

Design

Build

Maintain

## PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 8

Winter/Spring 2003



### Happenings.....

Clients and Friends,

It has been a very busy year for us at Biafore's Landscaping. New and exciting projects have kept our staff working with very little time to even breathe. That is until this winter when things have come to a standstill for almost everyone we talk to. Hopefully 26" snows will be a thing of the past when the busy season begins.

Continued growth in sales and market has given us the opportunity to open a satellite office in the Cheat Lake area of Morgantown. Our new location will focus primarily on sales, administration, and project management, while production and sales will continue out of our Fairmont facility. Biafore's Landscaping's new office will be located at 522 Ashebrooke Square, Morgantown, WV 26508. Our phone number is 594-3006, and our fax number is 594-1482. We hope all of our new and old friends will stop by and visit our Cheat Lake office.

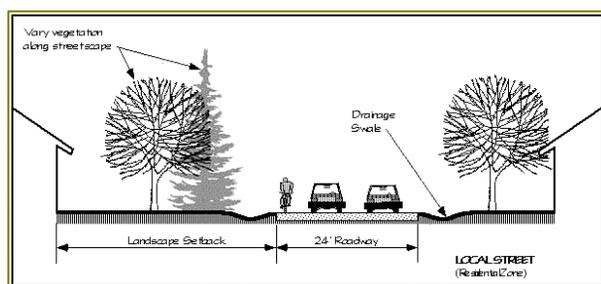
We are also excited to announce that Erin Hager has successfully completed the 7 part Landscape Architecture Registration Exam (LARE). The LARE tests competence in all facets of landscape architecture including site planning, design, plant material, construction and grading and drainage. The exam is administered by the Council of Landscape Architect's Registration Board (CLARB) and the registration is provided by the State of West Virginia Licensing Board

Once again this winter, Biafore's Landscaping took advantage of the bad weather days we've had to train and educate ourselves in the ever changing profession that is the green industry.

The Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) in Baltimore offered Michael, Patrick and Erin Hager an opportunity to explore various new vendors and equipment while also researching options for a new skid steer loader.

Richard, Patrick, Pete, and Cecil attended safety and training courses and became NIOSH certified in skidloader operation, respirator use and chemical handling.

Pat, Richard and Danny also attending continuing education courses in pesticide application.



*'Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush' – Doug Larson*

# Chamber Announces Home and Garden Show

By Tina Shaw, Director of Business Development, Marion County Chamber of Commerce

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce will present its Annual Home & Garden Expo on March 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Woody Williams Armory in Fairmont.

Sponsored by Capital Doors, Hauge's Flower & Garden Center, Middletown Furniture Showcase, Biafore's Landscaping & Thompson's of Worthington, this year's show is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

Approximately 70 regional vendors will be on hand to display their latest products and services in home improvements, landscaping, gardening, spring and summer health issues, lawn care, recreation, vacationing, and other outdoor living activities. Several demonstrations are being planned during the two-day event.

Additionally, visitors will be able to register for several prizes to be given away during the two-day event, including a grand door prize package worth over \$1000.00

The show will be free of charge to the public and will run from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> and 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Limited space is still available. For more information on this event, call the Chamber office at 363-0442 or e-mail [www.marionchamber.com](http://www.marionchamber.com).



## What It Really Means.....

Speaking of terminology, here are some more gardening terms and what many people feel they *really* mean.

Attracts Butterflies	Attracts bees
Beautiful foliage	The flowers are pathetic
Blue	Purple
Delicate flowers	You need a magnifying glass to see them
Dormant in hot weather	Looks dead <b>most</b> of the year
Designer colors	Paper-bag beige
Drought tolerant	Prone to rot
Edible flowers	The deer eat it
Evergreen	Leaves turn dark maroon in the winter
Excellent for cutting	Has a single flower at the top of a spindly 2' stem
Groundcover	See 'Vigorous'
Hardy (no mention of Zone)	Hardy in Surrey, England
Flowers all summer	It has one minute, insipid bloom in June and I thought I saw another one in August
Heavy Feeder	Yellowish foliage and puny flowers unless fed constantly
Invasive	It will come up through a foot of concrete
Late to emerge	Looks dead most of the year
Native	It's a common weed
Tall	It lies flat on the ground most of the time
Unusual	One of the ugliest plants on the planet
Vigorous	The smallest particle of this plant will take over your garden and you can't ever get rid of it
Winter interest	Probably looks stunning under the snow

*'The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play' – Arnold Toynbee*

# Project Profile

## Hotel Morgan – Front Entry

Morgantown, WV

**T**hree years ago, the new owners of the Hotel Morgan, a historic hotel in the heart of downtown Morgantown, began a major remodeling and restoration project to the interior and exterior of the building. Allegheny Resoration, which specializes in historic renovation and restoration was contracted for the project. They in turn approached Biafore's Landscaping to work with them on the installation of a new entry and dropoff area to be comprised entirely of interlocking concrete pavers. A mix of 3 distinct colors (tudor blend for the sidewalk area, beige for an accent border, and charcoal for the vehicular dropoff) were chosen by the architect and owner.

Since the basement of the hotel extends under the sidewalk and up to the street, a major engineering effort was required to reinforce the base of concrete. The extra support, in the form of steel beams, was needed to support the vehicular load of cars pulling off the street into the drop off area which was formerly the sidewalk. After the existing walkway was taken down to the appropriate height for the base, a .4 ml rubber roofing membrane was installed as a moisture barrier between the concrete roof of the basement and the sand setting bed of the pavers. The concrete pavers were then installed. The tudor blend color in a basket weave pattern made up the side walk area, a 6x9 charcoal paver installed in a herringbone pattern was used for the dropoff area. The charcoal color this area was chosen for the simple reason that it would not show dirt and grime deposited from the vehicles passing over it.

## Organic Gardening

*By Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center*

**W**hat is organic gardening? For the last two decades, that has been a legitimate question. Up until two years ago there were no national standards for organic farming. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed standards that provide very specific guidelines for organic production.

What qualifies as an organic product? Just about any agricultural product can be classified as organic: fruit, vegetables, grains, beef, poultry, wine, beer, and even farm raised fish. Anything the USDA inspects has organic guidelines.

What constitutes an organic product? First, the production area must be free of any pesticide covered under the Federal Pesticide Act (RIFRA) for five years. Second, any fertilizer used in production must be of natural derivation. Which means the make up must be derived from fish emulsion, manures, guano (bird and bat), and rock phosphates. No fertilizers derived from petroleum by-products qualify, i.e., products from Scotts, Peters, or Hoffmans. Third, any pesticides used must be non-residual, non-systemic, and naturally derived. Allowable pesticides include soaps, horticultural oils, natural parathyroid, and some beneficial insects and bacteria. Almost all of these products are now available in consumer packaging.

So what does this mean? USDA inspected organic products are in fact organic and are probably more pesticide free than what can be produced in your own back yard. United States produced and inspected organic products have been found to be by far the cleanest in the world. However, the greatest consumer of pesticides per acre in the world is the American homeowner.



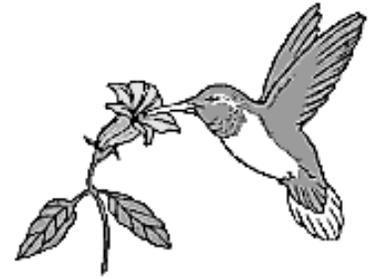
***'The thief doth fear each bush an officer' – William Shakespeare***

## Plant for the Season

**E**astern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*) is among the first flowering trees to bloom in the spring. This native tree is quite a spreader, but still gives rather delicate appearance in the landscape. Most redbuds get only 20-30 feet tall, however, some can get as wide as they are tall.

The flowers are typically a deep reddish purple in bud, but they open to a rosy-pink in April, often lasting at least 3 weeks if the weather remains cool. The leaves of the redbud are somewhat heart-shaped and some varieties start out with a purple glow. They maintain a green color all summer and turn a pale yellow in the fall. The plants like a moist, but well drained woodsy soil, with lots of leaf mold or hummus mixed throughout. Sun or partial shade both work and will provide heavy blooms. However, if the tree is planted in the deep shade, the blooms will be fewer. Even though redbuds look very nice as a single specimen tree, they also work in a natural grouping in a border or woodland setting. Michael Dirr's Manual of Woody Landscape Plants lists Eastern Redbud as hardy to zone 4.

Many authorities will list Eastern Redbud as a rather easy to grow tree. However, it has been our experience that this tree is somewhat sensitive to transplant. Make sure the plant is in excellent health when purchased with a firm root ball. Container grown trees may prove to be a better choice. Proper soil preparation and adequate moisture will greatly improve the chances for survival. Other forms of redbud include 'alba' which has white flowers and Forest Pansy with purple leaves.



*'Every year it seems to me I hear complaints about spring. It is either "late" or "unusually cold," "abnormally dry" or "fantastically wet," for no one is ever willing to admit that there is no such thing as a normal spring.'*  
- Thalassa Crusso

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