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, and will be working on various marketing efforts, including the design and promotion of the Kangaroo web site (www.kangaroogolf.com).

KELLY NAMED MID-ATLANTIC PRES

COLLEGEVILLE, Pa. — Joseph A. Kelly Jr. has been named president of Mid-Atlantic Equipment Corp., a leading East Coast distributor of golf cars specializing in E-Z-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.

SOSTRAM PRODUCT EARN EPA NOD

ATLANTA, Ga. — Echo 720 Turf and Ornamental Chlorothalonil Fungicide, a product of Sostram Corp., has received final Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration and approval for the state of California. This broad spectrum contact fungusicide provides excellent disease control on a vast variety of turfgrass and ornamental plantings. For more information, write Sostram Corp. at 70 Mansell Ct., Suite 230, Roswell, Ga. 30076.

BRIEFS

ALTERNATIVE 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-spike 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 Vice 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 backing out.

"We designed this cleat especially for the avid golfer faced with pressure from many courses to preserve putting surfaces by wearing spikeless cleats," said Spinelli. Across town from the PGA Merchandise Show, Grand Cypress Resort — one of the busiest course facilities in Florida — illustrated the pressure to which Spinelli referred. Grand Cypress banned metal spikes beginning March 15. For the time being, staff members will place 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."

There was a time, not long ago, when...

NEW ENGLAND COMBINES SMALL SHOPS 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.


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., and president of the...
Field burning

Continued from page 53

knew she'd be out of a job," said Clovis, "and rushed this through. In my opinion it circumvented due process.

However, according to a January article in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, a study by several Washington State University professors concluded that benefits gained by reduced field burning outweighed the costs, and this prompted Riveland to mandate the ban.

The phase-out of burning is to allow the growers to devise alternatives. So far, said Skip Allert of Jacklin Seed in Post Falls, Idaho, there has been little success. "Last year," he explained, "they [growers] tried to bale the straw after combining, without much success."

Allert, Jacklin's grower service field representative, said alternative measures such as harvesting straw or plowing cost the growers more and do not kill weed seeds or diseases. Chemical treatments have been tried, but they, too, are coming under fire.

Washington State University and University of Idaho, along with Jacklin, are examining other means. One is close-clipping the grass, then vacuuming the residue. "We need more basic research," said Allert. "What genes we need to change, for instance. But there is a costly time lag — a year before we get the crop out, another year to see the results."

Asked about the effect the ban will have on bluegrass prices, Allert said Washington bluegrass is not going to be the way it was. It can be grown in Idaho, but it is just a matter of time until there is a curtailment there as well, he said.

Clovis agreed and said that although no legislative action is pending, a group of environmentalists plans a different strategy: suing individual growers when they burn their fields.

For now, with only Washington being affected, Clovis believes smaller growers, some of whom may have fields of 20 or so acres, will get out of the business.

Canadians, she said, are keeping an eye on developments in the two states, possibly intending to enter the bluegrass business. The climate is right, and more than 90 percent of all Kentucky bluegrass propagation is in the Pacific Northwest.

Patricia Hoffman heads a citizens group in the Spokane area called Save Our Summers (SOS). Founded in 1995, the group's primary concern is with health. "We founded the organization in response to 30-odd years of grass burning with no concessions."

Because of their proven, exceptional performance — Providence, SR 1020, and Dominant Blend creeping bentgrasses are used extensively, throughout the world. On golf course greens and fairways the SRO Bents consistently produce beautiful dark green, upright growing, fine-textured turf with reduced maintenance, less thatch, and excellent wear tolerance.

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Seed Research of Oregon set out to find the Best 18 Bentgrass Greens in North America, planted exclusively to our own varieties of creeping bentgrasses—Providence (SR 1019), SR 1020, or the Dominant Blend. A winner was selected from each of the five regions and out of those five our judges chose...

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Braselton, GA

MIDWEST
Don Tolson
Fox Hollow at Lakewood
Lakewood, CO

SOUTHWEST
Paul Ellwood
Club Terravita
Scottsdale, AZ

EAST
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Cattail Creek Country Club
Glenwood, MD

WEST
Jon Clark
Northview Golf & CC
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Although not treatable with the herbicides used, the bentgrasses are well adapted to water applications.

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THESE VARIETIES
These bentgrasses are non-treatable with the herbicides used, and are best adapted to water applications.

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