
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 20, 2009



THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

000-11917
(Commission
File Number)

34-0176110
(Employer
Identification Number)

**1500 North Mantua Street
P.O. Box 5193
Kent, Ohio 44240**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(330) 673-9511

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On May 20, 2009, Karl J. Warnke was appointed Chairman of the Board of The Davey Tree Expert Company.

As part of the Company's leadership transition, Mr. Warnke, a 29-year Davey Tree employee adds Chairman to his responsibilities as President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Warnke succeeds Mr. R. Douglas Cowan who served as Davey Tree's Chairman of the Board for 12 years. Mr. Cowan continues to serve as a member of the Board.

Mr. Warnke's biographical information contained in our 2009 Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference into this Item 5.02.

A copy of the press release, dated May 20, 2009, announcing these changes is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release of The Davey Tree Expert Company, dated May 20, 2009

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY

By: /s/ David E. Adante
David E. Adante
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
and Secretary

Date: May 20, 2009

***The Davey Tree Expert Company
News Release***

FOR RELEASE ON May 20, 2009

Warnke named Chairman of the Board of The Davey Tree Expert Company
Davey Celebrates 30 years of Employee Ownership

Kent, Ohio— As part of the Company's executive leadership transition, Karl J. Warnke has been named Chairman of the Board of The Davey Tree Expert Company.

Warnke, a 29-year Davey employee, adds Chairman to his responsibilities as President & CEO of the 129-year-old company.

Warnke replaces R. Douglas Cowan, who served as Davey Chairman of the Board for twelve years. Cowan will continue to serve as a member of Davey's Board of Directors.

"It is important to recognize Doug's leadership as Chairman and his selfless dedication to the principles and values that have served to guide the Davey Company through the years," said Warnke. "Doug and I have always shared similar values and aspirations for the Company, which has served the Company well through good times and tough times."

The transition takes place as Davey celebrates its 30th anniversary of employee ownership. With its more than 7,000 employees, Davey is among the 20 largest employee-owned companies based in the U.S. Widespread employee ownership sets Davey apart, according to Warnke.

The Davey Company has experienced significant growth over the past several years. Warnke's priorities are a continued focus on growth, both organically and through mergers and acquisitions, management succession as the company continues to expand, and superior customer service initiatives.

Warnke was named Davey's CEO in 2007 and President & COO in 1999. Prior to this, he served as executive vice president, vice president and general manager and assistant to the President. He came up through the Davey field operations and worked for only one other employer in his thirty-six year career in the green industry.

Within Davey, he currently serves on a number of boards including: The Davey Tree Expert Company, Davey Tree Surgery Company, Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada, Ltd, Wolf Tree, Inc., and The Care of Trees, Inc.. He is also a member of The Conference Board's Executive Council for Mid-Cap Companies, the Greater Akron Chamber Board of Directors, and the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Warnke earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from The Ohio State University School of Horticulture and is also a graduate of The University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business Executive Program.

The Davey Tree Expert Company, with U.S. and Canadian operations in 45 states and five provinces, provides a variety of tree services, grounds maintenance, and consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial, and government markets. Founded in 1880, Davey is employee owned and has more than 7,000 employees. For more information, visit www.davey.com.

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