

Design

Build

Maintain

PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 11

Fall/Winter 2004



Happenings.....

A recent trend is becoming more and more apparent in the field of design. Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) allows designers to easily store, change, and manage their designs electronically. Electronic drawings aid the designer in many ways, increasing efficiency when elements of a design must be changed.

At Biafore's Landscaping, CADD allow us to neatly and efficiently create draft maps of the site, input a design, and save it. This reduces the number of smudged drawings and countless sheets of paper used to produce one final drawing. It also enables us to communicate with other firms in a matter of minutes by email and aids in calculating materials for cost analysis. Basically, CADD is more of a project management tool escalating efficiency for the designer.

Recent design field graduates experienced the phasing out of hand drafting and the introduction to the new trend, computer-aided design. The challenge with CADD appears to be that students now focus more on their computer knowledge and less on their design skills, hoping this makes them more marketable to recruiting design firms.

In truth, the computer is only a tool. One could think of it as an expensive pencil that leaves no marks when erased, never loses its quality and makes the user draft 10 times faster. But as designers, our creative thought processes and imagination are essential in making what we produce appealing. Many people who are great designers have very poor CADD skills, and many CADD literate people have terrible design skills. There are many as well that that are skilled at both.

CADD can be an excellent tool for all designers. However, students, interns, landscape architects, and design firms, and even clients must ultimately understand that CADD cannot create ideas for them. A design cannot be created electronically and must come from the imaginative, experienced, and well-trained mind of a human designer.

By: Jason Testman, WVU School of Landscape Architecture

CONGRATULATIONS.....

Many congratulations go out this season to the staff of Biafore's Landscaping.

Mark Carl and Christine Lewis welcomed a new baby girl, Piper Lindsey into the world in October.

Erin Hager and her husband Roger brought a new daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, into the world on August 31, 2004.

Jason Testman announced his engagement to Julie LaRossa and set a wedding date for May 21, 2005.

Pete Jarrett announced his engagement to Lori Satterfield with a wedding date to be set.

Linda Bagby was elected President of the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. in November.



'A tree falls the way it leans' - Bulgarian Proverb

Gardens of the Mon

Biafore's Landscaping was excited to have two of our gardens on the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. 'Gardens of the Mon' tour this past summer. Each year a committee selects a number of local gardens to be on the tour, giving area residents the opportunity to visit private gardens that would otherwise be kept a secret. This year, the Malone residence (*Perceptions in Landscape*, Issue 4, winter 2000) and the McFadden Residence (profiled this issue) were selected for the tour. Both gardens represent unique challenges and opportunities in the development of a residential landscape. They each showcase solutions and designs that reflect the personalities and desires of the homeowner.

The 'Gardens of the Mon' tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 25 in 2005. Tickets are expected to be \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 on the day of the tour. They can be purchased at several area businesses including our own office.

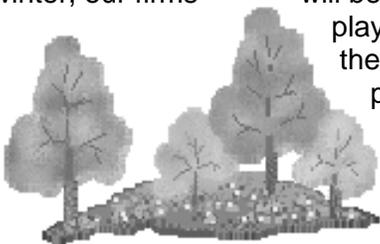
Apple Valley Golf Course - Fairmont, WV

By Biafore's Landscaping with Cecilia Mallamo

Apple Valley Golf Course has been a longstanding tradition in the Fairmont area since the late 1950s. Constructed by the late Johnny Warash, owner of Johnny's Sport Shop, it was run out a tent during the first season. In the early 1970's the late Dr. Joseph 'Doc Joe' Mallamo purchased the majority percentage of the course and maintained it in its existing state at purchase until his death in 2001. Later that year, Dr. Mallamo's daughter, Cecelia, took over as president and administrator of Apple Valley. Under her guidance, Cecelia has introduced new course policy, streamlined cash flow, and made improvements to the course, including adding golf carts.

Apple Valley is a long, interesting course and is considered player friendly. The staff is currently working to earn certification by the National Golf Course Owner's Association as a "Beginner Friendly Golf Course".

This year, Biafore's Landscaping and our sister firm Riverview Landscape Architecture were retained to assist in reinvigorating the looks, feel and image of the course. In the fall of 2003, extensive grading and drainage work was performed on the #2 and #3 holes to redirect water flow and eliminate wet areas and erosion. As part of this phase, a new paved cart path was designed and installed from the 2 to 3 hole to allow easier and safer access for golf carts. The existing paved path was retained for use by walkers. This winter, our firms will begin work on a conceptual plan that will look at improving the visual interest and play interest while locating additional cart paths for easier movement through out the course. A couple of exciting elements to be studied in future planning are possible locations for a new driving range and a dining terrace outside the clubhouse.



Apple Valley Golf Course is located on Apple Valley Road in the town of White Hall just south on Fairmont on Rte. 250.

Congratulations, kudos, and many, many thanks to Pete Jarrett, Gary Williams and Howard Nichols who are each celebrating their 5th year with Biafore's Landscaping in 2004!!!!!!!!!!!!

'A city man who moved to the country usually spent too much on his home and not enough on his site.' – Frank Lloyd Wright

Project Profile

McFadden Residence.

Morgantown, WV

Once again Biafore's Landscaping teamed with Tim Smola and Bud Cryster of Smola Construction for extensive site and landscape design at the residence of Dr. David and Nancy McFadden. The McFaddens were beginning construction on their new home and wanted to begin planning their site and landscape. Their home was to be situated on a sloping lot on the Cheat Lake. After the home was sited, driveway layout and entry, front door entry, entertainment area in the rear and accessibility to the lake were a few of the many items considered in the design. Since the property was situated in a predominately wooded area, great care was exercised in maintaining the natural character of the site. A mix of native plant materials was used around the house and along the woods edge. A changing palette of colors and textures appears throughout the seasons. Special attention was paid to winter character with plants such as Sparkleberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Sparkleberry'), Purple Beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma*) and various ornamental grasses (*Pennisetum*, *Miscanthus*, *Calamagrostis*).

The complimenting hardscape elements act to lead the eye from the street to the front door with a series of brick columns with rough sawn fencing planks. The brick was selected to match the brick veneer on the home and the fence painted to compliment the trim of the house. A tan and gray tumbled paver in 6x6 and 6x9 sizes was laid in a K pattern in order to reflect more of an old world feel. The pavers were used to create a front entry court as well as a terrace for entertaining outside the back basement door. Low voltage landscape lighting and an automatic irrigation system complete the original landscape plan.

Two years later, Biafore's Landscaping was called upon to assist the McFaddens in developing a privacy screen along their property line as a home was being constructed near by. Designers collaborated on creating a series of detached wooden screens that were 8' tall and constructed of a rough sawn cedar. The screens were then supplemented with plantings consisting of shrubs, trees and ornamental grasses that complimented the plantings previously installed. The addition was rounded out with an ornamental gravel 'creek bed' that linked the area together visually and helped to facilitate drainage in that space.

Invite a Toad to Your Abode

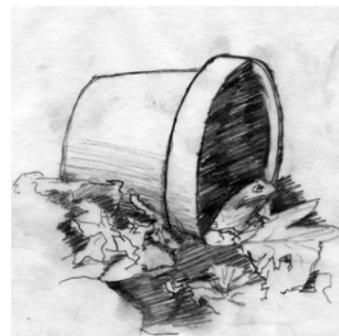
By Linda Bagby

Could you use an easy snow day project to do with the kids this winter? You may want to consider making a toad house for your garden.

As many gardeners know, it's great to have toads in your yard because they have voracious appetites for pests. It has been reported that a single toad can eat 50-100, slugs, cutworms, flies, grubs and grasshoppers in one night!

Toads are a lot like frogs but generally have drier, browner, and wartier looking skin than frogs. Toads also live in places that are drier than most frogs do. You can encourage toads to come to your yard by providing the conditions they like. Toads feed mostly at night. During the day, they need shelter from the heat. They will bury themselves in moist mulch or sand in a cool shady location – like beneath a toad house. Toads also like to cool off in a saucer of water.

You can make a simple toad house using a medium size flower pot. The kids can enjoy decorating it with acrylic paints in colors that will look good with the plants in your garden. Dig a hole in a cool, shady location and bury the pot about halfway. Fill it with shredded hardwood mulch and leaves and watch for the some warty little friends to come live in your garden!



'You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt'. ~ Author Unknown

Plant for the Season

By Linda Bagby

It's the fall of the year. The leaves blow into drifts next to the house. Most perennials, having decorated the spring and summer garden with colorful blooms, are preparing for their winter rest. Most that is, but not all. If you have hellebores in your garden, the show is yet to come.

Hellebores are herbaceous plants whose glossy, usually evergreen leaflets grow in a rosette from the stem like the fingers of a hand. The 1-3" bell-shaped, flower heads are borne at the top of a thick stem. There are a number of species available with blooms in white, pale green, pink, purple, and burgundy. The real treat for gardeners is that they are among the few plant species that bloom in winter or early spring and have flowers that may last for 6 weeks.

As a family, hellebores will grow in a wide range of North American climates from Zone 3 to Zone 10. They require partial shade and moist, well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. Lenten rose, *Helleborus orientalis* has 2" wide, nodding, cup-like flowers in cream, green, pink, rose or purple on 18" tall stems. This species self-sows readily. One caution to including hellebores in your garden is that all parts of the plant are poisonous. Skin irritation may result from contact with liquid released if the plant is bruised so use gloves when handling these plants.



Wouldn't it be fun to look out at flowers blooming in the snow? Try some hellebores and let us know!

'Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you' –

Frank Lloyd Wright



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