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**Natural/Organic Lawn Care
Landscape Maintenance**

**Tick Repellent Program
Natural Deer Repellent Service**

Monthly Newsletter

March, 2011

Volume 85

March Garden Tips

- * Finish all pruning early this month while branches are still bare. However, don't touch the spring flowering shrubbery like forsythia. It will bloom within the next month or so.
- * When planning your garden, we suggest designating a permanent spot for your herbs. Many of them are perennials or volunteers. They will come up again year after year.
- * As the weather warms up, don't be tricked into planting too early. Except for vegetables like peas and spinach, you don't want to install other plants yet. Shrubs and trees can be transplanted now while the ground is still moist and workable. They'll become established before the hot weather sets in.
- * NOW is a great time to amend the soil in your garden or landscape bed. Try compost, especially the pelletized compost we offer. Melissa uses it in her own gardens. It has all the benefits of regular compost without mess and odor. Or, you can use certain types of manure, peat moss or vermiculite. Let the soil amendments work their magic until the weather warms up enough to plant safely.

A Personal Message

Welcome back. This is our first issue of 2011. Hope everyone survived the winter. Hope everyone survived the cold weather! Surely this will go down in the history books as one of the coldest winters ever here on the Eastern Shore.

If you had the chance to see our Christmas light display, you'll know it was huge. You'll also know that it took us until the middle of January to take most of the lights down. Santa Claus is still anchored to the chimney and there are a few lights strung along the eaves. We'll get those down just as soon as the weather turns warmer. It's too frigid to work that high up as I write this newsletter.

Our entire staff was forced to go on temporary layoff, due to the cold. In fact, the office was closed in January. We only just returned to work in early February.

However, Melissa and I had lots of fun, even in the cold weather. We spent a lot of time on one of our favorite hobbies—hunting for collectibles. Apparently, I've spent too much time collecting stuff. Melissa made me host an indoor yard sale this winter. We had a good time, got rid of a lot of miscellaneous items and made a little money to boot. We learned how to offer items for sale on eBay and Craig's List also. I'm an avid collector of miscellaneous items, but I ran out of storage room last year. I had to sell things in order to be able to buy more things. NOTE: We'll be hosting another yard sale when the weather turns warmer. Watch this space for more news.

I went to New York for a visit during a very cold weekend. It's always fun to see Melissa's family. Our five year old niece, Scarlett, is still in her princess phase. She wears a princess costume every chance she gets. It's especially fun to go out to dinner with her as Cinderella, Snow White or another one of her personas.

We also had some fun this winter looking at the seed and plant catalogs as they arrived in our mailbox. We're dreaming about our vegetable garden and the luscious tomatoes, peppers and zucchini we'll grow. Melissa will be starting seeds indoors in the very near future. Soon, we'll have trays of starter plants growing in their own tiny pots. We're always anxious for gardening season to begin. They'll be safe and warm indoors until spring really arrives.

If you're planning any outdoor projects this season, I hope you'll consider giving us a call. We're a full service company and we always provide free estimates.

Landscape Bed Installation

If you're considering a change in your landscaping this year, you may want to make some decisions sooner rather than later.

Most landscapers (including us,) get very busy during the spring. We try to make sure that plant installs receive a high priority, but there's only so much time during the prime Spring season.

We have years of certified experience in landscape design and installation. Our designer will be on-site during your installation, whether it's a new design or a refurbishment of your existing plants.

We specialize in plant material that's indigenous to this area. There's a vast selection of beautiful plants that thrive here on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Our company has the expertise to handle a project right through the initial design phase to the implementation. We're experts in drainage issues too, including installation of French drains.

We offer boulder and statue placement and hardscaping services for walkways and garden paths. Raised beds are a particular specialty of ours...we built several for our own family.

And, of course you know that we're experts in lawn care. We also perform sod installations.

Please call us for a no-cost estimate. We will meet at your convenience.

Dell Speaks with the Chestertown Garden Club

On Tuesday, January 4, 2011, I met with members of the Chestertown Garden Club to discuss information about natural/organic lawn care. Approximately 30 representatives from the Garden Club braved freezing temperatures to meet with me to discuss organic lawn care.

Their hospitality was incredible. This is a very active garden club. Chestertown has been voted the Greenest Middle Sized Town in Maryland. They flattered me by telling me my expertise in eco-friendly lawn care is just what their community needed to help improve their little piece of the planet. Kind words from some super-nice people.

The discussion centered around our 80% non-toxic program. We use only the finest organic products and we stress basic cultural practices. This is now the only type of lawn care fertilization program we offer.

Our program combines the use of organic fertilizers and composts with naturally occurring products to deter insects, fungus and disease.

By ensuring a strong lawn and using basic cultural practices, your lawn can out-compete weeds for needed nutrients. If you experience excessive weeds or crabgrass, we offer an effective program to combat these problems. In fact, weed controls are the only part of our program that are not natural and organic. Sometimes, lawns going through transition from chemically based fertilizers and harsh herbicides need this type of weed control. However, within a couple of years, lawns previously subjected to these harsh herbicides can be maintained virtually chemically free.

You need to expect a 3-5% natural weed involvement with our program. If you choose to have zero weeds in your lawn, you may need to select a program that uses harsher chemical toxins. However, we choose not to offer any other chemically based alternative program.

Consider using organics for your lawn care. Our planet needs some assistance.



Dell speaks to the Chestertown Garden Club at their January meeting in the sun filled room of the Episcopal Church Hall.