



SUMMER

yard SOLUTIONS

COMPLETE LANDSCAPE DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION, CARE & MAINTENANCE

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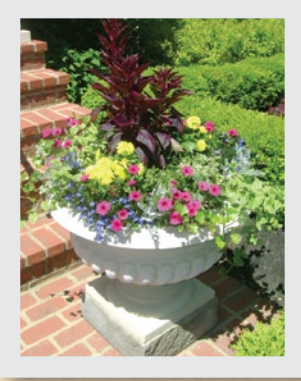
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UPCOMING SERVICES FOR THE SUMMER QUARTER:

- Landscape Design and Installations for Fall
- Change-outs for Containers and Seasonal Color
- Exterior Enhancement Consultations
- Low-voltage Lighting Design and Installation
- Lawn Treatments, Including Aeration
- Shrub Pruning
- Mulch Cultivation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BACK TO BASICS

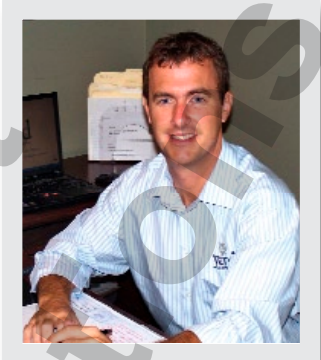
After the last newsletter, I received a lot of great feedback about our strategic planning and the goals that we set for our company. Some messages commended our practices, and others let me know where we're still challenged. I appreciate the communication from all and realize how important it is to maintain an open dialogue. Keep the comments coming!

I thought I would shorten this message up a bit compared to the last one. I notice that people are simplifying because of what is happening with the economy. Since last spring when fuel hit a record high of \$4.00 per gallon, and hundreds of thousands of jobs were being restructured, people have been analyzing what purchases and spending practices they truly value.

We seem to be a nation and community getting back to the basics. Although many of our households have been faced with tough decisions, I've seen the family bond grow increasingly strong in these challenging times. I have personally met with several clients who are cutting back to help pay for the chance to spend more time with their families. In fact, most of our current designs involve an element in the landscape that will enrich family or social life. As a social being myself, I find it refreshing to see so many people surrounding themselves with their families, friends and neighbors.

So, as I stated almost exactly one year ago in our second newsletter, "the best things in life are free." Now more than ever, that seems to be holding true. I wish all of you a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
Eric Remeis
President, Yard Solutions



*Eric Remeis, President
Yard Solutions*



OUR FEATURED CLIENT PROJECT: *New Albany Residence*



THE BACKGROUND STORY:

A client couple approached us soon after they had moved to New Albany from the Chicago area, where they had taken full advantage of the pleasures of their outdoor environment. They wanted to recreate some of the elements of their prior landscape, but their new environment presented several challenges. This home was on a moderate grade that sloped away from the house, and at the same time parallel to the house, which made three levels of the back of the house appear massive. In addition, the couple entertained frequently, and they wanted to create a means of making guests feel comfortable coming directly to the backyard without having to stop at the front door first.

CLIENT'S COMMENTS:

"We almost didn't buy the house because of the backyard. But we had good experiences with prior homes and could see the great potential in this one. We had liked the combination of stone planters and bluestone at our prior home (in Chicago), and Eric and Steve came back to us with an exceptional plan for the space. Even though the house is wide and the lot is wide, they made our property into a very usable, tiered space. Now we have three levels of living space, and we're out here all the time. The design makes us feel very secluded. There are Amur maples in the planters, and from the inside of the house you look out from the family room and it feels like you are in a forest. Steve did a great job mixing colors and textures and using some unique plants. We have been so pleased with our landscape and have referred the company to a number of our friends."

– Mary Ellen Patton



DESIGNER'S PERSPECTIVE:

"Mary Ellen and Don's house was challenging because there is a lot of house visible on the backside, both vertically and horizontally because of the grade. I designed large masonry planters in which we planted trees to help minimize the volume of space, and also to create the feeling of outdoor rooms. Then we defined three distinct spaces at different levels to accommodate the slope: a quiet sitting area under a pergola that can be viewed from the driveway entrance and serves to welcome guests; a walkway flanked by lush plantings that leads from this area to a patio furnished for relaxation and intimate conversation; and finally a lower patio that is designated for grilling, outdoor eating and partying for larger groups, with a unique fire bowl for gathering around."

– Designer Steve Graham

The Great 2009 “Staycation”

By Steve Graham, Landscape Designer



With fluctuating gas prices, a challenging economy and a general uncertainty in the world around us, it's no wonder that families are staying close to home these days. Instead of traveling to an exotic resort to relax and unwind, consumers are creating their own resort-like atmospheres with all of the amenities in their backyards. Multi-function patios, built-in BBQs and bars, and masonry fireplaces are just a few of the elements that encourage households to vacation at home.

Multi-function Patios: The basic square or rectangular patio is a thing of the past. Patios have increased in size over the past couple of decades as people spend more time outdoors, and their charm and appeal have increased proportionately. By dividing these larger patios into “separate yet connected” outdoor rooms, different areas of the same patio can function in different ways. This separation can be created by using multiple levels, walls, dense plantings or even an informal path. For example, the larger, open area of the patio may create a casual atmosphere of conversation and movement as family members and friends come and go. A smaller, furnished area located two steps up from the main patio could be partially blocked by plantings to establish a quiet, more intimate atmosphere.

Built-in BBQs and Bars: No matter how well the layout of a house flows, it's inevitable that families and friends eventually migrate to the kitchen. The well-designed patio is considered an extension of the home, and consumers desire the ability to prepare, serve and enjoy meals in the comfort of the outdoors to recreate that same type of gathering space. Custom cooking stations have continued to be one of the most popular features of the resort at home. Whether it's a basic island with a built-in BBQ and small prep space, or a full-on kitchen with storage, refrigeration, running water and bar seating, these gathering spots can be tailored to suit each family's lifestyle.

Masonry Fireplaces: An outdoor fireplace is a great feature because it adds structure and dimension to the outdoors by virtue of its size and scale. A fireplace helps define the boundaries of an outdoor room and creates a focal point that commands attention. Besides, what resort would be complete without a source of fire? The masonry fireplace can extend the outdoor season late into fall and even early winter depending on the climate. A fireplace has a practical side too; it can be built to house a pizza oven above or a smoker off to the side. Just as a cook station can be customized to suit different lifestyles, so can the masonry fireplace.

Between multi-function patios, built-in BBQs and masonry fireplaces, the backyard resort never felt so comfortable. Instead of hassling with the uncertainty of plane travel, overbooked accommodations and noisy crowds, you could make a long-term investment in the resort you create on your own property!

Do you have a lot of great ideas for your own backyard resort, but don't know how to put it all together? Speak with a professional at Yard Solutions. Our design team offers consultations, scaled drawings and many different support materials to create the perfect backyard resort to suit you and your busy lifestyle. Contact us at 614-836-8205 for more information.


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*Providing outdoor environments
that enrich people's lives*

Focus On...Ryan Walters

Ryan, a Yard Solutions employee for over three years, has been charged with heading the company's Residential Maintenance Division. Many of our customers have become acquainted with this very talented employee, whose creativity and eye for detail are evident whether he's putting together a colorful container or working directly with a client to customize a maintenance program. Ryan's education in landscape contracting and 15 years of experience in the landscape industry contribute to his expertise in all facets of landscape installation and maintenance. His responsibilities include executing our annuals program, developing our container and exterior enhancement program, and working individually with customers to create a total landscape management program. If you haven't already spoken with Ryan and are looking for an astute manager for your residential landscape, give him a call at 614-836-8205, ext. 20.



OUT AND ABOUT



Thanks to a number of recommendations from our clients, we will be participating in Upper Arlington's **TASTE OF UA** for the first time this year. Please stop by our table to have a conversation with Steve Graham and some of our other staff members!

We have also embarked on the **Green Thumb** partnership program with **Franklin Park Conservatory**, through which we're offering periodic specials to Conservatory members. Currently, members will enjoy a 25% reduction in our design service fees. Check out the Conservatory's website at www.fpconservatory.org, not only to find out about happenings at the Conservatory, but also to learn how the **Green Thumb** program can enhance your Conservatory membership!

