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"The Business of Outdoor Power Equipment"

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1) TECUMSEH POWER PRODUCT LINE AVAILABLE ON ARI'S PARTSMART®

Milwaukee, WI - May 27 – ARI, a leading provider of technology-enabled business solutions that connect equipment dealers, distributors and manufacturers, today announced that Certified Parts Corporation (CPC), Janesville, WI and ARI have reached a formal agreement under which TecumsehPower's small engine product line will be available on PartSmart. Certified Parts Corporation acquired the rights to TecumsehPower Company's engine business in February, 2009.

Under the new agreement, CPC will provide ARI with the parts data for the TecumsehPower small engine line. The first catalog is expected to be available on PartSmart in June. Shortly thereafter, the catalog will also be available for use by consumers on WebsiteSmart Pro ™, ARI's award-winning dealer website product.

"Our goal is to continue to provide TecumsehPower dealers with access to the information they need to be successful," said James Grafft, President of Certified Parts Corporation. "We made the decision to partner with ARI for two reasons. First, ARI is the de facto standard in the Outdoor Power Equipment industry. Second, many of our dealers used PartSmart for TecumsehPower in the past and are using PartSmart for other lines they carry today. So, we confident that they will welcome the opportunity to add TecumsehPower to their PartSmart subscriptions," added Grafft.

"We are very pleased that we will once again be able to provide our customers with access to the TecumsehPower parts catalog," said Roy W. Olivier, President and CEO of ARI. "We welcome this opportunity to work with CPC and are confident that dealers will welcome the return of the TecumsehPower catalog to PartSmart. We are committed to working with CPC to help their dealers increase productivity and reduce costs," added Olivier.

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2) SEC FORM 10-Q FOR TORO – Excerpts for the Quarter Ending May 1, 2009

Item 2. Management's Discussion And Analysis Of Financial Condition And Results Of Operations

Nature of Operations

The Toro Company is in the business of designing, manufacturing, and marketing professional turf maintenance equipment and services, turf and agricultural micro-irrigation systems, landscaping equipment, and residential yard and irrigation products worldwide. We sell our products through a network of distributors, dealers, hardware retailers, home centers, mass retailers, and over the Internet.

Our businesses are organized into three reportable business segments: professional, residential, and distribution. A company-owned distributorship, which consists of our distribution segment, has been combined with our corporate activities and financing functions. Our emphasis is to provide innovative, well-built, and dependable products supported by an extensive service network. A significant portion of our revenues has historically been, and we expect it to continue to be, attributable to new and enhanced products.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

For the second quarter of fiscal 2009, our net sales were down 21.7 percent compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2008. Year-to-date net sales were also down by 19.6 percent compared to the same period last fiscal year.

Shipments of most professional segment products were significantly down due to decreased demand and customers' reluctance to place stocking orders largely as a consequence of the global recessionary conditions, which also resulted in lower field inventory levels for our domestic businesses.

Residential segment net sales were also down by 4.7 percent and 2.8 percent for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively, compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year due mainly to a decline in shipments of riding products, which was somewhat offset by an increase in sales of walk power mowers as a result of additional product placement at a key retailer for a new and broader line of walk power mowers.

International net sales declined 24.8 percent and 21.6 percent for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively, from the same periods in the prior fiscal year, due also to reduced demand as a result of the recessionary conditions affecting our key international markets, as well as a stronger U.S. dollar that negatively impacted net sales by approximately $12 million and $24 million for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively. Our net earnings declined 41.3 percent and 46.5 percent for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 to $36.9 million and $43.6 million, respectively, compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year. These decreases were primarily the result of lower sales volumes and lower gross margin due to higher commodity costs, production cuts, and unfavorable product mix in the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 compared to the same periods last fiscal year.

During this difficult economic environment, we have been reducing expenses and continuing efforts to reduce working capital. As a result of these actions, our selling, general, and administrative (SG&A) expenses were down $22.7 million and $35.3 million for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively, compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year.

In February 2009, we announced the reduction of our worldwide salaried and office workforce by approximately 100 employees, suspension of regularly scheduled salary increases, a reduction of officers' salaries, changes in our vacation policy, and four furlough days – all for the remainder of fiscal 2009.

Our inventory levels also decreased 18.7 percent for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2008, which also contributed to a decline in short-term debt of $118.6 million as of the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2008.

We declared a cash dividend of $0.15 per share during the second quarter of fiscal 2009, which was equivalent to the cash dividend we declared in the first quarter of fiscal 2009 and each quarter of fiscal 2008.

We expect the global economic slow-down to continue for at least the remainder of our fiscal year and to continue to have a negative impact on our financial results for fiscal 2009. However, we believe we are well positioned to manage through this challenging environment because of the actions we have taken to improve operating efficiency and asset utilization, as well as reducing expenses.

Our continued focus is on generating customer demand and aggressively driving retail sales for our innovative products, while keeping production closely aligned with expected shipment volumes. We will continue to keep a cautionary eye on the global economies, retail demand, field inventory levels, commodity prices, weather, competitive actions, and other factors identified below under the heading "Forward-Looking Information," which could cause our actual results to differ from our outlook.

Net Earnings

Net earnings for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 were $36.9 million, or $1.00 per diluted share, compared to $62.8 million, or $1.60 per diluted share, for the second quarter of fiscal 2008, net earnings per diluted share decrease of 37.5 percent. Year-to-date net earnings in fiscal 2009 were $43.6 million, or $1.18 per diluted share, compared to $81.4 million, or $2.07 per diluted share, last fiscal year, net earnings per diluted share decrease of 43.0 percent. The primary factors contributing to these declines were lower sales volumes and a decline in gross profit, somewhat offset by a decrease in SG&A expense and a lower effective tax rate.

Net Sales

Worldwide consolidated net sales for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 were down 21.7 percent and 19.6 percent, respectively, from the same periods in the prior fiscal year.

Worldwide professional segment net sales were down 29.2 percent and 26.4 percent for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively, compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year as shipments for most product categories were hampered by decreased demand largely resulting from the global economic recession.

Worldwide sales of golf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems were down significantly, as were sales of professionally installed residential/commercial irrigation products and landscape contractor equipment.

Residential segment net sales also decreased by 4.7 percent and 2.8 percent for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively, compared to the same periods in fiscal 2008 due mainly to a decline in worldwide shipments and decreased demand for riding products. Somewhat offsetting these declines were an increase in sales of walk power mowers as a result of additional product placement at a key retailer for a new and broader line of walk power mowers, as well as strong demand for snow thrower products in North America as a result of heavy snow falls during the winter season of 2008/2009 for the year-to-date comparison.

International net sales for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 were down 24.8 percent and 21.6 percent, respectively, from the same periods in the prior fiscal year due also to reduced demand as a result of the recessionary conditions affecting our key international markets, as well as a stronger U.S. dollar compared to other currencies in which we transact business that accounted for approximately $12 million and $24 million of our net sales decline for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively.

Gross Profit

As a percentage of net sales, gross profit for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 decreased to 32.3 percent compared to 35.7 percent in the second quarter of fiscal 2008. Gross profit as a percent of net sales for the year-to-date period of fiscal 2009 also decreased to 33.3 percent compared to 36.1 percent for year-to-date period of fiscal 2008. These declines were due to the following factors: (i) higher average commodity costs; (ii) increased manufacturing costs from lower plant utilization as we cut production due to a decline in sales volumes, combined with efforts to lower inventory levels; (iii) lower sales of our higher-margin products; and (iv) a stronger U.S. dollar compared to other currencies in which we transact business, in each case in the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year. Somewhat offsetting those negative factors were price increases introduced on most products and a decrease in freight expenses.

Selling, General, and Administrative Expense

Selling, general, and administrative expense decreased $22.7 million, or 18.2 percent, for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2008. SG&A expense decreased $35.3 million, or 14.6 percent for the year-to-date period of fiscal 2009 compared to the year-to-date period of fiscal 2008.

SG&A expense as a percentage of net sales for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 increased to 20.5 percent and 24.6 percent, respectively, compared to 19.6 percent and 23.2 percent for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2008, respectively, due to fixed SG&A costs spread over lower sales volumes.

The decline in SG&A expense was primarily attributable to overall reduced spending in response to the continuing worldwide recessionary economic conditions, as well as lower profit sharing and incentive compensation expense of $1.8 million and $5.5 million for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009, respectively, compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year. Somewhat offsetting those declines were increased costs incurred for workforce reductions of $2.1 million and higher bad debt expense of $1.3 million, mainly for the year-to-date comparison.

Interest Expense

Interest expense for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 was down 18.4 percent and 14.8 percent, respectively, compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year as a result of lower average short-term debt levels and a decline in average interest rates.

Other Income (Expense), Net

Other income, net for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 increased $2.3 million and $1.4 million, respectively, compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year. These increases were due to foreign currency exchange rate gains this year compared to foreign currency exchange rate losses last year, somewhat offset by a decline in financing charge revenue and lower interest income.

Provision for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for the second quarter of fiscal 2009 was 34.2 percent compared to 35.0 percent for the second quarter of fiscal 2008. The effective tax rate for the year-to-date period of fiscal 2009 was 34.2 percent compared to 35.1 percent for the same period in the prior fiscal year. The decrease in the effective tax rate was primarily the result of the reinstatement of the domestic research tax credit and the tax impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, somewhat offset by a valuation allowance for foreign net operating losses and prior years' provision adjustments of $0.6 million.

BUSINESS SEGMENTS

As described previously, we operate in three reportable business segments: professional, residential, and distribution. Company-owned domestic distributorships, which consists of our distribution segment, has been combined with our corporate activities and financing functions that is shown as "Other" in the following tables. Operating earnings for our professional and residential segments are defined as earnings from operations plus other income, net. Operating loss for "Other" includes earnings (loss) from operations, corporate activities, including corporate financing activities, other income, net, and interest expense.

Professional

Net Sales. Worldwide net sales for the professional segment in the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 were down 29.2 percent and 26.4 percent, respectively, compared to the same periods last fiscal year. Shipments declined for most domestic and international product categories due to decreased demand and customers' reluctance to place stocking orders as a result of the continued worldwide recessionary economic conditions, which also resulted in lower field inventory levels for our domestic businesses.

Worldwide sales of golf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems were significantly down as customers delayed investments in new equipment at existing golf courses and new golf course construction slowed. In addition, sales of professionally installed residential/commercial irrigation systems were down due to decreased demand largely as a result of ongoing weakness in the housing and commercial construction markets. Sales of landscape contractor equipment were also down due to the recessionary economic conditions, but were somewhat offset by positive customer response to new product introductions.

Operating Earnings. Operating earnings for the professional segment in the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 decreased 41.3 percent and 41.4 percent, respectively, compared to the same periods last fiscal year. Expressed as a percentage of net sales, professional segment operating margin decreased to 18.3 percent compared to 22.1 percent in the second quarter of fiscal 2008, and the fiscal 2009 year-to-date professional segment operating margin decreased to 16.1 percent compared to 20.2 percent from the same period last fiscal year.

These profit declines were primarily attributable to lower gross margins due to the same factors discussed previously in the Gross Profit section. Higher SG&A expense as a percentage of net sales also adversely affected operating earnings, which was due mainly to fixed SG&A costs spread over lower sales volumes.

Residential

Net Sales. Worldwide net sales for the residential segment in the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 were down 4.7 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively, compared to the same periods last fiscal year. These sales declines were due mainly to lower worldwide shipments and reduced demand for riding products.

Somewhat offsetting these declines were an increase in sales of walk power mowers as a result of additional product placement at a key retailer for a new and broader line of walk power mowers, as well as strong demand for snow thrower products in North America as a result of heavy snow falls during the winter season of 2008/2009 for the year-to-date comparison.

Operating Earnings. Operating earnings for the residential segment in the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 decreased 20.2 percent and 12.8 percent, respectively, compared to the same periods last fiscal year. Expressed as a percentage of net sales, residential segment operating margin decreased to 9.0 percent compared to 10.8 percent in the second quarter of fiscal 2008, and fiscal 2009 year-to-date residential segment operating margin decreased to 7.4 percent compared to 8.2 percent last fiscal year.

These profit declines were primarily attributable to lower gross margins due mainly to higher average commodity costs in the first half of fiscal 2009 compared to the first half of fiscal 2008 and unfavorable product mix. Somewhat offsetting the profit decline was lower SG&A expense as a percent of net sales from a decline in spending for marketing, administration, warehousing, and engineering expenses as a result of budget reductions.

Other

Net Sales. Net sales for the other segment include sales from our wholly owned domestic distribution company less sales from the professional and residential segments to that distribution company. In addition, elimination of the professional and residential segments' floor plan interest costs from Toro Credit Company are also included in this segment. Net sales for the other segment were down for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 compared to the same periods last fiscal year by $1.4 million, or 19.1 percent, and $2.0 million, or 17.4 percent, respectively, as a result of reduced demand due to the domestic economic recession, as well as a reduction in the elimination of floor plan interest costs as a result of lower receivables with Toro Credit Company and a reduction in interest rates.

Operating Losses. Operating losses for the other segment were down for the second quarter and year-to-date periods of fiscal 2009 by $3.7 million, or 17.5 percent, and $5.4 million, or 11.3 percent, respectively, compared to the same periods last fiscal year. The loss decreases were primarily attributable to the following factors: (i) overall reduced spending in response to the economic downturn; (ii) foreign currency exchange rate gains this year compared to foreign currency exchange rate losses last year; and (iii) decreased interest expense, previously discussed. For the year-to-date period of fiscal 2009 compared to the year-to-date period of fiscal 2008, the other segment operating loss was also impacted by a decline in profit sharing and incentive compensation expense, somewhat offset by costs incurred for workforce reductions and higher bad debt expense.

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3) BRIGGS & STRATTON ADJUSTS COMPANY OFFICER SALARIES (SEC FORM 8-K June 11, 2009)

ITEM 5.02. Departure Of Directors Or Certain Officers; Election Of Directors; Appointment Of Principal Officers; Compensatory Arrangements Of Certain Officers.

(e) Modified Compensatory Plan. On June 10, 2009, the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors approved reducing the payment of annual base salaries to all company officers by 10%, postponing the payment of cash bonuses to all participants in the company's EVA Incentive Compensation Plan, and discontinuing the company's matching contributions to all participants in its Consolidated Retirement and Savings Plan and Key Employee Savings and Investment Plan.

The company's officers have consented to the salary reductions and deferral of cash bonuses. All these actions are part of a company-wide program designed to reduce expenses by approximately $5 million in each of the first two quarters of fiscal year 2010.

The company expects that these actions will assist it in continuing to meet various financial covenants stated in the company's loan agreements in the event that there are no major weather events in the first and second quarters of fiscal year 2010 that generate sales demand for portable generators and their related engines.

The actions are effective July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, when they will be reevaluated based on the company's financial condition at that time. Such reevaluation may result in continuing the cost reduction actions, terminating them, or returning the salary reductions to officers and other employees.

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4) HUSQVARNA GROUP PRESS RELEASE REGARDING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

June 16 -- The Husqvarna Group will implement a new organization as of year-end 2009. The new organization will be implemented gradually as of July 1, 2009.

Instead of the current six business sectors, the new organization will comprise five operative units, i.e. Supply Chain, Products & Marketing, Sales and Service in Europe and Asia/Pacific, Sales and Service in North and Latin America, and Construction Products.

Martin Bertinchamp, currently head of the business sector Consumer Products, Rest of the World (mass-market channels), will be head of Products & Marketing.

Hans Linnarson, currently head of the sectors Consumer Products Rest of the World (dealer channel) and professional products for Lawn and Garden, will be head of Sales and Service in Europe and Asia/Pacific.

Roger Leon, currently head of the sector Consumer Products North America, will be acting head of Sales and Service, North and South America.

Magnus Yngen, President and CEO will be acting head of Supply Chain.

Anders Ströby will continue as head of Construction Products.

Bo Andreasson, currently head of the Forestry business sector, will be head of the Group's global product-development organization and will thus no longer be a member of Group management.

There will be no changes in Group staff.

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5) TRYING TO BLEND IN

Jenni Glenn www.journalgazette.net

Ethanol Producers Hope To Pump More Into Gasoline Mix

Even if you don't drive a flex-fuel vehicle, your gas tank probably contains some ethanol.

Most gasoline sold at Indiana pumps contains 10 percent ethanol. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is weighing whether fuel refiners should be allowed to increase that concentration to 15 percent.

Boosting gasoline's ethanol content would help support the alternative fuel industry – including two northeast Indiana ethanol plants that cost more than $100 million each. But opponents are worried that cars, boats and lawn mowers won't run well on the fuel.

Ethanol industry advocates have asked the EPA to consider increasing regular gasoline's maximum ethanol content to 15 percent. Otherwise, the industry will not be able to meet the federal mandate requiring the country to blend 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel into gasoline by 2022, said Bryan Christjansen, general manager of the Poet Biofuels LLC ethanol plant in Wabash County.

The law, called the Renewable Fuel Standard, requires fuel blenders to use more biofuels each year or risk being fined. The law is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel dependence.

But most gas already contains 10 percent ethanol. Ethanol content needs to increase so fuel companies can comply with the law, Christjansen said.

Sales of E85, a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline that is sold separately, remain too small to meet the law's requirements, he said.

Drivers use about 140 billion gallons of gas a year, said Wally Tyner, a Purdue University agricultural economics professor. Even if each gallon contained 10 percent ethanol, drivers would be consuming 14 billion gallons of ethanol. Increasing the ethanol content to 15 percent would raise ethanol consumption to 21 billion gallons a year, he said.

Shifting to a 12.5 percent ethanol blend would increase Midwestern ethanol sales about 25 percent, Tyner said.
Ethanol plants produced 9 billion gallons of the alternative fuel last year, according to the Renewable Fuels Association, an industry trade group.

But the 10 percent blending limit restricts the industry's future growth, Tyner said. As a result, plants have idled about 2.2 billion gallons of production capacity. An estimated 3.4 billion gallons of additional capacity is in jeopardy, he said.

"Everybody's competing for that limited demand that's out there," he said.

Ethanol demand outpaced production last year, according to the Renewable Fuels Association. But the industry is on track to produce 13 billion gallons a year in a few years, said Matt Hartwig, the industry association's spokesman. Demand will need to grow to keep pace.

If ethanol demand does not increase, it could have a devastating effect on the communities where ethanol developers invested millions of dollars to build plants.

Bankrupt VeraSun Energy postponed construction on a northwest Indiana plant in Reynolds and finally sold the site to another ethanol developer. Poet, which spent $130 million to build its North Manchester plant, is waiting to start other Indiana projects until the fuel blending issue is resolved, Christjansen said.

But increasing gasoline's ethanol content without adequate testing could create other problems. Current vehicles were designed to run on fuel containing 10 percent ethanol, said Charles Territo, spokesman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. Ethanol burns hotter than gasoline and dissolves some materials.

He said fuel containing more ethanol could corrode fuel lines or damage catalytic converters, which regulate vehicle emissions.

Specially designed flex-fuel vehicles can run on higher ethanol blends such as E85, but only about 3 percent of vehicles have that capability, Territo said. Without more testing, he said, there is no way to know how higher ethanol blends could affect other vehicles.

Preliminary data show vehicles run well on E15 – gasoline blended with 15 percent ethanol, Hartwig said.
The EPA could adopt a weaker ethanol concentration – 12 percent or 12.5 percent – while it continues to test E15 in vehicles, he said.

Not enough testing has been done to determine how E15 would affect cars, boats, lawn mowers and other motorized equipment, said Kris Kiser, executive vice president of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute industry trade association.

The Department of Energy's E15 tests covered 28 of the 900 engine families in the landscaping, forestry and utility equipment industries, he said. Many chain saws, lawn mowers and other devices have not been tested.
Ethanol burns hotter than gasoline. Kiser said many equipment manufacturers fear that could cause blades to spin while a tool is in an idle setting.

"This is phenomenally dangerous," he said.

Equipment warranties only cover fuel blended with 10 percent ethanol, Kiser said. Some equipment manufacturers would need to redesign equipment to run on E15.

The fuel also poses problems for boaters, Kiser said. Ethanol can cause resin parts to break away from fiberglass and stop a boat's engine.

It would be difficult to sell gasoline containing no ethanol for these limited applications, Kiser said. Gas stations would need to dedicate pumps to selling the fuel. If pure gasoline was more expensive, some consumers would buy ethanol blends and risk damaging equipment or boats, he said.

Christjansen blended E15 fuel for his 2002 Pontiac Grand Prix. The car ran fine, and he saved about $1.50 to $2 each time he refueled because ethanol was less expensive than gasoline.

“I haven’t had any engine issues at all,” he said. Christjansen also has blended his own snowmobile fuel without any trouble.

Deadlines loom
Making the switch would reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign oil, Hartwig said. Consumers also would save money if ethanol prices remain lower than gas.

Automakers want to reduce oil dependence and encourage renewable fuel use, but Territo said the higher blends need more testing before they should be allowed in cars.

EPA officials are scheduled to accept comments on gasoline’s ethanol content until July 20. A decision is slated to be made by Dec. 1, Hartwig said.

If the EPA allows more ethanol in the fuel supply, there is no way to know what problems consumers could have with vehicles, boats and motorized tools, Tyner said. The testing done so far was short term and looked at few vehicle models.

“So the EPA is in quite a dilemma because there hasn’t been enough testing,” he said.

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6) BRIGGS & STRATTON TO CLOSE JEFFERSON, WI PLANT, NET LOSE OF 430 JOBS

www.jsonline.com

MILWAUKEE -- July 1 - Briggs & Stratton Corp. announced Wednesday a plan to close its Jefferson and Watertown, Wisconsin manufacturing facilities in fiscal 2010. The Power Products Segment facilities currently manufacture all portable generator, home standby generator and pressure washer products marketed and sold by the company.

The world's largest manufacturer of small gasoline-powered engines said the job reductions will occur by the end of the year and are partly the result of poor market conditions and a need to consolidate production at its factories.

About 100 salaried employees in Jefferson will be offered jobs at other Briggs locations, including Wauwatosa. Production at the Jefferson plant will be moved to other Briggs factories, including plants in Alabama and Georgia. The Jefferson facility will be sold, said Laura Timm, a company spokeswoman.

As recently as last fall, the plant was busy shipping products after Gulf Coast storms knocked out electricity for millions of people.

The overall economy, however, has taken a toll on the sale of outdoor power equipment.

In April, Briggs cut its quarterly dividend in half, to 11 cents a share, to preserve cash.

Last fall, Briggs also closed its Simplicity lawn mower plant in Port Washington, resulting in the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Briggs said its plants in Georgia and New York that make Simplicity lawn mowers and snow throwers were larger, could more easily be expanded and are near engine plants.

Outside the United States, Briggs has benefited from low-cost manufacturing plants it opened in the Czech Republic and China. The Czech plants serve Briggs' European market, including fast-growing Eastern European countries. But the company has resisted the temptation to move all of its manufacturing overseas because the U.S. plants can build an engine with 30 minutes of labor, making them very efficient.

Having plants in the U.S. also gives the company a competitive advantage in being able to respond to U.S. hurricanes, snowstorms and other power-related emergencies.

In conjunction with the closing of the facility, the company will recognize a pre-tax $5.8 million charge in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009 composed of $4.6 million of net asset impairments and approximately $1.2 million of employee related charges for severance and pension costs.

The impact of the facilities' consolidation on fiscal 2010 earnings is projected to be minimal because estimated savings will be offset by closure costs and the fact that the facility will be in operation for a portion of the fiscal year.

In fiscal 2011, the company estimates approximately $11.0 million of pre-tax savings from the consolidation of operations.

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7) BRIGGS TO CLOSE AREA FACILITIES

Adam Tobias www.wdtimes.com

WATERTOWN, WI – July 2 -- Briggs & Stratton Corp. announced this morning that it will be closing its facilities in Watertown and Jefferson, resulting in the lost of 430 jobs.

Representatives from the world's largest producer of gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment said it will consolidate manufacturing of its Home Power Products Group in Jefferson to multiple existing Briggs & Stratton locations in the United States.

This move will result in the closings of the Briggs & Stratton facilities in Watertown and Jefferson. The company will provide assistance programs, continued benefits and outplacement services, according to a press release.

Home power products operations in Jefferson are expected to wind down in the fiscal year of 2010. Laura Timm, director of communications for Briggs & Stratton, said the Watertown facility, which employs approximately 100 workers will also cease operations in 2010.

"All operations between Watertown and Jefferson will be wound down by June of 2010," Timm said.

Harold L. Redman, president of Briggs & Stratton Home Power Products Group, said in a press release that the closings are partly due to the poor economy.

"The market volatility for our weather-dependent products along with the current economy constantly challenges us to find new ways to remain competitive," Redman said. "We continuously review our manufacturing footprint in order to achieve the greatest efficiency and utilization from the assets we employ.

"Currently we have available capacity in other Briggs & Stratton locations and can optimize our efficiency by moving home power products manufacturing to these other locations within the United States," he added.

Portable generator production will be moved to Briggs & Stratton's Auburn, Ala., facility that currently produces engines for these products.

Pressure washer manufacturing will be transferred to the company's McDonough, Ga., location, which produces other lawn and garden products.

Home standby generator production, along with engineering research and development, will be moved to the company’s Wauwatosa facility.

“We do expect to move the production of the pressure washers and generators at our Jefferson facility probably by the end of the year and Watertown in early 2010,” Timm added.

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8) CPSC, HUSQVARNA RECALLS LAWN TRACTORS

July 8, 2009

The following product safety recall was voluntarily conducted by the firm in cooperation with the CPSC. Consumers should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Craftsman Lawn Tractors

Units: About 8,200

Manufacturer: Husqvarna Consumer Outdoor Products N.A. Inc., of Augusta, Ga.

Hazard: The tractor’s parking brake can fail posing a loss of control hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: No incidents or injuries have been reported.

Description: The recalled Craftsman power lawn tractor is gray colored, has 19.5 HP engine, automatic drive, and a 42 inch cutting deck. The following model and serial numbers are included in the recall. The model and serial numbers are located on a model plate under the tractor’s seat.

Models	Serial Numbers
Craftsman 917.289080	012709A001000 through 031209D999999
Craftsman 917.289081	

Sold by: Sears and Kmart stores nationwide and on the Web at www.sears.com from January 2009 through April 2009 for about $1,200.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled tractors immediately and contact Sears for a free inspection at your home and, if necessary, a free repair of the parking brake cable. Sears is directly contacting consumers who purchased this product.

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9) AllSAFE RAISES CONCERNS OVER PARTIAL FUEL WAIVER FOR ETHANOL

ALEXANDRIA, VA -- Jul 16-- AllSAFE states that legal and regulatory statutes prohibit a partial fuel waiver.

The Alliance for a Safe Alternative Fuels Environment (AllSAFE), which speaks for manufacturers on fuel-related legislation representing 400 million products that over 250 million Americans own and operate, including recreational boats and marine engines, chainsaws, lawnmowers, motor vehicles, motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, generators, and related vehicles and equipment, announced today that it delivered official comments voicing concern to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about Growth Energy's fuel waiver application for E-15.

AllSAFE's comments also address concerns over EPA's expansion of the waiver request to include "bifurcating" the fuel supply, or allowing two fuels (E-10 and E-15) in the marketplace at one time via the 211(f)(4) fuel waiver process. To read AllSAFE's comments to the EPA, visit allsafe-fuel.org or www.OPEI.org.

"AllSAFE's comments clearly establish that E-15 has not been sufficiently tested and poses a hazard that could potentially bring physical endangerment to consumers," said Kris Kiser, spokesman for AllSAFE. "With the additional concern of a 'bifurcated' fuel supply, the EPA has not evaluated all the complex issues, such as misfueling, which again, leads to permanent damage of non-road equipment and older vehicles and poses a risk of personal harm to the consumer. These concerns deserve a full evaluation through the proper section of the federal Clean Air Act and should not be insufficiently addressed through a fuel waiver request."

In EPA's response to Growth Energy's waiver application, comments were requested by EPA on a potential "partial fuel waiver" that would in concept only apply to certain newer on-road vehicles. EPA's "partial waiver" concept would be based on somehow bifurcating the national production, distribution, blending, and marketing of separate E-10 fuels (for non-road products and older automobiles) and then offering E-15 fuels for newer automobiles only.

In practice, consumers would now be faced with two fuel pumps at any given station - one with E-10 and one with E-15. "AllSAFE has strongly cautioned the EPA against such a measure since consumers could be confused and possibly use the wrong fuel, especially if they see that E-15 is cheaper and choose that blend rate to save money," said Kiser.

In its comments, AllSAFE pointed out that EPA's attempt to offer leaded and unleaded fuels via two separate pumps was not completely successful. Even with education and physical barriers against misfueling at the fuel pump and on the automobile, misfueling still occurred with 13.5 % of vehicles needing unleaded gasoline (based on EPA's own misfueling study). With no physical barrier and a price differential that would encourage misfueling, the potential for physical harm to consumers must be addressed before bifurcation is considered.

AllSAFE's comments also point out that from a legal and public policy standpoint, the EPA cannot approve any "partial" mid-level ethanol fuel waiver until EPA has completed a separate rulemaking process under section 211(c) to prevent misfueling.

In 2007, Congress expanded and strengthened Section 211(f)(4), which specifically directed EPA to only approve a fuel waiver if all non-road and on-road engines or vehicles would not be adversely impacted with regard to their applicable emission standards. Yet, Section 211(f)(4) does not create the legal authority for EPA to establish a "partial waiver" based on a bifurcated fuel "concept."

In summary, AllSAFE recommends that the EPA deny the Growth Energy E-15 partial waiver request at this time for the following reasons:

-- Use of E-15 fuel cannot be legally or practically controlled through a partial waiver without causing wide-spread misfueling, engine damage, and potential for physical harm to consumers.

-- The waiver application does not include most of the information EPA has outlined as required supporting information.

-- The data supplied with the waiver application does not support the claims made regarding the emission and operability influence of E-15 fuel.

-- Use of E-15 fuel is expected to result in "materials incompatibility"

-- Use of E-15 fuel is expected to cause unacceptable engine and/or equipment "operability"- resulting in an increase in "tampering."

-- Use of E-15 fuel has been demonstrated to result in increased exhaust emission of HC+NOx and significantly higher exhaust gas temperatures resulting in engine degradation.

-- Use of E-15 fuel is expected to result in increased evaporative emissions.

-- Use of E-15 fuel would increase national emissions based on well-established predictive modeling.

About AllSAFE

AllSAFE is made up of national consumer, manufacturing, and gasoline retailer associations (listed below) that consume gasoline and ethanol fuel blends (listed below). AllSAFE speaks for manufacturers on fuel-related legislation representing 400 million products that over 250 million Americans own and operate, including recreational boats and marine engines, chainsaws, lawnmowers, motor vehicles, motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, generators, and related vehicles and equipment. For more information, go to http://allsafe-fuel.org/.

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10) HUSQVARNA INTERIM REPORT JANUARY - JUNE 2009 EXCERPTS

Stockholm – July 17

Magnus Yngen, President and CEO:

“Market demand in the second quarter was substantially lower than in the previous year in all product areas. Group sales declined by 7%, adjusted for changes in exchange rates and acquisitions. Despite the difficult environment, sales for Consumer Products in North America increased, for the third consecutive quarter. Sales in Europe to the mass-market channels also rose from the previous year, and Gardena-branded irrigation products had a strong quarter. Overall, we strengthened our market position.

Operating income for the quarter declined by 16%, but margin remained at a high level. The decline in operating income refers to lower volumes, particularly for Professional Products, as well as a less favorable product/country mix. Pricing in the quarter remained stable in both Europe and North America. Lower costs for materials also contributed positively to income. We are now seeing that implemented cost and capacity reductions are gradually starting to take effect.

Cash flow showed a continued positive trend, and our efforts to reduce inventories and accounts receivables have paid-off.”

- Net sales for the first half rose by 11% to SEK 22,633m (20,386). Adjusted for acquisitions and changes in exchange rates, net sales declined by 9%. Operating income decreased by 25% to SEK 1,902m (2,523). Income for the period was SEK 1,225m (1,563), corresponding to SEK 2.33 (3.42) per share.

- Net sales for the second quarter increased by 11% to SEK 11,481m (10,343). Adjusted for acquisitions and changes in exchange rates, net sales decreased by 7%. Operating income declined by 16% to SEK 1,116m (1,321), corresponding to a margin of 9.7% (12.8).

- The decline in operating income refers mainly to Professional Products.

- Consumer Products in North America reported higher sales and operating income.

- Favorable trend in sales for mass-market consumer products outside North America, including Gardena-branded irrigation products.

- Continued positive trend in cash flow.

NET SALES AND INCOME SECOND QUARTER

Net Sales

Net sales rose by 11% to SEK 11,481m (10,343). Adjusted for changes in exchange rates and acquisitions, net sales declined by 7%.

Sales for Consumer Products in North America rose from the previous year. A favorable trend in sales was also reported for Consumer Products for the mass-market channels outside North America. Sales for Professional Products declined in all product areas with the largest downturns for Construction and Lawn and Garden.

Operating income

Operating income declined by 16% to SEK 1,116m (1,321), and operating margin was 9.7% (12.8).

The decline in operating income was mainly due to lower sales volumes and a less favorable mix in terms of both products and geographical markets. Operating income also includes a charge of SEK 18m for costs related to personnel cutbacks, in addition to previously announced cost-reduction measures (see page 3).

The decline in operating income refers mainly to Professional Products. Operating income for Consumer Products declined slightly in comparison with the previous year. Consumer Products in North America showed a substantial improvement, however.

Changes in exchange rates, including both translation and transaction effects net of hedging, had a total negative effect on operating income of approximately SEK -35m (15). Hedging contracts had a negative effect of SEK -92m (-47).

Financial net

Net financial items amounted to SEK -172m (-180). Net financial items were positively affected by the rights issue earlier in the year and the positive trend in cash flow. However, this was largely offset by the negative effect of the weaker SEK as the greater part of the Group’s funding is denominated in foreign currencies.

The average interest rate on borrowings at the end of the quarter was 3.0% (4.6).

Income after financial items

Income after financial items amounted to SEK 944m (1,141) corresponding to a margin of 8.2% (11.0).

NET SALES AND INCOME FIRST HALF

Net sales

Net sales rose by 11% to SEK 22,633m (20,386). Adjusted for changes in exchange rates and acquisitions, net sales declined by 9%.

Sales for Consumer Products in North America rose from the previous year. Sales for Professional Products declined in all product areas with the largest downturns for Construction and Lawn and Garden.

Operating income

Operating income declined by 25% to SEK 1,902m (2,523), and operating margin decreased to 8.4% (12.4).

The decline in operating income is mainly explained by a higher share of sales of consumer products which have lower margins than professional products, as well as generally lower volumes and a less favorable mix in terms of products/geographical markets within most operations.

Operating income includes a charge of SEK 53m for costs related to personnel cutbacks in addition to previously announced measures (see below).

In terms of business areas, operating income declined for both Consumer Products and Professional Products, with the largest downturn for Professional Products. Income for Consumer Products in North America showed an improvement.

Changes in exchange rates, including both translation and transaction effects net of hedging, had a total positive effect on operating income of approximately SEK 58m (31). Hedging contracts had a negative effect of SEK -17m (-114).
Costs for personnel cutbacks

Announced personnel cutbacks now involve 1,275 employees, as against 1,250 reported at the end of the first quarter. The total cost amounts to approximately SEK 370m, of which SEK 316m was charged against operating income in 2008 and SEK 35m in the first quarter of 2009. Annual savings are estimated at approximately SEK 450m, as against the previously stated SEK 440m, and are expected to take full effect in the third quarter of 2009.

Financial net

Net financial items amounted to SEK -368m (-322). The difference from the previous year is primarily an effect of the weaker SEK, as the greater part of the funding is denominated in foreign currencies.

Income after financial items

Income after financial items amounted to SEK 1,534m (2,201) corresponding to a margin of 6.8% (10.8).

OUTLOOK FOR THIRD QUARTER 2009

Retail inventories of the Group's products at the end of the second quarter are estimated to have been lower than in the previous year. Uncertainty remains regarding shipments due to the recession. Consumer demand is likely to remain low and retailers are expected to continue to focus on maintaining inventories at low levels.

The Group expects shipments in the third quarter of 2009 to be somewhat lower than in the third quarter of 2008. It is also expected that consumer products for the mass-market channels will account for a greater share of total sales, while the share of professional products will be lower, which will adversely affect the Group's operating margin.

PERFORMANCE BY BUSINESS AREA SECOND QUARTER

Sales for the Consumer Products business area increased as a result of the weaker SEK. Sales in North America rose in local currency, particularly for wheeled products such as lawnmowers and garden tractors. The Group's shipments in North America outperformed overall industry shipments which are estimated to have declined in most product categories.

Group sales also showed a favorable trend within several product categories for the mass-market channels outside North America. Sales of Gardena-branded irrigation products increased on the basis of more favorable weather than in the previous year. Sales of Husqvarna-branded products showed a decline, however, and particularly sharp downturns in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Operating income for this business area was slightly lower than in the previous year, and margin declined. Income for the North American operation increased in both local currency and SEK and margin improved, as compared to a weak second quarter in 2008. Income for the operation outside North America showed a downturn overall, mainly as a result of lower volumes and a less favorable product and country mix.

Sales for the Professional Products business area were substantially lower than in the previous year, as a result of weaker demand in most markets. All product areas reported declines with the largest downturns for Construction and Lawn and Garden. Sales for Forestry decreased in particularly Russia and Latin America.

Operating income and margin for this business area showed a substantial decline, mainly due to lower volumes for Construction as well as Lawn and Garden. Income for Forestry was largely unchanged and margin improved, mainly as a result of implemented price increases and rationalization of production.

NEW ORGANIZATION AND CHANGES IN GROUP MANAGEMENT

The Group will implement a new functional organization as of 1 January 2010. The new organization is implemented gradually from 1 July 2009.

Instead of six business sectors, the new organization comprises five operative units, i.e. Supply Chain, Products & Marketing, Sales in Europe and Asia/Pacific, Sales in North and Latin America, and Construction Products.

Martin Bertinchamp, previously head of the business sector Consumer Products, Rest of the World (mass-market channels), has been appointed head of Products & Marketing. Hans Linnarson, previously head of the sectors Consumer Products Rest of the World (dealer channel) and professional products for Lawn and Garden, has been appointed head of Sales in Europe and Asia/Pacific. Roger Leon, previously head of the sector Consumer Products North America, is acting head of Sales in North and Latin America. President and CEO Magnus Yngen is acting head of Supply Chain. Anders Ströby will continue as head of Construction Products.

Bo Andreasson, previously head of the Forestry business sector, has been appointed head of the Group's global product-development organization. There have been no changes to Group staffs.

The new organization aims to increase internal efficiency and improve the Group’s overall operational performance.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTY FACTORS

A number of factors can affect Husqvarna’s operations in terms of operational and financial risks. Operational risks are managed by the operative units, and financial risks by Group Treasury.

Operational risks

Operational risks include general economic conditions, as well as trends in consumer and professional spending, particularly in North America and Europe, where the majority of the Group’s products are sold. An economic downturn in these markets may have an adverse effect on Group earnings.

Demand for the Group’s products is also dependent on weather conditions. Dry weather can reduce demand for products such as lawn mowers and tractors, but can stimulate demand for irrigation products. Demand for chainsaws normally increases after storms and during cold winters.

Husqvarna’s operations are also subject to seasonal variations. Demand for consumer garden products and commercial lawn and garden products normally peaks in the second quarter, while the peak season for chainsaws is normally the third quarter. Husqvarna has adapted its production processes and supply chain to respond to these conditions. However, parameters such as cash flow and production levels follow the seasonal variations in demand, which results in relatively greater risk exposure for the Group over short periods of time.

The Group is currently implementing a new organization. Major organizational changes always carry the risk of creating higher costs than anticipated and of the loss of key personnel.

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11) RIDE TORO TO BETTER DAYS – AN ANALYST'S VIEW

By Will Ashworth www.stocks.investopedia.com

Investopedia contributor Greg Sushinsky's March 17 article about Connecticut-based toolmaker Stanley Works painted a bleak picture for any business operating in the durable household goods sector... which got me wondering if any companies in this hard-hit sector are worth considering right now.

Toro, a manufacturer of golf maintenance equipment and other products came to mind, for it has kept its head above water despite the recession. At the end of the day, golfers play courses in part because of appearance and maintenance. A shabby-looking track just isn't worth the time or money and owners know this.

However and most unfortunately, Toro's recent experiences differ little from those of Stanley Works.

Toro's 2008 revenues totaled $1.88 billion, virtually identical to those in 2007 and only $230 million more than 2004 revenues. There's no growth story here. But despite the recession, the company still earned $120 million, or $3.10 per share, in 2008, which provided shareholders a 32.6% return on equity (ROE). In 2004, its ROE comprised 23.5%. If it could get back to its 36.1% gross margins from 2007, flat sales or not, business would be good.

As for Toro's most recent results, the first quarter wasn't pretty. Revenues totaled $340.2 million, down 16.2% from $405.8 million. The bottom line was no different, with net earnings of $6.7 million, down 64% from $18.6 million in January 2008. CEO Michael Hoffman commented that the company is managing inventory, cutting expenses, including short-term borrowings, and operating conservatively in its business plan.

And for good reason! Toro's professional segment revenue, which includes golf maintenance equipment, was down 22.3% in the first quarter due to golf courses delaying new investments.

Meanwhile, its residential segment actually saw a slight increase in sales in Q1 due to a strong demand for snow blowers. Even more encouraging, while the professional segment's earnings were down 41.5% year-over-year to $30.1 million, the residential segment saw its bottom line improve 26.8% to $4.8 million.

Once golf course owners see an improvement in the economy, they'll be making the necessary capital investments on the professional side, which accounts for about two-thirds of Toro's revenue. And with those sales should come increased gross margins, which were off by 200 basis points from Q1 2008.

Looking ahead to its full-year numbers in 2009, Toro management expects revenues to decline 15% and earnings per share to drop between 35% and 45%, to the $1.75 to $2.00 range.

Toro is taking the necessary steps to ride out this recession. In February, the company announced cuts to its overall workforce by more than 10% through voluntary retirements and job cuts.

While belt tightening is never a fun process, it's comforting to know that Toro executive officers are taking 10% pay cuts in 2009. The time is ideal for looking at Toro, as the company is keeping its business cost-competitive while hanging on to profits.

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12) CARLISLE TIRE TO CLOSE PLANT, CONSOLIDATE IN TN

Joseph Cress, Sentinel Reporter, www.cumberlink.com

July 21 -- The Carlisle Tire & Wheel plant on North College Street will close within 12 to 15 months, employees were told this morning.

The closure, which affects about 340 employees, will be phased over that time, said Fred Sutter, group president of CTW.

He added while federal law mandates a 60-day notice on plant closures, the company wanted to give employees as much time as possible “to help them plan a transition.” About 20 percent of plant workers are salaried while 80 percent are hourly.

CTW will continue to operate its 260,000-square-foot distribution facility on the Ritner Highway, which employs about 67 people. In addition, Carlisle’s largest division, Carlisle Construction Materials, which employs about 475 people, will continue to be headquartered in Carlisle.

Carlisle Companies Inc. announced today its CTW business will consolidate its Carlisle plant with the former Bowdon, Ga. manufacturing plant and portions of its Chinese operations into a newly acquired 568,000 square-foot facility in Jackson, Tenn.

The parent company explained how the November 2008 fire loss of the Bowdon plant prompted the establishment of a temporary manufacturing plant in a leased facility in nearby Heflin, Ala. and a nationwide search for a new location in which to relocate or rebuild the operation.

Sutter explained how the Jackson facility affords CTW an ideal location, more centralized to its markets with excellent expansion opportunities. “This strategic move will strengthen CTW’s competitive advantage, improve our workflow and help us to maximize the benefit of the Carlisle Operating System,” Sutter said.

The system is a standardized manufacturing structure that allows the company and its holdings to improve profitability and shareholder value, Sutter said.

“Carlisle Companies Inc. has been deeply entrenched in the community of Carlisle since the company began in 1917, deriving our name from the town,” Sutter said. “Though one of the CTW facilities will be relocating, we continue to be committed to the Carlisle community and the excellent relationship we have had with them.”

The transition of the CTW manufacturing facilities from Carlisle, Helfin and China to Jackson will take place over the next 18 months, Sutter said. He explained, for staying with CTW up through closing, Carlisle area workers will be offered an incentive based on their number of years of service.

“We have a very well trained and experienced workforce in Carlisle,” Sutter said. To retain that talent as much as possible, CTW will be offering Carlisle area workers a relocation package to transfer to the Jackson plant.

Those wishing not to transfer will be offered outplacement services to help them find a new job and brush up on such skills as resume writing and job interviews, Sutter said. “We will work with local employers to try and connect them to opportunities.”

He added CTW has already notified state agencies on the potential need for services.

Sutter said the poor economy did play a role in accelerating the decision to consolidate. Driving factors included land and building costs, energy and utility rates, freight costs for CTW and customers and locating production closer to its customers including the buyers of agricultural tires, Sutter said.

He added product lines currently manufactured in Carlisle -- specialty tires for outdoor equipment -- will be transferred to the Jackson plant.

Hundreds of employees gathered at the Carlisle Expo Center this morning for the announcement. A Sentinel reporter at the scene was denied entry by a company representative. None of the workers approached after the meeting wanted to comment.

Carlisle Tire and Wheel has employed between 600 and 800 people in recent years, although layoffs have reduced that number over the past year.

Carlisle Tire and Wheel Company is a division of Carlisle Companies, Inc. The company was founded in 1917 when Charles S. Moomy opened Carlisle Tire and Rubber Co. in Carlisle.

According to the company profile, Moomy's main operation was the production of inner tubes that were sold to Montgomery Ward and Company. There were just 30 employees working 10-hour days at the plant and they expanded into the production of automobile inner tubes.

The company floundered during the stock market crash of 1929, and by the end of the 1930s, Moomy had turned over all of his common and preferred stock to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia to avoid bankruptcy.

The company was purchased in 1943 by Pharis Tire and Rubber Company for $330,000, but after significant losses, the board of directors liquidated the company in 1949, distributing stock to the Pharis stockholders and renamed Carlisle Corporation.

During the 1950s and '60s Carlisle acquired a variety of other companies, including roofing materials, insulated wire and baby food jar sealant rings.

By the end of the 1960s, Carlisle was producing aerospace and electronic products, recreational tires, automotive accessories and brake linings as well as other divergent products.

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13) MTD PREPARES TAKEOVER OF WOLF-GARTEN

Federal Cartel Office in Germany Approves Acquisition - Trademark Rights Obtained

July 21, 2009 - Following the takeover by MTD of WOLF-Garten trademark rights and the Federal Cartel Office's approval of their acquisition of WOLF-Garten GmbH and Co. KG, the company from Saarbrücken is preparing itself for the takeover at the beginning of September, 2009. Alongside the brand with the wolf's head, the sites at Betzdorf, St. Wendel and Etzbach will also belong to the MTD group.

"WOLF-Garten remains an independent brand with an independent market presence", explains Peter Janssen, chairman of the board of directors of MTD Products AG. At the same time, the management at MTD and WOLF-Garten will cooperate closely both nationally and internationally. "In Germany as well as in all other European markets, WOLF-Garten and MTD customers can be reliably supplied with products from WOLF-Garten and MTD factories. Even the after sales service and the service department is optimally secured," Janssen promises. In the meantime, plans are being made for the 2010 season.

MTD, the "Modern Tool and Die Company", with its headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio is one of the worldwide manufacturers of motorized garden tools. MTD Products Inc. was founded in 1932 and remains family-owned. MTD has manufacturing capacities in the USA, Canada and Europe.

With its five brands MTD, GUTBROD, Yard-man, Cub Cadet and WOLF-Garden, MTD has a product program on the European market for the needs of every gardening fan - whether hobby gardener or pro. The appeal of each brand lies in its individuality and distinctive appearance. All of the brands complement each other and form a comprehensive spectrum of motorized garden tools, from electric lawn mowers to garden tillers, snow throwers and compact tractors.

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14) OPEESA OFFICERS, BOARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mark	Vining	Roberts Supply	Winter Park FL	407.657.5555	Vice President *Annual Meeting Chair*	m.vining@robertssupply.com
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Bev	DeVriendt	Power Equipment Distributors	Richmond, MI	800.624.2932 Ext. 1485	Immediate Past President	bev@powereqp.com
Bob	Byrne	Sheffield Financial LLC	Marietta GA	770.364.4393	2010 *Manufacturer/ Affiliate Rep.*	bob@sheffieldfinancial.com
Gary	Bussell	Golden Eagle Distributing Co.	Rocklin CA	916.645.6600	2010 *Benchmarking Chair*	garyb@goldeneagledist.com
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Greg	Imus	Shindaiwa, Inc.	Tualatin, OR	503.691.4767	2011 *Manufacturer/ Affiliate Rep.*	gimus@shindaiwa.com
Tim	Congdon	Congdon Associates Dist. Co	Phillipsburg, NJ	908.213.0303	2012	timc@cadcodist.com
Nancy	Cueroni	OPEESA	Essex, CT	860.767.1770		info@opeesa.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPEESA, PLEASE CONTACT:

Nancy Cueroni
Executive Director
37 Pratt Street
Essex, CT 06426-1159

Tel: 860-767-1770
Fax: 860-767-7932

Email: Info@opeesa.com
Web Site: www.opeesa.com