Vendors applaud GCSAA, NGCOA show merger

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- Tom Levey

marketing for Flowtronex. "We think meeting with owners, especially if they are side-by-side with the superintendent, at one big show will be a great opportunity."

Even chemical and fertilizer companies are eager for the opportunity to be in front of both members of the buying team.

"With our product line on the chemical side of the business, there is a lot of differentiation of our product versus our competitor's product," said Peter Farno, turf and ornamental market manager for Bayer ES. "This opens up the owners to why there are differences, why they should value our products versus competitive products. It's an audience we don't always get in front

The joint show will offer owners a larger perspective on the golf industry than they might normally get.

"This year was the first year we had done

the owner's show," said Dave Heegard, vice president of sales and marketing for Pursell Technologies Inc. "I spoke to a lot of owners who were glad we were there because it gave them an understanding of

who the players are in the business. In those situations where the owners are an integral part of the decisionmaking process,

it makes sense for them to go to the show and see what's going on."

As a result, many expect more owners to attend the show than before.

"That is the expectation," said Toro's Ford. "With times being as lean as they are, owners are taking a more active role in where money is being spent. Our product is a capital expense so it makes more sense for them to be involved."

Bayer ES's Farno agreed.

"There's a fair amount of owners that come to the GCSAA show, and that's great, but there will be a whole lot more," he said.■

Link Up 2 Golf expands

on-course experiences. The program will culminate in a four-hole scramble.

This year's new markets will be:

Carolinas Section - Raleigh, N.C., Charlotte, N.C., Greensboro, N.C., Greenville, S.C., Columbia, S. C.

Colorado Section - Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins/Greeley

Connecticut Section: Springfield, Mass., Hartford, Ct., New Haven, Ct.

Michigan Section: Detroit, Traverse City Middle Atlantic Section: Washington D.C., Baltimore, Md., Richmond, Va.

New England Section: Worcester, Mass., Boston, Mass., Providence, R.I.

North Florida Section: Tampa, Sarasota, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tallahassee

Northern Ohio Section: Toledo, Cleveland, Akron

Southern California Section: Ventura County, Bakersfield, San Diego

Southern Ohio Section: Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton

Tennessee Section: Nashville

Since its creation, Link Up 2 Golf has attracted more than 1,200 students.

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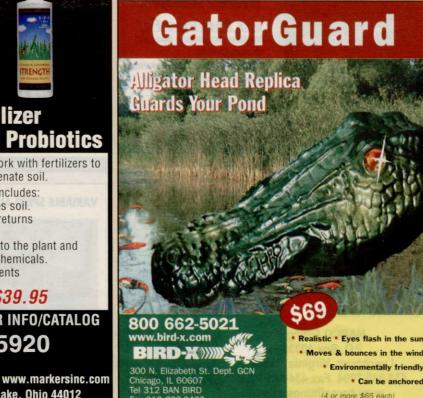
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