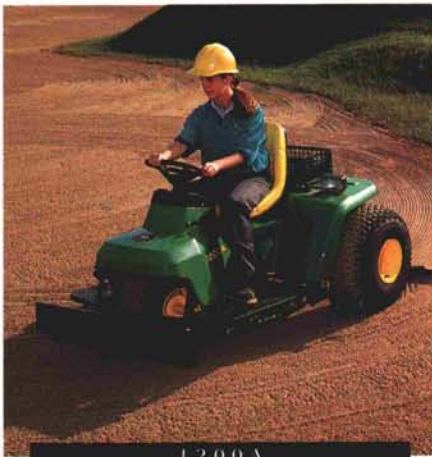


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where he or she will be responsible for recording as many wild species as possible from within the golf course boundaries.

The match will be based on the total number of species observed by each team on its 12 sites, with the highest aggregate score winning. Due to the larger number of naturally occurring bird species in the USA, a handicap of eight American species equating to five European species will be employed in determining the final result.

In the USA, the competition will be organized by Audubon International with special assistance from the Wildlife Links Committee. In Europe, the event will be organized by the European Golf Association's Ecology Unit with assistance from Birdlife International and its national partner associations.

Peter said that his observer reported 82 different species at Ivanhoe G.C. during the 24 hours on the course.

.....
Congratulations to Bob Breen, Jr., of Arrowhead G.C., on earning an environmental man-

agement specialist certificate from the GCSAA for completing a specialization program for Golf Course Development. GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of golf course maintenance and the increasingly complex training needs of golf course superintendents by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program.

.....
Editor's Note: Apologies to Mike Mumper, Ravisloe C.C., for not giving him credit for his article, "Larry Chirico -N- Rolling Green Country Club" in the June issue.
.....

Reflections on Tom Mascaro 1916 - 1997

*Dudley Smith
Silver Lake C.C.*

I met the mushroom compost salesman about 1950 when he came to Centre Hills C.C. in State College, Pennsylvania, to demonstrate his prototype aerifier. It was pulled behind a Worthington Chief tractor. You engaged the open spoon aerifier by raising up the transport wheels (no hydraulic help). Sand bags were placed on top to get better penetration.

No. 2 green by the clubhouse was the site. We traveled in concentric circles—what a mess when we got to the center of the green. After Mascaro left, we had much tamping and topdressing to do with hand shovels (topdressing machines were not invented yet). Today, the superintendent would be discharged for making such a mess on the green; but at Centre Hills, Burt Musser was the green chairman.

As a student in 1952-1953, I helped the graduate students count crabgrass plants on test plots on fairways in Philadelphia.

The normal routine was to stop at Mascaro's home in West Point for spaghetti and beer before the trek back to Happy Valley.

The "Big 3" (O.J. Noer, Fred Grau, and Burt Musser) always had a fourth "bench man" on their speaking engagements. The cameraman was Tom Mascaro. Imagine the education you would have gotten if you could have eavesdropped in their hotel room while they were sipping Haig & Haig Scotch. The "Troubadours of Turf" had SRO audiences in Ames, Keokuk, West Lafayette, and Toronto.

Mention Mascaro, and you think aerifier, verticut, moisture sensing apparatus; but when I went to visit Warren Bidwell at Olympia Fields, he had a dozen West Point electric greensmowers charging along a wall. What heavy burdensome machines. The advent of the triplex mower phased out the walking electric greensmowers.

I think of the many turf clinics where the crippled little Italian in the electric scooter was the final

act with his colored slide show. Tom had more organized colored slides than anyone in the world (from sheep grazing fairways in Scotland to Chinese coolies building golf courses by hand with pick and hoe).

How many years did our magazine publish his photo quiz "Can You Identify This Problem?" It was a classic.

Two of my friends possessed the same qualities—humble, good listeners, brilliant minds, mechanical geniuses (with patents to prove it), mentors to scholars, recipients of our Distinguished Service award: Ben O. Warren and Thomas Mascaro.

We will miss you, Tommy!

Editor's Note: Thomas Mascaro of Pompano Beach, Florida, died May 6, 1997, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons John and Bobby; daughters Tammy Shackelford, Linda Owens, and Stella Churchill; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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are used responsibly and that large individual contributions could not steer the research program away from work that is in the best interests of the entire state.

What are the major sources of funding for the research program?

Funding for present research activities comes primarily from the GCSAA, USGA, Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and small grants. I might add that having the support of these groups is very valuable as it demonstrates to the university that turfgrass research is important and draws financial support from prestigious organizations in the industry. Here again, the creation of a significant, unified funding body would help the turfgrass program compete with major commodities for federal and state funds.

Is the University of Illinois considering any new continuing education opportunities for turfgrass professionals in Illinois?

It is important to pick and choose new opportunities very carefully so as not to duplicate the efforts of the GCSAA or other existing programs. Presently, the university hosts an annual Field Day (scheduled for August 20, 1997), offers an introductory short course in turfgrass management, and is a major participant in the ITF winter conference. Looking ahead, working with the Internet is probably the most promising new opportunity.

Is attending the University of Illinois a good choice for students interested in a turfgrass career?

Yes, absolutely. Students at the University of Illinois can choose from a wide variety of courses to hone their skills in agronomy, plant pathology, horticulture and plant sciences. Also,

students have the option of combining an M.B.A degree with any other academic discipline to prepare themselves for a broader range of future employment opportunities.

How can the University of Illinois increase student enrollment?

Recruiting can be difficult given the student profile (i.e., academic record) needed to gain admission to the University of Illinois. Transfer students from the state's junior colleges are probably going to be the best source for future recruiting. Many students' choice of a college program is strongly influenced by their supervisor at the place where they first realized that turf management was a career opportunity.

We hope that those supervisors will recommend the University of Illinois as the best place for those students to attend.

In conclusion, Dr. Branham's comments obviously reflect a commitment to two of his primary responsibilities: research and student training. His comments also demonstrate that there are many challenges along the way to fulfilling his responsibilities. With the shrinking federal and state budgets, support from the private sector will be an important component of his and the entire faculty's success in the years ahead. As one who has personally benefited greatly from the turfgrass program at the University of Illinois, I intend to work with others in the state to show my support. ■

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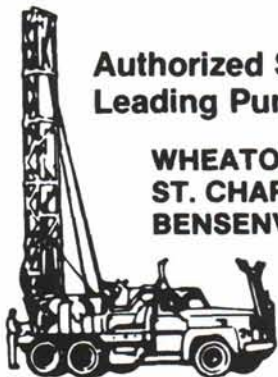
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