

# Local Heroes

Because of them, our industry is a better place.

Yamaha and *Golfdom* are partnering to pay tribute to superintendents around the nation who serve their profession as volunteer leaders of local chapter associations. Please join us in thanking these "local heroes."



**YAMAHA**

**TOUGHER THAN GOLF.™**

**& Golfdom**

SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & OPINIONS

## Kevin Downing

**Certified Superintendent,  
Willoughby Golf Club, Stuart, Fla.  
Long-time USGA Green Section  
Research Committee**

When 19-year-old intern Kevin Downing attended his first golf course superintendents association chapter meeting in 1974, he received a foretaste of the profession he would be joining.

On the two-hour drive to the meeting, he listened to two superintendents in the car exchange ideas. "I thought, 'What a wonderful profession that everyone helps out each other,'" Downing says.

Taking his elder colleagues' lead, Kevin has been heavily involved in volunteer work ever since. In the late 1970s, he worked his way through the chairs of the Palm Beach GCSA, culminating in its presidency. Then he served on the board of the Florida GCSA, serving as president in 1982. He has served on the USGA Green Section Research Committee for more than 15 years; been chairman of the Florida GCSA (FGCSA) Research Committee for more than a dozen years; was the FGCSA's delegate or alternate to the national Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for a number of years; has served on various Florida Turfgrass Association committees over the years; and is a board member of the Treasure Coast GCSA, whose Education Committee he chairs.



## Thomas Werner

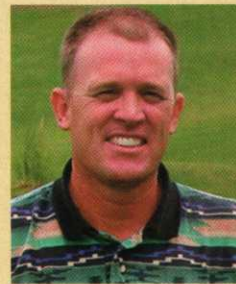
**Certified Superintendent,  
Ridgewood Country Club, Waco, Texas  
Past president of Lone Star GCSA,  
North Texas GCSA and Texas  
Turfgrass Association**

Riding on inspiration from his first golf course boss, Tom Werner has planted a large volunteer footprint for anyone who wants to follow.

"I saw this guy [Gary Luscombe, at the former El Dorado Golf Club in Houston] totally immersed in the field and doing a lot with almost no money. That inspired me," Werner says.

Werner has worked on the boards of directors and served in all the offices of the Lone Star GCSA, North Texas GCSA and Texas Turfgrass Association (TTA). He was president of the Lone Star in 1991, North Texas in 1993 and TTA in 1999. At one point, he was on the boards of all three organizations. He also served on the board of the South Texas GCSA in 1986, when he worked at Tour 18 in Flower Mound.

"Giving back is a thankless job, but you take the attitude that you're making a difference," says the 1980 Texas A&M graduate. "It's a close-knit organization, and a lot of guys can't afford to go to the national conference. Whatever information you can share with them helps."



## DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO IN YOUR CHAPTER?

Send us a note at [pjones@advanstar.com](mailto:pjones@advanstar.com) and we may feature your hero in an upcoming tribute.

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