



WEAT

North Texas Section

2026 Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: June 30, 2026, at 5pm CDT.

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Leadership Message

Message from the President

Howdy, WEAT North Texas!

It is with great pleasure that I address each of you as your new Section President. I am so honored to serve you all in this role over the next twelve months.

By way of introduction, I'd like to share a little about my own WEAT journey. I joined WEAT North Texas as a member in 2016 (ten years ago!), after volunteering at the Daryl Hall Memorial Golf Tournament. I had attended several section meetings prior to this, but I vividly recall at this specific event seeing how special this community of North Texas water and wastewater professionals really is. I remember noticing the effort of the volunteers and the feeling of community between all present, and decided this was the right place to grow my network and develop professionally. As your President this year, I hope to carry on that legacy, by making this section a place that is appealing to new and seasoned members, alike. I'd like to also say a big word of thanks and appreciation to Paula Monaco for her stewardship as President this past year. Among the many things she achieved, Paula led the charge for our section's scholarship contributions to increase to unprecedented levels. This growing financial impact of course could not have been possible without each of our annual sponsors' involvement as well.

Our section has grown in a lot of ways over the past ten years, but the things I saw in 2016 go hand-in-hand with what our Executive Committee is all about today. You may recall that a year ago we shared a three-year strategic plan that is summed up in the following three goals:

1. Membership Engagement and Growth
2. Organizational Structure and Support
3. Strategic Investment and Program Development

What do these goals mean for the direction our Section is going as we look ahead to the next twelve months?

Leadership Message

Message from the **President**

As your President, I'm committed to growing not just our section's membership and financial impact, but its impact on you as a member. I have a personal goal for each of our meetings and events to be even more welcoming, interesting and technically engaging. And I look forward to a year of continuing to steward our section's resources by giving back at previously unreached levels.

Each of you has a WEAT story, as well, and I'd love to hear it! Do you have an idea for a way this Section can do more? Are you wanting to get more plugged in, but just aren't sure where to get started? You can reach me at president@weat-nts.org. I want to hear from you!

Let's grow together.

Blayne Johnson, PE, CCM
President, WEAT-NTS



WEAT-NTS & WEF Events

Date	Event	Location
6/04/26	WEAT-NTS June Lunch Meeting	Texas Star Golf Course 1400 Texas Star Pkwy Eules, Tx 76040
07/23/26	WEAT-NTS July Dinner Meeting	Texas Live! 1650 E Randol Mill Rd Arlington, Tx 76011
09/11/26	23rd Annual Daryl Hall Memorial Golf Tournament	Bear Creek Golf Course 3500 Bear Creek Ct. Dallas, Tx 75261

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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WEAT-NTS Scholarships

2026–2027 Scholarship Application Period Now Open

The WEAT North Texas Section is now accepting applications for the WEAT-NTS Scholarship and the Daryl Hall Scholarship.



Applications accepted through
June 30, 2026



Encourage eligible students to apply.



Scan the QR code to access the application.



Application link:
[form.jotform.com/weatnts/
2026-2027-scholarship-application](https://form.jotform.com/weatnts/2026-2027-scholarship-application)



Scholarship information:
weat-nts.org/scholarships/

APPLY HERE



Please help share this opportunity with students and young professionals interested in the water environment field.



9/11/26

SAVE THE DATE

**23rd Annual
Daryl Hall Memorial Golf
Tournament**

**Bear Creek Golf Course
3500 Bear Creek Ct.
Dallas, TX 75261**

Date: Friday, September 11th,
2026

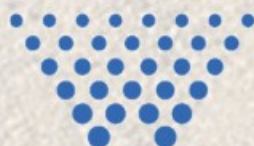
Time: Morning through lunch

**Sponsorship opportunities
will be advertised in early
July.**

**Sign-ups will open in late
July.**

Questions?

KRFlinn@GarverUSA.com



WEAT
North Texas Section



Texas Operations Challenge 2026

Celebrating Excellence in Operations

The **2026 Texas Water Operations Challenge Competition** brought together some of the finest professionals in the water and wastewater industry for an intense competition showcasing their expertise, teamwork, and dedication to public health. Hosted in San Antonio, this year's event celebrated the critical role operators play in ensuring our water and wastewater systems run efficiently and safely.

Under the guidance of **Operations Challenge Chair Jeff Sober, Vice-Chair Kevin Flinn, Competition Coordinator Allison Bennett**, and a dedicated team of coordinators and volunteers, the competition tested sixteen teams in eleven technical categories, including maintenance, process control, collections, safety, and laboratory analysis. These events simulate real-world challenges that operators face daily. There were six out-of-state teams and ten in-state teams, with three teams being completely brand new to the competition – Fort Worth Lady Legends, Team Webster, and Mont Belvieu Salt Dome Dominators. Teams traveled from as far away as Maryland, New York, and California to participate in the competition. The event shows five primary competitions and five exhibition competitions.

The competition saw fierce but friendly rivalry, with standout performances across multiple categories. The teams that place the best overall in the five primary competitions are awarded the overall places.

The top overall Teams include:

South Platte Renew Commode Commandos – 416.67 points (Overall Champions)

Trinity River Authority TRAIblazers – 396.38 points

NYWEA Long Island Sludge Ducks – 389.01 points

In Division 2, the exhibition event competition, **Team Webster**, a brand-new team, won first overall.

Texas Operations Challenge 2026

The Water Environment Association of Texas sends four Texas teams to compete in the national competition hosted at WEFTEC in New Orleans this September. The top four Texas teams in our state competition earn a paid spot to advance to WEFTEC.

Those four teams include:

1. **TRA TRAILblazers**
2. **Fort Worth Funky Town Legends**
3. **TRA River Guardians**
4. **Houston Microbe Masters**

The Management Trophy is awarded to the executives of the top Texas Team, recognizing their leadership and commitment to the operations challenge program, and this year it was awarded to the **Trinity River Authority of Texas**.

Teams can also win first place in each individual event, and this year, there was a wide array of first-place winners:

- Freese and Nichols Process Control Event: **WSSC Water Diffusers** from Maryland dominated with 2510 points.
- Carollo Safety Event: **South Platte Renew Commode Commandos** set a blazing pace, securing first place with a time of 331.03 seconds.
- STV Walter Chiang Maintenance Event: **NYWEA Long Island Sludge Ducks** won 1st, while only .41 seconds separated 2nd and 3rd place.
- Hartwell Environmental Laboratory Event: **TRA TRAILblazers** triumphed nearly a minute ahead of the competition.
- AECOM Collection Systems Event: **Fort Worth Funky Town Legends** showcased their speed, finishing over 40 seconds faster than their closest competitors.
- Victaulic Exhibition Event: **SJRA Grit Happens** won with a time of 380.09
- SEEPEX Exhibition Event: Unfortunately, our SEEPEX event had a malfunction on day 1, and we had to suspend the event for the remainder of the competition.
- Gupta Electrical Event: **SJRA Grit Happens** was the only team to finish the event in the allotted 15-minute time limit.
- Grundfos Exhibition Event: **South Platte Renew Commode Commandos** finished nearly a minute before the next closest competition at 318.00.
- McKim and Creed Cybersecurity Event: **WSSC Water Diffusers** took home 1st in our newest exhibition event, scoring higher than the actual coordinator of the event. I know who to call during a cyber-attack!

Texas Operations Challenge 2026

In the special awards category, **Rey Davila** received the Riley Crocker Dedicated Volunteer Award, while **Tommy Gonzales** with Austin Water was honored with the David Barber Competitive Spirit Award. The Fastest Saw Cut competition, sponsored by Ardurra, had a huge turnout and fierce competition. In the relay event, **Team Sewer Rats** finished 2nd, with **Team Cedar Park** taking home the gold. In the men's division, **Chris Ewing** won with a time of 5.33, and **Alex Fuentes** took home 1st in the women's division with a time of 15.85. In the McCarthy YP Process Event, the **Wicked Witches** of Wastewater - Caitlin Ruff and Prachi Salekar - took home 1st place with a score of 500.

Beyond the scores and accolades, the 2026 Texas Operations Challenge was a celebration of workforce development, industry camaraderie, and the dedication of water professionals. The event would not have been possible without the support of generous sponsors, committed volunteers, and the skilled teams who dedicate their careers to ensuring the safety and sustainability of water systems.

Thank you to our amazing sponsors **AECOM, Ardurra, Andritz, Carollo, Freese and Nichols, Garver, GAI, Grundfos, Hartwell, SEEPEX, Stantec, STV, Victaulic, McCarthy, McKim and Creed, Brown and Caldwell, MBROH, ACT Pipe, Newman Regency, Municipal Valve, Global Wet, Jacobs, Kimley Horn, and Plummer.**

As Texas' top teams prepare to represent WEAT at WEFTEC, the water industry community looks forward to another year of innovation, excellence, and competition. Congratulations to all participants, and we'll see you in Houston at Texas Water 2027!

Membranes and Mudbugs Recap



The **2026 Membranes and Mudbugs** event took place on April 17 at the Dallas Water Utilities Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. The event was co-chaired by **Jordan Duncan** and **Allison Bennett** and brought together water professionals from across North Texas for a day of technical learning, networking, and great food.

This year's program featured four technical presentations and two facility tours:

- Clarifying the Future: Upgrading CWWTP's Aging Infrastructure with Collaboration
 - Presented by Luke Havard and Richard Britton (Garver / Dallas Water Utilities)
- My Nitrifiers Are Better Than Yours
 - Presented by Monica Ramirez and Elaine Masters (Black & Veatch / Trinity River Authority)
- Use of Biological Design and Membrane Treatment for the City of Denton Pecan Creek Water Reclamation Plant
 - Presented by Jordan Munns (Kimley-Horn)
- A Grand(scape) Balancing Act: Upgrading a UV System while Maintaining Disinfection
 - Presented by Kiley Jones (Carollo)

Membranes and Mudbugs Recap

The event also recognized several outstanding professionals and organizations within the industry. Congratulations to **Santos Sotelo** for receiving the WEAT-NTS Jason Crawley Young Professional Award, **Ben Hodges** for receiving the WEAT-NTS John Bennett Utility Professional Award, and **Dallas Water Utilities** for being named the WEAT-NTS Utility of the Year.

A special thank you goes to this year's cooking team for helping make the event a success: **John Bennett, Justin Rackley, Hunter Phelan, Derek Willms, Brian Mullins, Lance Phillips, Chris Patin, Kevin Flinn, Todd Pratt, Barry Huffman, Cedron Edwards, and Andre Garces.**

Thank you as well to all of the generous sponsors whose support helped make the event possible: **CIE Pumps & Seals, Kimley-Horn, Plummer, Preload, LLC, Mead & Hunt, Jacobs, Garver, Carollo, Aquatic Informatics, Victaulic, Gupta & Associates, Inc., Archer Western Construction, DEHN, Zone Industries, Hach, Mason Dallas Industries, Municipal Valve & Equipment, Environmental Improvements, Inc., Newman Regency Group, and Andritz.**



WEAT-NTS Texas Water Awards

Congratulations to all the distinguished award winners from the North Texas Section! Your dedication and excellence have not only elevated the standards of our industry but have also inspired your peers and communities.

We celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of individuals, utilities, and organizations for their significant contributions industry and representing the North Texas Section extremely well in the recent Texas Water Conference in San Antonio. These accolades are a testament to your unwavering commitment and exceptional service.

Your contributions have shaped a sustainable future for our industry and have set a benchmark for excellence in the North Texas area. We are proud to honor your outstanding achievements and you make us extremely proud to be working amongst you.

WEAT-NTS members shined, as usual, and brought home some hardware. Please join us in congratulating our WEAT-NTS members:

2026 WEAT North Texas Award Honorees

Name	Award
Trinity River Authority of Texas	GEORGE W. BURKE, JR. AWARD
Joshua Cohron, CPWP-M	MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM AWARD
Todd W. Reck	LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS
Chad Kopecki, P.E.	WINFIELD S. MAHLIE AWARD
Scott A. Hardy, P.E., PMP	RONALD B. SIEGER BIOSOLIDS
North Texas Section	MOST INTERESTING TRASH AWARD
Alison Bennett, Nick Dons, Grant Gayle,	SELECT SOCIETY OF SANITARY SLUDGE
City of Sherman South Wastewater Treatment Plant - Membrane	PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARD
James H. Forbes, Jr., P.E.	SIDNEY L. ALLISON AWARD
Operations Challenge Committee	COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT AWARD
Rodney Johnson, Ryan Kelly, Aaron Legako	BILL TATUM OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE AWARD

WEAT-NTS Texas Water Awards

2026 WEAT North Texas Award Honorees

Name	Award
Zachary Jackson	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD
Caeleb A. Butler	OUTSTANDING OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

WATERMARK AWARDS FOR COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE

<p>Small Utility: Johnson County Special Utility District JCSUD PFAS State of Emergency Response</p> <p>River Authorities or Water Districts: Tarrant Regional Water District Workday Implementation Communications Campaign</p>	<p>Category I: Communications programs: internal campaigns, external campaigns, crisis communications</p>
<p>River Authorities or Water Districts: Tarrant Regional Water District Integrated Water Supply Plan One-Pager</p> <p>Honorable Mention: City of Irving Water Utilities More Than a CCR: The History and Reliability Behind Irving's Drinking Water</p>	<p>Category II: Publications: annual reports, water quality reports, brochures, postcards, etc.</p>
<p>River Authorities or Water Districts: Tarrant Regional Water District Capital Improvement Projects Quarterly Newsletter</p>	<p>Category III: Digital Content: websites, social media, infographics, logos, etc.</p>
<p>River Authorities or Water Districts: Trinity River Authority of Texas TRA Alligator Snapping Turtle Education</p>	<p>Category IV: Community Outreach & Education Programs: events, curriculums,</p>
<p>River Authorities or Districts: Tarrant Regional Water District TRWD Mentors, Cristo Rey Students Build Bonds for Life</p>	<p>Category V: OpEds and Features: guest editorials or columns, feature stories or series</p>
<p>River Authorities or Water Districts: North Texas Municipal Water District NTMWD Imagine A Day Without Water</p> <p>Honorable Mention: Arlington Water Utilities 2025 Employee Spotlights</p>	<p>Category VI: Multimedia: video and photography</p>

Thank you to our Sponsors!

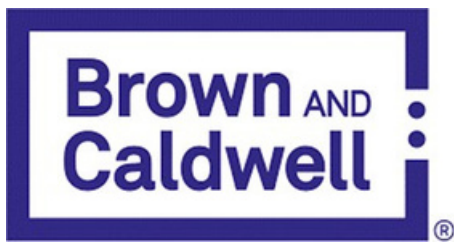
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ADD YOUR NAME HERE

See Sponsorship Opportunities on page 16 or [CLICK HERE.](#)



Sponsorship Opportunities

WEAT-NTS offers three levels of sponsorships for the January 2026–December 2026 year, plus multiple individual sponsorship opportunities.

Sponsorships will support:

- WEAT-NTS and Darryl Hall Scholarship Funds
- Dinner Meetings
- Young Professionals
- Outreach Programs (Science Fair, Future Cities, Trinity River Cleanup, etc.)

Classic Dinner Sponsor \$250

- ✓ One Dinner Meeting
- ✓ Recognition of Classic Sponsors includes:
 - Announcement on front page of newsletter (name of firm) for the sponsored meeting
 - Announcement in meeting reminder emails (name of firm)
 - Display of (name of firm) digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint
 - Verbal recognition of sponsors by President at beginning of the meeting

Gold Sponsor \$1,250

- ✓ Recognition at ALL six meetings (includes Fall BBQ Cook-off) for the price of five
- ✓ Recognition of the Gold Sponsors is the same as Classic Sponsors at all six meetings

Platinum Sponsor \$1,950

- ✓ Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor at ALL six meetings (including the Fall BBQ Cook-off)
- ✓ Recognition of the Platinum Sponsors is the same as Gold Sponsors, plus:
 - Company name included in all newsletters, meeting announcements, meeting reminder emails, and Company Link on WEAT-NTS website
 - Display of (name of firm) digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint
 - Recognition of Platinum Sponsors by President at the beginning of each meeting
 - Recognition as YP Sponsor, with \$100 from sponsorship being earmarked toward local YP events
 - Recognition as WEAT-NTS Scholarship fund contributor

Individual Sponsorship Opportunities

- Fall Opstoberfest BBQ Cook-Off: \$250
 - Sporting Clays: Options starting at \$150
 - WEAT-NTS Scholarship Fund Contribution: \$100
 - Daryl Hall Scholarship Fund Contribution: \$100
 - NTS Newsletter Business Card Ad (6 issues) and website link: \$150
 - NTS February Seminar: \$300
 - NTS February Seminar Table Sponsor: \$500
 - NTS February Seminar Break Area Sponsor: \$1,000
 - NTS February Seminar Reception Sponsor: \$1,000
 - NTS Young Professionals Sponsor: \$100
- Recognition of Individual Sponsors includes:
 - List of sponsors in newsletter announcement
 - List of sponsors in event reminder emails
 - Display of (name of firm) digital banner at meeting (if supplied) via PowerPoint