



Leisure News

Your Source for Landscape News and Information

...Goin' Green

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It's a natural. Who else would you expect to lead the "green" movement other than the Green Industry? And Leisure Landscapes prides itself on being a leader of this group. Here's what we are doing:

Upgrading Blowers. Last year we wrote about our new "green machines"-- Stihl blowers that reduce emissions through a new hybrid engine. It combines a 4-cycle intake and exhaust valve design with a traditional 2-cycle body to promote more complete combustion. The result is lower hydrocarbon emissions. All of our blowers now use this technology.

Converting Mowers to Propane. We have applied for a grant with the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources to convert our lawn mowers to propane. Gasoline powered yard maintenance equipment is estimated by the



Soon the fleet will be converted from petroleum diesel to vegetable oil, making our green machines even greener.

Celebrating 15 Years

Leisure Landscapes is marking its 15 year anniversary with a celebration - the Leisure Landscapes Luau. Yes, the Luau is back, this time at our new TerraVerdi property. So mark your calendars for August 23, 2008. The Open House starts at 4PM. We'll have tours of the facility, unveiling of the new site plan, project photos, the roast pig, and of course the traditional luau dancers. So party with us as we celebrate our first fifteen years

Today we have a lean and strong team that will take us well into the future. Jason Hanna leads the Installation design and sales effort. Our strength is the artistry of our designs. We create outdoor rooms that expand your living, bringing you into nature and furnishing your space with the full palette of colors, sounds, textures and scents that nature has to offer. And our sustainable, sensible design will save you green as you enjoy living the green life.

Phillip Martin, as Office Manager, is ensuring that the company remains on strong financial footing. His cost saving initiatives are resulting in operational efficiencies that are allowing us to provide you with greater value. With a strong team in place, my job is easier, allowing me to explore new markets and business structures that will bring our services to an ever increasing community of clients.



10% OFF PAVER PATIOS
thru May 31, 2008



...Goin' Green

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EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to produce nearly 1/6 of all the hydrocarbon emissions in the US. Propane, by contrast, produces nearly 0 hydrocarbons and no NOx (think about it--OSHA approves only propane fueled forklifts for indoor use. If it's safe indoors, it's great outdoors!) If our grant is approved, we'll be running a prototype conversion this summer with a conversion of the rest of the mowing fleet in 2009.

Converting our Trucks from Diesel to Vegetable Oil We are running a pilot project this Spring to test the conversion of one of our diesel trucks from 'petro' diesel to vegetable oil. Leisure I, the flagship of the fleet was converted to a dual tank system where it will automatically shift to vegetable oil once running temperature is optimum. This is significantly different than 'Bio-diesel' which is at most 20 per cent vegetable oil to 80 per cent petroleum diesel. We are running virtually 99 per cent vegetable oil. The impact is striking: no hydrocarbon emissions and no emissions of noxious oxides. And an extra bonus—a smoother, quieter ride!

We test drove a truck this winter that had been converted with this technology. As you may know, Winter is the toughest time for diesel and especially

vegetable oil fuels because the cold makes them thicken and slow to flow through fuel lines. But a specially heated line and engine block let our vegetable oil fueled test truck operate flawlessly. It was even a little quieter than when fueled by diesel. After successful completion of our pilot conversion this year, we will apply to DENR for support to convert the rest of the fleet.

One of the biggest impacts we can make in "Goin' Green" is converting from petroleum based fuels to sustainable, bio-based fuels. The benefits are ones we can all enjoy: reduced emissions of pollutants to the air, reduced reliance on foreign oil and reduced costs of operation.



Finally rain...the pressure is off for now, But a dry summer is in the forecast. Mayor Meeker advises the use of rain barrels to capture rainwater for outdoor watering. Leisure Landscapes now offers an array of **WaterSaver™** systems to reclaim rainwater. We can even generate water when it doesn't rain. And some of these assemblies can be used to run your existing irrigation system. Here's what we offer:

- ◆ Under deck tank
- ◆ Underground tank



Call 919-847-1733 for an appointment.

Tired of Dragging Hoses? Try our Irrigation Special... 10% off through Aug 31, 2008.

Tired of Dragging Hoses and Wasting Water? Install an **automatic irrigation system** with

Leisure Landscapes.

Sprinkler heads and piping are installed underground and con-



nected directly to your water meter. When it is time to water, the nozzles automatically pop up to water the area and retract when done.

Automatic irrigation saves **you** money and water at the same time. The systems meter the water out exactly. Each head is calibrated to release a certain amount of water (from 1.5 to 2 gal per minute). With our sophisticated RainBird controllers,

we can put down **exactly** the amount of water required in each area of the landscape. And we can do it on any schedule that meets local requirements: odd even days, or specific days of the week. We even have sensors that automatically turn the system off in the event of sufficient rain!

Don't leave your hose running all night. Choose a **water-wise irrigation system** from Leisure Landscapes and save!

Q&A

Q My Leyland cypress appears to be dying. The tips on one side are turning brown. Is this because of the drought?

A Yes and no. The browning that you see is most likely due to spider mites. If it were drought alone, the tree would become uniformly paler and become dry and brittle. The fact that it is becoming brown in sections at a time is symptomatic of an insect infestation. Drought was a factor in that it weakened the tree allowing the mites to take hold. Untreated, they will kill it. The cure? Cut out and remove all the dead sections. While temperatures are still cool, apply an insecticidal oil spray. Follow label instructions and completely douse the foliage, branches and trunk. The spray should kill the adult mites and their eggs. Continue to monitor the tree for several months. If you see a recurrence of the browning, repeat the procedure, but this time with a different insecticide.

Q I was going to redo the landscaping in the front, but I'm afraid the plants will die due to the water restrictions.

A. Water restrictions will preclude any automatic watering of your plants unless you install one of our WaterSaver systems. But, more fundamentally, the basic rules of planting still apply. If you have trees, wait until late Fall or early Winter to plant. Fescue lawns, early Fall. It typically isn't the water, it's the heat that will do them in. If you are putting in a lawn, strongly consider warm season grasses. They are more drought and heat tolerant. For shrubs, I highly recommend abelia for its heat and drought tolerance-- plus you get the benefit of summer-long blooms. For this time of year and through the summer, your best plan of action is to install your hardscapes--the walks, patios and walls--and water storage tanks.

WELCOME!

to our new Complete Care Plan customers for Spring 2008:

Patrick Bann, Walden Creek; **Dr. & Mrs. Bob Chandler**, Lake Benson; **Casey Fox**, Hayes Barton; **Genesis Facilities Management**, Rite Aid Raleigh; **Alfrado Gardner**, Sherborne; **Dan & Rosie Holt**, Providence Place; **Frank Hurst**, North Ridge; **Linda & Warren Kately**, Brierdale; **Alan & Pamela King**, McGregor; **Tom & Glenda Kittinger**, Reedham Oaks; **Kittinger Chaney CPA**, Greystone Village; **Matthew & Christine Monahan**, Twin Lakes; **Power Secure**, Wake Forest; **Bob Randolph**, Stonehenge; **Silo Glen HOA**, Wake Forest; **Andrew & Giselle Sloop**, Country Club; **SLM Services**, Kerr Drug Durham, Kerr Drug Mebane, Kerr Drug Pittsboro, Kerr Drug Fuquay-Varina, Kerr Drug Wakefield, **Jim & Rebecca Teismann**, Avanlea; **Tom & Stephanie Whitt**, Bedford;

It lies on almost ten acres

bordered by state highway 98 to the south and the Falls Lake watershed to the north. Nestled in the partially wooded land is a 1.5 acre pond, a meadow and a trailer that will serve as temporary offices. This is the new home of Leisure Landscapes.

Why here? I've always had a sense that I wanted to be located in the Falls Lake watershed area ever since moving to Raleigh 16 years ago. And there is a special attraction to this place:

- ◆ the way the hill rolls down and presents to the road
- ◆ the presence and position of the pond
- ◆ the visibility from Hwy 98 with 600 feet of frontage and two entrances
- ◆ the size: plenty of room for the office, parking, supplies and nurseries.

Why move? We've grown to the point that we needed to consolidate operations. We had the office in my house, equipment warehoused at a

Terra Verdi

nearby storage facility and trucks parked all over the area. Consolidation simplifies the logistics of getting prepared for work and reduces the costs of transportation, storage, and even dumping (we'll be recycling yard waste to make mulch and soil amendment products). We'll even be able to stock and distribute our own installation materials: mulch, stone, pavers and seasonal flowers.

Will cost reductions be passed on to the customer? Yes. You have seen it already in a reduction in our price for mulch. We have dropped prices of triple-shredded hardwood mulch from \$27 per cubic yard to \$23 per cubic yard. Other product costs will drop as we build the infrastructure for distribution.

Why now? I made a promise to myself when we celebrated our ten-year anniversary that when the fifteenth rolled around, we would celebrate it on our own property. As

luck would have it, we were looking at potential sites when I got a call from a Mr. Grant to mow some land he had up for sale. After one look, I knew that I had found the spot and began negotiations. We formed a holding company, TerraVerdi, to own the land to lease back to Leisure.

Why TerraVerdi? It means "Green Earth". And it is our intention to showcase products and services that not only bring leisure to your life, but do so in a way that reduces our adverse impact on the environment. We will build patios, walks and walls of locally quarried materials (reducing oil consumption for transportation). We'll demonstrate how to pave with pervious surfaces to reduce run-off. We will show how to reclaim rainwater in underground storage tanks for irrigating. And we'll demonstrate mulch products to build soils and plants to purify water and clean the air. With TerraVerdi, Leisure Landscapes is entering a new era of products and services that will serve you and the environment.

A Note from the President



Paul Martin

It seems that everything has changed in the past year. A business downturn, a regional drought and skyrocketing prices for petroleum products. The focus now is on leaner and greener. I'm pleased to announce that we are prepared for both. Read the articles on *Goin' Green* and *Terra Verdi* and share our vision.

As you know, I am a supporter of the arts. This year, we are again patrons for the General Assembly Chorus. If you have not experienced a cappella harmony, come see **Grandpa's Attic**. And you might also see my quartet, *Doppler Effect*. Show time is Saturday, May 3, 2007.

Finally, Leisure Landscapes is celebrating its 15th year. We have a new location and plan a party for August 23, 2008. So mark your calendar. Learn more about it in this and upcoming editions.



Live the Life of Leisure



Leisure Landscapes

*Is a proud sponsor of
Grandpa's Attic*

The General Assembly Chorus presents its Spring Show at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 & 7:30 PM.

We have 20 **FREE** tickets available to the first 10 callers:

847-1733



*Featuring:
The General Assembly Chorus
and Quartet Guests, the Hilarious
Hot Air Buffoons*

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 at
The Progress Energy Center for the
Performing Arts, Fletcher Opera Theater
at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Tickets are \$25 reserved and \$20 general
seating There is a \$5 per ticket discount for
tickets purchased in advance

Leisure Landscape's Weekly Maintenance Schedule

LEISURE'S INFORMATION STATION

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Blue Team Leader: Mario	Raleigh Hayes Barton, Mordecai, Oakwood, Carolantic, Sprint, Marshall & Taylor, Fetzer Stevens, Hillyer Church	Cary/Apex Providience Place, Twin Lakes, Carpenter Village, Cameron Pond, Waldon Creek, Haddon Hall, Dogwood Ridge, Olde Salem, Bond Lake, Preston	Wake Forest / Raleigh Silo Glen, Wakefield Plantation, Shoppes of Heritage, Power Secure, Heritage, the Ridge at McKinley Mills	Raleigh / Cary Olde Raleigh, Laurel Hills, Wessel, Academy Plaza, Pure Gold, Braeloch, Preston, Weston Estates.	North Raleigh Johnsdale, North Ridge, Alyson Pond	Special Request Jobs					
Yellow Team Leader: Carmen	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	INSTALLATIONS	Durham, Mebane, Pittsboro, Fuquay – Varina, Garner, Wakefield Kerr Drug units 405, 322, 415, 412, 435 & Dr. Chandler	
Red Team Leader: Eliazar	Raleigh / Cary Applebee's, Lochmere, Lochmere Birkhaven, Enchanted Oaks, Wyndstone, Lane Ridge, Jamison Park, Cambridge, Wyndfall	Durham / Chapel Hill Briardale, Carriage Hill, Mary Dell, Country Club, Bootie Hill, Southern Village, Summerset, Northwoods	Raleigh/Creedmoor Chandler Pointe, Stone Bridge, Bent Tree, Honeycutt, Bedford, Falls River, Ethan's Glen, Creedmoor	North Raleigh Durant Animal Hospital, Durant Professional Building, Sheffield Manor, Emerald Chase, Traemoor, Heritage Point, Stonehenge, Wyngate	Raleigh Mapinfo, Springdale Estates, Brookhaven West, Country Club Hills, Glen Eden, Friday's, Theives Market Mall, Wyckford, David Jackson DDS.	Special Request Jobs					

The Leisure Landscapes Spring Calendar

MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
◆ Clean out Winter debris	◆ Apply fertilizer to lawn	◆ Prune hedges	◆ Apply herbicides for crabgrass	◆ Plant summer seasonal flowers	◆ Apply round-up on weeds in beds
◆ Prune liriope and ornamental grasses		◆ Restart irrigation systems		◆ Spray pesticides for lace bugs	