

Five Students Receive Stodola Scholarships

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Each Has Excellent Academic and Work Record

Five turfgrass students who have been working at Minnesota golf courses have been awarded the 1994 Harold Stodola Memorial Scholarships.

Two attend Penn State University and the others are at Michigan State, Iowa State and Riverland Tech in Rochester.

The recipients, home towns, courses at which they've most recently worked at and the schools they are attending are:

Mike Brower, Minneapolis, The Minikahda Club, Penn State;

Jeffrey Kolodjski, Wyoming, North Oaks Golf Club, Iowa State;

James Schmitz, Rochester, Rochester Golf & Country Club, Riverland Tech;

Eric Sundet, Eden Prairie, Interlachen Country Club, Michigan State;

Theresa Vyskocil, Shakopee, Hazeltine National Golf Club, Penn State.

"All of these students have excellent recommendations from their advisors and their superintendents," said Monty Montague, Turfco/National Mower, Scholarship Committee Chairman. "Moreover, each has better than a 3.0 GPA cumulative."

Other members of the MGCSA Scholarship Committee are Co-Chair Jeff Churchill, North Star Turf; Tom Johnson, New Richmond Golf Club; Dale Wysocki, Faribault Golf & Country Club; Mike Olson, Golden Valley Country Club, and Butch Greeninger, MTI Distributing Co.

Each of the students received \$1,000 grants.

Mike Brower, 35, was graduated from Worthington High School in 1974, attended the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse in 1981, has worked in golf course management for 20 years and, since 1983, has been an assistant golf course superintendent at Minikahda.

He has been an active member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association since 1987. Brower returned to college at Penn State last year "to increase my knowledge in turfgrass management, enabling me to be more successful in my profession and to enhance my opportunities for career advancement." He has a GPA of 3.91 at Penn State where he is scheduled to graduate next March.

Said Doug Mahal, head superintendent at Minikahda: "Mike is truly an outstanding assistant superintendent in whom I place large responsibility, trust and respect. I consider him top-notch superintendent material right now and admire his decision to enroll in the Penn State program to broaden his technical skills."

Brower's initial interest in golf came from his father "who

began teaching the game to me at the age of five."

"As a young golfer," he said, "I quickly developed an interest in the nature of work involved in maintaining a golf course."

He hopes "to become a superintendent in Minnesota, to continue to teach and lead others, to learn from others and to provide input to my professional associations."

Jeff Kolodjski, 22, was graduated from Forest Lake High School in 1992, attended Anoka Ramsey Community College for one year, then transferred to Iowa State where he plans to graduate in the Spring of 1996.

He worked at Viking Meadows in Cedar for three years, then at North Oaks for the past summer.

"At age 16, when I began my first job on a grounds crew, I soon realized that there is a definite science to be learned and applied to manage a golf course properly and ethically," Kolodjski said. "It was a lot more than just watering and mowing, so I felt challenged—challenged to learn this science, a science I learn more and more about day after day at the course and in the classroom."

He chose turf management as his major because "I enjoy aiding my superintendent in tackling the daily challenges—from analyzing turf diseases to delegating jobs to other crew members. I really enjoy working and interacting with people."

From his college education he expects "to acquire the knowledge to back up hands-on experience I am currently gaining on the job." He has a GPA of 3.03 at Iowa State.

"Since I plan to remain in Minnesota after graduation, I will continue to participate in the MGCSA for the betterment of the golf course industry," he said.

Jack Mackenzie, head superintendent at North Oaks, said that "without a doubt, Jeff has the potential to become an excellent professional in our industry."

James Schmitz, 27, was graduated from Brainerd High School in 1985 and now is majoring in golf course management at Riverland Tech where he intends to graduate next spring. A grounds crew member on the staff of James Gardner, head golf course superintendent at Rochester Golf & Country Club, since 1992, Schmitz would like to become a golf course superintendent and possibly some day get involved in golf course design.

"I've always loved the game of golf and working on a golf course," Schmitz said. "I couldn't imagine wanting to do anything else. I like the hands-on work, the sense of accomplishment when I look at the golf course after it has been freshly mowed and the many possibilities in this profession."

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Scholarships —

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Gardner said that "James has shown a personal commitment to the profession with family responsibilities and work responsibilities being balanced to make his goals come to fruition. James will be an asset to the profession, wherever his goals take him."

Schmitz has a 3.58 GPA at Riverland.

Eric Sundet, 24, a 1988 graduate of Coon Rapids High School, attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, the University of Minnesota and Anoka Ramsey Community College before enrolling at Michigan State in 1993. He expects to graduate this December.

"My initial interest in pursuing golf course management as a career came under the direction of Jim Nicol at Bunker Hills Golf Course," Sundet said. "After working at Bunker Hills for four years, I found the work to be very gratifying. I also enjoy playing the game as well as working outdoors."

Sundet decided to major in turf management for two reasons.

"The first," he said, "is my ongoing curiosity for why turf reacts to adverse conditions such as lack of fertility, pests, inadequate soils and other detrimental effects made to the turfgrass plant. Secondly, receiving a degree in turf management will allow me to work for the betterment of a game that I am truly interested in."

John Katterheinrich, superintendent at Interlachen where Sundet interned for the past summer, said that "Eric will be a positive influence on the profession as a golf course superintendent."

He has a 3.78 GPA at Michigan State and plans to apply for an assistant superintendent position or possibly a spray tech position upon graduation.

Theresa (Tess) Vyskocil, 28, was graduated from Shakopee High School in 1984 and North Dakota State University in 1989. She worked at Minnesota Valley Country Club and LeSueur Country Club before joining the staff of Hazeltine National in 1992.

She enrolled at Penn State in 1993, currently has a 3.73 GPA and plans to graduate next March.

Vyskocil became interested in golf course management while holding summer positions while going through college. Currently a student member of the MGCSA, she plans on remaining an active member upon graduation.

"Academically, Tess has proven to be a dedicated and high-achieving student," said Patty Knaggs, Hazeltine's head superintendent. "Her grades prove that. She and I remained in contact throughout the academic year, and she frequently supplemented her academics with questions regarding real-life applications."

"Tess has attacked all jobs on the golf course with the seriousness of someone who realizes that their future depends upon their knowledge and skills," Knaggs said. "She is not afraid to get dirty or work overtime, and she is an extremely versatile employee. . . Her prior experiences on golf courses had made her an extremely capable equipment operator and pesticide applicator, and she also has shown

signs of becoming a thorough and patient staff trainer with our junior staff members."

The Stodola Scholarship Program, begun in 1987, provides annual grants to candidates who are interested in golf course management as a career, have high scholastic capabilities and have shown superior performance as an employee of a golf course.

Candidates must be residents of Minnesota or be employed by a member Superintendent of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

In addition, they must have completed the first year of a two-year turfgrass technical program or completed the second year of a four-year or baccalaureate program with major emphasis in turf management.

Load Off Your Back —

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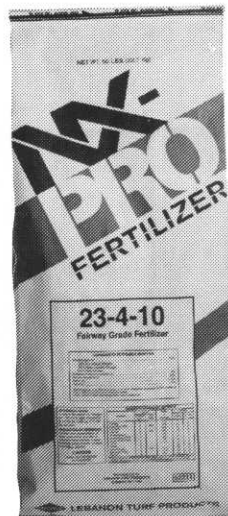
grip and once again bend your knees to get extra leg muscle into the final effort.

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