

Design

Build

Maintain

# PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 10

Spring/Summer 2004



## Happenings.....

This winter, Biafore's Landscaping began development of a web site that will allow us to showcase our projects to new and existing clients through the magic of the Internet. Our goal is to create a site that will communicate our philosophies, ideas, and services in an exciting and informative format. Clients will be able to contact each of our staff via e-mail as well as request or transmit information, files, and drawings. Past and current issues of "Perceptions in Landscape" will also be posted in a newsletter archive. Everyone is invited to view our web site at [www.Biafore.com](http://www.Biafore.com). General e-mail correspondence will be taken at mail@biafore.com. We are still under construction so continue to visit for news and updates.

As a change of pace this winter, Biafore's Landscaping's personnel attended the Central Environmental Trade Show (CENTS) in Columbus, OH instead of the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) in Baltimore, MD. CENTS offers the opportunity to research current vendors and products as do many of the other nursery trade shows. However, this show provides visitors the option of participating in various continuing education courses. Our crewmembers attended educational seminars on new pruning techniques, segmented retaining walls, interlocking pavers, nursery management, safety, turf and ornamental plant fertilization, weed control and various other topics.

In April, Mark Carl, Dean Barron, Jack Hager attended an all day instructional seminar on segmented retaining wall design and construction sponsored by Central Supply Co. After the classes they sat for an exam on retaining wall construction. They each passed the exam and became certified by the National Concrete Masonry Association as NCMA certified segmented retaining wall installers.

Biafore's Landscaping and its personnel are looking forward to implementing our newfound knowledge in 2004.

## Employee Profiles...

**Jason Kennedy** has become the *go to man* for Biafore's Landscaping over the last 3 years. Jason readily contributes to the many facets of landscaping our firm provides, such as pavers and hardscape, tree, shrub and perennial planting, lighting, grading and all forms of landscape maintenance. Jason increases his knowledge of the landscape field through attendance at continuing education courses and by reading industry literature and periodicals on a regular basis.



*'Unlike your favorite painting or sentimental vase, a landscape is alive and constantly changing' - author unknown*

## West Virginia Workers Compensation

**B**iafore's Landscaping would like to thank our clients for their understanding in regard to apparent price adjustments for the 2004 season. As everyone knows, the WV Worker's Compensation program is in financial jeopardy and will be for some time to come. Our firm's Worker's Compensation rates were increased by 100% in the third quarter of last year, even though we are in good standing with the WVVCC and provide a safe working environment to our employees. We are continuing to work with advisors from the Worker's Compensation Bureau to reduce our rates through a return to work program, safety training and continuing education.

## Financing by John Deere Credit

**B**eginning in the spring of this year, Biafore's Landscaping will be offering project financing through the John Deere Credit Program. John Deere Landscapes has been providing our company with materials and supplies including irrigation and lighting materials, seed and fertilizers, plant materials and tools for the last several years. As a way to better service their customers, they have developed a financing program that will be made available to residential clients who qualify. We will be able to offer 180 days same as cash or the option of 48 months at a financing rate of 6.9%. We hope that this will provide a convenience to our clients by offering them the flexibility to extend the scope of their landscape project and increase the satisfaction in their investment.

## Landscape Lighting

*'Discover Hidden Beauty in Your Landscape With Night Lighting'*

*By Dave Lewis of John Deere Landscapes*

**L**andscape lighting has become one of today's most popular outdoor features. It enhances the beauty, safety, and security of your home and garden. Lighting makes everything more inviting; from outdoor dining to entertaining to just relaxing on your patio. Homeowners often spend thousands of dollars on their landscaping yet neglect to consider lighting. A professionally designed and installed system can extend your living space to the outdoors and extend the enjoyment of your landscape into the evening.

There is a wide range of new fixture styles and colors available today. This makes it easy to illuminate a home and garden throughout the seasons and to focus attention on special features such as architectural design, specimen trees, fountains, walkways, gazebos and many other garden highlights.

A well designed lighting plan often includes accent lighting and back lighting to highlight trees and shrubs, path lighting to illuminate walks, moonlighting to wash patios, and aquatic lighting that focuses on fountains or ponds. Along with new nighttime beauty, landscape lighting will also improve your home's safety and security. Path lights and step lights illuminate walkways and help to prevent accidents while lessening liability concerns. Accent lights around shrubs eliminate any "dark spots" and discourage vandals or burglars. In fact, home security experts often recommend landscape lighting to increase home safety and security, which is especially important when you are out of town.

Today's homeowners are offered an outstanding selection of fixture styles and finishes. Lighting manufacturers like Vista Professional Outdoor Lighting and Kichler Lighting provide hundreds of designs and creative new finishes that include copper, brass, and stainless steel among others. Composite materials used to manufacture fixtures will withstand all weather conditions. Your contractor or landscape designer can show you lighting examples and help you decide what styles will work best with your home and garden design. When you see the dramatic impact and increased value that lighting will add to your home, it will be hard to resist!



*'The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise grows it under his feet' - James Oppenheim*

## Project Profile

### St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

Morgantown, WV

**O**ur sister company, Riverview Landscape Architecture, LLC was asked in 2000 to be part of the design team for the new St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church by the architecture firm of Rafferty, Rafferty and Toleffson (RRT) of St. Paul Minnesota. RRT had developed a design for the new church based on an agrarian concept that played off of the architecture of an old barn existing on site. The three main areas of the structure, worship space, social hall, and administration area were designed to surround the entry vestibule, thus creating the sense of an old world town square.

It was important that the site and landscape design reflect the character of the architecture and maintain a simple farm-like feel. Site grading was designed to reflect a rolling countryside. Excess soil was used to create landforms that, along with a planting of mixed coniferous evergreens, formed a windbreak from harsh northwestern winds. The remainder of the planting was kept simple and low key in order to complement the architecture and not compete with it. A mass planting of St. Johnswort (*Hypericum calycinum*) was used as an anchor plant with simple plantings of multi-stemmed River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage') as framing plants. The River Birch were to be uplighted in the night time.

March-Westin Co., Inc was contracted as the general contractor of the project. They then retained Biafore's Landscaping to complete the landscape installation. Plantings, sod, irrigation and an emergency access road constructed of Turfstone porous pavers were included in the plan designed by Riverview Landscape Architecture were installed by Biafore's Landscaping. March-Westin constructed many of the elements of the landscape design that included walkways, lighting, and a fire pit to be utilized during Easter Vigil.

## Spring Cleaning for Ponds and Fountains

*By Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center*

**T**he old country and western tune 'Clean, Pure Water' sums up just about all one needs to know about cleaning a pond or fountain for a summer's worth of enjoyment. We will start with the simple mechanics of the pumping system as it applies to either a sterile system (fountains with no biological, plant or fish components) or a living system (pond with fish and plants). Common to both is the pump. The most common is a magnetic drive pump with up to a 7000 gallons per hour (gph) capacity. Its primary parts are the inlet or debris filter, impeller body, ride shaft (stainless or ceramic) and windings. To start, make sure the debris screen is clean. Most screens are removable and can be taken out of the pond or skimmer box for inspection and cleaning. Most modern mag drive pumps are designed to let pass material up to 3/8" through the pump. It is also important to check that the supply tubing is also clear of debris. This is especially important on fountains with small supply lines.

The next item to consider is the pump's impeller. The impeller is the most important part in the circulation and filtration system. As a result, it is the most commonly replaced item. To inspect, remove the debris screen and slide the impeller straight out. Check for wear on the impeller body itself. Look for rounded edges, worn races where the impeller body rides the shaft, and cracks. If noticeably worn, replace the impeller. Expect to pay \$10 to \$15 for a 300 to 600 gph impeller and \$40 to \$50 for a 1000 to 3000 gph unit. The last pump service item is the ride shaft. Inspect for visible damage and replace if necessary. The winding, the main body of the pump, is not user serviceable. It should however last for years and years.

The last regular service item is the filter system. It is often comprised of a skimmer, ultraviolet filter and box falls biological filter. The skimmer and biological filters often will have removable filter pads that require periodic cleaning once a month to every three months. The filter pads decompose over time and require replacement every three to four years. The biological section of the filter, if properly functioning, will not require regular cleaning. The skimmer, however, will need regular debris removal as well as pad cleaning. The ultraviolet (UV) filter is a light and the bulb and quartz sleeve need to be checked for cleanliness and function. Bulb life on UV filters is about every 3 years. Green water is a sign of algae growth and signifies that the light has failed to function.

## Plant for the Season

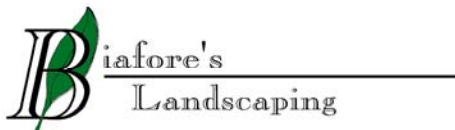
By Linda Bagby

**H**ave you been searching for ground cover that's a little unusual and that produces a lovely bloom? Aaron's Beard, also known as Creeping St. Johnswort, (*Hypericum calycinum*) may be just what you're looking for! This woody-stemmed, vigorous grower has a vibrant 3" yellow cup-shaped bloom in the summer. With its prominent anthers, the flower looks like it has little yellow fireworks exploding from the center. It is hardy in zones 5A to 10A and its rows of bright green leaves are semi-evergreen in protected locations. Aaron's Beard is adaptable to a wide variety of conditions. It will grow in full sun to full shade and even tolerates drought conditions. Its preferred soil is well-drained /loamy, sandy or clay soil. Being slightly taller than many ground covers- it grows 8-12" tall – it could be a worthy companion to lower ground covers, tall perennials or as textural accent under a tree.

## Ask the Experts

**B**iafore's Landscaping is being featured in May and June on the WAJR 1440am show 'Ask The Experts' at 8:35 am on May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>. Tune in for tips on landscape design and plant culture. Phone **304-296-0041** to participate in question and answer sessions or e-mail questions prior to the show to [mail@biafore.com](mailto:mail@biafore.com). Also, you may listen by logging into [www.wajr.com](http://www.wajr.com). Be sure to log in early in order to go through the sign-on steps.

~~*'Plants are like people. They're all different, and a little bit strange' – John Kehoe*~~



106 Riverview Street  
Fairmont, WV 26554

