



Top O' the Day Tee-Off Celebrates 21 Years of Supporting Water Education Foundation

For over 20 years, the North Dakota Water Education Foundation (NDWEF), in partnership with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, has proudly hosted the annual Top O' the Day Tee-Off at CrossRoads Golf Course in Carrington, N.D.

This exciting event raises funds for the Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources Scholarship Endowment, which honors two of North Dakota's most influential water leaders – Russell Dushinske and Warren Jamison – recognized for their distinguished service, visionary leadership, and lifelong commitment to water development across the state.

Each year, four \$1,500 scholarships are awarded to students attending a North Dakota college or university whose families have played an active role in state water resource management.

This year's scramble featured 145 golfers on a beautiful summer day. Participants competed for top finishes and prizes, while enjoying contests and giveaways provided by 19 generous sponsors who helped make the day memorable.

The event concluded with a dinner and awards ceremony at the CrossRoads clubhouse, where the first-, third-, and 21st-place teams were recognized, along with winners of various hole contests.



With a tournament-best score of 54, the team of Wayne, Jayden and Grady Shipman and Steve Erickson claimed first place and earned well-deserved bragging rights.

The third-place team, comprised of Bob Gustafson, Steve Bietz, Chuck Mischel and Dean Glatt scored a 56, and the 21st-place team of Joe Zauner, Duane DeKrey, Cory Chorne and Representative Don Vigesaa, scored a 66.

Hole contests scattered on the course provided a bit of additional friendly competition for the day. The lucky winners are as follows:

- Men's Shortest Drive – Seth Zink
- Closest to Pin 2nd Shot – Arick Scherr
- Women's Longest Drive – Betsy Seaver
- Chipping Contest (sponsored by Burian & Associates) – Chris Harris
- Men's Longest Drive – Tanner Sperling
- Luck of the Draw (sponsored by Vogel Law) – Tom Erdmann
- Closest to Pin 2nd Shot – Hayden Schmitz
- Women's Shortest Drive – Gail Roberts
- How Many Tees Guess (sponsored by ND Irrigation Association) – Dan Perez
- Longest Putt – Taylen Mehring
- Putting Contest (sponsored by Apex Engineering Group) – Alex Belquist

A genuine thank you goes to the generous sponsors of the 21st Top O' the Day Tee-Off, as their participation is vital to the success of the scramble. Many of these sponsors also provided door prizes or games of chance out on the course.

Thanks to the continued support of sponsors, golfers, and the community, the legacy of Dushinske and Jamison continues to inspire and empower the next generation of water leaders in North Dakota.

- Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services, LLC
- AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company
- Apex Engineering Group
- Bank Forward/Insure Forward
- Bartlett & West
- Bessette Motors
- Black & Veatch
- Burian & Associates, LLC
- Carstensen Contracting, Inc.
- Dakota Central
- Dwyer Law Office
- First International Bank & Trust
- Gate City Bank – Carrington and Jamestown
- ND Irrigation Association
- ND Rural Water Systems Association
- Oscar Renda Contracting
- David & Connie Sprynczynatyk
- Ulteig
- Vogel Law Firm

Jay Anderson Elected to the NWRA Board of Directors

Jay Anderson, Chairman of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District board, has been elected to an individual member seat on the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) board of directors. The election took place during NWRA's Summer Conference in Park City, Utah, last July.

In his new role, Anderson will represent the state of North Dakota and serve in an advisory capacity on water policy issues at both the state and federal levels. His appointment underscores North Dakota's commitment to advancing water resource management and ensuring a strong voice in national discussions.

Anderson brings decades of experience in water and agriculture to the position. He has served on the Garrison Diversion board since 2013 and currently leads as chairman. His leadership has been instrumental in projects such as the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, which aims to secure long-term water solutions for the region.

"It is an honor to be elected to the board and to be involved in the organization supporting and shaping national water policy," Anderson says. "My background in the North Dakota water industry has prepared me to advocate effectively for the interests of state and local water users, and I look forward to helping drive meaningful progress."

The NWRA board of directors comprises representatives from across the country who collaborate to promote responsible water resource policy and infrastructure development. Anderson joins other individual members and state representatives in shaping the future of water management nationwide.

Jay's term runs through the end of December 2025, with the seat up for election for a full two-year term at the NWRA Annual Conference in November.



Jay Anderson