



# Trans-Miss Transcript

*Serving Golf for More than 100 Years*

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## 2012 Trans-Miss Championship Preview

Trans Heads to West Coast  
Twice in 2012, Visits Oklahoma's  
Oak Tree National



*Oak Tree National*



*La Jolla Country Club*





# Greetings from the **Trans-Mississippi Golf Association!**

I am honored to have the support and confidence of my fellow Trans-Miss directors as I begin my term as president of this historic golf association. I played in "The Trans" as a young golfer and I have always thought this organization had an important role in the national golf scene. I am sure my new responsibilities will only affirm my youthful impression! I look forward to working with our Trans-Miss directors and staff to present three outstanding championships for our competitive golfers and to again offer one of the best scholarship programs in the nation for turfgrass students.

For 2012 we begin with our senior championship at La Jolla Country Club. We are going to use a 54-hole stroke play format this year (a concession to the need for certainty in travel dates!). With a late May date in southern California, we know La Jolla CC will be an outstanding host and our seniors will enjoy the week regardless of the quality of golf they play!

Our showcase Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship made a huge climb up the list of quality national events last year with our champion Kelly Kraft going on to win the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship. Oak Tree National in Edmond, Oklahoma will host an outstanding field of amateurs in July for a 72-hole championship. You can bet that the 2012 Trans-Miss champion will be another future star!

If you have never been to Bandon Dunes Golf Resort on the coast of Oregon, this is your chance (and if you have been there, no doubt you will want to return). Our Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championship will be played there in mid-October using three of its four golf courses. We played our four-ball championship there in 2008 and we are excited to be going back to this awesome resort.

Please take a moment to review the feature in this newsletter that describes our upcoming tournament schedule. Entries are available on our website at [www.trans-miss.com](http://www.trans-miss.com).

Congratulations to Tyler MacKenzie for being named our top turfgrass scholar for 2011. A good Scottish name like that is perfect for a career in golf course maintenance! The Trans-Miss is proud of all of our scholars and they are working hard on golf courses all over the nation. This program works because of the support of our member clubs and our many generous donors. We appreciate all!

You will enjoy reading about our 2011 Vickers Award winner in this issue.

Exciting times are in store for the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and I invite you to join in the fun of competition and the satisfaction of donating in 2012!

I hope to see you in 2012!

Warmest regards,

John Pigg  
TMGA President



# 2012 Trans-Miss Championship Preview

The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association points west as it makes a pair of return trips and visits a new destination during its three championships in 2012.

The Association will host its second-ever Senior Championship May 21-24 at La Jolla Country Club while making its third trip to the Southern California course. The club hosted the match play championship in 1989 and 2004.

This summer, some of the best collegiate golfers in the country will convene at a new T-MGA site as Oak Tree National in Edmond, Okla. hosts the 109th Trans Championship July 9-12.

Finally, on Oct. 15-18 the T-MGA returns to the southwest Oregon coast and Bandon Dunes Resort for the annual Trans Four-ball Championship. Included in the three-round rotation this time will be the club's Old Macdonald course, which is quickly becoming a favorite among the resort's top-rated offerings.

"2012 should be a banner year for Trans-Miss competitions. The renovated and highly acclaimed Oak Tree National in Edmond, Okla., will host the Trans-Mississippi Championship and be a big draw for a nationally elite field of amateurs including a long list of the very best collegians and some international players," says John Pigg, T-MGA president. "We are well on our way to restoring this championship to its former place in the top tier of amateur events."

"Our Trans-Mississippi Senior Championship is being converted to 54-holes of stroke play and we will catch a wonderful week of weather at the beautiful La Jolla Country Club in California. And then in October our Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball travels to what may be the most beautiful collection of seaside golf courses in the world – Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. Mid-amateurs and seniors will play 54 holes of four-ball stroke play over three of the four fabulous venues there. I would encourage anyone interested in participating to enter now!" Entry forms for all T-MGA Championships are available on our website at [www.trans-miss.com](http://www.trans-miss.com).

## Senior Championship May 21-24 La Jolla Country Club La Jolla, Calif.

When you have a good thing going you go back to the well. The Trans makes its third trip to beautiful La Jolla Country Club in sunny Southern California in May for the second Senior Championship. And as good a fit as the club has been for the T-MGA, hosting one of the longest running amateur golf organizations and a key amateur championship is a good fit for La Jolla CC too.

"The club is very proud of its history with the Trans,"

says Pete Coe, enjoying his 30th year as head professional at La Jolla. "They understand the importance of the role of the superintendent; he's protecting its most valuable asset. We certainly have a history with amateur golf here. We've had a number of local and national amateur events here and I think that's where the club thinks it can give back to the golfing community."

Built on a mesa less than a mile from the Pacific, the La Jolla CC course features rolling hills and views of the ocean from every tee and green.

"When most people walk away they would remember the ocean vistas and the speed of our greens," Coe says. "The course was built in the middle '20s and little has really changed. The greens are very small by today's standards but we keep them very fast. They consistently play between 11 and 12 on the Stimpmeter."

Those speedy putting surfaces were re-built by architect Cary Bickler in 1994 and are maintained under intense agronomic practices that allow for low mowing heights. And they're kikuyu grass, a turf La Jolla features wall to wall and one that will provide plenty of challenges for those unfamiliar.

"Zoysia might be the closest thing to it...the kikuyu grass was primarily used for erosion control and was planted on the sides of hills and things like that," Coe says. "It got into this course many years ago. We've learned how to maintain it, cultivate it. And like (Riviera Country Club) up in L.A. we are one of about half a dozen courses in California that are 100 percent kikuyu. It's great year round."

Coe says the La Jolla layout has no water hazards, bunkering re-designed by "Open Doctor" Rees Jones in 1983 and can be stretched to a length of 6,685 yards for the Trans seniors. The course plays to its scorecard length too with the sticky fairways, Coe says.

"That's not a long course by today's standards...but kikuyu grass does not allow for any roll," he says. "When the ball hits kikuyu grass the ball doesn't release and go forward. It tends to kind of grab it and there's only minimal roll forward."

## Strong par 4s will challenge field

"We have three really good par 4s that are really pretty long considering the overall length of the golf course," he says. "...the third hole, which is a dogleg left, par 4, slightly uphill, plays 436 yards, the ninth hole, straight away par 4 at 468 yards, and the 13th hole, which is 458 yards. Those are three of our more challenging holes on the course. The rest of the holes are fairly narrow. The golf course doesn't have a lot of trees but it does have, in some cases, fairly narrow fairways."

Coe says that will force players like those in the talented Trans Senior field to use strategy on some holes.

"A number of these players will probably lay it up on four holes," he says. "Those are holes that it doesn't make

any sense to hit driver on because there's too much trouble out there."

That wasn't the case in 2003 for local Phil Mickelson on La Jolla's short, par-4 first hole. The PGA Tour star pulled driver on the 305-yard hole during an exhibition round with Coe and knocked his tee shot into the cup for an ace.

"Flies it on the green, takes one bounce and goes in the hole," Coe recalls. "The most remarkable shot I had ever seen."

Mickelson re-designed the club's short game area recently and Trans competitors will get to take full advantage of the new four-hole feature in May, Coe says.

The club and its close proximity to La Jolla will be a big plus for competitors as they look for entertainment when golf is done for the day, Coe adds.

"The Village of La Jolla is just lined with some wonderful restaurants," he says. "For spouses and family that are coming if they have time and they want to go and just spend the day in La Jolla...everything is within walking distance. They can walk to the beach, a lot of great shopping. It's really nice."

## **Trans Championship July 9-12 Oak Tree National Golf Club, Edmond, Okla.**

When one of the stronger fields in American amateur golf convenes at Oak Tree National Golf Club for the 109th Trans-Mississippi Championship, competitors will face an Oklahoma challenge that can be rivaled by few championship-level courses in the Sooner State.

The Pete Dye design, first opened in the 1970s, boasts an impressive list of key golf events played there. That list includes the 1984 U.S. Amateur – won by Edmond's own Scott Verplank; the 1988 PGA Championship won by Jeff Sluman; the 2000 Club Professional Championship; and the 2006 Senior PGA Championship won by Jay Haas. The course will host the 2014 U.S. Senior Open.

"We're a well-established golf course with tradition and I think anybody that comes in here, with the Oklahoma prairie and the wind, and the humidity here that we have in the summer, I think they're going to have a treat to play this golf course," says Steve Kimmel, head golf professional at Oak Tree the last 11 years. "This golf course was built for one reason – major championships. That will continue as long as we're at this facility. That's what Pete Dye wanted. That's what the (co-founders) wanted. That's what we do and the members understand that. We're pretty fortunate in a little community like this to have a course that is a nationally-known facility."

## **Edmond gem is among Dye's best**

Oak Tree National is often referred to as "Dye's Best Inland Golf Course," according to Kimmel. It's the course that started everything you now see with the famous logo of the oak tree found on hole No. 5. The course has plenty of length, differing nines and those infamous Pete Dye bunkers to challenge fields as talented as the one expected for the Trans July 9-12.

"The front nine and the back nine are totally opposite," Kimmel says. "The front nine is sort of wide open but it's got water surrounding seven holes. It's a longer nine and the water comes into play a lot more. The front nine from the back tee goes 3,800 yards which is an awfully long golf course."

Included on that challenging opening nine are two of Golf Digest's most difficult holes in the world in Nos. 3 and 4, according to Kimmel.

"No. 3 you have a double dogleg par 5 with a very small green. Then on No. 4 you have a par 3 that's all carry over the water and the only landing area you have is on the right side of the green and it's about 210 yards," he says. "Once you get by (No. 3 and 4) and you get to No. 5 you can catch your breath...if you survive those holes you're in pretty good shape. But those back-to-back holes are just killers."

The back side gets a lot tighter with more trees involved, the Oak Tree head pro says. It's shorter, at about 3,600 yards, but after a Dye resign in 2008, Oak Tree's two nines are about equal in terms of course rating. Kimmel says he expects the course to be played around 7,000 yards for the Trans.

"It used to be if you got through the front side you take a great big, deep breath on the back side, you were in pretty good shape...but that's not the case any more," Kimmel warns. "Once you get to the back side, you can go along and play pretty good until you get to No. 13 – the Postage Stamp. It's a short par 3, but in 1988 Seve Ballesteros made a nine on that hole. It's very small, there's no place to miss the green. If you do, either you're in the creek on the left-hand side or you have huge undulations that go toward the creek on the right-hand side if you're chipping. You almost have to hit that green."

In 2008 Oak Tree put in all new U3 bermuda grass fairways while its rough remains common bermuda grass. Kimmel says Oak Tree's Dominant Plus bentgrass greens go anywhere from 9,000 to 11,000 square feet and play to 11 or 12. Dye "subtled" the greens in 2001 to bring them from their mid-70s design to contours that match green speeds you find on modern courses, Kimmel says.

"When he looked at No. 9 he said 'What in the hell was I thinking?'" Kimmel recalls.

Trans competitors will make good use of Oak Tree's top-rated amenities including a "state of the art practice facility."

"It was built by the new owners in 2008...we have people coming from all over the state just to take lessons here," Kimmel says.



When play is over for the day, Kimmel suggests Trans competitors visit Oklahoma City's Bricktown area, about 15 minutes from Oak Tree's northern Oklahoma County location.

"It's sort of copied after San Antonio's River Walk," he says. "It's an unbelievable place. Anybody that stays here has to go and be entertained down there one or two nights."

## Four-Ball Championship October 15-18 Bandon Dunes Resort Bandon, Ore.

In 2008, the Trans came to the highly regarded Bandon Dunes Resort for the first time and Four-Ball participants got to challenge the Bandon Dunes, Pacific Dunes and Bandon Trails courses. In 2010, the facility nestled gracefully along the Pacific in southwestern Oregon added the Tom Doak/Jim Urbina-designed Old Macdonald course giving it four layouts ranked in Golf Digest's "Top 100 in America."

So, 2012 Trans Four-Ball competitors will get to see the newest of the four Bandon Dunes gems when they play three rounds over three days in mid-October. It's the same course, homage to noted course designer C.B. Macdonald, which hosted USGA Amateur Public Links Championships for both men and women last summer.

"Old Macdonald is probably the most different of the four courses here at Bandon Dunes," says B.R. Koehnemann, director of marketing and public relations. "It is a true links course in the fact you're going to get wide open fairways and the biggest greens in the world (according to Doak's measurements the fescue putting surfaces are bigger than those at St. Andrews). Massive greens to the point you're not going to know if you're standing on the green, standing on the fringe or standing on the fairway."

Without the protection of some of the other course's trees and sand dunes, Old Macdonald plays very firm and fast, Koehnemann says.

"Old Macdonald is kind of wide open where you're going to have to manage the wind and the ground game is at a premium," he adds. "When we hosted the Amateur Public Links we saw these great amateur players hitting putter from 80 yards off the front of the green. The ground game and creativity are very big at Old Macdonald. You're going to see shots you only see at a British Open. Being able to hit a multitude of shots is a big advantage."

Koehnemann says No. 7 at Old Macdonald is a short par 4 with a green perched on top of a dune.

"...you're pretty much hitting your second shot right into the ocean," he says. "So if you go short, the ball will probably end up back at your feet and if you go long you're going to end up on the beach."

The 16th hole, known as The Alps hole, is a 455-yard,

dogleg par-4 where players face a difficult approach shot.

"You face a blind second shot over a dune. You have a directional flag on top of the dune to get you down on the green," Koehnemann says. "It's a driver off the tee. If you bomb a drive down the right side of the fairway you might get a glimpse of the green around the dune. It's a great hole, strategically..."

## Bandon Dunes, Pacific Dunes courses round out '12 rotation

As 2008 Trans Four-Ball participants can attest, the Bandon Dunes and Pacific Dunes courses, with their wall-to-wall fescue and wind-swept bunkers, offer plenty of challenges as well.

"Bandon Dunes, our first course to open, players are going to see a very player-friendly course...there is plenty of room to drive. But I think where it's going to get you, the challenge is around the green," Koehnemann says. "It's very strategic where you put the ball in the fairway. If you hit the ball to the right part of the fairway you're going to get some really great approaches into these greens. It's a ton of fun with great views from every hole and what I think is the best hole on the property, No. 16."

Pacific Dunes is another Doak course and opened in 2001. It's usually the highest ranked of the Bandon Dunes courses on national ratings, according to Koehnemann. "You're going to get a course that probably has the most spectacular views on the property, but those views are on some of the toughest holes," Koehnemann says. "You have No. 4, the long par 4 along the water where you're pretty much teeing off over the water. Then going back the other way, No. 13, which is another beautiful hole. But it's such a tough hole because the green is perched up just enough that you have to hit a perfectly judged (approach shot), from a height standpoint and a spin standpoint..."

And if the courses themselves aren't enough to challenge a skilled Four-Ball field, Bandon Dunes' weather conditions might be. Mark Twain must have been standing on the property when he uttered "if you don't like the weather wait a minute." Competitors in the 2008 event saw warm, sunny conditions, later ice pellets coming in sideways...and everything in between.

So be prepared!

"Although you never know what you're going to get, one tip is don't bring your umbrella -- just have good rain gear," Koehnemann advises. "Your umbrella will just blow away. If you don't have good rain gear you can get it here."



*Old MacDonald at Bandon Dunes*

# Rutger's MacKenzie receives Vickers Scholarship



Often the children of golf course superintendents go into the “family business.” Such is the case of the latest Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Vickers Scholarship winner Christopher Tyler MacKenzie.

His father John, also a Trans scholarship winner, has enjoyed a long career as superintendent at North Oaks (Minn.) Golf Club and Tyler

joined him on the course at an early age. After doing his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, the transition to the Rutgers University turf program and a career as a golf course manager seemed like a perfect fit for the younger MacKenzie.

The Minnesotan was selected among 14 students earning 2011-12 scholarships from the T-MGA. MacKenzie, 24, received a \$7,500 scholarship as he completed his education in the Rutgers’ two-year Golf Course Management Program late last year. He also receives a framed certificate, T-MGA hat and tie.

“With two people close to me, my father and his assistant, both having won Trans scholarships, to join them with that -- especially my dad -- it’s kind of a legacy deal,” said MacKenzie of Forest Lake, Minn. “I didn’t know the (T-MGA) has been around as long as it has. To know that I was awarded the top Trans scholarship, it’s an honor.”

## Bright future in golf course management

John MacKenzie has had a chance to watch his son develop a passion for golf course work at North Oaks for several years. His involvement began with the simple task of divot repair and progressed to machine operator and even chemical and fertilizer application.

“I believe Tyler is outstanding in all areas as he understands what the finished product should be and how to accomplish the tasks to get there,” a proud John MacKenzie Jr. wrote in a recommendation letter to the Trans. “A natural ‘good guy,’ Tyler has fit in well with all of the varied employees I have had the pleasure to work

with... As a former employer I cannot recommend Tyler any stronger as a willing candidate to work hard and make full use of your scholarship.”

MacKenzie has completed internships at Oakmont Country Club and the TPC Twin Cities. He has volunteered on the maintenance staffs at several key golf events, including the 2009 PGA Championship, the 2008 U.S. Women’s Open and two 3M Championships.

“The first internship I did was at TPC of Twin Cities in Blaine. There I got my first introduction to tournament set-up. They run the (Champions Tour’s 3M Championship) every year,” he says. “While it’s not a major tournament you still have the check list of everything you have to do. That’s what gave me my drive for doing tournaments.”

At Oakmont last summer, MacKenzie got a first-hand look at prepping a course for a major -- the 2011 U.S. Open Championship.

“That’s where I got to see what it’s like to bring a course up to (major) tournament standards all the time,” he says. “They’re maintaining the course at incredible levels all the time. It was amazing to see and be a part of that. I’d never experienced anything like that before. It’s a lot of hard work but it shows. You can see what the course does. And it’s one of the top courses for a reason.”

And Oakmont superintendent John Zimmers was impressed with the work MacKenzie did at the club.

“I am excited to follow Tyler’s future career path, as I am confident that he is going to become a very successful golf course superintendent, therefore making a great profession even better,” Zimmers wrote in a letter to the T-MGA.

MacKenzie carried a 3.79 grade point average in Rutgers’ Golf Course Management Program. His work in the highly respected turf program impressed administration.

“Tyler MacKenzie is a highly motivated and extremely intelligent individual,” says Edward V. Lipman Jr., MacKenzie’s academic advisor at Rutgers. “His roots in the golf turf industry run very deep as his father has been a superintendent for over 25 years, and based on Tyler’s performance in his first year in the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School, it is clear that it is his intention to walk in his father’s footsteps and become a successful golf course superintendent.”

MacKenzie earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Wisconsin-Eau Claire before moving to Rutgers.

“Education is unbelievably important. Every year technology changes and information changes,” MacKenzie said. “You’ve got to keep yourself educated, whether it’s reading articles put out in magazines or anything like that...it’s like everything nowadays, you just have to stay on top of the turf field.”

## Working in major atmosphere

With that undergraduate degree in economics, MacKenzie can't help but get a little analytical when it comes to his views on the future of the profession he's about to enter. A view that is also shaped by having his dad been in this profession so long.

"The way the economy is going, as with all businesses, you've got to get smarter with fewer resources that you have," he says. "People outside of golf course management see golf courses as a cost. 'Why would they put resources into something that very few people get to use?' There are public courses everywhere that people don't realize how little you put into it and still get a great amount of enjoyment. So right now I think it's having to do more with less as impossible as that sounds."

MacKenzie also says golf courses continue to battle age-old stereotypes.

"Water usage, getting blamed for polluting water – which is not true," he says. "Golf courses have a bad rap when it come to certain environmental things like that. (Reducing resource use) is going to be a big issue."

When it comes to course choice, MacKenzie says he wants to work at a facility that hosts championships.

"Preferably major championships – that would be great," he adds. "I think I've made significant steps toward that. I'm leaving for the Olympic Club and I'll be there for the U.S. Open. That will be a nice experience. And I've volunteered at major tournaments in the past. I just love the atmosphere of it."

He says he thinks superintendents enjoy putting their product on a national stage.

"I think every manager likes to show what they and their crew can do," he adds. "It's a sense of pride. 'When we all work together here's what we can do for our course.'"

As for what part of the country he might work, MacKenzie says he has a "certain comfort level" with cool season grasses

"I've had experience with them for 11 years so there is that; I like that I know them," MacKenzie says. "But I wouldn't mind, whether for just a season or a couple of years, working with warm-season grasses. I've never had that opportunity. So I can't say if that's something I'd stick with but I'd like the opportunity to try."

With his father having won a Trans scholarship and now joining the elite ranks of Vickers winners, MacKenzie says he understands the tie he'll now enjoy with one of the longest running organizations in the game of golf.

"I've only just started to realize how big of a deal it is," he admits. "I'd heard of it before but never understood to what degree...the Trans-Miss is a big deal. I'm looking forward to the opportunities that it's going to provide me and what I can do back for them. I have friends all over the industry and I know people who have turf school in mind. So it would be nice to share my experience with them and let them know there is this great organization out there."

## Outdoors 'pretty much year round'

While growing up on the course -- he can recall a picture taken when he was about 2 riding in a golf cart with his father -- MacKenzie says he first played golf at about age 5.

"I was introduced at an early age...as long as I can remember I was on a golf course," he relates. "So that was one of the early sports I played. I played baseball too. I've always been a kid that's outside. I was never really an indoors kind of kid. I was on the high school golf team. I didn't do many other sports. Baseball got in the way of playing golf which I decided to keep on doing because I had the availability to play because working on the course during the summer allowed me the privilege to play." Golf showed him the importance of self-reliance, MacKenzie says.

"Golf is about the only sport in the world where you play against yourself," he says. "I guess golf's best life lesson is you have to rely on yourself. Of course you are playing the course, but in the end, it's all up to you."

MacKenzie says he can recall his early days working on the course, long before he was old enough to operate any machinery.

"It was something to keep us busy as kids; my sister did it as well...I started at 12 just doing simple things like tee box maintenance," he says. "Over the next couple summers I would progressively do more and more things, mowing tee boxes or rotary mowing whatever I was allowed to at the time. You have to be 16 before you can ride a mower. Before that I did all the stuff you can do, work a (string) trimmer or anything like that. Eventually it became a full-time summer job."

And the outdoors-type work was a perfect fit.

"To me, nothing beats a summer day that you can get out...the sun's out, it's a beautiful day, there's blue sky... nothing beats that to me," he says. "That's why I got into golf. That's why I do this."

As his time at North Oaks High wore down, MacKenzie enrolled at Wisc.-Eau Claire with the intention of getting a degree in computer science, but determined during his first year to go a different route.

"My freshman year, it turned out I couldn't program computers," he says. "So I made the switch to economics,



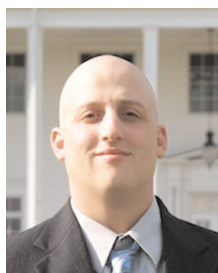


which was a course I took in high school and I liked it. I did well in high school in it. But I learned after that it's not quite the same in high school as it is in college." Now in his mid-20s, when he does find free time, MacKenzie says he enjoys fishing.

"Dad lives on a lake and during the summers that I have been here that was always a fun way to relax...just to go out on the lake, throw out a line a fish for a bit," he says. "Before that we would go boating. I would occasionally wake board and then I snow board during the winter so outdoor activities pretty much year round."

## Five were selected for \$4,500 Trans scholarships

### Tyler Manly, Michigan State University



Manly of Howell, Mich, receives the W.D. McBee, Jr. Scholarship. He carries a 3.97 GPA, earned an undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan and is the 2011 president of the Michigan State University Turf Club.

"Honesty, integrity, hard work, respect. These are the qualities of any successful candidate and Tyler has all of those," Oakland Hills Country Club superintendent Steve Cook wrote of Manly, who interned at the prestigious Michigan club and spent four years in the Air Force. "He was trustworthy and responsible when spraying fertilizers and chemicals. Tyler was not one to simply 'go through the motions.' He was always engaged with the particular job he was assigned."

An honor student who graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Michigan, Manly was called "the type of student and citizen you would wish for everyone" by John N. Rogers III of Michigan State University's turf program.

"As an older student that already has a college degree and a great deal of industry experience, Tyler brings a unique prospective to the classroom, one that is admired both by peers and professors. Tyler is the Turf Cub president for the current academic year and is showing tremendous leadership in this area," Rogers III added.

### Michael McNamara, Penn State University



McNamara of Lutz, Fla., receives the Francis Whittaker Scholarship. He has a 3.7 GPA and earned degrees from SUNY-Cobleskill, where he was a member of the varsity golf team, and Penn State.

While overcoming injuries suffered in a near-fatal automobile accident

and the resulting disabilities, and caring for ailing parents, McNamara has attended Penn State's World Campus.

Penn State Professor A. J. Turgeon said "Mike was and is an ideal online student. After finding himself and discovering his passion for turfgrass management, he invested his time, energies, and financial resources in taking challenging online courses and completing an ambitious program of study" and continued "Mike's personal situation – especially his dedication to his ailing parents – is inspiring."

McNamara impressed Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club superintendent John D. Scott enough that Scott called him "simply the most dedicated and driven individual I have ever met."

McNamara rose from crew member at Palma Ceia to spray technician to assistant superintendent.

"He takes a systematic approach in everything he does, whether eating lunch or calibrating a spray rig," Scott wrote in a letter to the T-MGA supporting the student. "This attention to detail makes him a valuable asset to our team and will serve any organization he represents."

### Ryan Munro, South Dakota State University



Munro of Sioux Falls, S.D., receives the Ron Moore Scholarship. He has a 3.75 GPA in Horticulture at South Dakota State and worked with the Sioux Fall Pheasants pro baseball ground crew this past summer.

With a father who is head mechanic at Westward Ho Country Club, Munro began working on the golf course at age 16. Munro chose horticulture over mechanical engineering at South Dakota State University and has become an honor student.

"Ryan Munro is an exceptional student, in fact, one of the best students I've had during my 14-year tenure at South Dakota State University," wrote Dr. Leo C. Schleicher, turfgrass science professor at SDSU. "He is a high achiever dedicated to not only achieving excellent grades, but more importantly, dedicated to learning... At times I have asked him to stop answering my questions during class so that I can determine if other students know the answer."

Westward Ho superintendent Matt Enderson says he's seen Munro's "steady and progressive growth" at the club, advancing from "grunt work" to serving as a turf disease scout.

"Without fail, Ryan's assessments of the turf were right on," Enderson says. "He has grown into a very seasoned employee who can be counted on to do the task assigned him but more importantly understand why."



## Clinton Steketee, Michigan State University



Steketee of Caledonia, Mich., receives the Jackie Lee Scholarship. He carries a 3.96 GPA in Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State and has interned at Quaker Ridge Golf Club and Broadmoor Country Club. A National Honor student who was eight for eight on the high school honor roll, it's not surprising Steketee

has excelled in Michigan State's top-rated turf program -- ranking first among a class of 50 -- and has received numerous academically-based scholarships.

"Clint has been a model student since he stepped on campus," says James Crum, Steketee's academic advisor at MSU. "I remember getting a note from his high school Agriscience teacher describing his thoughtfulness, desire, and work-habit as being second to none. After working with Clint the past three years, I agree with his Agriscience teacher."

Quaker Ridge superintendent Thomas Ashfield was impressed with the Spartan's efforts during his internship at the Scarsdale, N.Y. course.

"Clinton Steketee has the potential not only to succeed, but to be a leader in our industry," Ashfield says. "Clinton's attention to detail is probably one of his better qualities along with his positive attitude. Another example of his desire to learn and gain experience is shown in the fact that he volunteered for a tour event at Ridgewood Country Club just days before his classes resumed at Michigan State."

## Curtis Yaeger, University of Rhode Island



Yaeger of Laconia, N.H., receives the Tom Crow Scholarship. He has a 3.71 GPA in Turf Management at Rhode Island and has interned at The Round Hill Club, Rhode Island Country Club and Laconia Country Club.

The son of a PGA member with a string of six straight appearances on Rhode Island's Dean's List, Yaeger has proved his prowess in the classroom in the university's turf program. He's served as vice president of the Rhode Island Student Turf Club for two years.

"Curtis Yaeger is a dedicated student and excellent citizen who has been concentrating on learning everything available in our program...", says Yaeger's academic advisor at RIU Bridget Ruemmele, Ph.D. "At the same time, he has provided many hours of assistance with my introductory turfgrass management course, helping students learn the material he already knows."

Yaeger moved from caddie to the pro shop to the maintenance staff and has worked at a golf course greens department the last five summers, including last summer working for Sean Foley, superintendent at The Round Hill Club in Greenwich, Conn.

"His responsibilities increased throughout the duration of his internship which is a credit to his willingness to learn and constant improvement on his work ethic," says Foley. "It is my opinion that Curtis Yaeger will have future success in the golf industry..."

**Eight students were selected for \$3,000 Trans-Miss scholarships for 2011-12, including Ronald Townsend, The Ohio State University (Jack Nicklaus Scholarship); William McNeal, Penn State University (Hale Irwin Scholarship); Colby Lisenby, Texas A&M University (Curtis Ford Scholarship); Victor Faconti, Penn State University; Daniel J. Lusty, Michigan State University; David Katz, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Dustin G. Bernau, University of Wisconsin - Madison; Greg Iversen, Penn State University.**

The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States. Established in 1901, the Trans is composed of more than 200 member clubs located throughout the country. The Association is governed by a board of independent directors and is headquartered in Lawrence, Kan. Since the Trans-Miss Scholarship Fund granted a \$600 scholarship in 1953 to Colorado State University (then Colorado A&M), the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association has become a national leader in assisting young men and women pursuing careers in turf management.

For more information on the Trans Scholarship Program go to <http://www.trans-miss.com/scholarships/>.



## Officers & Directors

## Information

### Officers and Directors for 2012

#### Officers

President, John Pigg, Spanish Oaks GC, Austin, TX  
Ex. Vice President, Jim Vickers, Eldorado CC, Indian Wells, CA  
Vice President, Steve Hatchett, Flint Hills National GC, Wichita, KS  
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Stephen Summers, Brook Hollow GC, Dallas, TX  
Chuck Weil, Monterey Peninsula CC, Pebble Beach, CA  
Phil White, Preston Trail GC, Dallas, TX  
Hank Wilkinson, The Minikahda Club, Edina, MN

*Trans-Miss Transcript* is a publication of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association.

Founded in 1901, TMGA is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States. Through its Turf Scholarship Program, the association perpetuates the training of qualified young people to become responsible for any golf facility's greatest physical asset - the course itself.

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## Save the Date!

2012 Trans-Miss Senior Championship  
La Jolla Country Club, La Jolla, California  
May 21-24

2012 Trans-Mississippi Championship  
Oak Tree National Golf Club, Edmond, Oklahoma  
July 9-12

2012 Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball  
Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Bandon, Oregon  
October 15-18

