

Trans-Miss Aids MGCSA Scholarship Program

'Minnesota Project' Competitions Provide Fun...and Funds

When two directors of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association created what they called the "Minnesota Project" four years ago, little did they realize how one project would lead to another to assist the scholarship program of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association.

First the two men, Tom Garrett, a member of Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, and Hank Wilkinson, a member of The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis, developed an unusual alternate shot invitational played each October at Somerset. About 40 participants play 18 holes in 2½ hours (they really scoot around and don't wait for their partners' shots) in the morning, break for a Scottish lunch, play another rapid 18 in the afternoon, then socialize for an hour or so before heading home in late afternoon.

"It has become a traditional event for many golfers because it really is a lot of fun," said Garrett. "Each year our players' list grows, but we want to keep it at a size in which we can complete our morning and afternoon golf quickly but enjoyably."

HAZELTINE, MINIKAHDA START OTHER FUNDRAISERS

Just about the same time the Somerset Invitational was getting underway, two longtime members of Hazeltine National Golf Club — Tim Andersen and Mark Polich — originated the "Old Tom Morris Keeper of the Greens Memorial Day Tournament" with Jim Nicol, CGCS, at the Chaska course.

In this event members of Hazeltine's grounds crew are teamed with club members for an 18-hole competition followed by a social hour.

"The golf, of course, is fun, and it has become a relaxing way for members to get to know the grounds staff," said Andersen, who, with Polich, has played in several Trans-Miss tournaments around the country. "In addition, they learn a lot about what must be done to keep a golf course in good shape. It's also neat during the year to see members wave heartily to staff members they have gotten to know."

In 1998 Wilkinson developed a similar grounds crew-member event in the fall at Minikahda, which also has supported the Trans in a variety of ways ever since it was host to the association's fourth match play tournament in 1904.

"It's been most enjoyable to hear the good comments from the members and superintendent Doug Mahal and his staff," said Wilkinson. "It's something we plan to continue for years to come."

'Minnesota Project' Contributes \$4,500 To MGCSA Scholarships

For the past couple of years the "Minnesota Project" of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association has been building a fund to help the scholarship efforts of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association.

In 1998 a contribution of \$1,500 was made. This year that amount was tripled to \$4,500.

As a result the MGCSA — with its available scholarship money and that contributed by the Trans — was able to grant five \$1,500 scholarships to:

Jason Habeck, St. Charles, Iowa State University;
Andrew Kjos, Benson, Penn State University;
Eric K. Ritter, Burnsville, also at Penn State;
Brandon M. Schindele, Stillwater, University of Minnesota;
Chad Wilson, Utica, Iowa State University

"We really appreciate what Tom Garrett and Hank Wilkinson have been doing to help our scholarship program," said John Queensland, chair of the MGCSA Scholarship Committee, "and our thanks also go to all the participants at Somerset, at Hazeltine and at Minikahda."

"Because of their efforts, we were able to make bigger grants as well as to add two more scholarships," Queensland said.

Analytical Services By:



Paskvan Consulting
Route 1, Box 77A
Akeley, MN 56433
218-652-3542 Office
218-652-2949 Fax
paskvanconsulting@unitelc.com

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