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PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 3

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Introducing Riverview Landscape Architecture

The summer of this year brought the formation of Riverview Landscape Architecture, LLC. Michael Biafore, ASLA, Daniel Biafore, and Patrick Biafore formed this new landscape architecture and garden design company as a natural progression of Biafore's Landscaping.

Riverview Landscape Architecture will provide design and planning services to commercial, institutional, residential, and governmental clients interested in landscape architecture, garden design, and consulting services. Riverview will also consult with architects and engineers to provide complete construction packages for various projects.

Riverview will be staffed by Michael R. Biafore, ASLA and Erin L. Yerkovich. Michael is a registered landscape architect in Maryland and West Virginia and has experience in many facets of landscape architecture, garden design, and landscape construction.

Erin is a 2000 graduate of West Virginia University with a bachelor of science degree in landscape architecture. She has worked for Biafore's Landscaping as an intern for the past two summers and has developed an extensive client base of her own.

Erin will also be implementing our new computer design system. This system of hardware and CADD (computer aided design and drafting) software will allow us to better interface with other design professions. It will also enable us to more efficiently and effectively provide designs, revisions, and cost analysis to our clients.

Two projects currently in the works at Riverview Landscape Architecture are St. Francis de Sales, the new Roman Catholic church being constructed in Morgantown, and construction documents for the Chanceory Row Streetscape, a Main Street Morgantown design project.

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Congratulations and best wishes to Erin and her fiance, Roger Hager, who will be married here in Fairmont on October 7, 2000.

Please keep Danny Biafore in your thoughts. Danny fractured his ankle while working August 9 and is recovering well. Danny is also scheduled to donate a kidney to his wife Patty this fall. We wish them the best.



Project Profile

Marr Residence

Morgantown, WV

An exciting and continuing project for Biafore's Landscaping over the past 3 years has been the design and administration of landscaping at the residence of Stephen and Jacqueline Marr. The Marrs enjoy being outside and actively working in their yard. Since their home is on a steeply sloping lot, it was challenging to find outside areas to effectively garden or relax. The Marrs asked Biafore's Landscaping to help them create a garden in their front yard that they could enjoy from inside as well as outside the home. Steve and Jacqui were very in tune to their needs and wants, and were active participants in the design process. The concept of a front 'Courtyard Area' was developed to address several design issues. The house sits below the street and is only about 26 feet away, creating a substantial slope from the road to the front door. The driveway also loops across the front of the house and is only about 5 feet removed from the front entry. Since the existing topography makes the front 'yard' the only functional space at this time, the challenge was to develop this area into a garden that would accommodate the family's goals. The central feature of this space became a combination brick wall and water feature. The entire feature measures 73' in length and is 42" high. The center part is a 24x4' x 2' deep pool with a series of 5 cast iron lion heads continuously spilling water into the pool below. The wall and waterfeature are capped with a 2 1/2" thick by 16" sandstone cap. Biafore's Landscaping worked together with Noel Kennedy of Kennedy and Sons Excavation on the earth moving, and mason Gary Fawley on the layout and construction. Steve and Jaqui implemented the planting plan of their garden developed by our firm. The landscape design integrated 5 existing ornamental pear trees into a mix of evergreen shrubs and perennials and ornamental grasses for seasonal interest. Biafore's Landscaping also designed a low voltage landscape lighting scheme that the Marrs installed themselves.



We continue to assist the Marr family in bringing their landscape visions to fruition. The current phase under development is a parterre garden containing a garden shed, a gazebo overlooking Cheat Lake, terraced stonewalls and a series of sculptures leading through the garden. An extension of the driveway for extra parking will become an integral part of this new area.

Pumpkin Pots

If you're looking for a fun and unique fall project for the kids, try a pumpkin pot. Scoop out small, lightweight pumpkins and fill with potting soil. Plant with three or four pansies for a fabulous fall combination.



Water well and pour off any excess water. If you like, cut tiny holes in the bottom for drainage before planting. Adult supervision is required for scooping and cutting. At the first heavy frost, discard your pumpkin.

Try roasting the seeds of the pumpkin in the oven and then lightly salt to taste.

'The Earth belongs to the living, not the dead' – Thomas Jefferson

Questions of Interest

This question appeared in a recent issue of Southern Living Magazine. Please feel free to contact us with questions or subjects you would like to see printed in our newsletter.

This month's question: 'My mother-in-law has two tall pecan trees. She wants to know if topping them would help them fill out?'

“Topping is an odious practice that miraculously transforms beautiful trees into ugly, disfigured ones. It's like someone trimmed your fingers back to the knuckles and said 'See, doesn't that look better?' Topping leaves large, bare stubs that are prone to rot. Long, skinny branches that grow from them break off in storms. Unfortunately, no kind of pruning will permanently convert a large tree that's predisposed to grow tall and upright into one that grows rounded and spreading. As soon as you stop pruning, it will return to its old habit. But if you want an expert opinion, call the American Society of Consulting Arborists, (301) 947-0483, or the International Society of Arboriculture, (217) 355-9411. Ask them to recommend a licensed arborist in your area.”

Putting up a Garden for Fall

By Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center

Fall is an outstanding time to do many of the general maintenance activities to your yard and garden. The most important reasons are that due to the moderate temperatures and increase in natural rainfall, plant stress is greatly reduced. And almost as important is that most people have more time in the fall because of kids being back in school.

First things first... Fall is an ideal time for turf maintenance. Lime and fertilizer are best applied between September 15 and October 30. Most fertilizers should be applied at 4-6lbs of nitrogen per 100 square feet. Fall applications will promote good root development and spread. Spring applications high in nitrogen may cause too much green growth and not enough root growth. With the cooler temperatures, herbicides stress turf less and work better because weeds are more susceptible in cooler temperatures.

Putting down a vegetable garden... Adding lime and organic matter to the soil now will give you a great head start on the spring. Getting the majority of cleaning and tilling done now will allow you to get into your garden much earlier next spring because the fall addition of organic matter provides better drainage for the following spring. An important point to remember is to never till down uncomposted garden litter. This is especially important in tomato and pepper plants because of the risk of carrying over some plant diseases, especially verticillium and pythium.

Division of Perennials... Now is also the best time to address those hostas that are taking over the walk or the German Iris that have gone to grass. Most perennials can be divided spring or fall. The advantage of fall division is that there is enough plant left above ground that you can see what you are working with. The specifics of plant division can vary so widely between species and even varieties within a species that one should do some research before one heads into the garden with a hatchet or fork. If you are unable to find the information yourself, please feel free to call or stop in.

Hauge's has a variety of mums and other plant material for the fall. Hauge's is located on old Rt. 73 in White Hall, just outside of Fairmont.



'Chaos often breeds life, when order breeds habit' – Henry Brooks Adams

Plant for the Season

Autumn is a time of change in the landscape. When we think of this time of year, the first thing that comes to many of us is the rainbow colors of fall foliage on the trees and shrubs. But don't forget that there are still perennials that offer blooms in this late hour of gardening. Asters, yellow-centered daisies, come in an assortment of colors from cool pastels to vibrant hues. Some notable varieties of aster that have an early to mid fall bloom time are Aster novae-angliae 'Bluebird' (violet colored), 'Andenkenan Alma Potschke' (bright ink color), 'Hella Lacy' (deep purple), and 'Purple Dome' (Deep purple). The novae-angliae range in height from 15-48" and bloom from September-October. Shorter asters include x dumosus 'Alert' which is a profuse, reddish/purple bloomer about 18" tall and x dumosus 'Professor Anton Kippenberg' which has lavender-blue flowers and grows to about 12-15". All these asters are hardy to USDA hardiness zone 4 and all require full sun.

Hardiness Zones

The US Department of Agriculture publishes a Hardiness Zone Map to help identify plant material compatible with the multitude of climates across the country. The zones, which are identified by number with 1 being the coldest and 11 being the warmest are also sometimes broken down in sub zones, i.e. zone 5a and 5b, 6a and 6b, etc. Marion, Monongahela and Harrison counties fall into zone 5 to 6, or 5a to 6b depending on which version of the map one refers to. If something is planted in a protected area, and..... with a little luck, a plant may survive in a climate that is one zone cooler than classified.



'All art is the imitation of nature' – Lucius Annaeus Seneca



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