

2011 Norma Brubaker Scholarship Recipients

With each new issue of the Cider Press, the Apple Hill® Growers look forward to announcing the two Norma Brubaker Scholarship winners. The scholarships are given to county students who have excelled in academics and community service. Agricultural interests and work at member ranches are also considered when selecting the recipients.

In addition to recognizing academic excellence & community service, these scholarships also honor the memory of an indispensable friend of the organization. In the early years, Norma Brubaker was the glue that made the Apple Hill® Growers Association stronger. She knew everyone, understood what they needed and made sure members reaped every possible benefit from the organization. The membership wasn't sure how it could function after she passed away, but Norma helped lay a foundation that flourishes to this day. How better to recognize her invaluable contribution?

With added help from the Brubaker family, the Apple Hill® Growers were proud to award scholarships for the 2010-

2011 school year to the following students:

Sam Bolster – If the name is familiar, there's a good reason. Sam is the grandson of Gene Bolster, one of the founders of the Apple Hill® Growers Association. He grew up helping with the family farm -- Bolster's Hilltop Ranch. He worked in the cider mill and helped with parking and selling fruit at the ranch. For five years he also raised and socialized puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind. All the while he was an outstanding student at El Dorado High School with a goal of majoring in Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Early on Sam developed a love for bicycle racing and has participated in many races and won a number of awards. He continues to race at the collegiate level at UNR and hopes to compete in professional cycling after graduation and to eventually become a Pro-Tour rider in Europe.

After his racing career is over he plans to return to the archeological world and "get his hands dirty".

Stephanie Rouse – Stephanie plans to study medicine with a goal of becoming a surgeon, and is a student at UC Berkeley. While at El Dorado High School, she was a member of the California Scholarship Federation and president of Interact, a Rotary-sponsored community service club. She also served on the El Dorado County Youth Commission, working with the county Board of Supervisors to promote youth governance in the community. Additionally, she took three years of drama classes which included participation in six shows and traveling to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland with the school drama department.

Stephanie also found time to work for eight years with 4-H market-lamb and market-goat projects while serving as president of her 4-H club for three of those years. In addition, she worked seasonally at Smokey Ridge Ranch in Apple Hill®.

"Free time activities?" you ask. Of course! She is the violinist in a rock/bluegrass band and performs at local events and fundraisers.