



# Leisure News

Your Source for Landscape News and Information

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It's a timely question. The Recession that began a year ago (or maybe more) is now showing signs of recovery. But the signals are mixed.

**The Stock Market** has shown some significant gains, with the Dow reaching the psychologically important 10,000 level. That's a 2,000 point rise from the summer lows.

**Unemployment**, however, has moved into double digits—a full four months earlier than many analysts had predicted. This could affect consumer confidence and bode poorly for the holiday retail season. Countering this impact, Congress has extended unemployment benefits to 99 weeks to areas in areas most hardly hit.

It is said that employment rates always lag business recovery. And higher productivity numbers for American industry, as well as profits for Ford and GM, could point to a healthier industry base.

But perhaps the real question of recovery is "Has the American buying public undergone a behavior change from its addiction to free wheeling spending?" It is this Recovery, not unlike that of an alcoholic in AA, that is more fundamental. We can only speak for ourselves.

**Prudent Spending** Americans have been saving at record levels and may now have sufficient funds to make necessary purchases without having to utilize credit. There is pent up demand for essential services: home repair and upgrades. Tax credits provide additional incentive for 'Going Green' in replacing appliances, insulating and reducing energy consumption.

(Continued on page 2)



## Holiday Home Makeover

Bring the Joy of the Season to your Home!

Let us

transform your home into a Winter Wonderland of festive lights, garlands, wreaths and bows. We feature new LED lights that

- Last 100,000 hours
- Use 90% less electricity than regular incandescent lights
- Are safe and cool to the touch

Don't Delay! Call **847-1733** now for your appointment with our lighting expert.



How about a Holiday Makeover?

We'll install

- Lights
- Garlands
- Wreaths
- Candles
- Bows

Ask about our new 100,000 hr. LED lights

Reserve your date now! 847-1733



## Are We in Recovery? (continued from page1)

**Reduce your costs** Now is the time to make strategic decisions that will reduce the costs of maintaining your home. Conservation measures are not only cost saving, but also "Green" because they reduce your demand on energy resources.

- ◆ *Plant trees.* They not only add to the value of your home, but properly sited, they will provide shade and reduce your summer cooling costs. They also reduce your 'carbon footprint' by converting CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen.
- ◆ *Reevaluate your property use.* A premium is now being given to outdoor 'living areas'. This includes decks and patio spaces and cooking areas that can serve as outdoor rooms. Consider upgrading to these amenities as their maintenance cost is relatively low. The remaining outdoor area should be split evenly between gardens/natural areas and lawn. The net should be 1/3 living areas, 1/3 beds and 1/3 lawn.
- ◆ *Determine the best type of lawn for you.* Just by diminishing the lawn area, you will save on maintenance cost. You can save even more, up to 50%, by installing a warm season turf—Zoysia, Bermuda, Centipede or St. Augustine grass. This is because 1) they only need to be mowed half as often and 2) they require much less fertilizer (both of which will also reduce your carbon footprint).

Changes of this magnitude should be carefully conceived and executed. While you might be able to perform much of the work yourself, other items such as tree installation or masonry might be better left to a contractor. The place to start is with a professionally designed plan.

The landscape plan not only presents you with the layout of where things go, it provides the roadmap on how you're going to get there. Itemizations of materials and labor will point the way on how to break the project into logical phases and what types of work you can do yourself. Let Leisure Landscapes show you how.

**Caught in a financial bind? Not happy with some area of service? Let us fix it. We want to keep you as a customer. We can:**

- ◆ help find ways to reduce your cost or restructure payments
- ◆ Provide service options, including outsourcing

For more information, ask for Paul at 847-1733

# Celebrating 10 Great Years!



**Congratulations to James and Stormmie Richardson** for ten great years with Leisure Landscapes.

It all began in 1999 with the installation of landscaping and irrigation. Leisure modified a plan that the Richardsons had and reduced the number of plants specified, saving them thousands of dollars in installation and maintenance cost. Today, the plantings are mature and give their home the feeling of completeness and seclusion they were looking for. And Leisure Landscapes maintains the property to protect this investment.



James knows all about investments. He is the senior partner in RICHARDSON, CARRINGTON, WEAVER & ASSOCIATES, a member of the Ameriprise network of financial advisors specializing in retirement planning. You may have seen him on public access TV where his classes on investment for the NCSU Encore series are frequently aired.

His wife Stormmie is a discriminating buyer as well. After leaving IBM, she began an interior design service, "Expressions by Design", that specializes in redesign and staging homes for sale. So she knows the importance of "curb appeal".



I met with the Richardsons and asked them to share a little more information about themselves. Stormmie is that rare individual, a Raleigh native. James, although he was born in Henderson, NC, did most of his growing up in Orange, NJ. He moved to Raleigh in 1990 and in that same year began his financial career. They have been together all this time as well. "I originally planned to go to California" says James, "but loved it here so much I just stayed."

Together, they share the same love for health and fitness, running and working out on the treadmill. Recently, they found common interest is dancing, where they are perfecting their cha-cha with the Arthur Murray studio.

Given today's economy, I asked James if he had any financial advice. He said that he learned a lot from the 2000 crash. "Equities are a whole lot more volatile and less secure than we [investment advisors] were lead to believe. It's a lot more important to have diversification in your investments...and look for opportunities." His clients' portfolios have benefited from this experience and have weathered the current recession with a minimum of erosion.

For more information about the Richardsons, visit their websites:

[www.stormmie.com](http://www.stormmie.com) and [www.ameripriseadvisors.com](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com)



**Sign up a friend for a maintenance contract, and you'll receive one month of FREE maintenance from Leisure Landscapes!**

Offer good through 12/31/09

# Fall Trees

## Now is the time to plant those trees and shrubs...

All trees are best planted in the Fall, especially just after the first frost. Post-frost, the sap of the tree retreats from the limbs and settles in the root system. Since they don't have to supply nutrients for new stem and leaf growth, they have a great chance to stimulate root growth and establish themselves in the soil.

Roots can grow in soil temperatures as low as 40 degrees Fahrenheit,

so they're not harmed by a little surface frost. Below the surface, Fall soil contains more heat, encouraging root growth. Plants installed in spring get a slow start and remain less hardy.

By summer of next year, the flora you started this Fall will deal better with heat and drought while your neighbors' spring-planted foliage will lag behind.

Now is the time for serious softscape improvement. .

The autumn bottom line: if installed in the Fall, your landscape will abound earlier and healthier in the Spring.

[For more on fall planting, visit [www.leisurelandscapes.com](http://www.leisurelandscapes.com)

P.S.: These are the same reasons why Fescue lawns are seeded in the Fall.

## SAVE \$\$\$ with

# MULCH MULCH MULCH



**NOW** is the ideal time to mulch (just after leaf fall). Mulch will encapsulate any remaining leaves in the yard and bed and make them part of the mulching system that will:

1. remove leaves from plant and shrub canopies and keep them from blowing around the yard
2. insulate your plant and tree root systems from freezing winter temperatures and promote continued root growth
3. turn to topsoil and amend the clay soils below to become more fertile
4. give the yard a clean and neat appearance.

It's a good idea to save some of the leaves and place them in the natural areas to serve as a natural weed barrier (and they'll add desirable organic matter to the soil). On top of these, spread your choice of mulch.

Some popular varieties and their characteristics are:

MULCH TYPE	PLUSSES & MINUSES
<b>Designer Mulch</b>	+long lasting +color fast (up to 3 years) +lets soil 'breathe' -costs more up front
<b>Triple-Shredded Hardwood</b>	+best for coverage +good color, texture +best for soil +best for suppressing weeds +best for moisture retention -can form 'skin', repelling water
<b>Pine Straw</b>	+easy application +best for rough terrain +a <u>must</u> under pines -can be a fire hazard
<b>Pine Bark Nuggets</b>	+long lasting +good for suppressing weeds +good under play sets -not suitable for hills



**10% off Triple-Shredded Hardwood Mulch Ordered by 12-11-09.**

## A Note from the President



Paul Martin

Last year's news was **Recession**. The year before that was **Drought**. Are we finally in **Recovery**? We examine that question in the article by the same name on page 1.

One of the things that has enabled Leisure Landscape to weather the economic storm has been the work that you, our existing customers, have sent our way. We thank you and want to recognize our loyal patrons. The article *Celebrating 10 Great Years* on page 2 talks about one such family, James and Stormmie Richardson, who are being recognized on their 10th anniversary with Leisure Landscapes with a \$500 Leisure Gift Certificate.

As another way of saying thanks to you, we have a special offer on mulch this Fall. We have rolled back prices to pre-2006 levels. Most of you use our triple shredded hardwood mulch. We will give you a 10% discount just for placing your order by December 11, 2009. Read more in the article *Save \$\$\$ with Mulch* on page 3.

In our next issue, we will recognize the remaining ten of our all-time Top Twenty patrons. Speaking of patrons, we continue to support the arts and the General Assembly and Carolina Harmony's production of "Songs of the Season". Please join them in this Holiday tribute this Saturday, December 5, 2009 at Fletcher Theatre. Order tickets online at [www.GeneralAssemblyChorus.org](http://www.GeneralAssemblyChorus.org).

## WELCOME!

to our new Complete Care Plan customers for 2009

**Nora and Mike Brodsky**, Kensington.; **Paul and Sallie Brown**, Carpenter Village; **Linda and Phil Corey**, Lake Boone; **Alan and Julie Edmunds**, Wakefield Plantation; **Anthony and Caline Glenn**, River Oaks; **Charles and Rhonnie Goldstein**, Governor's Club; **Peter Gonzalez**, Grandale; **Gateway Park**, Raleigh; **Clara Hagar and Ron Rock**, Woodspring; **Don and Brooke Hames**, Lochmere; **Heritage Pointe Shoppes**, Heritage; **Larisa and Tom Haytmanek**, Chelsea Meadows; **David and Charlene Johnson**, Renaissance Park; **Art Koch and Sara Plana**, Huntington Ridge; **Aaron and Stephanie Mazze**, Cambridge; **Tracy and Chris Mitchell**, Hayes Barton; **Nicole Neblett**, Hansen Grove; **Whitney and Greg Pearce**, Avondale; **Michael Riddle**, Five Points; **Robert and Robinson Rowan**, Hayes Barton; **Nick and Kristen Sanservino**, Preston; **Terry Shackleton**, Whippoorwill Valley; **Rita and Ed Sheehan**, Governor's Club; **Julie White and Mark Holmes**, Winthrop; **Larry Zafran and Carlee Dise**, Oxford Hunt

Join us for our Holiday Show:  
**"Songs of the Season"**  
 We have on stage together again the  
**General Assembly and Carolina Harmony Choruses**

Featuring the Men's Holiday Chorus and CHC 5th Annual "Sing for Scholarships"

Reserve Seating: \$25 General Seating: \$20  
 Discounts of \$5 available for early purchase

**Saturday, December 5, 2009**  
**2PM and 7:30PM**  
 The Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts  
 Fletcher Opera Theater

For tickets call 919.833.6775 or 877.851.9188  
 or visit us online at  
[www.generalassemblychorus.org](http://www.generalassemblychorus.org)  
[www.carolinaharmony.org](http://www.carolinaharmony.org)

## Leisure Landscape's Weekly Maintenance Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Blue Team Leader:</b> <b>Carmen</b>	<b>Raleigh</b> Hayes Barton, Mordecia, Oakwood, Sprint, Marshall & Taylor, Gardner St., Lake Boone, Thieves Market Mall,	<b>Cary/Apex</b> Providence Place, Carpenter Village, Cameron Pond, Charleston Village, Waldon Creek, Haddon Hall, Sword Gate, Olde Salem, Oxford Hunt, Bond Lake, Preston,	<b>Wake Forest / Raleigh</b> Wakefield Plantation, Heritage, St. Andrews Lake, Thornrose Hunters Knoll, Durant Trails	<b>Durham/Mebane/Chapel Hill/Pittsboro</b> Kerr Drugs, Briardale, Duke, Winstead, Carriage Hill, Timberline, Boothe Hill, Southern Village, Summerset, Northwoods, Lakehurst Point	<b>North Raleigh</b> Treverton, North Ridge, Alyson Pond, Durant Trails, Hunters Knoll,	<b>Wake Forest</b> Shoppes of Heritage, Heritage Pointe Shoppes, Power Secure,
<b>Red Team Leader:</b> <b>Miguel</b>	<b>Raleigh / Cary</b> Stonehaven, Lochmere, Lochmere Birkhaven, Enchanted Oaks, Kerr Fuquay-Varina, Eagle Ridge, Wynstone, Lane Ridge, Jamison Park	<b>Raleigh / Cary</b> Brookhaven West, Olde Raleigh, Wynthrop, Laurel Hills, Wessex, Academy Plaza, Pure Gold, Braeloch, Trinity Grove, Weston Estates.	<b>Raleigh/Creedmoor</b> Grandale, Durham, Cambridge, Kensington, Wyndfall, MacGregor Downs, Henley, Sheffield Manor, Honeycutt, Avantea, Bedford, Falls River, Ethan's Glen, Creedmoor	<b>North Raleigh</b> Chandler Pointe, Stone Bridge, Bent Tree, Woodbridge, Woodsprings, Durant Professional Center, Reedham Oaks, Greystone, Traemoor, Stonehenge, Wyngate	<b>Raleigh</b> Mapinfo, Wyckford, Hedingham, David Jackson DDS, North Hills, Springdale Estates, Sheldon Pointe, Glen Eden	<b>Special Request Jobs</b>

### The Leisure Landscapes Fall Calendar

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Apply lime to turf</li> <li>◆ Apply fertilizer to turf</li> <li>◆ Aerate &amp; overseed Fescue lawns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Plant Spring seasonal flowers</li> <li>◆ Remove leaves from lawn</li> <li>◆ Winterize irrigation systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Prune evergreen shrubs</li> <li>◆ Remove leaves from lawn</li> <li>◆ Clean ponds and fountains</li> </ul>