Trans-Mississippi Marks 50th Anniversary of Its Turf Scholarship Program

The Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Program this year marks its 50th anniversary of granting scholarships to young men and women aspiring to become golf course superintendents or to pursue related areas in turf management.

On June 15, 1953 — after more than a year of careful planning — the Trans granted a $600 scholarship to Colorado A&M, now known as Colorado State, in Fort Collins. Directors previously had been asked to contribute $30 each to the scholarship program to get the program underway, but they also were requested to suggest various ways in which the Trans-Miss could raise money so that the program could be firmly established on a continuing basis. Not long after a Trans senior tournament became the primary fundraiser.

The Colorado scholarship was an auspicious start to a program that, during the next half-century, blossomed into one of the top financial supporters of educating potential superintendents. Various Trans directors including then President John Butts, David Stephenson, Johnny Dawson and Dick Braun were instrumental in developing the program with Braun, who lived in Denver, serving as the key liaison with the Colorado school.

In 1954 the turf program received an important financial boost when the Trans began its senior tournament at the Thunderbird in Phoenix. Later moved to Las Vegas, this senior competition, for more than 20 years, was successfully directed by Trans director Bob Goldwater of Phoenix Country Club. The first tournament attracted 104 entrants and, for the next quarter century it placed the scholarship fund on firm financial footing. However, in the late 1970s participation began to wane, courses had become harder to get in Las Vegas and the final Trans Senior was played in 1981. Curiously enough, that also was the year that the Trans-Miss agreed to a suggestion by director Jim Vickers to establish a four-ball tournament. From both a participant and financial perspective, the Trans Four-Ball enjoyed early and continuing success.

(Continued on Page 15)
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(Other universities which were among the early recipients of Trans scholarships were Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M, who still receive Trans scholarships. Then Texas Tech, the University of Colorado, UCLA, Oregon State and Washington State began receiving grants. However, in the mid-1960s, the Trans began analyzing agronomy programs at several schools, then decided those which would receive scholarships had to have quality agronomy programs with an emphasis on turf management. In the early years various directors would serve as scholarship chairman for approximately two years until the late Judd Ringer of Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minn. accepted the leadership position and held it on a continuing basis.

For years Ringer, also a past Trans president, had had both a personal and professional interest in the growing of grass as a golfer and as the owner of an organic lawn and garden care business. He also took time to visit and analyze various schools receiving Trans scholarships, making certain that they had the quality programs desired. In 1988 current chairman S.I. (Si) Russell, Jr., of Lakeside Golf Club in Toluca Lake, Calif., succeeded Ringer, who died in 1990. Much like Ringer, Russell continued close relationships with university professors.

During the past 20 years, the program has grown substantially. Since its inception, the Trans has granted more than $825,000 to 1,038 students.

Currently the Trans grants 36 scholarships totaling more than $50,000 to 15 universities including two new Jack Nicklaus awards at The Ohio State University, his alma mater. Jack won two Trans-Miss championships in 1958 and 1959 and last year was named the Trans-Mississippis Golfer of the Century for his varied contributions to the game. Other schools now receiving Trans scholarships are the Universities of Arizona, California State Polytechnic, Colorado State, Iowa State, Kansas State, Michigan State, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Penn State, South Dakota State and Texas A&M.

"The Trans is proud of what it has accomplished over the years," said Scholarship Chairman Russell. "Particularly appealing is the fact that 85% of our turf graduates have become golf course superintendents."

"Particularly appealing is the fact that 85% of our turf graduates have become golf course superintendents."

Trans-Mississippi—
(Continued from Page 11)
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USGA UPDATE

Ice and Snow Accumulations

By BOB VAVREK
USGA Agronomist

Extreme temperature fluctuations and a lack of consistent snow cover across the upper Midwest have many superintendents worried about Poa annua survival on greens and fairways. The potential for winter desiccation injury to turf is high taking into consideration the droughty conditions during October and November last fall. To make matters worse, deep frost impedes water movement through the soil, making low lying areas of turf more susceptible to freeze/thaw injury following several midwinter rainfall events that have occurred in many areas of the Region.

Fortunately, turf had ample opportunity to harden off before winter. Samples removed from sites on greens that have a history of winterkill have, so far, greened up when taken inside and placed in a warm sunny site.

The late-February through early-April period, however, can be the time when turf on greens is exceptionally susceptible to crown hydration injury associated with freeze/thaw cycles. Recent storms have blanketed turf with a significant amount of snow. Make an extra effort to prevent snow accumulations in the immediate surrounds to greens from creating a dam that causes the water from melting snow and ice to accumulate across low lying areas of putting surfaces. As the weather slowly warms up, Poa annua will become increasingly susceptible to cold temperatures and crown hydration. Sometimes turf that managed to survive nearly the entire winter can be zapped by a cold snap in March.

Removing ice/snow from the surrounds along the primary surface drainage patterns off the green can be well worth the effort. Even a narrow channel can keep melting snow from transforming a green into an ice rink. Many superintendents remove snow from the front of the greens, but pay attention to secondary drainage patterns off the sides or back of the putting surface as well.

Should winter injury occur, feel free to contact the North Central office for information regarding the most effective and expedient ways to encourage rapid recovery. An onsite, TAS visit can be especially helpful to convince golfers to provide enough time for damaged turf to recover. Play, even light play, across damaged, overseeded turf can greatly prolong this process and possibly have an adverse effect on playing conditions throughout the season.

(Editor’s Note: Bob Vavrek may be reached at rvavrek@usga.org or by calling 262-797-8743.)

On The Road With The USGA

By R.A. (Bob) BRAME, Director

The highlight of January travel was the Midwest Turf Expo in Indianapolis on January 6th thru the 8th. The winter weather made for good attendance and some interesting information was presented. The following points were made by various speakers. If you’re interested in more information or in knowing who was the presenter, give my office a call.

Research on "Green Speed - Good, Bad and the Ugly," administered by Michigan State University has revealed that, on a given day from green to green, it requires a difference of at least eight inches in speed for golfers to notice. For touring pros a four inch difference is noticed.

Golfers seem to be content with a green speed of between 9fi and 10fi feet.

Involving the members at the course where the research was done, via survey input, seemed to help in achieving a reasonable balance between dependability/health and playability.

Green speed was typically slower at 2:00 p.m. as compared to 7:00 a.m.

Speeds did vary from day-to-day with the 9fi to 10fi window being the zone where most golfers were content.

If you’ve had problems with moles in the past check-out www.themoleman.com.

A great deal of research continues to be done with or concerning Heritage resistance. There are currently at least fifteen researchers working on this concern around the world.

The take home message: Heritage is no longer a stand alone product. The suggestion was to alternate fungicides and tank mix Heritage with a material like chlorothalonil.

Low rate tank mixes of various fungicides (label permitting) may help address the amount restrictions with chlorothalonil.

2001 was the first year for Heritage resistance to gray leaf spot to show up in Indiana (Bloomington area).

In 2002, gray leaf spot disease was active from July thru October in Indiana.

The tendency for gray leaf spot to start on the higher mowed rough and then move onto fairways, as has been common in the Mid-Atlantic states, doesn’t seem to apply in Indiana or Kentucky.

The following is a good web site to check periodically through the season, www.btny.purdue.edu/turfcast.fcgi

We have just completed our annual mailing of Turf Advisory Service information to all golf courses in our database. If your course did not receive this information give our office a call. Course visitation is the foundation of Green Section activities; and as always, we look forward to a new season and working with your course.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Site Host</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watonwan</td>
<td>Madelia</td>
<td>Madelia Street Department Garage</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 17</td>
<td>8 am - 11 am</td>
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<td>Old Hwy 60 NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>Fairmont</td>
<td>Martin County Highway Garage</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 17</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1200 Marcus Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>Chandler Coop</td>
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<td>8 am - 11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Cenex-Harvest States Coop</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 18</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>220 4th Street South (Hwy 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sibley</td>
<td>Gaylord</td>
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<td>Hwy 19 West (next to Prairie House)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fillmore</td>
<td>Chatfield</td>
<td>Hammel Equipment</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 24</td>
<td>8 am - 11 am</td>
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<td>N. Hwy 52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steele</td>
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<td>Ellendale Coop</td>
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<td>Hwy. 30 East</td>
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<td>Goodhue</td>
<td>Zumbrota</td>
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<td>8 am - 11 am</td>
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<td>4H Bldg. Cty. Rd. 6 off Hwy 58</td>
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<td>Ramsey</td>
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<td>35E and Maryland (West Frontage Rd.)</td>
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