

Aspiring Superintendent Thomas Edstrom From Pine River Receives \$3,500 "Footsteps on the Green" Scholarship

By RALPH TURPINEN

An aspiring golf course superintendent from Minnesota has been granted a \$3,500 scholarship as the first place winner in the GCSAA Foundation's "Footsteps on the Green" program funded by the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association.

He is Thomas Edstrom, of Pine River, Minn., who attends Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minn.

Others receiving awards in the first year of the program were:

Second place, \$2,500: Joshua Laughridge, Penn State University, University Park, Pa.;

Third place, \$1,500: Dan Tolson, Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont.;

Merit winner, \$500: Casey O'Connor, Ryerson Polytechnic University in Canada.

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Earlier this summer, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association signed a three-year agreement with the GCSAA to fund \$8,000 in scholarships annually.

This program offers educational aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who are following in their parents'/grandparents' footsteps in the golf course management profession.

"The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association's annual support of the Footsteps on the Green scholarship program emphasizes its commitment to preparing qualified young men and women for a career in golf course management," said GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE. "The TMGA's dedication to education and promoting the game of golf is to be commended."

To be eligible for the scholarships, one or more of the applicant's parents or grandparents must have been a GCSAA member for five or more consecutive years and remain active.

Each applicant must be a full-time student enrolled in a major field related to golf/turf management, must have completed 12 credit hours in a major field of study (sophomore, junior or senior) and pursuing a career in golf course management.

Evaluations of applicants are based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community involvement, which may include membership in one of GCSAA's 50 student chapters. The applicants also must complete a 100-word essay on why they have chosen a career in golf course management and describe their own observations, insights and expectations about the profession and their career goals.

"We are pleased to support this outstanding scholarship program," said Tom L. Crow, La Jolla, Calif., president of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association. "We are looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship with The GCSAA Foundation and continuing our efforts to promote the education of young people interested in pursuing a career in golf course management."

Founded in 1901, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States. As one of the first golf organizations to recognize the necessity to educate qualified men and women in golf course management and turf research, the Trans-Miss has sponsored its Turf Scholarship Program since 1953.

In Minnesota three Trans-Miss directors -- Tom Garrett, Somerset Country Club and Minikahda members Hank Wilkinson and Kip Colwell -- also conduct fundraisers in a special "Minnesota Project" to help Minnesota students.

Purpose of the Trans-Miss scholarship program, which also granted more than \$43,000 in other scholarships to 14 universities this

year, is to encourage agronomy and horticulture students to pursue golf course management and supervision as a career, to place a special emphasis on turf management and grass culture, to help graduates find jobs and to uplift the image of the profession.

