FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| asilington, D.C. 20049 |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| OMB APPROVAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*   |  |            |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol QUANEX CORP [ NX ] |                  |                                     |                  |   |                 |   |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)           |  |   |        |                    |         |           |
|--|--|------------|----------|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--------|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| SEBASTIAN MICHAEL J  |  |            |          |  |                  | QUANEX CORP [ NX ]                  |                  |   |                 |   |  |   |  | X Direct  |        | 10% Ov             | - 1     |           |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 1900 WEST LOOP SOUTH                                     |  |            |          |  |                  |                                     | of Earli<br>2003 | est Tran  | saction (       | (Mont   | h/Day/Year)  |   | Office<br>below  | r (give title<br>')   |        | Other (s<br>below) | specify |           |
| SUITE 1500   |  |            |          | 4.1  | f Ame            | endmei                              | nt, Date         | of Origin   | al File         | ed (Month/D   |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable                             |  |   |        |                    |         |           |
| (Street)<br>HOUSTON TX 77027   |  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   |                 |   |  | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |   |        |                    |         |           |
| (City) (State) (Zip)   |  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   |                 |   |  |   |  |   |        |                    |         |           |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   |                 |   |  |   |  |   |        |                    |         |           |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transact Date (Month/Day                     |  |            |          | Execution Date,  |                  | Transaction Disposed O              |                  | es Acquired (A) or<br>Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 an  |                 | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported |  | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)                 |  | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |        |                    |         |           |
|  |  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   | Code            | v   | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price  | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)                                |        |                    |         | (1130.14) |
| Common   | Stock  |            |          | 12/09  | /2003            |                                     |                  |   | M               |   | 3,000  | A   | \$24.8   | 375 3   | 31,700 |                    | D       |           |
| Common   | Stock  |            |          | 12/09  | /2003            |                                     |                  |   | M               |   | 2,000  | A   | \$21.6   | 375 3   | 33,700 |                    | D       |           |
|  |  | 7          | Table II |  |                  |                                     |                  |   |                 |   | posed of<br>converti   |   |  | y Owned   |        |                    |         |           |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                              | vative Conversion Date Execution Date, urity or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any |            |          | 5. Number of Ode (Instr. Derivative                            |                  | Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                  | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Secur<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                 | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5)                       | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) |   | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)                             |        |                    |         |           |
|  |  |            |          |  | Code             | v                                   | (A)              | (D)   | Date<br>Exercis | able  | Expiration<br>Date   | Title   | Amoun<br>or<br>Numbe<br>of<br>Shares                                     | 1   |        |                    |         |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$21.6875  | 12/09/2003 |          |  | M <sup>(1)</sup> |                                     |                  | 2,000   | 05/01/2         | 000   | 10/31/2009   | Common<br>Stock   | 2,000  | \$0   | 0      |                    | D       |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$24.875   | 12/09/2003 |          |  | M <sup>(1)</sup> |                                     |                  | 3,000   | 05/01/1         | 995   | 10/31/2004   | Common<br>Stock   | 3,000  | \$0   | 0      |                    | D       |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$25.95  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   | 10/31/2         | 001   | 10/31/2011   | Common<br>Stock   | 2,000  |   | 2,000  | )                  | D       |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$27.625   |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   | 05/01/1         | 998   | 10/31/2007   | Common<br>Stock   | 3,000  |   | 3,000  | )                  | D       |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$28.5   |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   | 05/01/1         | 997   | 10/31/2005   | Common<br>Stock   | 3,000  |   | 3,000  | )                  | D       |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$35.54  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   | 10/31/2         | 002   | 10/31/2012   | Common<br>Stock   | 2,000  |   | 2,000  | )                  | D       |           |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy)  | \$40.05  |            |          |  |                  |                                     |                  |   | 10/31/2         | 003   | 10/31/2013   | Common<br>Stock   | 2,000  |   | 2,000  |                    | D       |           |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

Terry M. Murphy, Power of Attorney

12/11/2003

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

 $Reminder: Report \ on \ a \ separate \ line \ for \ each \ class \ of \ securities \ beneficially \ owned \ directly \ or \ indirectly.$ 

<sup>1.</sup> Options exercised under the 1989 Non-employee Directors Stock Option Plan.

<sup>\*</sup> If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.