



Leisure News

Your Source for Landscape News and Information

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It's in the news everywhere and everyone has been affected. The 'Market Meltdown' is of historic proportions. It is a reflection, and maybe even a cause, of what is now an official Recession.

Time for a Damage Assessment If you are part of the working population and you still have your job, then you are faring well. You have probably seen your (401)k significantly reduced. If you are retired or nearing retirement, you may be considering extending your work career to replenish your nest egg. Here are some other things you can do:

Protect your Investments Your single largest investment is your home. And with real estate inventories at a relative high, you need to ensure that your home stands out from the

rest and is in good repair. So now is not the time to let things go—just the opposite; Make sure you:

- ◆ *Paint your house and make sure it is in good repair.*
- ◆ *Inspect plants and shrubs. If they're not healthy, replace them.*
- ◆ *Renovate your lawn so that it looks its best.*
- ◆ *Apply a fresh coat of mulch to beds and natural areas.*

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

(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



Surviving the Meltdown (continued from page1)

your 'carbon footprint' by converting CO₂ 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.

So in this time of financial uncertainty, it's best to invest your money where you know your principle won't erode away. What could be better than putting it where you feel it, see it and enjoy it every day, especially in the knowledge that you are cutting recurring costs in the process.

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



Dru has been a Leisure Landscapes customer since September of 1998. Over these ten years, she has seen a lot of changes for herself, for her business and for Leisure Landscapes.

You may know Dru and surely you have seen her signs. She is one of the top realtors for Coldwell Banker Advantage. She began in 1990 and quickly became a top producer and a significant force within the Real Estate community. A native of North Carolina, Dru has been a Raleigh resident since 1966. She is an Honor Graduate of NC State University and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in English and Teacher Certification. Prior to 1990, Dru was an English Teacher in the Wake County Public School System. Having lived in Germany for 3 years and taught in the American Schools there, she has a strong interest in other cultures.

She and her husband Ted moved into their North Ridge home 18 years ago. They enlisted the help of Leisure Landscapes to install an irrigation system shortly thereafter. That same system has been working without modification to the present day.

Over the years, Leisure Landscapes has installed a contemplation garden and various other plantings. We have also maintained the landscape with our Complete Care Plan and IrriGuard irrigation plan. Dru even employed Leisure Landscapes to conduct irrigation system audits for clients who were buying homes to ensure that the systems were operating correctly.

Last year, Dru lost Ted after a long illness. It has been difficult tying up his affairs while running her own business—all in a down market. But Dru is resilient and continues to amaze us with how she bounces back from adversity.

Have some real estate business? Please give Dru a call at (919) 571-3472 or visit her website:

www.mcclellandinc.com



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

Offer good through 12/31/08

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

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).

TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS
Triple-Shredded Hardwood	-best for coverage -good color, texture -best for soil -best for suppressing weeds -best for moisture retention
Pine Straw	-easy application -best for rough terrain -a <u>must</u> under pines
Pine Bark Nuggets	-longest lasting -good for suppressing weeds -not suitable for hills



10% off Triple-Shredded Hardwood Mulch
Ordered by 12-8-08.

A Note from the President



Paul Martin

Last year's news was Drought. This year it's Recession. We hear about it almost daily. Indeed, its ramifications have filled most of this issue. What does it mean to you? We will try and answer this question in the article *Surviving the Meltdown* on page 1. But take heart— like the drought, this, too, shall pass.

We're still celebrating our 15th Anniversary and want to do it by recognizing those people who have helped to make it possible. The article *In the Spotlight* on page 2 talks about one such individual, Dru McClelland, who is being recognized on her 10th anniversary with Leisure Landscapes.

As another way of saying thanks to you, we have a special offer on mulch this Fall. Most of you use our triple shredded hardwood mulch. We will give you a 10% discount just for placing your order by December 8, 2008. 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 6, 2008 at Fletcher Theater.



WELCOME!

to our new Complete Care Plan customers for Fall 2008:

Katharine and Scott Kollins, Duke; **Daniel and Kathryn Martin**, St. Andrews Lakeside; **Brant and Whitney McArthur**, Woodbridge; **Edward and Seva Mirza**, Swordgate; **Andrew and Joanne Phillips**, Woodspring; **Betty Saini**, North Hills; **Mark and Jennifer Sistaire**, Charleston Village; **David Wilfret and Anya Tatarchuk**, Sheldon Point

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 6, 2008
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
www.carolinaharmony.org

With the end of the maintenance year and to conserve fuel, we are scaling back and consolidating the Yellow route into the Red route.

Leisure Landscape's Weekly Maintenance Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Blue Team Leader: Jose	Raleigh Hayes Barton, Mordecai, Oakwood, Sprint, Marshall & Taylor, Fetzer Stevens, Gardner St., Lake Boone, Thieves Market Mall.	Cary/Apex Providence Place, Twin Lakes, Carpenter Village, Cameron Pond, Waldon Creek, Haddon Hall, Dogwood Ridge, Secur-Tek, Olde Salem, Bond Lake, Preston, Preston Village	Wake Forest / Raleigh Wakefield Plantation, Shoppes of Heritage, Power Secure, Heritage, Riverside, Hunters Knoll, Durant Trails	Raleigh / Cary Brookhaven West, Olde Raleigh, Laurel Hills, Wessex, Academy Plaza, Pure Gold, Braeloch, Preston, Weston Estates.	North Raleigh Treverton, Johnsdale, North Ridge, Alyson Pond	Special Request Jobs
Red Team Leader: Carmen	Raleigh / Cary Applebee's, Lochmere, Lochmere Birkhaven, Enchanted Oaks, Eagle Ridge, Wynstone, Lane Ridge, Jamison Park	Durham/Chapel Hill/Cary Briardale, Winstead, Carriage Hill, Mary Dell., Boothe Hill, Southern Village, Summerset, Northwoods, Cambridge, Wyndfall, McGregor	Raleigh/Creedmoor Chandler Pointe, Stone Bridge, Bent Tree, Sheffield Manor, Honeycutt, Avanlea, Bedford, Falls River, Ethan's Glen, Creedmoor	North Raleigh Durant Animal Hospital, Durant Professional Building, Reedham Oaks, Emerald Chase, Grey-stone, Traemoor, Stone-henge, Springdale Es-tates, Wyngate	Raleigh Mapinfo, Friday's, Wykford, David Jackson DDS, Hillyer Church, Hereford Village, Country Club Hills, Glen Eden	Special Request Jobs

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