

MGCSA Joins Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund Project

The MGCSA has joined the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund in an effort to develop an on-going fund initiative supporting deserving students pursuing careers in the Turf/Golf Course industry.

Established in 1962, the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund has granted nearly 500 scholarships at top-rated agronomy schools that have turf management programs. The TMTSF has awarded a scholarship to a University of Minnesota student each year for more than 15 years.

The Trans-Miss is currently billing members of selected country clubs in the state, and asking for MGCSA member support to raise money to create more scholarships in Minnesota. As this program develops, a board will be created to determine who recipients will be. Monies raised in Minnesota will be available to students from Minnesota.

Founded in 1900, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is one of the oldest golf organizations in the United States. Currently it has approximately 200 member clubs.

Primary purpose of the TMGA is to promote interest in amateur golf. Through its Turf Scholarship Program, it perpetuates the training of qualified young men and women to become responsible for any golf club's greatest physical asset — the golf course itself.

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Mr. Hank Wilkinson
Dain Bosworth, Inc.
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Dear Hank:

This letter is written in support of the *Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund - Minnesota Pilot Project* and your efforts to develop an on-going fund raising initiative with the MGCSA.

The TMGA has a long history of supporting students who are focused on becoming golf course superintendents. The TMGA has awarded a scholarship to a University of Minnesota Student each year for more than 15 years. Most of the students have ended up working on golf courses or in turfgrass research. Certainly this is a splendid record of support of deserving and talented young people. To my knowledge, all of the students, who received scholarships over the years were supporting themselves and paying their way through college by working.

I know that the scholarships have helped many students through rough financial times as well as encouraging and enabling high scholastic performance by allowing students to reduce their work loads and increase their study time.

With rising costs in education, there is a growing need for substantial scholarships. However, the recognition of good scholarship by rewarding deserving students is in itself extremely important, regardless of financial need. The positive message scholarships send to students is strong encouragement for bright young people to enter the field.

An alliance between the TMGA and the MGCSA would indicate a visionary and creative example of how people might work together to do things that would be impossible to accomplish alone. And, it makes visible a willingness to work together to encourage bright young people to become educated and contribute to society and the environment by pursuing careers in the Turf - Golf course industry.

I support the development of a strong connection between the TMGA and the MGCSA for the purpose of increasing the funding available to support students in Minnesota.

My compliments and all best wishes for success in your joint mission.

Sincerely


Donald B. White

cc: Charlie Pooch
Brad Pedersen
Gary Gardner