NEWSWIEWS

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS, TRENDS AND TIPS

Ariens, Yellowstone make acquisitions

riens Co. has acquired the assets of debris maintenance equipment manufacturer, Parker Co. Inc. of Phoenix. Ariens will continue to sell Parker products through two-step distribution channels in the outdoor power equipment market. The products will also be made available as brands sold directly to the independent dealer channel for the fall 2010 clean-up season.

"The addition of the Parker lawn sweepers and debris handling equipment will help extend the lawn and garden season for our equipment dealers with fall clean-up products," says Dan Ariens, president of Ariens, Brillion, WI. "It will also serve our growing sports turf maintenance segment."

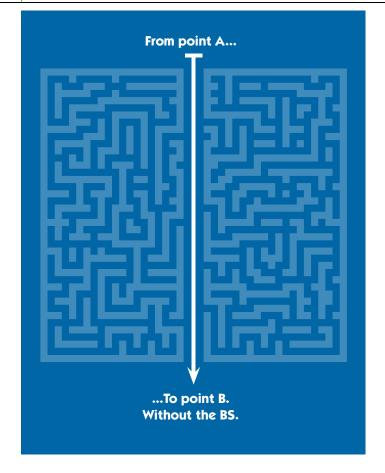
Ariens will produce the Parker products at its manufacturing facility in Auburn, NE. The company expects to make parts available to distributors in 30 to 60 days. Whole goods availability is expected by December.

BIO Landscape & Maintenance, a Yellowstone Landscape Group company, expanded its Texas presence through the acquisition of Outdoor Environments, a commercial landscape maintenance company headquartered in Houston. All members of the Outdoor Environments team have joined the BIO team.

"Outdoor Environments and its prin-

cipal, Chris Lallier, will quickly become an integral part of the BIO team," said Robert Taylor, president of BIO. "Chris worked for BIO some years back, went out on his own, and we welcome him back to share in the vision we have for BIO and Yellowstone. Chris is a very capable manager and will soon be running our North Houston Branch."

With the addition of Outdoor Environments, BIO now serves 10 counties with a combined 380 employees throughout Southeast Texas. In April 2008, BIO merged with the Yellowstone Landscape Group, one of the largest full service and environmentally focused landscape providers in the United States.



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PLANET honors Environmental Award winners at GIE+EXPO

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) is proud to announce the recipients of its annual 2009 Environmental Improvement Awards. This year marks the program's 40th anniversary. Of the 134 projects entered in this year's awards program, 126 were recognized with an award. The awards breakdown includes three Decade Awards, 38 Grand Awards, 46 Merit Awards, and 39 Distinction Awards.

"It is encouraging to the entire Green Industry to see such excellence," says Awards Committee Chair Will Spiegelberg, CLP, Spiegelberg Landscape Design Inc., Chicago. "Congratulations from all of us at PLANET."

The awards program, which is open to only PLANET members, reflects the association's commitment to creating and preserving the beauty of the landscape and is designed to reward independent landscape, lawn care, and interior plantscaping professionals who execute superior projects.

"The quality of the submittals was overwhelming in many realms," says Spiegelberg.

PLANET also presented special awards including the Promise Award to Marshall Scheibe; the Association Partner of the Year award to the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association; the Lifetime Leadership Award to Rick Doesburg, CCLP; and Sustainable Company Awards to Pacific Landscape Management, Lambert Landscape Co., John Mini Distinctive Landscapes, Cagwin & Dorward and The Laurelrock Co.

Special thanks to the judges for their



PLANET honors Rick Doesburg with its Lifetime Leadership Award. Pictured left to right: Andy Doesburg, Peggy Doesburg, Rick Doesburg and PLANET President, Bill Hildebolt.

commitment and expertise. The judging panel consisted of Matt Triplett CLP, CLT, CLIA, Willamette Landscape Services, Tualatin, OR; Louis Kobus, CLP, Fox Run Nurseries, Alexandria, VA; Aaron R. Williams, CLP, Williams Landscape & Design, Williamsburg, VA; and Gerald J. Grossi, CTP-CSL, ArborLawn, Lansing, MI.

Through a special multimedia show, recipients were honored at the PLANET Green Industry Conference Awards Presentation and Reception last month, in Louisville, KY. The Awards Reception was sponsored by Husqvarna.

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