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**Design Build Maintain**

# PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 12

Spring 2005



## Happenings.....

### Press Release

January 1, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Biafore's Landscaping becomes Biafore Landscape Development**

Local landscape mainstay, Biafore's Landscaping, has changed its name to Biafore Landscape Development, LLC in order to better reflect the quality and services the firm has come to provide. Established in Fairmont in 1963 by Richard and Daniel Biafore, Biafore's Landscaping provided its clients in North Central West Virginia with total landscape installation and maintenance. "Richard and Daniel always endeavored to keep the company current and innovative", stated company spokesperson Lisa Rowe. "They were two of the first people to sit for and pass the WV pesticide licensing exam in 1972".

Over the last forty years the company has grown to provide many additional services. Interlocking paving systems, segmented retaining walls, stone work, decks, planting, turf installation, irrigation, and landscape lighting are some of the services now offered. Design and consulting services include landscape architecture and garden design, master planning, planting plans, vehicular and pedestrian circulation plans, and outdoor living spaces. "Registered landscape architects and landscape architectural designers make up our design team. Our field personnel have been certified by the International Concrete Paver Institute as certified concrete paver installers and by the National Concrete Masonry Association as certified segmented retaining wall installers", Lisa continued. "We are continually striving to increase our knowledge of the landscape design/build field".

In March of 2003, an office was opened in the Cheat Lake area of Morgantown to better serve the growing client base there.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## WINTER SCENES.....

The cold weather of winter brings us plenty of time to advance our knowledge of the many facets of landscape design/build.

Michael and Patrick Biafore and Linda Bagby visited the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show in Baltimore, MD.

Richard Biafore, Stacy Greely, and Grayson Samples attended the WV Department of Agriculture 'Safety Days' where they were trained and certified in skid loader operation and safety and pesticide safety.

Linda, Jason Kennedy and Pat Montano participated in irrigation and lighting design and installation training provided by John Deere Landscapes in Pittsburgh, PA.

Erin Hager, Pete Jarrett, Chris Bostic, Michael Biafore and Linda Bagby...

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**'He that plants trees loves others besides himself' - Thomas Fuller**

## Winter Scenes *(continued from page 1)*

underwent training sponsored by Central Supply and Keystone on the many facets of Segmented Retaining Wall (SRW) design and installation. Pete and Chris then sat for a written exam that will designate them as certified segmented retaining wall installers by the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA).

## Happenings....*(continued from page 1)*

Current owners Michael Biafore, ASLA (registered landscape architect), and Patrick Biafore, CPH (Certified Professional Horticulturalist) have worked to expand Biafore Landscape Development's market into western Maryland and southwest Pennsylvania.



Biafore Landscape Development's administrative and design offices are located in the Cheat Lake area of Morgantown at 522 Ashebrooke Square, Morgantown, WV 26508. A production and growing facility is maintained at 106 Riverview St., Fairmont, WV 26554. Landscape architects and designers can be reached at 304-594-3006 or 304-366-6966 or at [mail@biafore.com](mailto:mail@biafore.com). Interested clients may view examples of our work and learn more about the firm by visiting our website at [Biafore.com](http://Biafore.com).

## Pesticide Certification

**On March 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year, Stacy Greely passed the licensing exam to become a licensed pesticide applicator in the state of West Virginia. This brings the total number of licensed pesticide applicators at Biafore Landscape Development to 4, and the number of certified pesticide technicians to 7.**

## Project Profile

### Buxton-Landstreet

Thomas, WV

**C**rews from Biafore Landscape Development traveled to Thomas, West Virginia to work with Allegheny Restoration of Morgantown on redevelopment of the Buxton-Landstreet Building. The project, which was funded by the Vandalia Heritage Corporation, included major building renovations and extensive site work. Our firm was called upon to implement portions of the landscape and site work devised by the Charleston landscape architecture firm EDG. Extensive segmented retaining walls were installed to enhance the front entry as well as to provide support to parking areas. Plantings of River Birch, Boxwood, Crabapple Trees, and perennials complimented the projects landscape. Site furnishings that included a bench and trash receptacles were also installed by Biafore Landscape Development. Turf installation included several hundred tons of topsoil and extensive grading and filling.

Planning was of the utmost importance on this project. Considering the fact that the job site was 2 hours away, it became critical that the project sequence was coordinated appropriately. Staff had to stay overnight in Thomas on a number of occasions. Since the availability of materials in this area is very limited, items had to be shipped or hauled to the job site in an efficient manner. The project received many accolades and was used in a photograph for Vandalia's 2004 Christmas card.

## The Hunter and the Philosopher

*By John Ormsbee Simonds, Landscape Architect*

Once there was a hunter who spent his days tracking the wide prairies of North Dakota with his gun and dog and sometimes with a small boy who would beg to trot along. On this particular morning hunter and boy, far out on the prairie, sat watching intently a rise of ground ahead of them. It was pocked with gopher holes. From time to time a small striped gopher would nervously whisk from the mouth of his den to the cover of the matted prairie grass and soon reappear to dive back into his den with cheek food pouches bulging.

"Smart little outfits, the gophers," the hunter observed. "I mean the way they have things figured out. Whenever you come upon a gopher village you can be sure it will be near a patch of grain where they can get their food, and close by a creek or slough for water. They'll not build their towns near willow clumps for there's where the owls or hawks will be roosting. And you'll not be finding them near a pile of rocks or stony ledges where their enemies the snakes will be hiding ready to snatch them. When these wise little fellows build their towns, they search out the southeast slope of a knoll that will catch the full sweep of the sun each day to keep their dens warm and cozy. The winter blizzards that pound out of the north and west and leave the windward slopes of the rises frozen solid will only drift loose powder snow on top of their homes.

"When they dig their dens," continued the hunter, "do you know what they do? They slant the runway steeply down for two or three feet and then double back up near the surface again where they level off a nice dry shelf. That's where they lie-on their ledges, close under the sod roots, out of the wind, warmed by the sun, close to their food and water, as far as they can get from their enemies, and surrounded by all their gopher friends. Yes sir, they sure have it all planned out!"

"Is our town built on a southeast slope?" the small boy asked thoughtfully.

"No," said the hunter, "our town slopes down to the north, in the teeth of the bitter winter winds and cold as a frosty gun barrel." He frowned. "Even in summer the breezes work against us. When we built the new flax mill, the only mill for forty miles, where do you think we put it? We built it right smack on the only spot where every breeze in the summertime can catch the smoke from its chimney and pour it across our houses and into our open windows!"

"At least our town is near the river and water," said the boy defensively.

Yes," replied the hunter. "But where near the river did we build our homes? On the low flat land inside the river bend, that's where. And each spring when the snows melt on the prairies and the river swells, it floods out every cellar in our town."

"Gophers would plan things better than that," the small boy decided.

"Yes, said the hunter, "a gopher would be smarter."

"When gophers plan their homes and towns," the boy philosophized, "they seem to do it better than men do."

"Yes, mused the hunter, "and so do most of the animals I know. Sometimes I wonder why."



## Plant for the Season *By Linda Bagby*

**A**t last! This snowy winter will soon be over and spring is in the air. A lovely, but rarely used shrub for the spring landscape is Fothergilla. There are two species that flourish in our area. The larger of these, *Fothergilla major*, grows 6-10' in height with a similar spread. *Fothergilla gardenii* is the smaller species, growing 4-6' in height and spreading 3-6'.

In April or early May, both species produce 1 ½" long and 1" wide, honey-scented bottlebrush-like white flowers that usually emerge before the leaves. Fothergillas are tolerant of many types of soils and will take partial shade to partially sunny conditions. Many Fothergilla cultivars have leathery, medium green leaf color in summer but *Fothergilla gardenii* 'Blue Mist' produces silvery blue-green foliage that lights up a shady corner. Fothergillas also have vibrant fall color. They frequently have crimson, orange, and yellow all on the same leaf! All of these qualities make these native plants worthy additions to the garden.

## Dates to Remember

**B**iafore Landscape Development will once again be doing the 'Ask the Experts' radio show on WAJR am 1440. Be sure to tune in at 8:35 am on Wednesdays - March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, and August 24 to hear discussion on various topics in landscape design/build.

Also we will be participating in the Marion County Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Woody Williams Armory in Fairmont. On March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be in the Home and Garden Show at the Meadowbrook Mall in Bridgeport and on April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be at the Harrison County Master Gardeners Show at the Harrison County 4-H Camp.

*'Recognizing the need is the primary condition for design' - Charles Eames*

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