KANGAROO GAINS MARKETING CHIEF
COLUMBUS, N.C. — Kangaroo Motorcaddies has named Thomas Curtin as its new sales/marketing manager. Curtin has moved from Atlanta where he worked in marketing and sales for a national distributor of camping and hiking equipment. Curtin has assumed the role of national sales manager. Curtin has moved from Atlanta to the company's headquarters in Columbus, N.C.

SOSTRAM PRODUCT EARNS EPA NOD
COLLEGEVILLE, Pa. — Joseph A. Kelly Jr. has been named president of Mid-Atlantic Equipment Corp., a leading distributor of golf cars and industrial utility vehicles, specializing in EZ-GO and Yamaha products. Former President John Clough will become chairman of the board. Headquartered in suburban Philadelphia, Mid-Atlantic Equipment has additional facilities in Gaithersburg, Md., Stuart, Fla., and Richmond, Va.

HERMAN TO LEAD HANCOR
FINDLAY, Ohio — Dail Herman has been named Hancor Inc.'s new president. Herman was most recently chairman, president and CEO of AutoStyle Plastics, Inc., of Grand Rapids, Mich. Prior to joining AutoStyle, he spent 16 years with the General Electric Company serving several divisions.

BRIEFS

Golf Industry Has More to Cope with
The map above shows how many courses have banned metal spikes in each state. The map illustrates the pressure to which many courses have been subjected to preserve putting surfaces by wearing spikeless shoes.

Alternatives spike industry getting complicated
By HAL PHILLIPS
ORLANDO — Add another high-profile facility to the list of those that have banned metal spikes. While you’re at it, add to the alternative-splice universe another manufacturer, a strategic alliance and a lawsuit.

Philadelphia-based EPP, Inc. introduced its “Green Keeper” line of plastic cleats here at the PGA Merchandise Show in January and at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) show in February. According to EPP VP President for Sales and Marketing Matt Spinelli, Green Keepers are designed to last up to 40 rounds. They also feature a self-locking thread design, reducing the possibility of the cleat breaking.

“We designed this cleat especially for the avid golfer faced with pressure from the time being, staff members will replace guests’ spikes at no charge. More than 1,300 courses nationwide have banned metal spikes from their premises (see chart). Grand Cypress is the 72nd course to make the move in Florida. New York leads the nation with 133 spikeless facilities. “Because of the quality levels we try to maintain at the resort, our heights of cut on the putting surfaces are very low,” said Tom Alex, director of golf maintenance at Grand Cypress. “That cut with conventional golf shoes promotes spike marks. Going to spikeless shoes, we anticipate smoother putting surfaces that will allow for more consistent putting.”

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Burning ban could put bluegrass growers out of business
By BOB SPIWAK
OLYMPIA, Wash. — A Washington Department of Ecology ruling which would eliminate burning of Kentucky bluegrass fields could have a severe impact on growers here. The ban, initiated last year, requires growers to reduce the number of acres burned by one-third each year, with a total ban by 1998.

Field burning has been the traditional way to eliminate post-harvest straw from the fields, at the same time killing pests and diseases. Some growers maintain that the fires also promote new growth and better yields. Some 60,000 acres in Washington are affected.

Ironically, no such action is contemplated by the state of Idaho, which shares the Rathdrum Prairie with its Washington neighbor. Thus, an imaginary state line separates a 10,000-acre plain, with burning allowed east of the line, but not west.

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New England combines small shows into one
By HAL PHILLIPS
PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Industry firms that privately complain about an overabundance of trade shows, take heart: seven New England superintendent organizations have pooled their resources and pared the number of annual northeast turf exhibitions by three.

The newly formed New England Turf Foundation — comprised of superintendent groups representing all six New England states, plus the New England Sports Turf Association and Mass Association of Lawn Care Applicators — will sponsor the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show here at the Rhode Island Convention Center, attached to the Westin Hotel, March 34, 1998.

This effort has, in theory, given New England superintendents more research funding clout while providing exhibitors access to more buyers in a single location.

“We all realized that we were splintering the market,” said Richard DiRico, superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Newton, Mass., president of the

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NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH
Livonia, Mich.-based C&A Products has introduced Kormat Root Protection, designed for turf areas around cart paths. With the Kormat system, cart weight is supported by the Kormat matrix, preventing soil compaction. Kormat is easy to install, cost effective, and aesthetically pleasing. For more information, contact Kormat at 810-363-8965. For more new products see pages 58-59.