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## GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet

PGA Tour  
FedEx St. Jude Classic  
June 8 - 14, 2015

TPC Southwind  
Memphis, Tenn.

## Golf Course Management Information

### GCSAA Class A Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations:

Jim H. Thomas, CGCS

*The title "CGCS," after a superintendent's name, stands for Certified Golf Course Superintendent, which recognizes the achievement of high standards of professionalism through education and experience.*

### Availability to media:

Contact Jim H. Thomas, CGCS by phone 901-748-4004; cell 901-488-5599; email

[jimthomas@pgatourtpc.com](mailto:jimthomas@pgatourtpc.com)

### Education:

B.S., Horticulture and Turfgrass Management, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., 1979

**Years as a GCSAA member:** 34

**Years GCSAA certified:** 28

### GCSAA affiliated chapter:

Tennessee Golf Course Superintendents Association

**Years at this course:** 10

**Number of maintenance employees:** 28

**Number of tournament volunteers:** 50

### Previous positions:

1984-2005, Golf Course Superintendent, Colonial Country Club, Memphis, Tenn.; 1981-1984, Golf Course Superintendent, Sherwood Forest Country Club, Baton Rouge, La.; 1979-1981, Assistant Superintendent, Colonial Country Club, Ft. Worth, Texas

### Previous tournament preparation:

1979-1981 Colonial Invitational, Colonial Country Club, Ft. Worth, Texas; 1985-1988, 2010-2014 Federal Express St. Jude Classic, Colonial Country Club, Memphis, Tenn.

### Previous events hosted by facility:

1985-2006, 2010-2014 Federal Express St. Jude Classic

## Course statistics

**Average tee size:** 2,400 sq. ft.  
**Tournament Stimpmeter:** 11.5-12 ft.  
**Average green size:** 5,420 sq. ft.  
**Soil conditions:** Clay  
**Rounds per year:** 21,000  
**Green construction soil mix:** USGA (80% sand; 20% peat)  
**Acres of fairway:** 28  
**Source of water:** Well  
**Acres of rough:** 130  
**Drainage conditions:** Good  
**Sand bunkers:** 94  
**Water hazards:** 10

## Course ratings

|                 | Yardage | Par | Rating | Slope |
|-----------------|---------|-----|--------|-------|
| <b>PGA Tour</b> | 7244    | 70  | 75.7   | 144   |

## Course characteristics

|                 | Primary Grasses | Height of Cut |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Tees</b>     | Zoysiagrass     | 0.325"        |
| <b>Fairways</b> | Zoysiagrass     | 0.425"        |
| <b>Greens</b>   | Bermudagrass    | 0.125"        |
| <b>Rough</b>    | Bermudagrass    | 2.5"          |

## Environmental management/features

TPC Southwind is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. The ACSP is an education and certification program that helps golf courses protect our environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf.

Jim H. Thomas, CGCS, also received a Merit Award in 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

and 2013 from the GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. Presented by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

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## Wildlife on the course

Beaver; Blue heron; Canada goose; Deer; Fish; Fox; Hawk; Mole; Muskrat; Rabbit; Raccoon; Red fox; Snakes; Squirrel; Turkey; Turtle; Woodpecker; Several different species of birds

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## Interesting and historical course-related facts

After the 2004 FedEx St. Jude Classic, TPC Southwind closed to undergo an extensive golf course and clubhouse renovation. On the course, all the greens were reconstructed and turf was changed from bentgrass to Champion Bermudagrass. Many of the fairways were narrowed and recontoured. The fifth hole was changed from a par-5 to a par-4. The par-3 No. 8 was completely reconstructed.

During the renovation there were 11 new tees added, 15 new bunkers, three new bridges constructed, three ponds enlarged, four creeks stabilized and over 125 trees planted on the course. In an effort to positively increase the environmental impact, 19 acres of native grass were added to the rough. Overall, the course yardage increased 200-plus yards and now plays as a par 70 for tournament play.

The par-3 No. 11 is considered to be a smaller version of the famous 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass, but with its own uniqueness. The 165-yard hole requires a short iron over water to a small island green.

Prior to being a golf course, the property was a dairy farm with two grain silos and a windmill, which are still existing on the property.

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**Course architect/date:** Ron Prichard, 1987

**Most recent redesign/renovation:**  
PGA Tour Design Services, 2004

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## Other key course personnel

Eddie Chittom, GCSAA Class C 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Superintendent

Matt Cozart, GCSAA Class C 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Superintendent

Ricky Kaufman, Equipment Manager

Jon Goin, Club Manager

Bruce Firehock, Horticulturist

Michaelyn Bradford, PGA Professional

PGA Tour, Club Owner

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## Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on [Facebook](#), follow GCSAA on [Twitter](#), and visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org). The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

For additional information please visit [gcsaa.org/newsroom](http://gcsaa.org/newsroom) or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

Craig Smith  
Director of Communications and Media Relations  
Phone: 785-832-4431  
Cell: 785-691-9197  
Email: [csmith@gcsaa.org](mailto:csmith@gcsaa.org)

## Media story ideas to consider

- Water: Golf's biggest challenge

- The benefits of a golf course to the community and the environment
- What's new in turfgrass research
- Superintendents doing more with less
- Get to know an interesting superintendent
- Who's in charge? A visit with the CEO