

SHORT CUTS

LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT...Our May "Short Cuts" column contained a few words about the popular Rockhound grooming tool. While the piece was accurate, it may have been misleading. Gary Erholm, president of K.E.M. Enterprises in Tacoma, Wash., assures us that his company still prospers. As we wrote in May, the Melroe Co. (Bobcat owners) purchased both patent and manufacturing rights to the Rockhound. Melroe is the exclusive manufacturer. However, the Rockhound is still available through K.E.M. dealers. It's also available as the Landscape Rake through Bobcat dealers.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH..."Professionalism requires that we look no farther than inside our own hearts and souls." (Lauren Lanphear, Forest City Tree Protection Co., South Euclid, Ohio)

AND THE WINNER IS...Michael Duchemin of Haverhill, Mass. won a tool chest and cabinet from John Deere when his name was drawn at the Deere booth on the last day of the 1986 Landscape Exposition in Valley Forge, Pa. The prize retails at \$379.95. Dan Brier and Daniel Gundacker of Deere's Consumer Products Division, Syracuse, N.Y., are still trying to figure out how to send it to him.

WEIRD WEATHER...Unusually warm spring weather this year has changed buying patterns in the green industry. "Spring didn't come, it was just here," says Rudd McGary of All-Green Management Associates, Columbus, Ohio. "We've talked to 20 or 30 landscape and lawn care companies, and their stream of money is coming in differently this year because of the warm February and March weather. There was some delayed buying. As a matter of fact, everything dealing with agriculture is off-pattern—not necessarily bad—just off-pattern."

GOOD READIN'...A handbook on troubleshooting and maintaining landscape irrigation systems is available from The Idea Bank. The book has step-by-step guidelines and how-to illustrations for employees. It includes information on how to repair faulty wiring and how to recognize poor control valves. To receive the manual, send \$16 to Richard Lambert, The Idea Bank, 1000 East Apache Blvd., Suite #211, Tempe, AZ, 85281, or call (800) 621-1136 or (602) 829-1233 in Arizona.

SUPER SUPERINTENDENT...Armen Suny, superintendent at Castle Pines, Col., has been named "Superintendent of the Year" by Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. Suny won the title for his work at Cherry Hills, site of the 1985 PGA Championship. He used improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses for completion of tees, fairways, and roughs where bluegrasses are traditionally used. On his fairways he planted a mixture of creeping bentgrasses to show that genetic diversity is just as important in bentgrasses as in other species.

PARKS

New Yorkers want park system upgraded

For the first time ever, police patrol has not been ranked the number one concern of New York City's 59 community boards.

Park maintenance has, according to a report in the *New York Times*.

"It indicates a feeling among people that money spent on parks brings visible results in neighborhood improvement," park commissioner Henry Stern told the *Times*.

The budget for New York's Department of Parks and Recreation has grown from \$124 million in 1984 to \$165 million in 1986; employees have increased from 3,900 to 4,919. In the last two years, 290 city parks have been improved, and major repairs are scheduled for 200 more this year.

TURF

Spartan gets its certificate number

Spartan hard fescue has received a plant variety protection certificate number, according to Dr. Jerry Pepin, director of research for Pickseed West Inc.

Spartan is a leafy, persistent, turf-type hard fescue. It has cold tolerance and produces attractive, dense, low growing, fine textured turf.

"It's best used as low-management type turf," Pepin tells WEEDS TREES AND TURF. "If you live in the northern states and don't want to water or fertilize, but still want to have a nice lawn, you'd use Spartan."

Besides working well in northern states, Pepin says Spartan will work better in the transition zone than chewing and creeping fine fescues.

Pepin stresses the biggest advantage of Spartan is its heat and drought tolerance.

SPORTS TURF

Changes in sport mean management changes

Changes in sport itself have precipitated changes in sports turf management, according to David Frey, field supervisor for Cleveland (Ohio) Stadium.

"In the 1950s, football games were nothing but mudbaths," Frey told a group of reporters who were guests of Ford Tractor at the stadium this spring. "Then Astro Turf came along, and there was more concern about the appearance of sports fields."

Another consideration that has