

# Going Green

Monthly Newsletter From Your Friends at Green Acres



Volume 1, Issue 6  
August 2009

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### *Thought for the Month...*

You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was.

~ Abraham Lincoln

## *Stay Cool This Summer With These Landscaping Tips*

### **Drought Tolerant Plant Selections**

The hot summer months call for drought-resistant plants that can withstand even the warmest stretches of weather. **Longwood Blue Bluebeard** for example is a wonderfully controlled shrub that produces colorful blue flowers and silver foliage and will grow back year after year.

Another drought-resistant plant, **Lamb's Ear** looks great in rock gardens and has silver foliage to match your Bluebeard. It also sports light purple flowers on its spikes and makes for great groundcover. Be sure to plant in beds that have clear edging as Lamb's Ear spreads easily and can take over your landscape before you know it.

### **Rock Gardens**

If you really need to cut back on maintenance and water bills, a rock garden can certainly do the trick. A rock garden can be built with or without plants and features colorful, well-placed stones that add texture and personality to the bed. If you're using plants as well, be sure to choose selections that are drought-resistant and that compliment the colors of your stones.

### **Trees**

Trees are a good summer option for a few reasons. The first is that trees become rather large at maturity, taking up space and reducing the bare area you have to work with. The second reason is that trees provide shade, cooling off an otherwise potentially unbearable area. And lastly, trees add a sense of comfort and "homey-ness" to your property, giving it that inviting feel, even when its 98 degrees outside.

### **Seating**

Whether its made of faded wood, marble or stone, a seating area brightens up any landscape, regardless of the weather. Look for unusual benches, oversized lawn chairs and other pieces that can give your arrangement personality. Add in a few side tables and set it all atop a smooth, stone "floor" and you've got yourself an instant conversation area.

*(continued on page 2)*

**15% Off Lawn Aeration Services**  
**Offer Valid For The 2009 Season**  
**Call For Details**

## ***We'd Love To Hear From You!!***

Whether you'd like to discuss your property or additional services or just want to stop by and say "Hi," we'd love to hear from you...

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### ***August Gardening***

- Things to do this month:
- Dead head perennials
- Pull up vegetable plants that are done for the season
- Check lawn for signs of fungus
- Cut back summer annuals
- Deep water trees and shrubs

### ***A Bit of Laughter...***

A trucker went into a diner and said, "I want three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards."

The new waitress asked the cook, "What does he think this place is, an auto parts store?"

"No," the cook said, "Three flat tires are pancakes, a pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up, and running boards are two slices of crisp bacon."

She thought for a moment, then scooped up a bowl of beans and gave them to the trucker, who asked, "What are the beans for?" She replied, "I thought while you were waiting for the flat tires, headlights and running boards, you might as well gas up!"

*(continued from Page 1)*

#### **Gazebos**

Gazebos are wonderful centerpieces to just about any landscaping theme and because they can be quite big, they're the perfect solution when you need to take up space. Gazebos come in all shapes, sizes and styles and can include bench seating or no seating at all. Before investing in a gazebo, make sure you've planned your landscaping carefully to be sure your new addition doesn't overwhelm your space.

#### **Garden Art**

From hangings and birdbaths to stakes and statues, garden art has grown into a form of landscaping all its own. Try something abstract in burnished copper or invest in illumination with lampposts and lanterns. Glass balls can add color to your area and a well-placed statue gives your landscape character.

#### **Water**

In addition to birdbaths above, fountains and ponds make a wonderful addition to any landscaping scheme and add a little water to an otherwise hot day. While some can be extremely elaborate and expensive, many smaller versions can be installed without breaking your landscaping budget.

Want to talk about your landscaping issues? Give us a call – we'd love to help you find the perfect landscaping theme for your property.

## ***Win A Family 4-Pack Of Tickets To A Bluefish Game!***



### **Take our trivia challenge and you could win!**

This is one of our favorite sections. Each month we'll give you a new trivia question. The first person to call the office with the correct answer will win a family 4-pack of tickets to see a Bridgeport Bluefish game. Take your best guess, then call us at (203) 452-8191.

Here's this month's trivia challenge:

**Q. Which is the lightest of the chemical elements?**

- A) Helium B) Hydrogen C) Neon  
D) Oxygen

Call us right now with your answer! (203) 452-8191

**Note: Limit one gift per winner per year**

John Adams dying words were "Thomas Jefferson still survives."

### ***Thanks For The Kind Words***

*We are very pleased with the landscaping your firm did for us. Your crew did an outstanding job of cleaning up afterwards and I thank them. Thank you so much for your input, thoughtfulness and speed in getting the job done. Everything looks terrific! (J.F. & W.F. of Rowayton)*

## ***Family Vacations Can Be Fun & Inexpensive***

A vacation you can pay for now is better than one that you'll pay for in the future. The trick is to decide what will be fun and still not cost a lot.

The cottage: Renting a cottage by a lake or woods is a classic solution. Many have a lodge or gathering place where kids can meet other kids. Make sure a boat is included with your cottage. If it's located 300 miles from home or less, you can travel there by car.

Camping: This is a great choice for families with children. It's exciting, especially if there are lots of outdoor activities available, such as fishing, hiking and swimming. If you know a spot where you can camp free of charge, the trip won't cost much at all.

Campsites charge for your stay, but usually offer planned activities and have bathrooms, showers and laundries. If you don't have camping gear, you can buy it, but remember that you can use it over and over. Most kids already have sleeping bags.

Have a free overnight visit with a relative or friend: Whether you are traveling near or far, this is a good choice. They will probably be happy to see you if you made plans in advance.

Vacation at home: Plan a different activity every day. Visit the zoo, picnic in the park, and go swimming. See an attraction in a near-by city, go to the county or state fair, and have a big barbecue for your friends and your kids' friends. (Ask guests to bring food.)

Whether you will be camping, staying at a cottage or vacationing at home, taking friends along makes the activities more fun. Kids like to bring a pal or two, and it won't cost much more than going with just your own family. A visit to a big amusement park is always exciting. It can be comparatively expensive, but if you can fit it in for one day, it's a good idea.

## ***Congratulations To Our Client Of The Month!***

Every month, we choose a very special *Client of the Month*. It's our way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks" to those who support Green Acres with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business. Watch for your name here in an upcoming month - you might be the next *Client of the Month*!

This month's Client of the Month is  
***Mr. & Mrs. Neal Cohen***

## ***Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!***

Thanks to YOU our business is growing! There's no better compliment we can receive than a positive referral from a valued client. We are truly grateful for the trust and confidence that so many of you have expressed.

If you know a friend, neighbor, or family member who may be considering the services we offer - it would be the highest compliment to refer them to us. I'll make sure they get extra special attention and care. Or, if there're any additional services that we may provide for you, please let us know. Instead of growing our business from the outside, we prefer to pay closer attention to our existing clients and their referrals.

## ***Carry These On The Plane***

Wiping down the tray table, armrests, the seat belt clasp, and seat control buttons could save you a week of flu misery. Carrying a small pack of Clorox wipes will do the trick. The wipes also kill germs and viruses on hands, but a hand sanitizer is probably easier on the skin.

## ***Landscaping Question Corner...***

### **Q. How can I keep my roses healthy and pest-free?**

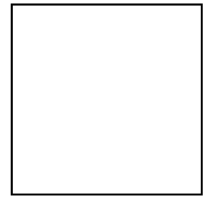
**A.** As attractive as those roses are to you, they're even more so to a variety of garden pests. To get your rose garden off to a healthy start, begin by choosing hardy, disease resistant plants such as Altissimo, Blue Moon and French Lace. You'll want to be sure you plant your rose bushes with plenty of space in between to allow for adequate air-flow through the plants.

Predatory insects such as ladybugs, can help keep rose-damaging pests at bay. Ladybugs eat mites, whitefly larvae and aphids, the most common enemy of your precious roses. You should also make sure your soil has the proper pH balance and nutrients to produce strong, healthy plants. The better the soil, the better the plants can resist pests and disease.

Roses are also susceptible to black spot, a fungal disease that is named for the distinct black spots that show up on the leaves. Varieties such as Bonica and Simplicity tend to be black spot resistant but to your roses don't fall prey to this quick-spreading disease, water only the roots and spray with a fungicide.

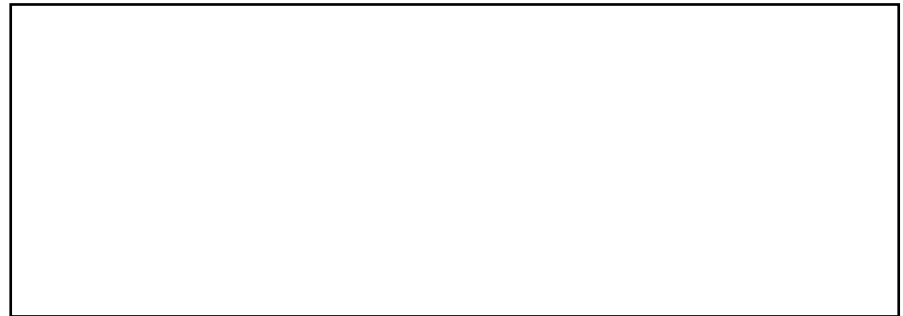
## **Do You Have a Question You Want Answered?**

We love hearing from all our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly letter and we're always looking to answer pressing questions you might have about anything relating to landscaping. If you have a question, please give us a call. Perhaps we'll feature you in a future issue!



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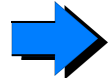
### ***Famous Birthdays in August***

Does your birthday fall in August? Did you know you share it with some pretty famous people? Here's a few names you might know with August birthdays:

- Martin Sheen, 1940
- Barack Obama, 1961
- Loni Anderson, 1946
- Charlize Theron, 1975
- Whitney Houston, 1963
- Jimmy Dean, 1928
- Casey Affleck, 1975
- Halle Berry, 1968
- Madonna, 1958
- Ben Affleck 1972
- Robert De Niro, 1943
- Robert Redford, 1937
- Kim Cattrall, 1956

***Happy Birthday!***

### ***What's Inside...***



- ⇒ *Landscape Ideas for Summer Months*
- ⇒ *Fun & Inexpensive Family Vacations*
- ⇒ *How can you keep your roses healthy and pest-free? Find out in our Landscaping Question Corner!*
- ⇒ *Take the trivia challenge and you could win a Family 4 Pack to a Bridgeport Bluefish game*
- ⇒ *Are YOU our client of the month???*
- ⇒ *And More!!*

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*(see inside for details)*