UMinnesota student wins Musser award

By TERRY BUCHEN

The Musser Foundation has announced the 1995 Award for Excellence to Paul G. Johnson, who was awarded $6,000 towards pursuit of a Ph.D. in horticulture from the University of Minnesota.

According to Frank Dobie, superintendent at Sharon (Ohio) Golf Club and president of the foundation, "Professor Burton Musser was a turfgrass pioneer for four decades at Penn State University. The foundation that bears his name is dedicated to promoting that same kind of pioneering individual. Supporting this new generation of turfgrass scientists is the wisest move that we can make."

"This kind of award indeed reminds me of the kind of support the turfgrass industry has for students like myself," said the 30-year-old Johnson. "No other industry group shows this kind of support in my mind. I also look forward to showing my appreciation by serving this great bunch of people in any way that I can."

"Mr. Dobie said it best when he described the turfgrass group as a 'family.' Currently, I am applying for positions at several universities and finishing up my Ph.D. work, as well as some additional projects here at the University of Minnesota. "My career goals begin, in the near term, by obtaining a post-doctoral position or assistant professorship, and continue to study turfgrass breeding and genetics topics," Johnson continued. "Once in a faculty position, and part of a turfgrass management team, I look forward to continuing in research. Teaching would also be a key to my career. The interaction with students keeps me on my toes and down to earth, so to speak. Later on in my career I still wish to maintain at least some of the turfgrass breeding and teaching responsibilities, but would also consider administrative roles in an academic department, university or professional society."

Johnson's doctoral thesis was on "Genetics & Physiology of Flowering on Selected Poa Annua." Under the tutelage of Dr. Donald White, Johnson's grade point average (GPA) was 3.70 cumulative for his master's and doctoral degrees.

Each year the Musser Foundation looks for the brightest, most promising turfgrass doctoral students throughout the world to award moral and financial support.

Seed Research honors superintendents

Jim Reinertson of Dedham (Mass.) Country and Polo Club has been awarded Seed Research of Oregon's (SRO) 1995 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year award, presented annually to the superintendent who best displays a stewardship for the environment by incorporating imaginative management techniques with innovative problem solving.

Seed Research President Mike Robinson presented the award to Reinertson and also honored Tom Cook with the SRO Research Excellence award. Aside from his duties at Dedham, Reinertson teaches turf students as a guest lecturer at the local community college and is dedicated to IPM, turfgrass variety testing and innovative cultural practices.

Cook was honored for his dedication to teaching and researching turfgrass culture at Oregon State University. He has been instrumental in teaching superintendents.

Pinehurst puts golf in forefront of Safe Harbor

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