

# *Northstar* Tools, Inc.

December 2008

Since I started Northstar Tools in 1988, I have worked hard to build a company that manufactures quality American made products at a fair price. It was also very important to me to cultivate relationships with customers and vendors that are honest and fair. After 20 years in this industry, I have made the difficult decision to sell Northstar Tools. It was very important to me that I chose a buyer with a similar business philosophy to carry on what I had started, as well as take care of my employees.

I chose Midwest Rake Company because I believe they possess the same standards and philosophies of truly caring for their customers, vendors, and employees, as well as striving for new and innovative tool designs to give our customers a distinction between them and the big boxes.

I am excited to see what the future will bring for the company I started. Midwest Rake, in combination with Northstar products, will create a larger offering of tools, as well as east and west coast warehousing, to enhance customer service and reduce lead times. This is a fantastic opportunity for customers, vendors and employees alike.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to everyone for the support they have given me over the years.

Best Wishes,



John Salzbrunn