

## A L A W N & A L E G E N D

—Pamela Lasota



Dixi Carillo/EDAW, Inc.

The Margaret Mitchell House, where Margaret Mitchell wrote *Gone With the Wind*, stands stately at Peachtree and 10th Streets. Beyond its wrought iron fence is the lawn that was named one of the “Top Ten Lawns” in the United States this year by Briggs and Stratton. It was chosen along with other high-profile properties including Graceland, the Rose Bowl, Central Park and Daytona International Speedway. According to George R. Thompson, Vice President of Corporate Relations for Briggs & Stratton, “Each of the sites has grass that is well maintained and a lawn that is an integral component of the location’s overall appeal and attraction.”

The lawn provides the base for easing this stately home into its urban environment. A panel of judges, which included

leading horticulturists, turf management professionals and landscape designers based their decision on overall appearance, lawn and garden maintenance, care philosophy, space utilization, visual appeal, and significance of the site itself.

The house was abandoned until 1989 when, as Mayor of Atlanta, Andrew Young designated it a city landmark. Preservationists, who have fought to save and restore the home, overcoming obstacles such as arson (twice), should be proud of their achievement in protecting this Atlanta Landmark for all of us to enjoy.

Nature Scapes is proud to maintain the grounds of this landmark and will do our part to keep them in their award-winning condition.

# Weatherstone

—Rick Barnes

A condominium community set among the old oak trees of the Emory area, Weatherstone is an example of both Nature Scapes' affinity toward long-term customer relationships and the pride that individual homeowners can take in their community.

Nature Scapes has maintained the landscaping at Weatherstone since 1988. For much of that time, the care and nurture of the grounds has been in the hands of one of our senior foremen, Miguel Tejada. Miguel provides such thorough and consistent care to Weatherstone that, whether you drive into the property in January or June, that "Nature Scapes Look" of cleanliness and crispness is always there. Miguel provides leadership to his crew in all aspects of landscape care, from the mowing up. His pruning abilities let the trained eye know that this property is "his." The residents there are left with the feeling that they live in pleasant surroundings.

There is another dimension to the grounds at Weatherstone. It is the story of a homeowner, who, in pursuing an interest, has improved both the aesthetic appeal and property values of her community. This resident of Weatherstone, Anne Davies, has created a beautiful walk-thru garden of flowering shrubs, perennials, biennials, and annuals adjacent to the community pool that is a real show-stopper! The garden is pictured here in its spring splendor last May.

Anne's garden had an innocent beginning about 2 years ago, when "my sister planted a few things in front of my condo." She later bought 2 roses from Home Depot, and the garden was on its way. Nature Scapes assists Anne with her efforts primarily by leaving her garden alone. "They also help by removing debris from time to time," she says.

Anne was a little surprised that such a garden, which is a delight to many of the residents at Weatherstone, might spur controversy on another property. Covenants on many condominium properties prohibit homeowners from "doing their own thing" horticulturally. "I never really asked anybody's permission — I just did it." What she did is create a beautiful focal point at Weatherstone for her own enjoyment, but delights in the knowledge that what she has done is a pleasure for others as well. As for the controversy, Anne isn't really worried. "The head of the homeowners association is one of the visitors to my garden!"



## Poolside "Chat" Creates Results

—Allen Clemons

An experimental landscape forum was held in early spring at Canyon Point Condominiums to bring Homeowners and Property Managers together with Maintenance Managers from Nature Scapes. Our idea was to create a relaxed setting with danish and coffee to air expectations and concerns and chat about the future landscape development of the property.

We feel it was a tremendous success and plan to present these forums at other properties during the coming year. If you would be interested in a Landscape Forum, please contact me or the Nature Scapes Representative for your property.

## A Sad Note

Buck Jones, owner of Arthur A. Jones & Associates, Inc., a long-time provider of plant materials for Nature Scapes, passed away October 1, 1999. Buck was a successful businessman, a Green industry leader, a true Southern gentleman, and a friend to everyone he met. We miss him, and keep his family and employees in our thoughts and prayers.

### C O R R E C T I O N !

Rick Barnes

In the last issue of Cultivated News, I wrote that the TriState Compact, a water use agreement among the states of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, has been adopted. Wrong! I attended a recent meeting with representatives of both the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, learning that, while water allocations to the three states have not been agreed upon, there is an excellent chance that they will before the December 31, 1999 deadline. We will keep you posted!



# IRRIGATION OR IRRITATION?

**AUTOMATED  
RAINFALL IS  
A NECESSARY EVIL  
IN THE SOUTH!**

*—David Chapdelaine*

**I**rrigation: the means of artificially adding water to your landscape by way of automatic or manually controlled sprinklers. Many property managers confuse/replace it with the term irritation. Have you ever stopped to wonder why?

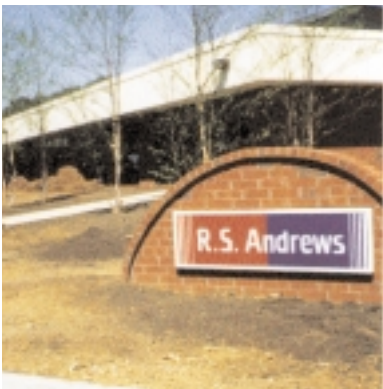
Irrigation is only one of the legs of a three legged stool, the other two legs being maintenance techniques and fertilization/pest control. What happens if one of the legs is missing? The stool is no longer stable and it fails to meet your expectations (you fall!).

Many property managers and HOA's overlook the importance of irrigating their properties properly. Too much water can be as bad as not enough. Watering at the wrong time of day can lead to diseases or an incredible waste of water (and money). Did you know that as much as 60% of your water can be lost to evaporation/evapotranspiration, should sprinklers be run in the heat of the day? Let's see...at an average of 25 gallons per minute per zone, run for 30 minutes, a zone will use 750 gallons or more per cycle. Running 4 times a week means 3000 gallons a week. Subtract 60% and you lose (yet pay for!) over 1800 gallons per week. **FOR EACH ZONE!** You do the math for an entire system...

What about a break or a leak? Most sprinkler heads are connected to 1/2" PVC, carrying up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Break off a head, let the water flow for 30 minutes each cycle and your money runs into the storm drain. Figure in the cost of replacing plants or turf no longer receiving regular water and you can see why irrigation can be a headache.

An irrigation system that is maintained/inspected monthly can easily pay for itself. At the same time, it will help protect your landscape investment. Turf and plants that go into stress (i.e. too little water, too much water) are much more susceptible to disease, insects and weeds. A properly maintained irrigation system can easily be an asset to your landscape rather than an irritation. Call us if you would like to discuss a maintenance agreement for your irrigation system.

Do you have any questions on irrigation but never know who to ask? Now's your chance. Call me, write me, or stop me on site. Let me know what you would like to read about and I will try to cover it in future articles.



B E F O R E



A F T E R

# L A N D S C A P I N G :

*M O R E T H A N J U S T A P R E T T Y F A C E*

*Rick Barnes*

Planning on selling your home? Would you like to get a higher selling price? If the answer to either question is yes-add landscaping! A recent study out of Clemson University showed that a home with improved landscaping sold for an additional 4% to 7% over a similar home with only average landscaping. The research project, conducted by Professor Mark Henry, surveyed 218 home sales in Greenville, South Carolina. Further, it isolated the additional value placed on a home with improved landscaping from other amenities that might improve the value of a home, such as central air conditioning. The geographic area of the study insured that similar homes with differing grades of landscaping could be compared. The landscapes of the homes were evaluated by a landscape professional from the Greenville area.

A home in which the grounds were improved from a "Good" to an "Excellent" evaluation yielded a sales price 6 to 7 percentage points higher. Improving the landscape evaluation from "Average" to "Good" resulted in a price increase of 4 to 5 percent. The study strictly measured the increases, or lack thereof, at the point of sale.

The study did not delve into specifics on which landscape improvements led to the best price increases. We would suggest looking at curb appeal first, as our "before" and "after" shots of the R.S. Andrews corporate facility shows. These photos were taken last Spring, during and after Phase 1 of the project.

Source: NLA Landscape News, September/October 1998.

## W H O W E A R E

*Cultivated News* is published two times a year by Nature Scapes, Inc., for fifteen years a provider of landscaping, maintenance, irrigation and floriculture services to the metro Atlanta area.

Nature Scapes, Inc. is a charter member of GGIA — Georgia Green Industry Association, MALTA — Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turf Association, and CAI — Community Associations Institute. We also belong to the Southern Nurseryman's Association.

Nature Scapes, Inc. operates a drug-free workplace as certified by the State Board of Workers' Compensation.

If you have any topics or questions you would like to see discussed or elaborated on in a future issue of the newsletter, please call and let us know.

### **Nature Scapes, Inc.**

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# Grounds For Pride!

Nature Scapes grooms the setting for one of Atlanta's 50 most beautiful homes! The September, 1999 issue of Atlanta Magazine features a "curb-side look" at the city's most



pleasing residences, according to a poll of architects, professors, historians, and real-estate agents. "Our" property, shown here and on page 119 of the magazine, (Home #21) is considered by many to be an Atlanta landmark. The grounds and gardens of 134 Lindbergh Drive have been maintained by Nature Scapes for over 3 years. Greensphere Landscaping, Inc., acquired by Nature Scapes in 1996, began providing services there in 1987! Therefore, Nature Scapes has a long history with this historical home, and takes pride in its presentation in Atlanta Magazine!



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