

# Turfgrass foundation presents scholarships

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation in Sharon Center, Ohio, has awarded \$6,000 scholarship grants to Andrew Ralowicz of the University of Arizona's Department of Plant Sciences and to Gwen Stahnke of the University of Nebraska's Department of Horticulture and Forestry.

The grant is awarded in the final year of study to Ph.D. candidates who have displayed "high scholastic achievement and presented a well-conceived, relevant thesis problem with an element of 'pioneering' toward



Andrew Ralowicz

problem orientation."

"Our financial support of these two exceptional doctoral candidates is the best investment we can make for the future of all sports turfgrass," said Frank Dobie, president of the MITF and superintendent of The Sharon Club.

For his doctoral dissertation, Ralowicz, an agronomy/plant genetics major, is evaluating *Hilaria belangeri* as a minimum-input desert turfgrass. He has been a graduate research associate at Arizona since July 1986, working with Dr. Charles F. Mancino.



Gwen Stahnke

Stahnke, a turfgrass science major working with Dr. Bob Shearman, has been studying the effects of five pre-emergence herbicides on Kentucky bluegrass root growth and overall quality for her doctoral dissertation. She is also working to determine the dissipation and movement of pendimethalin in soil and Kentucky bluegrass thatch.

MITF is dedicated to the memory of H.B. Musser's "pioneering efforts in turfgrass research and education, and to the continuance of his dedication to the field."

Musser's research gave the industry new grasses like Penncross bent, Pennlawn red fescue and Merion Kentucky bluegrass. His support of education fostered the Penn State turfgrass management program, with 900 graduates to date.

Members of the scholarship selection committee were Dr. James Watson, vice president of The Toro Co., Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M and Dr. Joe Duich of Penn State.

## Valle Vista hires Fla. firm to run club

Club Operations & Property Management Co. of Tallahassee, Fla., has been hired to double membership and restore prestige at Valle Vista Country Club in Greenwood, Ind.

"The club needed a shot. It needed to progress," said Charles Kern, who owns the club along with his father and two brothers.

COPM replaces Charles and Joseph Kern in running the 110-acre golf and social club which includes the 18-hole course, three-story clubhouse, indoor-outdoor swimming pool, four racquetball courts and complete fitness facility.

COPM operates 44 clubs along the East Coast but Valle Vista is its first club in the Midwest.

The Kernses have pledged to use the money raised by increased membership and dues to make capital improvements to the facility.

## Indiana course to benefit area

An Indiana businessman plans to develop a 27-hole world class golf course in Greenwood outside Indianapolis.

Joseph Matis, assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith Inc., and an unnamed partner have bought 525 acres east of Interstate 65 to build the course and residential housing development.

Matis, who has set up Hickory Club Inc. to own the golf course, said ground will be broken soon on it.

Since the development will bring sewer service to the area, government officials hope a development explosion will follow in the region now supporting only farmland and scattered housing.

