

We'd Like You to Meet Our Stodola Scholars

Four turfgrass students—one who attends Pennsylvania State University and three who are at Anoka Technical College—are the 1991 recipients of Harold Stodola Memorial Scholarships, according to Joe Moris, chairman of the MGCSA's Scholarship Committee.

The Penn State student is David J. Solga, Plymouth. The trio at Anoka are Thomas R. Flood, Minneapolis; Vance James Warner, Brainerd, and Chris Youngbauer, Verndale.

The Stodola scholarship grants are awarded annually by the MGCSA to turfgrass students who have displayed high scholastic achievement and a strong desire to become golf course students.

They are dedicated to the memory of the late Harold Stodola, who committed his career to the leadership and advancement of golf course management and this year was named to the PGA/MGA Golf Hall of Fame in Minnesota posthumously.

"We had 13 students apply for the scholarships," said Moris.

"Our committee really had a difficult time making the final selections," Moris said. "All of the seven finalists we interviewed were fantastic. It was a shame all couldn't get scholarships."

Each of the scholars selected received \$800 grants. The other three finalists were given \$50 each for taking time to be interviewed.

"We felt we did a good job in pre-screening and therefore were able to spend several extra hours with the candidates," Moris said.

Solga, 32, who was graduated from Minot (N.D.) High School in 1977, intends to be graduated from Penn State in 1992. After working as an oilfield driller in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, Solga joined the staff of Golden Valley Country Club as a greensman in 1987. Later he became a foreman, then assistant superintendent in 1989.

Mike Olson, head superintendent at Golden Valley, said that "Dave has worked his way up in the golf industry very fast by his excellent work ethic. He is the best man I have seen come along in my 15 years in the industry."

"I acquired a great love for the game of golf after being introduced to it in

1984," Solga wrote in his application, "In 1987, after being rehabilitated from a work-related accident, I was faced with changing careers. My love for the game and being able to work outside led me to the profession."

"I feel that obtaining an education is essential and is a very important step toward building a solid foundation toward my career," said Solga, who expects his future role to be "one which requires agronomically sound decision-making skills, good communication and people-relation skills and staying on top of industry and environmental issues."

Solga resides with his wife and two children at 4555 Nathan Lane in Plymouth.

Flood, 31, a 1977 graduate of Minneapolis Roosevelt High School, studied at Minneapolis Technical College and Dunwoody Industrial Institute, before enrolling at Anoka Technical College a year ago.

He also served in the U.S. Navy for four years and has worked at Marshall Cretin Amoco, St. Paul, for the past 10 years.

"I have played golf since I was 12," Flood said. "When I got a seasonal job at a golf course, I knew I found a job I truly enjoyed and wanted to do on a full-time basis. After working for two seasons (at Gross Golf Course in Minneapolis and Hazeltine National in Chaska), I decided I needed formal training to pursue a career in this field."

"One day I would like to be a superintendent," he said. "Until then I will continue to seek work as an operator or, with my strong mechanical background, as an equipment manager."

Flood intends to graduate in the Spring of 1992.

Warner, 31, was graduated from Brainerd High School in 1978 and Brainerd Community College in 1981. He also studied nine months at Clark County Community College's night school in Las Vegas, Nev.

"While attending Brainerd Community College, I worked for two summer seasons at Madden's Resort," Warner said. "I was employed as a tee starter and also maintained the golf carts. A few years later I was employed as the greenskeeper

at Fritz' Resort near Nisswa. What really sparked my interest in golf course management was the fact that I was promoted from maintenance crew member, to foreman, to assistant superintendent in a period of less than nine months while employed at Los Pardos Country Club in North Las Vegas. It was at that point that I knew I would make a career of turf management."

After graduation from Anoka Tech, he seeks to be employed as an assistant superintendent "for at least two years."

"I feel this two-year period will help me hone my turf practices as well as my people management techniques," he said. "After that two-year period of time, I feel confident that I will have the knowledge and skills necessary to manage a nice golf course in the Mid-western five-state area."

Youngbauer, who will turn 24 on November 30, was graduated from Verndale High School in 1987, then studied at North Dakota State University and St. Cloud State University before enrolling at Anoka Tech in 1990.

"I started working at a golf course during summers when I was in high school and found it to be very interesting and rewarding because you can see the results of your work," Youngbauer said.

He wants to become a superintendent "and make a name for myself in the business."

"I enjoy working outside and the challenge of maintaining a course to player satisfaction . . . even though that's impossible," he said.

Youngbauer hopes to leave Anoka Tech "well-prepared and capable of doing my job correctly and to the best of my ability. If a person fails to gain as much knowledge about his field as possible in school, he is wasting his money."

Youngbauer's work experience has been at Wadena Country Club and Oak Ridge Country Club.