U of M, MGCSA Benefit From Trans-Miss Turf Scholarships

By RALPH TURTINEN

For 36 years the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, based in Minnesota, has granted scholarships to young men and women pursuing careers as golf course superintendents or in other areas of turf management and research.

One of the thirty $1,000 scholarships the association grants annually to universities noted for their agronomy/horticulture schools goes to the University of Minnesota where the current recipient is Loriena Bluedorn. These scholarships are funded from Trans-Mississippi member club dues, proceeds from the two prestigious amateur tournaments the association conducts annually and contributions.

In addition, through its "Minnesota Project" coordinated by Trans-Miss directors Hank Wilkinson of The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, and Tom Garrett, Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, the Trans awards scholarship monies to the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. These funds come from special events like an October invitational at Somerset or Minnesota club members playing with maintenance staff as they did last summer at Hazeltine and Minikahda.

Several other Minnesotans have received scholarships at other schools. Among recent awardees have been Mike Brower, head superintendent at Hillcrest in St. Paul, who studied at Penn State, and Brian Nettz, formerly an assistant at Minikahda and now at Richmond CC in California. Nettz studied at the University of Minnesota.

Founded in 1900, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States.

Composed of approximately 200 member clubs located west of the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, its primary purpose is to foster, promote and advance the interest and true spirit of amateur golf.

By encouraging and cultivating the spirit of fellowship, harmony, friendly competition and cooperation among members of the association, the Trans-Mississippi has become one of the foremost factors in amateur golf. Its annual tournaments traditionally attract the elite of the nation's amateur golfers.

In addition, through its Turf Scholarship Program, the association perpetuates the training of qualified young men and women to become responsible for any golf club's greatest physical asset — the golf course itself.

For additional information contact Ralph Turtinen, Executive Secretary, Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, P.O. Box 617, Wayzata, MN; telephone 612/473-3722 or fax 612/473-0576.

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