Sports Turf Managers Association recognizes that the future of this industry lies in the education, dedication, and commitment of outstanding students. The association and its supporters issued six scholarships at the 10th Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition in January to invest in this promising future.

The $500 Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship was instituted in 1997 to honor students in two-year technical programs or community colleges. This year's recipient, Jeffry Limburg, is a sophomore majoring in sports and commercial turf management at Michigan State University.

The association awarded two $750 scholarships to undergraduate students in four-year college or university programs. Chad Follis, a senior majoring in general agriculture / turfgrass at the University of Missouri-Columbia, took home one of the awards. The other was presented to Marshall Jennings, a senior majoring in plant and soil science / golf and sports turf at Mississippi State University. A $1,000 award was presented to Stacy Bonos, a graduate student pursuing her Ph.D. in plant biology / turfgrass science at Rutgers University.

The Toro Company has established two scholarships in the name of longtime green industry researcher and consultant, Dr. James R. Watson. Undergraduate Sarah K. Martin, a senior majoring in landscape horticulture / turfgrass management at Colorado State University, accepted a $1,000 award. A $1,500 scholarship was issued to John Sorochan, who is currently serving as a graduate assistant while pursuing his master's degree in sports turf research / plant physiology at Michigan State University.

Funding for the STMA scholarships comes from the membership through participation in the raffle and the silent and live auctions at the association's Annual Conference every January. The scholarship fund also benefits from special contributions. In addition to the monetary award, the STMA, Fred Grau, and Dr. James R. Watson scholarship recipients receive full registration to the STMA Conference, and up to $500 toward expenses.

Chapter news
Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter is planning an Apr. 20 meeting at Palm Beach Gardens. The focus