



TRANSMISS

GOLF ASSOCIATION

2023 Spring Transcript





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Dear Fellow Golfers:

As the competitive calendar begins to get into full swing, we at the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association are extremely excited about our upcoming tournament season and the outstanding venues that will host our 2023 Championships. This coming year we will travel to four outstanding venues. Our 3rd Junior-Senior Championship traveled to Sea Island Resort in Georgia and was held on March 10-12. This is becoming one of the Top (and few) Junior-Senior events in the country. The Senior & Mid-Master Championship will be held May 15-18 at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, California. The 119th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship on July 10-14, will be played at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas, Texas. We are still working on sitting for the 43rd Four-Ball Championship but hope to have the published soon. Each of these clubs has a unique history within the game of golf and will be a fantastic venue for the respective championships.

The Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund continues to be a major focus of our efforts. This year we will further enhance both the Student Scholarship Program, which the Turf Fund has conducted for over 50 years, and our Club Turf Internship Program, which we began six years ago. The Turf Scholarship Program will award \$60,000 in scholarships to worthy young men and women applicants interested in careers as golf course superintendents and recommended by professors at the top agronomy programs in the country. The Club Turf Internship Program will also provide \$60,000 to Trans-Mississippi member clubs with financial support to hire an agronomy student for a summer as an intern to train with the clubs' superintendent. These internships have proven to be invaluable to the clubs providing bright, ambitious students as additional staff, while at the same time the interns acquire experience, mentorship, contacts, along with a summer income. I hope that you will encourage your club to join the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and apply for the internship program this coming year.

Please come join us in 2023 at our Championships for some wonderful golf and great comradery. On behalf of my fellow directors and staff of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and Turf Scholarship Fund, thanks so much for your support and participation. See you on the course this season!

Truly,

Michael McCoy
President, Trans-Mississippi Golf Association

2023 Trans-Mississippi Junior-Senior Championship

Sea Island Resort, Sea Island, GA



Sea Island, GA – The TMGA hasn't added a new championship since the Senior Championship (now Senior & Mid-Master Championship) in 2000. A great deal of thought and planning went into this Championship, but we thought this would be an exciting format that allowed players from different generations to enjoy the camaraderie that the game brings, while playing at some special venues. We were deeply honored to have our inaugural championship named by AmateurGolf.com as one of the top new tournaments of 2021.

The 3rd Junior Senior Championship was played at the at Sea Island Resort in Georgia. Players competed on all three resort courses: Plantation, Retreat, and the Seaside. For many in the field it was great to see some green grass this early in the season, even though late in round one, the clouds opened, and play was suspended for just over an hour.

At the end of 54 holes, the team of Lee Sandlin & John Eliot brought home the net division title over the father-son duo of Tim & Paul Andersen. In the scratch division, the last hole brought all kinds of twists and turns, but as play ended, three teams sat at the top of the leaderboard. Second round leaders Mike McCoy & Brian Lovett were tied with Gary & Eric Durbin and Dave Clement & Kristoffer Marshal, who fired a final round 65 to get into the play-off. The Seaside course's 18th hole, the most difficult hole of the day, played at a full shot over par. Playing directly into a stout wind the hole gave the three teams difficulties, or at least two of the teams. Brian Lovett put his second shot within eight feet of the hole for a birdie putt, while Mike McCoy's second stopped inside that. The other teams failed to hit the green, by the time Lovett was set to putt, he knew birdie would seal the deal and that he did. Sea Island Resort was a fantastic host for this year's TMGA Junior-Senior Championship!



Champions
Brian Lovett
Mike McCoy

Runner-Ups
Eric Durbin
Gary Durbin

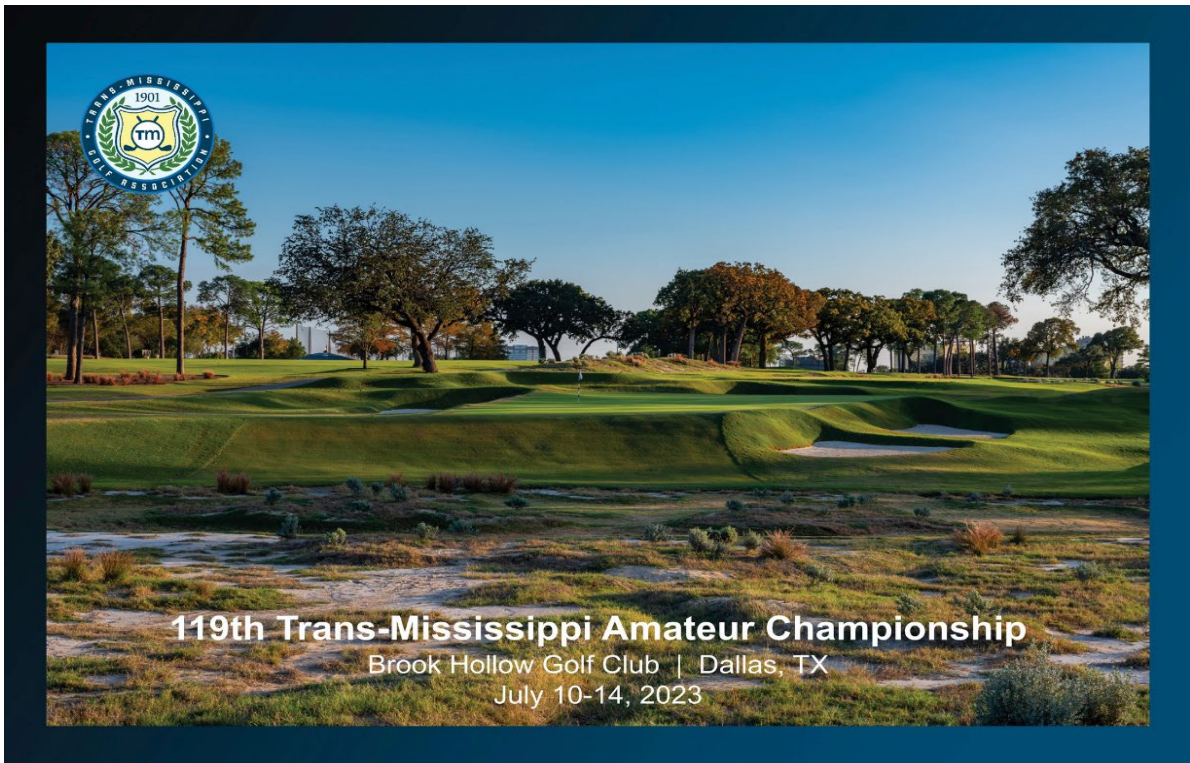
Runner-Ups
Dave Clement
Kristoffer Marshal

Net Champions
John Eliot
Lee Sandlin

[Lovett's Putt for the Win Video](#)

119th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship

Brook Hollow Golf Club, Dallas, TX



Dallas, TX – The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association will conduct the 119th Amateur Championship at Brook Hollow Golf Club on July 10-14. Registration opened February 8th and will close June 7th, with the exempt player deadline of May 3rd. The fourth leg of the Elite Amateur Golf Series provides entrants access to the exemptions provided to the top finishers in the series. Titleist will once again be a major sponsor of the event.

Back in the early 1920s, Cameron Buxton was the businessman who asked his friend A.W. Tillinghast to source a location for a course in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the trained eye of the esteemed architect chose the then rural setting, beside one of the Trinity River branches to the west of Dallas. In 2019, the course closed for a Keith Foster restoration with the express aim of returning the layout to its Tillinghast roots. The course reopened in November 2020 with plenty of 21st century technology including sub-air temperature controlled bent grass greens.

Brook Hollow Golf Club last hosted the TMGA Amateur Championship in 2006 (won by Robert Funk) and six more times, only Kansas City Country Club (8), has hosted it more times.

Within the past decade, this Elite Amateur Golf Series championship has been contested at consensus Top 100 clubs such as Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, KS, the Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA, Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, OK, and Oak Tree National in Edmund, OK. Other highly regarded courses that have recently welcomed the Trans-Miss Amateur include Windsong Farms Golf Club in Maple Plain, MN, Brookside Golf and Country Club in Columbus, OH, and Maridoe Golf Club on Carrollton, TX. The TMGA has seen a marked ascension in both reputation and national rankings. For more information about the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, click [here](#).



Trans-Mississippi Amateur Part of New Elite Amateur Golf Series

The Elite Amateur Golf Series was created to challenge the best of the best in amateur golf. The Elite Amateur Golf Series brings together the top amateur championships in a collective series of competitions, the Elite Amateur Cup. In addition to hosting the best players, Elite Amateur Cup events are contested at the best sites and have the longest history of successful champions. The Elite Amateur Golf Series maintains a proven track record that prepares elite players for the toughest competitive tests, making the championships the majors of amateur golf.

The Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship is one of the seven events conducted as part of the Elite Amateur Golf Series. It is the fourth leg of the series and offered players west of the Mississippi River a Championship closer to home on highly ranked golf courses.

The mission of the EAGS is to enhance amateur golf by aligning the top competitive individual amateur championships for men and provide exceptional playing opportunities for the best amateur golfers to compete at the highest level. The vision of the EAGS is to be the most sought-after amateur golf championships that unlock the most competitive landscape to build the game's next greats. The Elite Amateur Golf Series strives to provide a forum for creating best practices in championship operations, player recruitment and the enhancement of the overall elite amateur game.

Benefits for the top performers during any one calendar year of the series include exemptions into the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Open second stage qualifying, and exemptions into both PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour events. Players must play in three Elite Amateur Golf Series events during a season to be eligible for such exemptions.

2023 TMGA SENIOR & MID-MASTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Hacienda Golf Club, La Habra Heights, California

The TMGA will conduct the Senior and Mid-Master Championship May 15th -18th at the Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights California. Entries opened February 8th and close May 3rd, with the exempt player deadline passing on March 22nd. The Championship will be a full field of 144 players in four divisions, Mid-Masters, Senior, Super Senior, and Legends. The field will be cut to the low 78 players after 36 holes.

Hacienda Golf Club was born during the Golden Age of golf course architecture as a dream of turn-of-the-century oil millionaire Alphonso Bell. Before founding Bel-Air Country Club, which he located within his vast landholdings extending from what is now West Los Angeles to the Pacific Palisades, Bell founded Hacienda. For its design, he retained the services of William Watson, the most prolific and best-known golf course architect in all of California at the time. The first nine holes opened in 1920, and the second nine in 1923.

The club has hosted numerous Southern California golf tournaments, both Amateur and Professional. The course record was set in 2023 by Gene Sarazen at 70. Prior to the 2005-2010 renovation the course record was held by Tiger Woods, who carded a 62 on his way to winning the SCGA Amateur Championship in 1994.



Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund

2022 Student Scholarships and Club Internship Grants

“The Trans Mississippi Scholarship led to a major career change. The financial aid and the assistance were invaluable.”

- Jay Morrish, Golf Course Architect



In its ongoing mission to support men and women who are pursuing careers in the agronomy and turf management industry, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association allocated \$120,000 in the form of scholarships to college students and internship grants to member clubs in 2022. The Club Turf Program allows agronomy students the opportunity to work with some of the best superintendents in the business at some of the country’s finest golf courses across the country. The Turf Scholarships allow students to focus on school rather than worrying about the financial burden.

“At the core of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association’s mission is the support for students pursuing a career in golf course agronomy, it is the association’s DNA,” TMGA Executive Director Rob Addington said. “The growth of the scholarships awarded, and internship program are testaments to our commitment.”

For more than 50 years, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association has supported the turf industry through scholarships and internship grants. This year, the association distributed \$60,000 in individual scholarships to ten college students enrolled in Turf Management programs at universities across the country.

The 2022 Scholarship winners include:

- Qianqian Fan, University of Georgia
- Andrew Hessa, Iowa State University
- Connor McBride, Michigan State University
- Matt Dishon, Michigan State University
- Stephen Bischsel, Ohio State University
- Colson Bates, Penn State University
- Garrett Taylor, Penn State University
- Eli Ziliak, University of Purdue
- Ren Uyehara, Texas A&M University
- Ted Machacek, Texas A&M University

Additionally, ten TMGA Member Clubs received grants to underwrite summer internship programs at their facilities. In full, \$60,000 was dispersed between six applying clubs and the four club facilities that will host Trans-Mississippi events in 2023. The clubs were chosen based on the merits of their application and the detailed information they provided about potential intern training, duties, responsibilities, and projects. The clubs that received grants through the application process were Brook Hollow Golf Club, the Club at Carlton Wood, Cherry Hills Country Club, Omaha Country Club, the Olympic Club, Flint Hills National, Windsong Farm Golf Club, Los Angeles Country Club, and Hacienda Golf Club.

For more information on how the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association supports the Turf Management industry, superintendents, and their staffs, as well as the game in general, click [here](#).

A special thanks to all of our Board of Directors, participants, and friends who have generously contributed to the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund.



TMGA President and 2023 Walker Cup Captain, Mike McCoy, wins 2022 British Senior Amateur at Royal Dornoch Golf Club



Newly elected Trans-Mississippi President Mike McCoy garnered another honor by being named the 2023 United States Walker Cup Captain. Mike was a member of the winning United States Walker Cup Team in 2015. Mike has served on the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Board of Directors for over a decade. His illustrious amateur career includes four Trans-Mississippi Championships. He won the Amateur in 2000 and 2008, the Senior in 2018, and this year's Junior-Senior. Mike also claimed the 2013 U.S. Mid-Amateur and has competed in 65 USGA Championships. In 2022 Mike won the British Senior Amateur Championship, with borrowed clubs, by 7 strokes.

The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association congratulates Mike on his selection as the 2023 United States Walker Cup Captain!

Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Walker Cup Trip

The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association has created a special trip to view the 100th anniversary of The Walker Cup at the Old Course, St. Andrews. The trip starts in Ireland with rounds at Royal County Down, Royal Portrush, and Portstewart. We then head to Scotland for rounds at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns, along with tickets to Walker Cup. Overall, eight nights (single accommodation), five rounds of golf, Walker Cup tickets and all on land travel. The travel dates are August 27th - September 4th. Air travel is not included. The cost includes a \$1,500 contribution to TMGA Turf Fund, and an additional \$8,500. **There are a max 12 spots on the trip and three spots just opened.** Contact Rob Addington ASAP if you are interested at raddington@trans-miss.org or 214-893-6855.

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