

Recognizing Our 2005 Scholarship Winners: Ben Behrman, Alexandra Clesen, Anthony Doruff and Nycole Stawinoga

In July, the MAGCS will award \$1,000 scholarships to four deserving students. Ben Behrman (Chris and David Behrman, Midlothian C.C.) was honored with the Paul Burdett Memorial Scholarship; Alexandra Clesen (Tom Clesen, Clesen Wholesale) won the MAGCS Scholarship; Anthony Doruff (Sharon and Ron Doruff, Steeple Chase G.C.) won the John Buck Memorial Scholarship; Nycole Stawinoga (Deborah and Tom Stawinoga, Mount Prospect G.C.) earned the George Minnis Memorial Scholarship. These bright young people earned the scholarships based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, community service and essays responding to the following topic: Why is it important to give your time as a volunteer?

Ben Behrman

Although most people do not like to admit it, today's youth are focused heavily on self-gratification. If what we do in life gets us farther, then it must be the right thing to do. However, the self-actualized person overcomes the temptation to only strive for self-fulfillment and goes beyond to volunteer for the greater good. I wholeheartedly believe volunteer work completes who we are. We can only become a better person through putting the interests of others before those of ourselves.

As I reminisce upon my high school career, volunteering has been a major part of my life. Whether it was for the benefit of my school or community, I have devoted my time in an effort to improve the environment around me. From projects such as promoting drug awareness at local elementary schools to helping at a prom for the mentally handicapped, I have been molded into a better person. Volunteer work shapes our personality and is anything but a chore. It fuels our motivation to make the world we live in a better place. The life lessons you learn from devoting your time cannot be matched by the important yet impersonal actions like donating to charities.

As the vice-president of my student council, I have facilitated and created numerous monthly service projects to better our community. My school student council has developed a reputation for its outstanding efforts to help those in need. Volunteering has truly changed my life for the better.

Alexandra Clesen

"Volunteering and Leading"

While I have known since helping out at a soup kitchen in grade school that volunteering is fun and rewarding, I learned in high school that volunteering is a way to develop leadership skills and explore a potential career field. Developing my leadership skills, in turn, made me a more effective volunteer. In 9th grade, I continued in that same soup kitchen, passing out macaroni and cheese and sack lunches for the people to take home. I liked the opportunity to experience something unpaid, on my own time, offering something they needed that I had. After that experience, I decided to volunteer doing something I am passionate about: soccer. In 10th and 11th grades, I was a soccer camp volunteer where I helped 5- to 10-year-olds with soccer skills on Saturday evenings. While I was doing that, I got to be in charge of my own group of kids and help them; I was a leader. I loved that feeling and then asked my varsity high school coach if I could help him with games and skills during the Wildkits Soccer Academy camp during the summer of 2004. I sought out opportunities at the community service fair at my high school where I could volunteer in special education, an area I am considering for a career. I found two opportunities: coaching mentally challenged children in a soccer camp and being a "Book Buddy," tutoring a mentally challenged high school student every week. I became not only a volunteer but a leader.

Anthony Doruff

Many people think that to volunteer, you need a scheduled event designed to help others but I believe that just holding a door for someone in a wheelchair or helping a less-able person carry their bags to their car is volunteering. While it may not take you much time or take you too far out of your way, it would make that person's life a little easier and that's really what matters.

Volunteering is a vital part of mankind. To give up your time, money and/or energy in this day and age is rare. I was taught from a young age how valuable giving of my time for the less fortunate was. Through my experiences with the Boy Scouts of America and the guidance of my parents, I have found that the desire to help others is one of my core values that make me the person I am today. I personally try to help others out when I can. I have participated in food drives, built a play house for a small daycare center in my area, given my time to help support the golf tournament that funded my scholarship last year, and even organized and completely carried out a small park restoration project in my area. Volunteering makes the world a better place to live in and I believe if everyone gave some time to help others, we would all be much happier with our lives.

Nycole Stawinoga


Giving your time as a volunteer is important not because you are getting experience for the future, and not because it makes you feel good to help others, but because, as a volun-

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5. Teeing areas that make maintenance difficult or impossible due to size, location or composition.

Most golfers would cite canted tee box surfaces, threadbare turf and other defects as proof positive of inattentiveness on the part of management; and while this is sometimes a valid complaint, some tee box configurations simply cannot be maintained adequately regardless of the expertise and dedication of the greenkeeping staff. Many times this is attributable simply to the tee box's size, or lack thereof, which leads to excessive wear from player use. A tee box that is too big is a problem both vastly less common and less serious.


With all the attention greens receive in terms of soil testing, I would venture to guess that about 60-70 percent of courses I have visited have tees that contain a soil mix incapable of proper drainage and turf nourishment. The solution is to analyze the soil mix using a USGA-approved testing lab. If soil quality is the problem, the solution is to rectify it through deep aeration and aggressive topdressing or rebuild the tees using proper tee mix. Other problems plaguing healthy tees are restricted access routes, excessive shade, root problems from trees, inadequate sprinkler coverage and poor turfgrass choices.

Like much of golf course architecture, a good tee box system has much to do with common sense. But as elementary as all of this sounds, the five points listed above will resonate with many, even most, golf course decision-makers. And the issues may be simple, but their resolution is far from trivial in the pursuit of new members or the golfing public at large. A good place to start is to consult a golf course architect to discuss potential areas of improvement. Your tees still can't talk, but your customers will thank you. 

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teer, you give others the chance to have a valuable life and the chance for their dreams to come true. Whether you spend 30 minutes a week reading with a child, or 20 hours a week building a house for a family, your actions motivate those you are helping and give them the confidence and courage that they need to achieve their own goals in life. For many people, volunteers are the only ones that they can count on. As a volunteer, I helped third graders at a local ele-

mentary school improve their reading. Some of them did not have anybody at home who could help them learn to read. They did not like to read, because it was hard for them. After a couple of months, not only were these kids reading above their grade level, but they were looking forward to my visits. They could not wait to finish their books so that they could start new ones. This is why it is important to give up your time to volunteer. The impact you have will

encourage those who were helped by volunteers to volunteer themselves. Then, someday, they will have that same impact on somebody else. If this trend continues, many more people will be able to achieve their dreams and live more fulfilled lives. 



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