invested.

Q. If you could play a round of golf with any PGA professional past or present, who would you want to play with?

A. If I could play a round with one PGA player it would be Jack Nicklaus. I've always admired his concentration and drive to win.

Q. Which sports teams do you root for?

A. The Texas Rangers. I like all sports, but love to watch baseball, especially the Rangers. I attended every opening day at the old ballpark.




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[ashleyb@helenaagri.com](mailto:ashleyb@helenaagri.com)

## Rounds for Research

The NTGCSA board is encouraging members of this association to donate a round of golf at their facility for GCSAA's Rounds 4 Research program. Rounds 4 Research is designed to generate funds for research and help ensure the future of golf. The concept is simple: Your facilities can support the program by donating rounds of golf for two to four players, "stay and play" packages, or other items that are auctioned online. Monetary donations to R4R are also welcomed. You can set as many parameters as you want for the round to ensure it fits your club's offerings.

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners, with 80% of the proceeds going back to those organizations. This enables these organizations to direct the funds to specific projects that will have the greatest impact in their local areas.

Last year, our association tripled the amount raised from the previous year, and I believe we can surpass last year's total this year. With earnings exceeding \$9,000, we were able to bring in great speakers from out of town for the September education, pay for ads on The Ticket for Thank a Superintendent Day, and in the future, we hope to use these funds to promote our industry further through different avenues like radio, Internet and job fairs.

New this year, be sure and select the Lone Star GCSA as your chapter. The North Texas GCSA will still receive the proceeds. The Lone Star board is encouraging this so that we as a collective state post a more impressive and higher fundraising total.

This year's Rounds 4 Research auction is set for April 21-27.

Visit

<https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round> to support our chapter and donate a round today!

Though the auction doesn't open for another couple of weeks, you can preview items already donated at

<https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?auctionId=341784521>.

There are several great courses, but a pretty sparse number from Texas. We would love your support in helping us increase the count and put Texas on the map!

**APRIL 21-27, 2025 | ROUNDS4RESEARCH.COM**

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# Membership Renewals

NTGCSA Memberships run on the calendar year and expired on December 31, 2024 - regardless of when you signed up and paid your dues.

Thank you to all of you that have already renewed!

All memberships for 2025 can be renewed and paid for directly on our Web site at [www.ntgcsa.com](http://www.ntgcsa.com). If you have trouble with your log-in, or prefer an invoice, be sure to contact Shannon at: [ntgcsa@gmail.com](mailto:ntgcsa@gmail.com).

## Paid Membership Options

Superintendent/Affiliate Membership - \$120

Class C Superintendent Membership - \$90

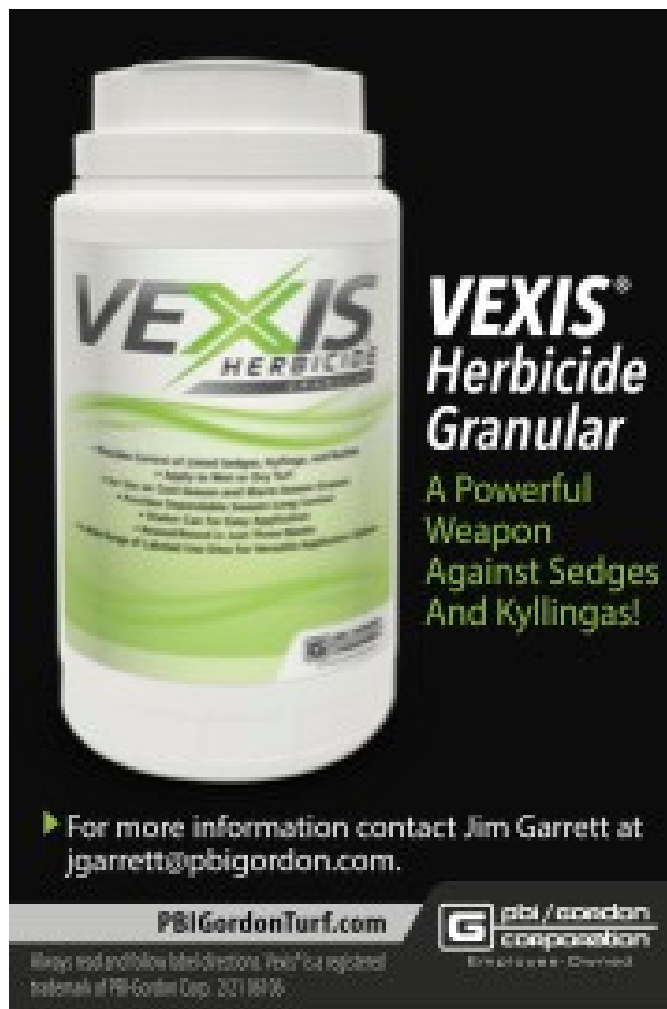
EM Membership - \$60

Emerald or Bronze Membership - \$475

Emerald or Bronze members get all meetings (except for the scholarship tournament and annual banquet) paid for in advance. This is a discounted rate for paying your meetings up front.

Emerald Facility Membership \$1,700.00

To qualify for a Facility Emerald Membership, an applicant must be a golf course facility that has the equivalent of four Emerald Members at one facility. As an Emerald Facility member, you will get all meetings paid for in advance for four staff members. This is a discounted rate for paying your meetings up front, and a savings of \$200.




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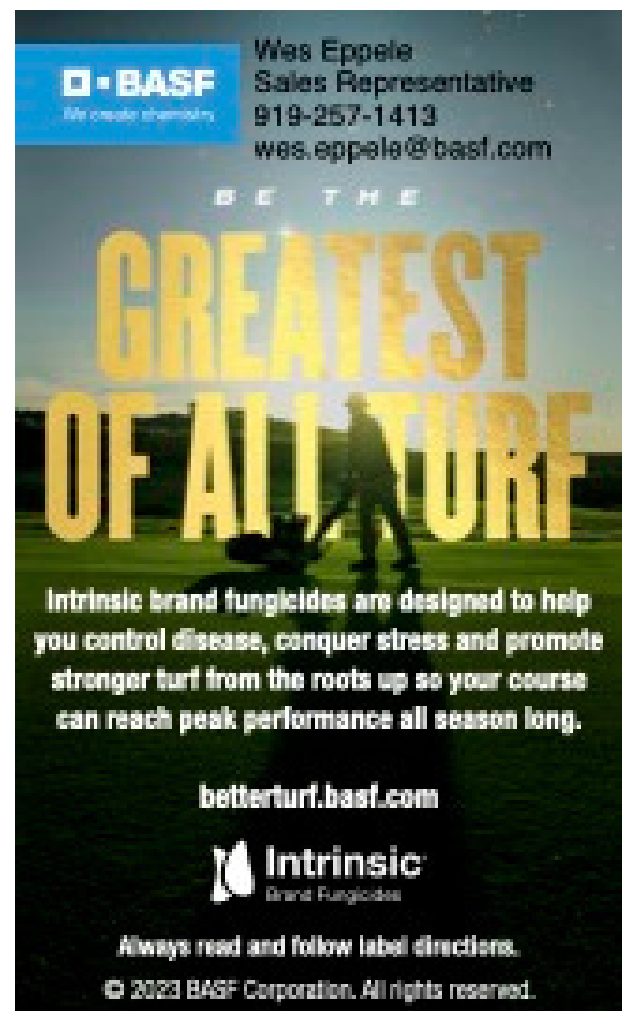
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► For more information contact Jim Garrett at [jgarrett@pbigordon.com](mailto:jgarrett@pbigordon.com).

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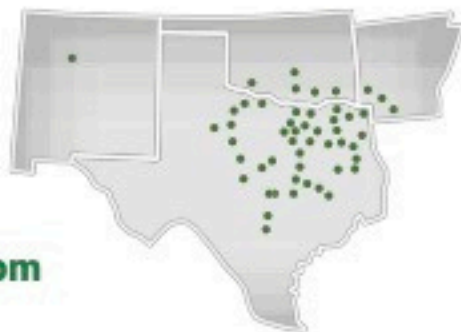


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## Member Courses

Thank you to the following courses/companies for renewing your superintendent memberships for 2025. If you don't see your course listed below, you have not yet renewed for this year. Reach out to Shannon at [ntgcsa@gmail.com](mailto:ntgcsa@gmail.com) ASAP to update your status!

Archer City Country Club	Ironhorse Golf Club	Squaw Valley Golf Course
Arcis Golf	Keeton Park Golf Course	Steven's Park
Bear Creek Golf Club	Lake Arlington Golf Course	Stonebridge Country Club
Bent Tree Country Club	Lake Kiowa Golf Course	Sulphur Springs Country Club
Bridlewood Golf Club	Lake Park Golf Course	Tempest Golf Club
Brook Hollow Golf Club	Lakewood Country Club	Tennison Park Golf Course
Canyon Creek Country Club	Lantana Golf Club	Texas Rangers Golf Club
Pecan Hollow Golf Course	Las Colinas Country Club	The Bridges Golf Club
Clubs of Prestonwood - Creek	Luna Vista Golf Course	The Clubs at Stonebridge Ranch
Colonial Country Club	Maverick Golf and Ranch Club	The Courses at Watters Creek
Cowboys Golf Club	Mesquite Golf Club	The Golf Club at Twin Creeks
Coyote Ridge Golf Club	Northwood Club	The Golf Clubs at the Tribute
Cross Timbers Golf Course	Oeste Ranch Golf Course	The Nelson Golf and Sports Club
Dallas Athletic Club	Omni PGA Frisco	The Retreat
Dallas Country Club	Pecan Hollow Golf Course	The Trails of Frisco Golf Course
Dallas National Golf Club	Pecan Plantation	Tierra Verde Golf Club
De Cordova Bend Country Club	Pinecrest Country Club	Timarron Country Club
Denton Country Club	Plantation Golf Club	TPC Craig Ranch
Diamond Oaks Country Club	Prestonwood Hills	Trinity Forest Golf Club
Eldorado Country Club	Ridglea Country Club	Twin Creeks Golf Club
Firewheel Golf Club	River Crest Country Club	Vaquero Club
Gleneagles Country Club	Riverside Golf Course	Walnut Creek CC
Golf Clubs at The Tribute	Rock Creek Golf Club	Waterchase Golf Club
Grapevine Golf Course	Rockwall Golf & Athletic Club	White Buff Golf Resort
Green Tree Country Club	Royal Oaks Country Club	Whitestone Golf Club - Elite Golf
Halbert National	Sherrill Park Golf Course	Wild Horse Golf Club
Heritage Ranch Golf Club	Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club	Wild Spring Dunes
Hurricane Creek Country Club	Squaw Creek Golf Course	Wildhorse Golf Club @ Robson Ranch
Invited Clubs		Woodbridge Golf Club



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## Volunteers Needed!

We need more members to get involved with the NTGCSA! We have several committees for members to serve on. These include:

- Annual Awards Banquet Committee
- Annual Meeting Committee
- Assistant Superintendent & EM Committee
- Awards and Recognition Committee
- Chapter Delegates Committee
- Member Relations/Communication Committee
- Finance Committee
- Golf & Event Outings Committee
- Government Relations & Advocacy Committee
- Lonestar GCSA Committee
- Scholarship Committee

To volunteer to serve on one of our committees, or to host a meeting contact Shannon at [ntgcsa@gmail.com](mailto:ntgcsa@gmail.com).

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