

Working Together For a Better Future

The S u s t a i n a b l e Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Fund Newsletter

The founding and supporting contributors* take great pleasure in introducing this year's SUSTAINABLE Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Recipients:

Allison Harvey of rural Lake City, MN

Her comments in response to learning about being a recipient:

"Walking the line between being environmentally conscientious while supporting agriculture can be difficult in a world of polarized opinions. This



scholarship helps the next generation of conservation minded agriculturalists feel supported as we step into new roles and develop agriculturally sustainable practices and mindsets. This scholarship also allows me to immerse myself in worthwhile experiences that I would otherwise forgo without financial support. In all, this scholarship means that

I am supported in my endeavors and encouraged to grow in my field through experiential learning."

Asked where do you see yourself in the future, she wrote:

I want to strike a balance between contributing directly to my field and enabling others to do the same. I can see myself in a position that both implements and investigates sustainable management strategies, but also teaches others about how they can impact agriculture. With this in mind, I am considering a wide range of opportunities for myself.

On the application end of the spectrum, I envision myself working for an agency such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service or a Soils and Water Conservation District. The impacts I would make to agriculture would be more direct and less hypothetical than research and teaching. This opportunity would also still allow me to work with farmers to collaborate on the best methods for them and their land.

** The Founding Contributors are Deirdre Flesche and Dag Knudsen of rural Lake City, Minnesota, and Rollin Geppert who grew up on a farm in the Lake City area. Additional supporting contributions that enabled the establishment of the Scholarship Fund came from area dairy, and beef farmers, urban dwellers, naturalists, and retired folks.*

On the education end of the spectrum, I visualize myself working at a university. I thoroughly enjoy the variety of tasks that being a professor involves, and the many ways I would advance my field. The research I would perform not only would improve my field, but would also have the ability to stay connected with the learning process. With education, I wouldn't be limited to one area of expertise, but would be able to explore different avenues.

**Vera Swanson of Rochester, MN**

Her comments in response to learning about being a recipient:

"I am grateful that students are encouraged to learn and grow through environmental education. Sustainability is an achievable goal when the Fund invests in students to carry on environmental stewardship.



It is my intention to utilize my horticultural education and skills in our country and hopefully share them in other countries. I aspire to complement my interests in Russian language and agriculture through work with the U.S. National Plant Germ-plasm System, a collaborative effort to protect the genetic diversity of agricultural plants,

housed within the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Dedication to this field is complementary to the fundamental sciences of air, water, and soil.

Asked where do you see yourself in the future, she wrote:

I have dedicated myself to the study of Environmental Science with a focus in horticulture while an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. I have pursued study in plant sciences through focused electives in the Department of Horticulture. I have been thrilled to further my study in the Department because my experiences with the program's faculty and fellow undergraduate students have been stellar. My appreciation for agriculture began with my enrollment in World Vegetable Crops, which stressed

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the importance of fresh and processed vegetables worldwide, and also provided an introduction to vegetable origin, history, classification, culture, marketing, physiology, genetics, handling, quality, and significance on world cultures and diets. The significance of geophysical factors, plant genetics, GMOs, and the impact of these perspectives on human health is central to my current academic and professional direction.



Thank you to the professionals who evaluated and recommended the candidates for this year's scholarships:



Paul Wotzka is a hydrologist/consultant working in Southeastern Minnesota on watershed protection and restoration. On their farm, they practice principles of permaculture and organic agriculture.



Tom Hunter is operating a certified organic, 100% grass-fed livestock farm in southeast Minnesota, producing grass-fed beef, veal and lamb. His interests include organic gardening, cooking, and sustainability. He was involved in economic development projects in Africa, including agriculture and food projects.



Tim Schlagenhaft, a scientist formerly with the Department of Natural Resources and now with the Audubon Society of Minnesota. With a B.S. in Water Resources and M.S. in Wildlife/Fisheries, Tim has focused on fisheries and aquatic ecology.

Go to <http://protectourresources.org/> for more details about Allison, Vera, the evaluators, the scholarship program, the issues and issue 1 if this newsletter, and to download a contribution form.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Who will feed and house future generations?

The answer to this question is much larger than this scholarship program, but one thing is for certain: It will take professionals and practitioners educated and trained in *sustainable* agriculture (food production) and forestry (wood production) in order to sustain a healthy population.

We see huge problems that prevent sustainability

Current common practices endanger

- ❖ our water quality and quantity
- ❖ our soil and forests
- ❖ our food quality and the health of our people, and kill our vitally important pollinators

Sustainable agriculture and forestry is the efficient production of safe, high quality agricultural and forestry products, in a way that...

protects and improves the natural environment, the social and economic conditions of farmers and related operations, their employees and local communities, and safeguards the health and welfare of all farmed and natural species.

Become a Donor.

Let's Work Together to Protect our Resources

If you too are concerned about the indiscriminate use of chemicals which are killing our pollinators, polluting our water, and negatively effecting our food supply, then *JOIN US* by donating today.

The Rochester Area Foundation is the administrator of this scholarship fund. Contributions to the Fund are fully tax deductible.

The goal is to grow the endowment into a significant source of scholarship money for applicants.

Anonymous donors supplemented the current year dividends enabling us to provide a total of \$5,750.00 to the two recipients.

If you would like to join us as a donor or are interested in applying, send donations to the Rochester Area Foundation, 12 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Identify recipient as the Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Fund.

You received this newsletter because we believe you are interested in the future we are leaving our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Please, if you do not want more mail from us, let us know. We understand. AND/OR, if you know others who might be interested, let them know of this program. Share this newsletter with them. Thank You.