Musser awards three scholarships

Declaring that financial support to three doctoral candidates "is the best investment we can make for the future of all sports turfgrasses," the president of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation announced the organization's annual scholarship grants.

Musser's Frank Dobie, who is superintendent of The Sharon Club in Sharon Center, Ohio, said MITF's three $4,000 scholarships were being presented to Phil Allen, a student in the Department of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota; Melodee Kemp in the Department of Crop Science at Rutgers University; and Virginia Lehman in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University. The grants are awarded to doctoral candidates who have displayed "high scholastic achievement and presented a well-conceived, relevant thesis problem with an element of pioneering toward problem orientation." The foundation is dedicated to the memory of H.B. Musser's pioneering efforts in turfgrass research and education.

A horticulture major, Allen is studying under Dr. Donald White. His doctoral thesis concerns the germination of grass seeds subjected to fluctuating moisture conditions. "It is an honor to share this award," Allen said. "It was important to learn that many turf professionals who have impacted my education and philosophy are former students of Dr. Musser. He was clearly instrumental in bringing turfgrass science out of its infancy."

Kemp's doctoral thesis deals with the effects of some root-infecting fungi on fine fescues. She is studying turfgrass breeding with Dr. Reed Funk.

A student of Dr. Mitt Engelke, Lehman is studying plant breeding and her thesis concerns root and shoot tolerance of creeping bentgrass. The MITF selection committee for the grants included Dr. Joseph Duich of Penn State University, Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M, Dr. Harry Niemczyk of Ohio State University's Agricultural Research and Development Center and Dr. James Watson of The Toro Co.

Bates opens Western office

Golf course architects Gene Bates & Associates, Inc. of Jupiter, Fla., has opened a satellite office in Salt Lake City, Utah, to service projects in the West.

Salt Lake City was chosen for its central location for GBA's projects west of the Rocky Mountains as well as the city being a hub for a major airline.

"Since we have several projects located in California, Nevada and Hawaii as well as Utah, we have found it both convenient and necessary to combine the visits to many of these sites into one trip. This saves travel time and costs which we can ultimately pass on to our clients," Bates said.

"It is far better to make one round trip from Florida than to make several consecutive trips. With our Western office we can complete any work necessary right there and revisit a site, if necessary, before returning to Florida."

The plans over the next six to eight months call for staffing the office for 10 to 12 days each month, which will be followed by placing a more permanent staff.

Gene Bates West can be reached at 270 South 1200 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102; 801-583-0808.

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