

## He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother By Bob Hall

In mid-February, my wife, Mel and I went to visit my younger brother, Tom in Texas. Some of you older guys might remember him when he was a member of our association back in the late 70s and early 80s. Tom worked for me at Platteview CC after he got out of the Navy. He also worked for Lon Camp at Happy Hollow for awhile in the mid 70s. He eventually became superintendent at Lakeview GC in Ralston and later at Hilltop CC in Wahoo. In the late 80s, Tom and his third wife (he's now on #5) moved to Texas where he has been since.

Tom is superintendent at Runaway Bay GC, which is about 50 miles northwest of Ft. Worth, where our oldest son, Ben and his family live. Ben is superintendent at Sky Creek Ranch GC in Keller, TX. Over the years, my brother worked at some great courses including assistant supt. at Preston Trail and supt. at Shady Oaks and Canyon Creek all in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

### NGCSA March Meeting at Landscapes Unlimited

The association kicked off the year with a great meeting hosted by Landscapes Unlimited featuring an irrigation clinic with great presenters and demonstrations.

THANK YOU to Landscapes Unlimited for hosting this meeting.

We had over 50 members in attendance and enjoyed great fellowship following the meeting over a lunch buffet.

Please come out to support our upcoming events: Nebraska Golf Day on April 16th and the Hadwick Tournament on May 13th!



Last year Tom was diagnosed with stage four cancer of the prostate. The cancer has spread and prognosis is not great. He has been undergoing radiation treatments and soon will start chemotherapy. He has been working at the course except when in treatment, and recently the membership had a fundraiser at the club which raised \$20,000 for Tom and his wife, Tammie. Anyone who knows him is aware that he's a tough guy and will fight this ugly disease all the way. Tom has never professed to being perfect but I have never known anyone who could grow turfgrass better.

About 20 years ago, our son, Ben was struggling in the Omaha area. You are who you hang out with, if you know what I mean. After talking it over, Mel and I decided the best thing we could do for our son was move him to a new location for a fresh start. My brother and his wife at the time, Carole, decided that they would let him move to Texas and live with them. Tom found Ben a job at a golf course and Ben's career was underway. Thanks in part to his uncle, Ben has become a respected superintendent in Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas. Mel and I will be forever in my brother's debt for what he did for our family.

Cancer can be a devastating disease for anyone. If prayer and positive thinking mean anything, then my brother and I have some fishing trips and storytelling for our grandkids in the future.