



Leisure News

Your Source for Landscape News and Information

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In the heart of Laguna Beach,

is a property without rival. It seems to have been magically transported directly from the South Seas, palm trees waiving enticingly over manicured lawns. It is often the backdrop to cherished wedding pictures shot from the Crescent Bay Point Park.

I have had the good fortune to visit there three times now. Each time I get the sense of entering some place special. The giant gates give the impression of Jurassic Park as they open silently revealing the guest house to the right, the parking area, and an incredible garden of palms, bamboo, and tropical delights. Walking over the manicured lawn out to the cliffs I am overwhelmed with the sense that I am on the set of the French plantation owner of 'South Pacific'. It's 'motion-picture' perfect...

The home and grounds are actually the crowning achievement of my Dad's childhood friend, an accomplished dentist, and his bride of 50 years. Starting with land she inherited from her grandmother, they built a Polynesian-style home wrapped with window walls for a 180-degree view of the spectacular vistas of Laguna Beach, the Pacific and the Catalina Island. Construction included an effective drainage system to prevent erosion, unobtrusive fencing and screening plants for street-side privacy. Decks and patios were extended to meet the lap pool and concrete stonework outcroppings define bed areas and hide pool equipment. An irrigation system and low-voltage architectural and landscape lighting complete the hardscape infrastructure.

Crowning Achievement Pursuit of Perfection

Majestic King palm trees were trucked in and personally positioned by the owner so that each one is right from any vantage point and in perfect balance with the land, sea and sky. Under plantings on the cliff side include bougainvillea, pittisporum, cotoneaster and day lilies. By the house are three groves of yellow bamboo divided by stone walkways. These not only screen, but provide a backdrop to the sabel palms, plumeria (frangipani), date palms, fan palms,

windmill palms, fatsia, banana (musa) philodendron, lily of the nile (agapanthus) and dragon wing begonias. Creating focal points in the garden are statuary from Indonesia and other exotic ports-of-call.

No need to travel any further. The pursuit of perfection has resulted in making this tropical paradise a destination unto itself.



Green Machine

Lower emissions is not just for cars anymore. Stihl has come out with a new line of blowers that meet the new EPA emissions standards.

This is made possible by a new engine design that uses four-cycle (just like your car) instead of two-cycle technology. Other benefits include lower vibration and quieter performance (75dB)

Leisure Landscapes converted all of its blowers to the new style BR600 this Spring and is leading the way to bringing ecologically responsible practices to the Green Industry



It may look orange, but it's green...



Where is the Grass Greener? *Try the Other side*

Frustration sets in about this time of year as your Fescue lawn, once beautifully green this past Fall and Spring, is now brown, dry, thin and overrun with weeds. Maybe it's time to think about "the other side"—the warm season grasses—Bermuda, Centipede, St. Augustine and Zoysia.

They are called warm season because they thrive during the hot summer months. As a class, they are more heat and draught tolerant, require less fertilizer and need mowing only half as often as Fescue (and are only half the cost to maintain).

The drawback is that they are dormant from first frost to mid-April. They are somewhat invasive, spreading by runners call rhizomes into beds and walks. They are also more difficult to install; lower mowing heights means that the ground must be perfectly flat, without bumps and dips that can lead to scalping. Installation cost is also higher in that it is better to use sod instead of trying to seed.

But having said all that, the savings are significant, A typical warm season lawn will save \$1,200 a year in mowing and fertilizing costs, yielding a break-even of installation costs in only 3 years.



Shown here is a new **Bermuda** hybrid, YUKON, that uses 25% less water than other Bermuda varieties.



Centipede grass is lighter green than the other warm season grasses.



St. Augustine is more shade tolerant and does well on the coast.



Zoysia is considered the best for choking out weeds and low maintenance.

Tired of Dragging Hoses? Try our Irrigation Special... 10% off through Aug 31, 2007.



Tired of Dragging Hoses?

Want to Conserve Water? Install an **automatic irrigation system** with Leisure Landscapes.

Sprinkler heads and piping are installed underground and connected 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 system meters 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!

Dana Jones—Ten Great Years

CUSTOMER FOCUS

Learn more about Dana Jones and the Durant Road Animal Hospital and Professional Building at "Featured Homes" on www.LeisureLandscapes.com



Dana Jones is probably the largest employer of Leisure Landscapes. Over the last ten years, he has used our design, installation and maintenance services in three business operations and two homes. In fact, to a large extent, we've grown up together.

Well, not literally. Dana was born in Sparta, NC near Boone before enrolling in NC State's Veterinary program. It was there that he met Wendy, his lab partner, and future bride. Graduating in 1993, he began his career at Quail Corners and later opened his own veterinary clinic at Litchford Village. In 1996 he made his big move and bought property where he built the Durant Road Animal Hospital. This was followed shortly thereafter by the Durant Road Professional Building, whose landscape and irrigations systems we designed and installed. Two years later we installed the landscape and irrigation for the Shoppes of Heritage in Wake Forest, a pond at his first home and a paver patio at his second.

Both Dana and Wendy have been active in greyhound rescue work, where they have found homes for over 200 dogs. They are now active on their farm where they raise horses for show. For Wendy, smaller is better, so she specializes in mini-horses that grow from the size of cocker spaniel puppies to only 20-30 inches at the shoulders when full grown.

We are proud of our relationship of trust and respect and look forward to many more years of mutual growth.

WELCOME!

to our new Complete Care Plan customers for Summer 2007:

Applebee's, Hillsborough Street; **Nola and John Boezman**, Haddon Hall; **Mark Brockman**, Heritage; **Jeff and Ann Calamos**, Glen Eden; **Jose and April Collazo**, Southern Trace; **Mark and Brenda Fountain**, Lockmere Birkhavan; **Friday's**, Wake Forest Road; **Jon and Chris Kline**, Cambridge; **Alyssa Koontz**, Carpenter Village; **Meryton HOA**, Perry Creek; **Meshkin Naderi**, Garrett Drive; **Amy and Bob Neiman**, Heritage Point; **Raleigh Chamber of Commerce**, Raleigh; **Nick and Kristen Sanservino**, Carpenter Village; **Rachel Smith**, Wyckford; **Byron Southerland**, Worthdale; **Mark Szucs**, Alyson Pond; **Brenda Taylor**, Stonebridge; **Triangle Construction, LLC**, Raleigh; **Suzanne Zorn and Mark Weiner**, North Ridge.

Q & A

My lawn is developing brown rings. Some have a darker green ring around them. What is it? -Ronnie

The problem you are describing is a symptom of 'Brown Spot', a fungus that affects all types of lawn. It is brought on by humid, warm (over 72 degree) nights. The fungus continues to spread until all the lawn is infected. Treat with a fungicide, following the directions on the label. Treatment will prevent the further spread of the disease. Fescue lawns will need to be reseeded to restore them. Warm season lawns will fill in on their own.

I live in Wake Forest. Are there any water restrictions on outside watering?

Yes. If you are not on a well, then your water purveyor is the City of Raleigh and

their water usage stipulations apply. If your street address ends in an odd number, then your watering days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. If even, then your days are Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. (Cary and the towns it supplies has the same schedule. Apex and Holly Springs currently have no restrictions)

I have a steep slope that is very difficult to mow. What can I plant there instead of grass?

If the area is in full sun, consider planting a groundcover such as Juniperus conferta 'Blue Pacific' (shore juniper) or Juniperus davurica 'Parsoni' (parson's juniper). Another good groundcover choice is coto-neaster. If your hillside is shady, try vinca minor (periwinkle).



Morrisville Marketplace gets lighting for the new emblem wall and the trees and Arbor behind it.

In the News



David Broadway joins Leisure Landscapes as the new leader of the **Blue Team**. He has prior experience in lawn care and the IT industry. His routes serve 56 maintenance and irrigation customers in Raleigh and Cary.

Smedes York will be inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame September 13, 2007 at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. He is honored for his visionary leadership in business, public service and charitable fund raising and his continued dedication to improving the quality of life for everyone in Raleigh.

10% OFF IRRIGATION
thru August 31, 2007



A Note from the President



Paul Martin

It pleases me to highlight Dana Jones as the man honored in our Customer Focus. Dana and I have had a ten-year business relationship that is based on mutual trust and respect. You can learn more in 'Featured Homes' on the website.

Speaking of featured homes, I had the good fortune to vacation this summer in Southern California and visit relatives and one of my Dad's boyhood friends. His fabulous Laguna Beach home and landscape are featured in our lead article.

Finally, as Fall approaches, it's that time of year when we look at our heat-ravaged Fescue lawns and make plans again to renovate and reseed. We have three articles that address potential lawn woes. Irrigation, grub treatment, and choice of lawn. Learn more about it in this Summer 2007 Edition.



Live the Life of Leisure



Grubs in your lawn?

THE GRUB-DAMAGED LAWN

Severe grub damage in a lawn appears as large, irregular sections of brown turf that detach from the soil without effort. Unlike turf damaged by drought or excessive fertilizer, the turf peels away like a carpet being rolled up.

For most of the year, however, grubs are out of sight and out of mind. They feed on grass roots in

your lawn and are usually noticed only when dead and damaged areas appear. Another indicator is Japanese Beetle presence on your ornamental shrubs and trees. They have now died but their grubs are eating your grass roots.

Seek out grubs in mid-August. Sampling early in a grub's life cycle means that you'll catch grubs while they are small and less capable of seriously damaging your lawn. Early sampling, ("scouting") while your lawn looks healthy increases your chances of being effective and decreases the possibility that moles and other animals will tunnel your lawn, feeding on grubs.

SAMPLING

Using a garden shovel or spade, cut three sides of a 12-inch square. Grab hold of the open edges and peel back the turf like a carpet, towards the attached side. Look for c-shaped grubs on the newly exposed soil and under the sod mat. Count them and make a note on your map. Replace the sod, water thoroughly, then move to your next sampling site. If you average 10 or more, it's time for treatment.

TREATMENT

For Japanese Beetle grubs, you can apply a biological like Milky Spore. A more universal control is "Merit"

Leisure Landscape's Weekly Maintenance Schedule

LEISURE'S INFORMATION STATION

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Blue Team Leader: David	Raleigh Anderson Forest, Hayes Barton, Olde Raleigh, Laurel Hills, Oak Park, Brookhaven West	Cary/Raleigh Wyndfall, Cambridge, Pure Gold, Academy Plaza, Braeloch, Crosswinds, The Pointe, Emerald Chase, Marketech	Raleigh Brier Creek, Wyngate, Durston, Springdale Estates, Stonehenge, Old Creedmoor, Silverton, Stone Bridge, Ethan's	North Raleigh Wakefield, Wood Spring, Bedford, Falls River, Stonebridge, Heritage Point, Baileywicke	North Raleigh North Ridge	Special Request Jobs
Yellow Team Leader: Carmen	North Raleigh Durant Trails, Alyson Pond	Durham, Chapel Hill Briardale, Mary Dell, Carriage Hill, Summerset, Northwoods	Chapel Hill/Apex Southern Village, Governor's Village, Boothe Hill, Fearington Village, Scott's Mill, Dogwood Ridge,	Cary Tatton Place, Olde Salem, Bond Lake, Park Village, Preston, Wessex	Raleigh Spring Valley, Country Club Hills, Jackson DDS, Glenn Eden, Bleinheim, Gardner, Dixie Trail, Applebees, Worthdale	Special Request Jobs
Red Team Leader: Javier	Cary Wynstone, Lane Ridge, Turner Farms V, Jamison Park, Enchanted Oaks, Wyndfall, Lochmere Birkhaven, Edinborough Pointe	Morrisville Cameron Pond, Carpenter Village, Preston, Weston Estates	Rolesville/Wake Forest Riverside, Thornburg, Villages at Rolesville, Braefield, Shoppes of Heritage, Heritage, Park at Perry Creek, The Ridge at McKinley Mill	Raleigh Durant Animal Hospital, Durant Professional Building, Hunters Knoll, Sheffield Manor, Traemoor, Bent Tree	Raleigh Wyckford, VCA Animal Hospital, Thieves Market, Oakwood, Carolantic, Sprint, Marshall&Taylor, Fetzer Stevens, Hillyer Church, Hayes Barton, Mordecai	Special Request Jobs

The Leisure Landscapes Summer Calendar

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Apply Herbicides to Lawn ◆ Apply Iron fertilizer for lawn ◆ Apply 10-10-10 fertilizer to plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set Japanese Beetle traps ◆ Apply herbicides for crabgrass ◆ Prune hedges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Apply grub killer for Japanese beetles ◆ Apply round-up on weeds in lawn ◆ Prepare for lawn renovations