

**Features:**

Fall for Blowing Rock,
page 1

New and Improved,
page 1

*The Atlanta Botanical
Garden,* page 2

Decked Out, page 3

*Meet the Leisure Land-
scapes Maintenance
Team,* page 3

*Note from the Presi-
dent,* page 4

Schedule and Calendar,
page 4



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Leisure News

Your Source for Landscape News and Information

Fall for Blowing Rock, NC

Just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in the North Carolina mountains, Blowing Rock is a storybook village filled with upscale shops, unique attractions, outdoor adventure that ranges from whitewater rafting to skiing, performing and visual arts, fine dining and family restaurants and a range of accommodations from cabins to bed and breakfasts and hotels and resorts.



Fall is an especially beautiful time of year to enjoy the scenery. From mid-October to mid-November the hills are alive with vibrant hues of red, yellow, orange and green. Against this backdrop sunsets become a thing of exceptional beauty.

And don't forget the apple harvest—from nearby orchards enjoy all the varieties, not to men-

tion specialties like apple butter, cakes and pies.

For enter-



Things to see and do in Blowing Rock:

Top: Shop in one of the village-like settings for clothes and unique mountain crafts.

Left: See the Blowing Rock and admire the mountain vista, feel the updraft and learn of the ancient Indian legend that gave the site its name.



New and Improved!

www.leisurelandscapes.com



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

Offer good through 11/31/06

Visit us online at www.leisurelandscapes.com for great landscaping ideas. Click on a service button and be transported to a full description of the topic. See photographs of beautiful designs created and implemented by Leisure Landscapes for real homes in your area. The new content includes:

- **Special Offer**— our product or service discount page. Click here to learn about our special for the month
- **About Us**—Learn about the Leisure Landscapes Mission and find the answers to frequently asked questions in FAQs.
- **In the News**— Lose your newsletter? Find it online here (and several back issues) - In the News
- **Feature Homes**— Find three new additions to this favorite section. See real solutions to real landscape challenges

Our site is easy to use and informative, so please take advantage of this opportunity to visit us online from anywhere, anytime!

THE ATLANTA Botanical Garden

In the heart of downtown Atlanta and adjacent to Piedmont park is the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Compared to the offerings of other great cities, Atlanta's is a pocket garden. But it offers much of the expected offerings, albeit on a smaller scale.



Parking for the gardens is limited, so park on one of the side streets. Walk up the entrance to the Visitor Center. Admission is only \$15 for adults (\$7 for students and seniors).

There is a gift shop to the left that is worth a stop after touring the gardens. Pass through the fountain courtyard and take a right to the inside perimeter path.

Most of the manicured gardens and exhibits are to the east, so after leaving the welcome center, take a right.



From top , Circular fountain , walled gate to Oriental garden., parterre garden, within the walls of the oriental garden

Greeting you ahead is a circular fountain at the western edge of the circle lawn. Take in the vista of the tropical conservatory and beyond it the growing skyline of Atlanta's 14th Street high rises. Follow the

path to the right and arrive at your first destination, the walled oriental gardens. Within the stucco-walled courtyard is a tranquil scene complete with Japanese black pine, stream with stone bridge, bamboo and Japanese maple. Return to the circular path the way you came and you will next come to the parterre garden. Here a small display of boxwoods, barberry and rosemary illustrate the beauty of the formal style of European 18th century gardens. Leave this display and you will walk through the shaded path flanked by several varieties of lace cap and macrophylla hydrangea. Hosta and mahonia complete the shade garden display.



Continue to your right and you will now be at the opposite end of the circle where you entered and in front of the Tropical conservatory.

Enter the door and be greeted by a contemporary display of orchids. Walk to the right and to either side find terrariums of tropical ground frogs, as poisonous as they are colorful. Walk through the glass door and enter into the humid world of the rainforest, populated with palms, ferns and giant philodendrons. You will soon notice the chirping and movement of birds such as chickadee and quail along the forest floor. Vines clog the forest canopy sending down a cascade of roots and tendrils like some sky-hugging jellyfish.

Exit the conservatory and proceed on your counterclockwise route through the park. Take a right at the lily pond and be intrigued by the special exhibit - locomotion. Here the exhibitors have erected an entire Lilliputian world around trains, tracks and trestles at "O-gauge" scale. Watch the East Coast Line freight train wend its way through hills constructed of pine logs and planted with dwarf juniper, hemlock, arborvitae and daylilies. Dotted throughout the trainscape are Atlanta landmarks, [Peachtree Tower, the Capital, etc.] built in minia-



ture of stems, bark and twigs. The effect is as if these modern facades have been antiqued and now appear as heirlooms.

Leaving the special train exhibit you again return to the interior perimeter path and follow it back to where you entered by the pool – fountain.

Bear right and stroll through the rose garden and admire the display of perennials and roses laid out in a parterre. Continue around and enter the exhibit hall, used mainly for virtual tours and lectures from the multimedia discs.

While here you may want to use the rest facilities. Exiting the exhibit



hall, walk up the steeps to the 'lookout' and admire the view. This open-air structure provides an ideal setting for just setting back in the shade and enjoying your surroundings.

Exit the park back through the visitor center the way you came.



Clockwise from top right: Iron art, vista of one of many raised gardens



From Top: Contemporary lines of the Tropical Conservatory, elevated O-scale railroad.



Decked Out

With the increased demand on wood products from the recent damage of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, prices for wood are skyrocketing. A recent study uncovers serious alternatives for decking materials .

When it comes to building decks most people try hard to match the style of their homes, but there's been little debate over the materials. Pressure-treated lumber has predominantly been the choice for outdoor structures, pine being the most common type. Though wood can be the most inexpensive, it is also a maintenance nightmare.

With the increased demand on wood products from the recent damage of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, prices for wood are skyrocketing.

Decking is the surface of the structure—the part you walk on and enjoy, but also the part that in wooden decks deteriorates over time. The under-structure of the deck is hidden from UV rays and most rainwater, so wood is a great material to use.

But wood is *not* an ideal material

to use in decking (the surface). Pressure treated wood splinters, cracks and rots if not constantly maintained, and dangerous contents of the wood could be harmful.

Until 2004 pressure-treated lumber—wood infused with chromated copper arsenate (CCA)—has been used heavily in outdoor constructions. Since the beginning of last year the outdoor-lumber industry has voluntarily stopped the production of CCA for residential use since CCA contains a known carcinogen.

If you already own an outdoor structure containing CCA, tearing it down would be a drastic last resort. But now that wood might be moving down to the bottom of your list of options, what choices do you have left?

Composite is a combination of plastic resin and wood fiber, which can be mildly manipulated and is

resin and wood fiber, which can be mildly manipulated and is nearly maintenance-free.

Plastic or Vinyl Decking is made of various plastics and can be easily installed, requiring little or no upkeep.

These decking alternatives still require a wood under-structure of posts, beams and joists, but new chemical treatments are available that are more friendly to the environment.

For a look at some examples of our decks, visit www.leisurelandscapes.com and click on "Decks and Arbors."

More information on safe decking is available at www.ConsumerReports.org under the July 2004 issue of Home.

Meet the Leisure Landscapes Maintenance Team Leaders

Isn't it great to come home and find your lawn mowed and bushes pruned, see the landscape lighting automatically on or your irrigation system winterized without you having to make a call? Ever wonder who these 'invisible' workers were? Well, we'd like you to know, so we proudly introduce the Leisure Landscapes Maintenance Team Leaders.



Alejandro Lara ... is known to his crew members as 'Popeye'. He is 23 years of age, and newly married. He and his wife Margarita live in Knightdale with their three-year-old son Alex.

Alejandro enjoys watching movies in his spare time, which is hard to find since he works Monday through Saturday. He is trained in irrigation system maintenance and has a total of eight years experience in the landscaping industry.

Alejandro currently leads the "Yellow" Team, that is involved with

short-term installation projects and he is responsible for 55 Complete Care Plan maintenance contracts and 18 IrriGuard contracts for his service area.

Martin Vallejo ... enjoys the distinction of being Leisure Landscapes' oldest employee.

Martin has a lot of experience: seven years in the landscape industry, four of which with Leisure Landscapes. He currently leads the "Red" team and maintains 50 Complete Care Plan contracts and 12 IrriGuard contracts



He was born in Guanajuato, Mexico in 1964 and is married to Yolanda. They have three children: Maria, 22; Roberto, 21 and Salvador, 15.

When he's not working, Martin enjoys playing volleyball and smoking cigars.



A Note from the President

Leisure Landscapes has always been about finding ways for you to enjoy the beauty of nature. And we have two suggestions for you this Fall. Instead of raking leaves (we'll do that part), head for Blowing Rock and view them in all their glory. Or if urban gardens are your preference, check out the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

We have a lot to be thankful for, not the least of which is our again being spared this hurricane season. Remember those in Louisiana that are continuing to suffer and help in any way that you can, just as they would help us.

Several forces impact our industry. As the 'Decked Out' article indicates, wood prices are up because of the rebuilding demand and oil prices remain high (our single largest maintenance expense item after payroll). Finally, adverse legislation threatens to eliminate an essential workforce to the Green Industry. This November, please support our cause and vote for candidates that support Immigration Reform. - *Paul Martin*



Live the Life of Leisure

THE GREEN INDUSTRY COUNCIL urges you to

VOTE for candidates favoring **Immigration Reform**



WELCOME!

to our new Complete Care Plan customers for Fall 2006:

Joan Bettman, Summerset; **Glen and Kim Davis**, Edinborough Pointe; **Patricia Dixon**, New Forest; **James Merricks**, Wyngate; **Kenny and Tammy Michau**, Jamison Park; **Oscar Moody**, Villages at Rolesville; **Bill and Donna Pappas**, Alyson Pond; **Alex Richbourg**, Holly Springs; **Jignasa and Ravish Sachar**, Olde Raleigh; **Sharon and Jeff Schwartz**, Durston.



ORDER NOW

to receive your
spring flowers by
October 31.

Leisure Landscape's Weekly Maintenance Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Yellow Team Leader: Martin	Special Request Jobs	North Raleigh Durant Trails, Alyson Pond, North Ridge	Raleigh Spring Valley, Country Club Hills, Blenheim, Olde Raleigh, Crosswinds, North Ridge	Durham, Chapel Hill Ethans Glen, Briardale, Mary Dell, Northwoods, Southern Village, Bothe Hill, Governor's Village, Fearington Village	Apex, Cary Dogwood Ridge, Waldon Creek, Tatton Place, Bond Lake, Preston, Riggsby Farm	Cary, Morrisville Wessex, La Quinta
Red Team Leader: Alejandro	Special Request Jobs	Holly Springs, Cary Sunset Ridge, Wyndfall, Lochmere, Enchanted Oaks, Braeloch, Kildaire Farms	North Raleigh Olde Creedmoor, Silverton, Chandler Pointe, Sheffield Manor, Hunters Knoll, Bent Tree	Wake Forest Park at Perry Creek, Ridge at McKinley Mill, Wall Creek, Heritage, Wakefield Plantation	Raleigh Glenwood South, Hillsborough St, Downtown, Hayes Barton	Cary, Morrisville Carpenter Village, Preston Village, Preston, Weston Estates

The Leisure Landscapes Fall Calendar

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