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Design

Build

Maintain

PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 2

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Company History-Part 2

In the beginning of 1997, Michael Biafore, ASLA and Patrick Biafore returned to Fairmont to rejoin Biafore's Landscaping. Michael and Patrick worked with the company from an early age before attending West Virginia University. Michael received a bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture and Patrick obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture.

Upon graduation, Michael moved to suburban Maryland to work with one of the premiere Design/Build companies in the region. Michael worked in all facets of landscape design and installation and collaborated on projects that included site planning and planting design, swimming pools, garden structures, water features and waterfalls, decks, patios, and spas and hot tubs, as well as all types of formal and naturalized planting.

Michael is a registered landscape architect in the states of West Virginia and Maryland. He is active on the Main Street Morgantown design committee where he is subcommittee chair of the sidewalk subcommittee. Michael is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, is a member of the West Virginia chapter executive committee and serves as President Elect.

Michael is also a member of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

After graduating, Patrick went to work for an area garden center and landscaping company. He was involved in plant propagation and garden center sales. He also managed landscape installation on a residential and commercial basis.

Patrick's duties at Biafore's Landscaping include landscape design and sales, project management, plant propagation and procurement and nursery management.

Patrick is actively involved in the West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and is certified as a Professional Horticulturalist by the WVNLA.

Paver Certification

In January of this year, Patrick Biafore, Cecil Ledsome, Eugene Poling, and Michael Biafore traveled to Bowie, Maryland to be trained in the design and installation of concrete unit paving systems. The training was provided by the International Concrete Paver Institute (ICPI) and was sponsored by Belgard, a national concrete paver manufacturer. The training was an intense two day instructional session dealing with soil engineering, sub-base and base preparation, layout and paver installation. There was also brief instruction on sales and marketing.

At the end of the training, an exam was given which each of our attendees passed to become ICPI certified concrete paver installers.

Growth is the only evidence of life – Cardinal John Henry Newman

Project Profile

Mylan Pharmaceuticals, East Office Addition

Chestnut Ridge Rd., Morgantown, WV

This spring, Biafore's Landscaping began the installation of a landscape project at Mylan Pharmaceuticals which was designed by our firm last summer. Working closely with March-Westin, Co., Inc, the staff of Mylan and architect John Sausen, AIA of Omni Associates, Biafore's Landscaping continued in concept the intent of Omni Associates. The architect's inclusion of a two tiered, raised brick planter system around the perimeter of the new building was to lessen the impact of the height of the office on the ground space below. The planters would also soften the impact of the transition from building to parking area. Biafore's Landscaping then conceived a landscape design that would complement the unique design of the new office building while at the same time unifying the various components of the site, which included parking lots and surrounding areas of the building.

Approximately 42 tons of boulders weighing between 500 to 4500 pounds each were craned into the 2 tiered raised planters in front and along side the office, and were set into the hillside between the 2 level parking lot to form rock out crops. 2-3" river jack, an oversized washed gravel, was laid in naturalistic forms within the planters and on the hillside to accent the plantings and provide a common design element between 2 widely separated areas. The plant palette consisted of Columnar Hornbeams (*Carpinus betulas* 'Colunaris'), River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage') and a Blue Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Glauca') which add an element of height to the scheme. Sunburst Honeylocust (*Gleditsia tricanthos* 'Sunburst'), Japanese Zelkov (*Zelkova serrata*) and Yoshino Cherries (*Prune yoedensis*) in peripheral areas add additional complements. Weeping yews (*Taxus baccata* 'Rependens') are a unifying element across the front of the structure. The entire planting area was supplemented with a mix of shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses to provide ever changing seasonal interest. Mylan Pharmaceuticals landscape design and installation exemplifies the quality and individuality the company puts forth in all of its projects and facilities.

The VALUE of PLANT\$

Facts from the American Nursery and Landscape Association

It has been known by landscape professionals for sometime that landscape increases both the intrinsic and monetary value of a property. A recent survey by the American Nursery and Landscape Association has determined quantitative values for many aspects of planting.

- Landscaping can add 7-14% to a home's value.
- Landscaping can have a recovery value of 100 to 200 percent at selling time.
- A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000-\$10,000.
- Landscaping increases property values, which add to a community's tax base.
- Landscaping can speed the sale of homes by 5-6 weeks.
- Home landscapes cost an average of \$8,000 to replace.
- Trees can reduce temperatures as much as 9° F.
- Each tree removes 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year and release about 13 pounds of oxygen. Enough each day for a family of 4.
- Plants control runoff, slowing erosion and allowing water to be absorbed by the soil and returned to aquifers.
- Trees can reduce bothersome noise up to 50% and can mask unwanted noises with pleasant sounds.
- Plants provide habitat for wildlife and recreational areas for humans.

One should plant a one dollar plant in a ten dollar hole - Unknown

Questions of Interest

We often get questions from clients and friends about Biafore's Landscaping and items and happenings in the landscape profession. From time to time, we will answer these questions as space permits. We would like all of our clients to feel free to contact us with questions or subjects you would like to see printed in our newsletter.

This month's question: 'What is Design/Build'?

Design/build, also known as single-source responsibility, is an interactive effort in which all company team members—from client to designer to foremen to craftsmen—are involved in the building process from the beginning. Architecture as well as Landscape Architecture firms may follow a design/build philosophy. The firm works as a single entity under contract with the owner and is responsible for all phases of a project from design, to installation to subcontractor management. This project can produce significant cost and resource savings for the owner by:

1. providing a single source for quality, cost, and schedule management;
2. eliminating redesigning and unnecessary construction drawings;
3. reducing problems due to adversarial relationships;
4. ensuring better communication between project participants;
5. emphasizing team work from conceptualization through built project;
6. creating a greater degree of cooperation between the design and construction phases of the project; and
7. including the owner as an important member of the team.

Successful Summer Annuals

By Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center

Anuals, plants that in a given zone require yearly replacement, have fallen into relative disfavor in recent years. The well-deserved rise in popularity and availability of perennials, plants that do not require yearly replacement have, for the moment, pushed annuals aside. This is a fate that annuals do not deserve.

I cannot count the number of times in the last four or five years a customer has approached me and made this request; "all that I want is a plant that blooms all summer, requires no work, no water, no feed, and no time; and by the way, one that I'll never have to plant again". Well... you can **hire** someone to make it true. But otherwise, all plants take care...Period.

Annuals, as a class, require the lowest allocation of time of any group of blooming plants. They do not require division, cleaning, or disease control; and with good proper selection of variety, no deadheading. Which brings us to what annuals do need, regular fertilization. Annuals are designed to bloom. The best help you can give them is to feed them regularly. In commercial production, almost all plants are fed continuously. The fertilizer is mixed with the irrigation water so that every time the plant is watered, it is also fed. It makes perfect sense, a little bit of food all the time is better than a huge meal once in a great while. Any well balanced commercial water soluble fertilizer is fine, 20- 20- 20, 14- 14- 14, or 10-10- 10 will all do. As a general rule, cut the recommended rate in half or two thirds, and fertilize at least every other time you water.

Another option for feeding is slow release fertilizers. They work very well, especially in beds. Two options available commercially are Osmocote, made by the same people who make Peters fertilizer, and Molorganite, which it is totally organic, and I have never known it to damage plants. Osmocote lasts for about two months, the Molorganite for about six weeks.

Annuals should be a part of your plant pallet; nothing else will give you that splash of all summer color for so little time invested.

Hauge's has a variety of summer annuals in stock of this seasons planting. Hauge's is located on old Rt. 73 in White Hall, just outside of Fairmont.

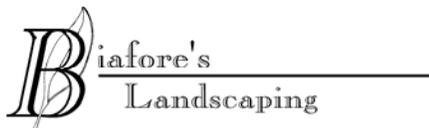
Plant for the Season

Ornamental grasses have taken the country by storm over the last 10-15 years. West Virginia has seen the use of many grasses over the years, but not in the quantity or magnitude that other states have experienced. There are many varieties of ornamental grass that do well in this climatic zone. One of our favorites is a variety of Feather Reed Grass named 'Karl Forester', or Calamagrostis acutifolia 'Karl Forester'. This particular grass forms a slender, upright clump that produces red-bronze spikes in early summer that dry to a buff color by fall. Reaching a height of 5', Karl Forester can be used as an accent or focal point, or it can be used in mass to fill larger spaces for a wispy, massed in feel. Like all other grasses, Feather Reed Grass should be allowed to maintain throughout the winter for seasonal interest and then cut back in mid-spring as the new growth appears.

Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined – Alexander Pope

Associations, Affiliations, and Certifications

Member: West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association
American Nursery and Landscape Association
American Society of Landscape Architecture
West Virginia Licensed Pesticide Applicators
ICPI Certified Concrete Paver Installers
Belgard® Authorized Paver Contractor
WVNLA Certified Professional Horticulturalist
Registered Landscape Architect



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