

## 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.*

### Lack of qualified candidates resulted in no scholarship offered for 2018

This scholarship program is serious about creating results. We therefore have a set of criteria that the successful candidate must...

- ☑ have demonstrated a strong interest in and commitment to sustainable agricultural and/or forestry practices,
- ☑ is committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources and related economic and social conditions,
- ☑ have strong communication skills and
- ☑ possess leadership characteristics.

Upon receiving two applications this year the Rochester Area Foundation recommendation was to not award. Our three independent reviewers concurred. Here is their comment:

“We have to say we are not very impressed by these two applications. Neither displays the depth of understanding and passion for ecology and sustainability we have seen previously. Writing skills and research experience are also lacking. We don’t see the work experience, volunteer involvement, or coursework that suggest a commitment to a career in some aspect of sustainability. Based on what we’ve seen so far, we would conserve our resources for another year.”



### Please help us find qualified candidates

Tell friends and neighbors about the scholarship. Two of our recipients did learn about it this way. Feel free to send us contacts to whom we can send information. Each scholarship is for \$5,000 and recipients are free to apply again in following years. Details are available on our website:

**[www.protectourresources.org](http://www.protectourresources.org)**



### An Interview With One of Our Strong Supporters

Bob Manross is a significant donor to the Scholarship Endowment Fund even though he does not live in this area any more. We set out to ask him why and to understand his motivations.

“I grew up in Iowa, graduated from Iowa State University and couldn’t

get out of Iowa fast enough. But now that I am retired and have time to think things over, I find that I appreciate my roots. I want to give something back. I like grassroots organizations that seek to restore the damage we have done to nature, and where my donated money, all of it, goes to building endowments. I want to support organizations with a lasting impact. That led me to the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Iowa, and the Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Endowment Fund in Minnesota.

“I picked these two organizations because Leopold Center research clearly shows that to “feed the world” we need to change our ways. Leopold testing shows all the benefits of soil that is free of pesticides and fertilizer inputs. Healthy soil that regenerates itself is our future. Soil that is full of biological life is high in organic matter, oxygen, carbon and water—all fundamental to our life on earth—and recreates an environmentally sustainable society. We owe it to the younger generations to leave them with something that will support them, that is healthy, that is sustainable.

“After having spent 40+ years in the environmental field—contributing to creating clean and safe water—I appreciate that to be sustainable something has to go on in perpetuity. How far can we push the soil? How long before we have another dust storm like the 1930s? We continue to install drain-fields and to send large volumes of deadly chemicals down the rivers. We might create a tragedy from which we cannot recover. We have experienced 50 years of abnormally good weather. The future could be 50 years of abnormally bad weather. We plan at best for 10 year futures. Nature works in longer cycles. The curves changed dramatically after the industrial revolutions. We have exceeded our historical upper limits of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere as we experience dramatic climate changes. After all, soil is the great carbon sequesterer. We released

*Continues on page 2...*



## Become a Donor. Let’s Work Together to Protect our Resources and Children

### 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 (fiber production) in order to sustain a healthy population.

If you too are concerned about the indiscriminate use of chemicals which are killing our pollinators, polluting our water, and negatively affecting 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 future applicants—forever. Identify recipient as the *Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Fund*.

### 100% of your donation goes to build the endowment fund.

RAF administrative fees are 1.25% of annual fund balance. We issue and mail semi-annual newsletters. These costs are covered by separate donations.

Continued from page 1...

carbon from the soil. It is time to return it to the soil.”

We asked Bob if he could describe ideal candidates for the Scholarships and if he had a wish for what these students will accomplish.

“They have a big job ahead of them to practice their field and to be vocal advocates. To build broad networks of contacts, to teach and to learn. They must be passionate, to be committed to work in their chosen fields and to have high integrity.

The measure of life’s success too often is the accumulation of wealth. I feel that is a poor measure. We need to find a new measure that leaves us and our society better off—or at least not worse off. I feel a sense of urgency. We must act. We have the data but most are not willing to change. We must change.

In a nutshell, these are Bob’s reasons for supporting the Scholarship Endowment Fund.

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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.*

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You are receiving this newsletter because you seem to have an interest in sustainable agriculture & forestry and might know of potential scholarship candidates, or you might be in a position to help us build the Endowment Fund. Don’t want to receive these 2x per year mailings? No sweat. Just let me know: Email to [dag@dagknudsen.com](mailto:dag@dagknudsen.com)

### Become a Donor, Help Save Our Children’s Futures

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.

Methods of contributions are numerous:

- ★ A check or credit card is wonderful, use form below.
- ★ Matching funds from employer.
- ★ Direct transfers from an IRA.
- ★ Endowments through your Estate Plan, wills or life insurance policies.

We already have contributors using most of the above methods.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund is structured such that only earnings from the invested capital are used to pay for scholarship(s) and Fund operating expenses. This rule assures that the Fund will operate in perpetuity. The Rochester Area Foundation (RAF) is the steward of the Fund. RAF, a 501 (c)(3) Foundation, is accredited by National Standards for operational quality, donor service and accountability in the community foundation sector. RAF’s administrative fees are 1.25% of the annual fund balance and are amply covered by RAF’s investment performance.

Neither scholarships nor fees are reducing the endowment equity!

The Founders issue and mail periodic newsletters. The costs of which they cover without reducing the endowment equity.

*Thank you for your willingness to help with the goal of achieving sustainability for our children, grandchildren and their futures.*

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### The 2019 College Student Scholarship Application

will be published January 15, 2019 and closes on March 30, 2019.

Starting on January 15, 2019 the on-line application form can be found on the Rochester Area Foundation website:  
[www.rochesterarea.org](http://www.rochesterarea.org)

Recipients will be announced on June 1, 2019.

For details and additional application information, visit the Scholarship website:  
<http://protectourresources.org>

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”—Wendell Berry*

**Interested in an educational presentation about sustainable agriculture and forestry for your club?**

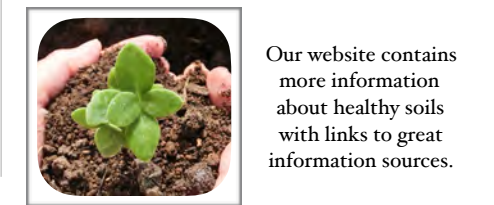
—contact us. We have a ~30 minute presentation which is easily expanded with a question and answer session.


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*Please share this Newsletter with others who might be interested in helping the cause.*

*Thanks!*

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- 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.





My donation to the  
**Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship Endowment Fund**  
to Help Sustain a Healthy Population, Environment, and Communities

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☐ You may use my/our name in recognition materials. Please have it appear as:

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Please send all pledges and gifts to:  
**The Rochester Area Foundation**  
% Dag I. Knudsen—Fund Supervisor  
PO Box 180, Lake City, MN 55041-0180

Your donation and its tax deductibility will be confirmed in a letter from Rochester Area Foundation  
Please see our website for alternate giving methods.