

## HISTORY OF THE WWTGA

The Women's West Texas Golf Association was formed 80 years ago. The aim was to promote and maintain the best interests of the game of golf and promote good fellowship and encourage good sportsmanship among the women golfers of West Texas. Another one of its aims was to sponsor and support an annual amateur Women's West Texas Golf Association Championship Tournament to determine the amateur champion for the ensuing year. The original board members were Mrs. Opal McAfee, Lubbock Country Club; Mrs. Sue Sean, Lubbock Country Club; Mrs. Gordon Phillips, Big Springs Country Club; Mrs. Rhea J. Vernon, Abilene Country Club; Mrs. Will O'Connell, San Angelo Country Club; Mrs. Frank Wolflin, Amarillo Country Club; and Mrs. Joe C. Brown, Mineral Wells Country Club.

Twelve country clubs became host members of this organization the first year (1935) with their dues being \$5.00 a year. The first tournament was held at Lubbock Country Club on sand greens and the par was 80. There were 35 contestants with their entry fee being \$3.00 a person. This was a match play event with the championship finals being a 36-hole match. Each player had to qualify for the championship flight. The tournament started with a mixed four-ball foursome. There were parties every night with a dinner and dance to end the tournament. There were also flights for junior girls. The first champion was Mrs. Frank Goldthwaite of Ft. Worth, who later was a member of the United States Curtis Cup Team.

Each year the entries grew along with the entry fees. In 1942, there were 64 players. In 1943, 1944, and 1945 this event was not held because of World War II. In 1946, the club dues had gone to \$10.00 and the entry fees to \$5.00 a person. All players had to walk and have caddies until 1957, when electric carts were permitted except for the championship flight. By 1967, the tournament had grown to host over 200 players with each player having to qualify for the championship flight. The entry fees went to \$35.00 a person in 1975, \$50.00 a person in 1978, \$75.00 in 1981, \$85.00 in 1987, \$100.00 in 1994 and \$110.00 in 1997. Today the club dues are \$60.00 (host clubs) and \$110.00 (non-host clubs), and the entry fees are \$160.00 a person. The maximum field today is 128 contestants with only those who have a handicap index of 15.9 able to qualify for the championship flight. The W.W.T.G.A. is made up of 17 host country clubs and 25 non-host clubs.

This event is being held at Horseshoe Bay Resort this year for the 2015 Annual Amateur Championship Tournament. It will be held the week of June 14-19, 2015. Ninety sixty women from all over West Texas will converge on Horseshoe Bay Resort for a full week of match play competition. On Monday, June 15, the low thirty-two handicap contestants will qualify for the championship flight. Match play for all contestants will begin on Tuesday morning. Final matches will begin at 7:30 a.m. Friday, June 19, 2015.

This year's WWTGA President is Jana Hite Rice (Abilene Country Club); Secretary-Treasurer is Essie Collins (Abilene Country Club). The first Vice-President is Patty Stokes (San Angelo Country Club); Second Vice-President, Jan Rembert (Bentwood Country Club); Parliamentarian, Kathy White (Bentwood Country Club). Other board members are: Janie Phillips (Odessa Country Club); Lydia Couch (Hillcrest Country Club); Barbara Willis (LakeRidge Country Club); Judy Hilliard (Ranchland Golf Club); Lynn Cloud (Horseshoe Bay Resort WGA); Carol Tiernan (Amarillo Country Club); Judy Harris (Abilene Country Club); Jennifer Grothaus (Abilene Country Club); Ginny Rutledge (Bentwood Country Club). In addition, there are two Honorary Life Directors: and Gloria Robertson (San Angelo Country Club): and Sharron Hughes (Farwell Country Club).