

Design Build Maintain

PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 13

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Happenings.....

Employee Profiles....

Pat Montano has been with our firm Since November of 2003. Pat can be seen keeping things moving on our planting and maintenance crews. He also crosses over to hardscape, lighting, and irrigation as the need arises. Pat's versatility and ability to smoothly transition between the multiple facets of our company have made him an invaluable asset to our company. Pat lives in Boothsville with his wife Lynn and 2 children Michael and Judy.

Chris Bostic will be with us 2 years in January, 2006. Chris brings to us an extensive background in hardscape work. His self- taught skills in stone wall building and flagstone work are impressive to say the least. His quality and attention to detail lends the special touch to all of his projects. Chris has also worked to develop his interlocking and segemented retaining wall skills over the last couple of years and is an NCMA certified segmented retaining wall installer. Chris and his

wife Jennifer reside in Barrackville, WV.



Adams Residence – Deck and Patio Combo

This past summer Employees of Biafore Landscape Development and Riverview Landscape Architecture raised money for the hurricane relief fund to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the southern part of the country. Between employee donations and matching funds from the company, our staff collected over \$800 that was forwarded to the Red Cross. Each day we keep the victims of this year's hurricanes in our thoughts and prayers and hope that they receive hope and support from those of us who are much more fortunate at this time.



'Laying out grounds may be considered a liberal art, in some sort like poetry and painting' - Wordsworth

Outdoor Theaters

By Jason Testman

As technology continues to advance, so does practicality. Many items that have been very expensive in the past have lowered their prices and expanded their uses, making luxury items affordable and practical to the homeowner. Plasma and LCD TV prices are coming down in price, computers can be found in almost every American home, video game systems can become DVD players—and the home theater system has become more integrated, advanced, and cost efficient.



An exciting concept that recently hit the market allows homeowners to enjoy the movie theater experience without leaving the house. Digital projectors used for presentations and classrooms are now integrated with DVD players that project a beautiful 16.7 million pixel color picture. These devices can project onto screens up to 11' 8" wide! This projector system easily combines with TV's and existing home theater systems. This, coupled with outdoor surround sound capabilities, makes watching the *Mountaineers* on a brisk fall afternoon almost the same as being there.

The designers at Biafore Landscape Development have been brainstorming ideas for outdoor entertainment areas that integrate these exciting new systems into the landscape plan. These systems can be very unobtrusive when designed as an integral part of an arbor, pergola, or even a garage wall. As people begin to build outdoor kitchens, pool gardens, and outdoor entertainment areas, this new technology can make your backyard experience complete...and increase the value of your landscaping! Imagine including a 140" Movie Theater with your landscape plan. We feel that this new idea will provide many families with something to enjoy together for years to come.



If you need help with ideas, we are looking forward to hearing from you!

Winter Pruning

By Patrick Biafore, CPH

According to Eric Oesterling, a Maryland State Extension Agent, "Pruning is the most misunderstood, and misused, horticultural practice I can think of. A properly pruned plant should not look like it has just been pruned. It is better not to prune a plant than to do it incorrectly. In nature, plants go years with little or no pruning, but man can ruin what nature has created."



Pruning essentially involves removing branches to improve the health, landscape effect, and value of the plant. The three basic reasons for pruning are to train the plant, to improve the quality of flower, fruit, and foliage, and to stem and restrict growth. Late winter is the best time to do most pruning of trees and shrubs, except for spring blooming species such as forsythia, dogwood, and azalea, which should be pruned after blooming.

In winter, trees and shrubs are still dormant and will not respond to pruning by forcing new growth that might be damaged by freezing temperatures. Also, for deciduous plants, the absence of leaves makes it much easier to see the branch structure and to select branches that should be removed. Since spring is just around the corner, pruning cuts will callous over quickly, thus reducing the chance of insect and disease infestation.



Pruning should be avoided when the wood is frozen, since pruning frozen branches causes slightly more damage than cutting. Make sure temperatures are above 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Always keep in mind that pruning has an invigorating effect on plants. Excessive pruning tends to provide long, lanky, vertical shoots. For this reason, it is much better to prune a little every year than a lot every five years.

'Flowers in the city are like lipstick on a woman- it just makes you look better to have a little color.' – Lady Bird Johnson

Project Profile

Peace Garden

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School

Morgantown, WV

The St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School is about to make its move from its current location in Suncrest in Morgantown to its new location at 2 Guthrie Lane on the south side of town. Established in 1915 by Father Peter Flynn, the school has served the Morgantown Catholic Community as a place of education, gathering, and religion education. The new school provides state of the art learning facilities in a unique and beautifully designed architectural building. Biafore Landscape Development was asked to design a Peace Garden at the exterior of the cafeteria to serve as a place that will offer the children, their parents and their teachers an outdoor gathering space for rest, respite, and camaraderie. A freestanding block wall separates the garden into two distinct spaces. The first space is a hard paved area outside the cafeteria doors. Large boulders are set within concrete paving. An inlay of exposed aggregate concrete provides a flowing pattern that surrounds and engulfs the boulders. This paving symbolizes water and emanates from a stone to symbolize 'Moses drawing water from the stone'. The plaza area is bordered by engraved pavers that bear the name of patrons of the school and garden. The second space is outside the wall and contains a walkway leading to the garden, several benches for relaxing, a turf area, and a mix of plantings to provide color and interest throughout the seasons. Some of the plantings utilized in the Peace Garden are Yoshnio Cherry (*Prunus yoedensis*), Dee Dee Blancher Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Dee Dee Blancher'), Dwarf Winged Euonymus (*Euonymus alatus* 'Compacta'), Big Blue Lilyturf (*Liriope muscari* 'Big Blue'), Catmint (*Nepeta fraassenii* 'Walker's Low'), and several perennials that have been transplanted from the old school.

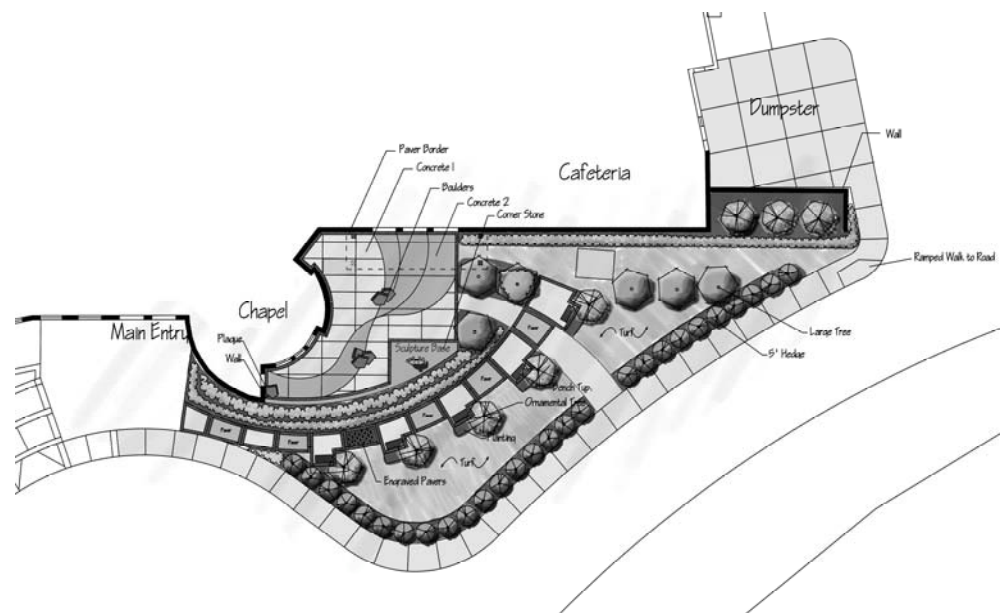


The focal point of the Peace Garden will be a life size bronze sculpture of St. Francis de Sales. The sculpture 'St. Francis de Sales Teaching the Children' is being created by Bill Hopen, a renowned regional artist from Sutton, West Virginia. Bill has built a national and international reputation over the last several years. His many works included: St. Francis de Sales at neighboring St. Francis de Sales Parish, Robert C. Byrd at the rotunda at the West Virginia State Capital, Christa McAuliffe at the Sunrise Museum in Charleston, and the Dedication Plaque at Tamarack.

The Peace garden has been funded by generous donations from the general contractor, March-Westin, and Laurita

Excavating. Funds were also raised through the sale of the engraved tribute pavers. The commission of the sculpture of St. Francis is being made possible by the contribution of an anonymous donor.

Any one wishing to contribute to the completion of the sculpture may contact Kathy Frank at the St. Francis de Sales Parish at 594-5353. Persons wishing to purchase a commemorative brick to be installed in the Peace garden can contact the development office at St. Francis Grade School at 598-0181.



'Then the hunter shot the gophers.....' ~ Unknown

Plant for the Season

By Linda Bagby

What do you think of when someone mentions the word “witchhazel”? Do you associate it with an astringent that your mother or grandmother used on minor cuts or abrasions? I did too. It wasn't until many years later that I learned about the plant whose bark is the source of this extract and of its many other endearing qualities.

The Common Witchhazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, is native in the eastern United States and grows to be a small tree approximately 15-20' tall and wide. Its open form and crooked branches give it an architectural quality in the landscape. The fragrant yellow flowers are borne in the fall often at the same time that the leaves are turning bright golden yellow. Some years the blooms persist after the leaves fall. Common witchhazels are most often found growing in moist shady areas but will tolerate full sun.

Some witchhazel species have the unusual distinction of blooming in the winter! Some that are found in the nursery trade are derived from plants that are native to Asia. The crossing of Chinese witchhazel, *Hamamelis mollis*, and Japanese witchhazel, *Hamamelis japonica*, has given rise to a group of hybrids, *Hamamelis x intermedia*. A popular cultivar, 'Arnold Promise', was developed at the Arnold Arboretum. It is a large shrub (up to 20' tall) and displays its large, fragrant yellow blooms in February and March. Other cultivars from this cross have coppery, orange-red, and purple-red blossoms.

Witchhazels also have the distinction of having been used to “divine” the location of underground water. A forked branch was held loosely in the hands of the searcher. When water was detected, the branch reportedly bent downward, pointing to where to dig for water.

There are lots of reasons to add a witchhazel to your landscape. I particularly enjoy my witchhazel for its red-orange blooms in February. When the weather is cold and bleak, it is fun to see flowers blooming in the snow!

~~*'Unlike your favorite painting or sentimental vase, a landscape is alive and constantly changing' – Unknown*~~

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