

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

Extreme Makeover Home Addition

Turner Residence

Fairmont, WV

Biafore Landscape Development was chosen to participate in the Fairmont, West Virginia episode of Extreme Home Makeover in November of 2007. The Turners family was selected from 5 finalists from around the state of West Virginia as deserving of a new home. Huffman Construction of Bridgeport was selected by the City of Fairmont as the construction lead on the project. Huffman and the City of Fairmont then contacted our firm and asked if we would consider being the landscape designer and installer for the project. Our personnel jumped at the chance to contribute to such a worth project. Biafore Landscape Development designed a landscape that complemented the home design done by Omni Associates of Fairmont. The site was extremely small, which challenged our designers and installation staff. The property line on the left side and rear of the home was only four feet from the building edge, leaving a 15' front yard and a steeply sloping left side yard for landscape area. A raised paver patio with two wooden arbors was created on the left of the home to provide the family with the only usable outdoor area on the lot. A concrete paver side walk lead to a paver covered front porch. The plantings were designed to provide seasonal color with a look and feel indigenous to the area. Sod was laid for the front yard and the entire front façade and landscape was lighted with low voltage landscape lighting. Because of the size of the site and the terrain, no materials could be stored or staged on site. All materials were staged and then delivered from a site 5 miles away across difficult terrain. To add to the challenge, rain began to fall Sunday morning through Sunday night followed by snow and freezing temperatures. Our crews worked diligently through the thick of the weather all day Monday and from 7am Tuesday to 9 am Wednesday morning through darkness and snow. We finally had to give up the installation before finishing because of the heavy snowfall. We then returned in April of 2008 to finish the job for the Turner family. The design and construction personnel of Biafore Landscape Development truly put their heart and soul into this project and helped make it a success. Other persons or companies contributing to the landscape success of the Turner home were Central Supply who donated concrete and personnel to help with construction, Hanover Architectural products who donated the concrete pavers, and Keystone who donated the segmented retaining wall block. Laurel Aggregates donated all the gravel for the walkway and patio and Henry Michel Company provided labor and plant materials, Alaska's provided a gas grill and Chucks Furniture provided a swing. Ryan Rose and his crew from Phoenix Construction Services were kind enough to donate labor and materials to construct the arbors. Huffman Corporation who was the general contractor help with the coordination of the site development.



Incentive Program for Turf Grass Clients

Nick Buysee, turf grass manager, and Biafore Landscape Development are offering a new incentive program to current turf grass clients. For each client that refers a potential turf grass client to our company that results in a signed contract, the referring client will receive a 5% discount on their turf services for the year.

- Referred services include: Turf care programs (fertilizations and weed control), crabgrass and grub control, turf renovations, and mowing.
- Discounts will apply up to 10%.
- Discounts will apply to one service only, i.e. mowing, renovation OR turf care.



- Referrals must lead to a signed contract.
- If services are already prepaid for 2009, discount can be applied to 2010 services.

'Earth Laughs in Flowers' – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Economy 2009

It's being reported as the worst economy in decades....maybe the worst since the great depression. Home sales are down and new home starts are off more than we have seen in years. However, on the positive side, interest rates are down. People who were considering upsizing to a bigger home are now deciding to stay where they are and remodel or add on to their existing home. People with good credit and equity in their homes are discovering that this is a great time to remodel using low interest home equity loans. This form of financing provides an inexpensive source of home improvement funds while providing a tax deduction on interest expense. Instead of traveling, families are investing in the outdoor areas of their homes. Entertainment areas such as outdoor kitchens, patio and decks, water features, swimming pools, spas and outdoor theaters are taking the place of vacations.



At Biafore Landscape Development, landscape plans for new homes and homes currently under construction are down this year, but clients requesting redesigns of existing landscapes and outdoor areas are up. "Taking advantage of our own backyard is a great way to add value to our home while adding value to our quality family time", one client was quoted as saying.

Project Profile

Cavallo Residence

Bridgeport, WV

The Cavallo family of Bridgeport, WV had something not too many homes in north-central WV have, a large level area in their backyard. Yet they felt the space was uninviting with an old cracked concrete walk and overgrown plants. They wanted a space they could use everyday for outdoor cooking and eating, building fires, and entertaining. They wanted plenty of seating, outdoor lighting, and the possibility to add on to the space in the future.



With having such a large level area already, the design had few restrictions with regard to useable space. 24" retaining and freestanding walls were used to define the outdoor room and provide seating around a circular firepit. The small cracked walkway was replaced with a large concrete paver walkway that flowed into the main patio area. The walkway provided a welcoming entrance into the new outdoor room both from the driveway and the existing sunroom. The space also included a built-in grill and serving counter and new plantings to provide year-round interest. The seat wall and plantings were accented with low voltage lighting to extend the usable hours of the space. The Cavallo's finished their outdoor room with a surround-sound system. "Larry is out there practically every night. He's either building a fire, listening to a game, or enjoying a cigar," commented wife Cathy when asked if they had been using the space. "We expected the new patio to be great for entertaining but didn't anticipate how we now use the new space on nearly a daily basis," added Larry.

"We are really pleased with the way the design brought together our existing indoor areas with the new space outside. We look forward to the next phase, which will mesh the outside area with additional parts of our home." As part of the original design, there are plans to add a concrete

paver walk from the patio and fire pit area to an additional patio, to be used for a hot tub, located off of the master bedroom.

'You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt' - Unknown

Plant for the Season

Magnolia x 'Jane'

By Eric Calhoun

How many times have you driven by a Magnolia tree in full, amazed at its beauty, only to find the flowers dead after a day or two? Every spring I look forward to the flower show put on by the Magnolia and almost every year I am disappointed when the display is cut short. I know that on any given night our spring time temperatures could dip below freezing and render those once gorgeously delicate blooms to mush, ending the display for yet another year. A common problem with Magnolias in this region is that their flowers can be "bitten" by our late frosts. A couple of years ago, I learned that the U.S. National Arboretum hybridized and selected eight trees that were able to bloom late enough into the spring that they can avoid the disappointment of those late season frosts.

Magnolia 'Jane' is one of eight smaller Magnolia cultivars chosen for its ability to bloom later in the season. Some years it can bloom as much as 4 weeks later than the more commonly known Saucer Magnolia. By blooming after many of those frosts have passed, the flowers are more likely to persist through the spring. Topping out at 15' with a spread of about 6 to 10 feet, Magnolia 'Jane' is a small tree. 'Jane' is a multi-stemmed tree whose flowers grace the landscape even before its leaves unfold. In early spring the flower buds put on a show of dark pink to purple before opening to a creamy white. As summer approaches, you may even be treated to an occasional bloom or two. Even in winter Magnolia 'Jane' displays specimen qualities with its characteristic smooth, gray Magnolia bark and fuzzy flower buds.

Magnolia 'Jane' is an ideal choice as a specimen tree. In addition to its ability to add early season flower interest and winter appeal to the garden, Magnolia 'Jane' provides the perfect subject for up lighting at night. Position a low-voltage spot light at the base of the tree and shine it up into the tree's canopy. Lit up at night, ~~the form of 'Jane's' furry flower buds and the lines created from her architectural branching are a work of art.~~ Magnolia 'Jane' is a tree for all seasons, day and night.

'It's not about life or death. It's about looking good.' ~ Piet Oudolf

