

A Personal Message

This issue of our newsletter marks the 5th anniversary of publication. When we began writing these newsletters, they were sent to less than 200 people. Now, over five years later, we have a mailing list of well over 6,000 readers. (We don't publish in January.)

Here's another big announcement too. Our new website is now up and running. We would love to have you visit us at www.dellsadler.com.

The new website has lots of information about our products and services. There's a wonderful Photo Gallery with many different categories. The categories depict examples of our work. You can even see pictures of all the landscaping crews. The office staff insisted that their photographs be prominently displayed too. You can see who's on the other end of the telephone when you call us.

The About Us section gives you a history of me and my family. You can see Melissa and my sister, Elaine. Mom and Dad are in our family photograph too. We all posed in Dell Sadler polo shirts, each in a different color. We decided we're a pretty snazzy looking family. The website designers even stuck in a picture of me on a scooter bike. I didn't know it was there until recently. It has nothing to do with landscaping, but I sure had fun riding the bike that day.

Another wonderful feature of our website are the archive files of our newsletters. We have all of our newsletters from 2007 available in text format. And all of the 2008 newsletters are online also. Most of you know that I am a huge proponent of natural and organic lawn care. I also like to use mostly natural/organic products as much as possible. We recycle here at home and in the office. Here's an easy way you can assist us to make less of a carbon footprint.

Please allow us to email your newsletter in text form. It's the same information that comes in an envelope. However, 6,000 pieces of paper and envelopes can potentially be eliminated if you'll allow us to use an electronic newsletter delivery system.

Just use the form on the website to sign up for the newsletter. Or, feel free to call the office and let us know your email address. We will make sure that you are added to the mailing list for this new and improved format.

We've been having a nice summer, since Melissa's bout with heart problems last month. She is continuing to improve and is in a cardiac rehab program now. She sends her sincerest thanks to everyone who has been asking about her.

Garden Tips

- Here's a garden tip from the internet that we adored. Stick a colorful plastic golf tee in the ground to mark the area of a dormant plant. This way, you'll know where your spring flowering perennials are located next year.
- When the weather starts to cool, it's okay to begin installing your fall plant material. We're using lots of perennials from our greenhouse this year. Give us a call to see what's ready for planting. We'll be installing salvia, bee balm and Russian sage in our own gardens. We also have some beautiful purple coneflowers.
- Rose petals need to be collected and disposed of as they fall to the ground. Petals tend to harbor insects which can spread to other plant material in your landscape beds.
- There's still time to plant a few vegetables for fall harvesting. Lettuce and spinach are your best bets.
- Dig up your begonias now and bring them indoors. They will overwinter well in assorted pots. You can also take cuttings from them next spring.

TICK REPELLENT

We've had another medical crisis in our family. Apparently, my Dad has contracted Lyme disease. I say apparently because his blood tests have come back with a negative rating. However, his doctors told us that this is fairly common. Dad has a classic bull's eye ring on his side which is indicative of a bite. He experienced flu-like symptoms and his fever spiked to 104 degrees. Therefore, he is being treated for Lyme disease and after a couple of weeks, he'll be tested again. After several weeks on antibiotics, the new tests will probably yield a positive result.

Dad has been a tree surgeon most of his life. He knows tick habitats and how to check for ticks. He also knows how to remove a tick safely, once you have been bitten. However, this episode proves that even an expert can be tripped up by these tiny, yet highly viral pests. After my own bout with an infected tick bite several years ago, I began to look for ways to help prevent such occurrences from happening.

Remember last month, we mentioned that August and September are two of the prime tick activity months. April and May are also active months.

The response to the August newsletter was very significant. We knew that the spring months had seen more tick activity than in recent years. It seems that tick populations are continuing their high levels of activity this fall. We have treated dozens of properties with our barrier tick repellent service during the past month. You may want to consider using our service too.

We offer a no cost, no obligation inspection of your property. This allows us to identify the areas of activity and recommend a course of action. Barrier sprays, treated cardboard tubes in mammal nests and brush removal can all assist in reducing tick activity.

Fall Lawn Care

Fall is the best time of year to repair problem areas of your lawn. This includes fertilizing and overseeding. We can help you with our natural/organic lawn care products.

If your grass is in poor condition, we usually recommend that you begin the lawn renovation process by aerating it. Core aeration is a process that relieves compaction of the soil. Aerating your soil allows much needed nutrients to get to the root zone quickly and efficiently.

Once the lawn is aerated, it may need extra lime. Generally, the clay-based soil of Talbot county is very acidic. It needs additional lime to raise the pH balance to a less acidic level.

Organic fertilizer and endophyte-enhanced grass seed are applied after the ground itself has been treated. Your fall fertilization will help prepare your lawn for the cold weather months. Our fertilizer contains natural disease deterrents which are essential for a healthy stand of turfgrass next year.

Remember that our program is 80% non-toxic. We only use chemicals to kill weeds in the lawn. After many years of testing, we still have not found a viable substitute for synthetic weed controls. So weed control remains the one facet of our program that is not natural and organic.

We use only endophyte-enhanced grass seed which has been bred specifically to be insect, disease and weed resistant. These grasses taste "bad" to surface feeding insects such as sod webworms and chinch bugs. The use of these grasses will help to reduce the chance of insect and fungus problems.

Our lawn care program has been effective for over seven years on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Living this close to the Chesapeake Bay, one of the country's major estuaries is a big reason to consider organic lawn care. Our results are comparable to more traditional, synthetic programs both in cost and effectiveness.

We urge you to let us prove how an organic lawn can enhance your property. Give us a call soon.