

CARVED FROM THE TREES

—Rick Barnes

The relationship between man and the trees which shade the Earth has been fodder for stories of history, legend, and conquest. The first apple tree (*Malus sp.*) planted in the Northwest stands in Vancouver, Washington. Planted in 1846 as a seed, it is the precursor to Washington state's vast apple-growing industry.

The tree featured on the reverse side of the new commemorative quarter from the state of Connecticut is the Charter Oak, (*Quercus sp.*), a tree which once stood near Hartford as an early symbol of the rebellious American people. Legend has it that Captain Jeremiah Wadsworth hid the charter, an agreement between the colony of Connecticut and England, in a cavity of the great tree in 1687. The colonists did not want to surrender the charter, which had been very liberally written and gave the people a great deal of freedom. California boasts the Bristlecone Pines (*Pinus aristata*). Estimated to be 4000 years old, they are believed to be the oldest living trees on Earth! Athens, Georgia is home to the only known tree that actually *owns* the land it is growing on! Back in California, the General Sherman Big Tree, named for the man responsible for the burning of Atlanta, is claimed to be one of the world's most massive living things. A Sequoia tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), it stands 275 feet tall, over 26 feet in diameter, and is believed to be perhaps 3000 years old!

Looking at the development of Atlanta over the past 30 years, one might wonder if Sherman was riding again — though this time with a chain saw! The satellite photographs shown here clearly show that vast deforestation has taken place in our city. Each tree removed in the conquest of urban sprawl, and, conversely, each tree replaced by planting in your garden or through urban reclamation projects, reflects a wealth of potential:

- A mature, thriving tree can consume about thirteen pounds of carbon Dioxide per year.
- A well-placed tree, especially a deciduous tree which sheds its leaves in the winter, can reduce heating and cooling costs of an adjacent home by anywhere from 10 to 50 percent!
- Each and every American, on average, uses seven trees a year for everything from this newsletter to landscape timbers to toilet paper!

- Trees in close proximity to one another, such as in a grove or forest, can work together to moderate the climate of a larger area. The other satellite photos shown here illustrate how deforestation in metro Atlanta has created "heat sinks" due to the fact that there are not enough trees to moderate the temperature increases
(continued on back cover)

Satellite photos show declining vegetation and tree cover (green) and expanding urban areas (black)

1978

1986

1993

Corresponding images show expanding heat islands, especially in downtown Atlanta, around Hartsfield Airport, and in Cobb and Gwinnett counties

1978

1986

1993

Paces West:

Teamwork Delivers a Superior Result

-Allen Clemons

Amid the urban congestion of the Buckhead area is a quiet community built on a former ten-acre estate. Paces West, originally built in 1923, was transformed into an 82-unit condominium development in 1981. It is one of Nature Scapes award-winning properties, winning the award for Landscape Maintenance in 1997 from the Georgia Green Industry Association.



Dennis Hoffman of Community Management Associates manages the property and takes a very hands-on approach to the landscape maintenance. The Board of Directors for the property, in conjunction with the property manager, decided to employ the services of OLM, consultants in the field of landscape maintenance. "OLM represents another pair of eyes to help us identify and solve problems on the property", says Nature Scapes President, Rick Upchurch. They are very specific in maintenance techniques they require to be utilized at Paces West.

One of the many challenges of maintaining this property is the diversity of plant material with various maintenance



requirements. All material is hand pruned to retain a natural, yet formal overall appearance. As the property has matured, it requires frequent upgrading of plant material, due to decline of sun-loving plants shaded out by expanding tree canopies.

Nature Scapes is now entering the sixth year of service on this property. Paces West has been maintained with a high a standard of quality due to the team of professionals in management and service. We are very proud to be associated with Paces West!

Rick Barnes:

Distinguished Professional of the Year

-Rick Upchurch

It is with great pride that we announce that Rick Barnes has recently received Georgia Green Industry's Distinguished Professional Award. This award is given to individuals who have contributed to the advancement of the horticulture industry in Georgia.

Rick has served on virtually every committee in the organization and has written numerous articles and provided cover photography for the GGIA Journal. He helped organize certification programs for landscape professionals and has given up many Saturdays to keep the program going. Rick has served as the Chairman of the GGIA as well as liaison between the GGIA and the Georgia Chapter of the American



Society of Landscape Architects. It is this dedication and enthusiasm for the industry that earned him the nomination for this award from those within the organization.

Last year's recipient, George Morrell of the Morrell Group, presented the award to Rick in January at the GGIA Awards Banquet. Rick is pictured here with 1999-2000 GGIA Chair, Bill Ford. On hand to witness was Rick's wife, Nancy.

All of us at Nature Scapes are very proud to have him as a part of our team. Thanks again Rick, from the entire Green Industry and congratulations!

A W A R D S S U M M A R Y 1 9 9 9 - 2 0 0 0

Heritage Oaks	Multi-Family	GGIA*	Project Maintenance	Silver
Margaret Mitchell House	Municipal/Institutional	GGIA*	Project Maintenance	Grand
Fairway Gardens	Multi-Family	GGIA*	Project Maintenance	Grand
Fairway Gardens	Multi-Family	MALTA [†]	Environmental Award	Distinction
Atl. Botanical Gardens	Commercial Maintenance	MALTA [†]	Environmental Award	Merit

*Georgia Green Industry Association

[†]Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turf Association

Living Outside the Box

—Pamela Lasota

The outdoor living space should be planned very similarly to the way indoor living space is planned. Function, flow and use of appropriate material will create a harmonious, balanced outdoor environment as welcoming and relaxing as the home itself.

Developing a plan for the outdoor living space is similar to the way an architect would develop a plan for a home, outlining formal areas (living and dining rooms,) casual living spaces (family rooms and bedrooms) and functional areas (kitchens and bathrooms) also, at the same time, creating circulation patterns. By defining each area in the landscape for its intended use, a base will be set for how those areas will function. This is true in any application, whether it is a single-family home, multi-family development or commercial property.

Formal Areas: The formal area of a development begins with the entry, whether it is an entry into a property, commercial building or front door of a home, this is where the public eye falls first. This area should say “welcome, please come in,” also “we care about our home”. Plantings in this area should create a feeling of stability; they should be neat in appearance, such as evergreens, but should be interspersed with plants having seasonal value to keep the planting from being boring or rigid. Designated spaces such as annual color beds will add seasonal interest to the formal areas.

Casual Areas: Relaxing, entertaining or playing are what casual areas are intended for. Patios, swimming pools, tennis courts or jogging trails are just a few of the applications for these spaces. Casual areas can be planted in a more relaxed, informal manner and should be planted to be interesting during the peak of seasonal use; for example, planting Crape Myrtles near a pool area will provide summer color. These areas are also prime locations for use of perennial plantings. The vitality of summer perennials will be welcomed during the months of use, but will not be missed during the winter months. Taking this a step further, using plants with a bit of a “tropical” feel, like Palms, Elephant Ears, Fatsia, etc. can make an area feel exotic. Plants can make a huge difference in the “feel” of an area. Creating shady, cool places will make those areas more enjoyable during the hot, summer months; a taller deciduous tree planted near a patio will make it useable during a summer day, not only in the evenings.

Functional Areas: These areas are needed in our everyday lives. Driveways, parking spaces and trash receptacle storage are spaces we need, but should be worked into the outdoor living space to least infringe on the other areas, while remaining accessible. A good plan of traffic flow will keep these areas from dominating the outdoor living space; plant buffers will soften their lines, hide them entirely or block them from easy view.

All of these areas can flow together to create an outdoor living space, just as the rooms in our home create our indoor living space. By thinking of our outdoor living space as just that, where we live when we are outdoors, our ideas of planning, flow and function will begin to take root — literally!

Nature Scapes provides consultation for functional use planning of outdoor spaces at no charge to our clients. Let us help you maximize the outdoor living space on your property!

THE BRAINS AND BRAWN BEHIND YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

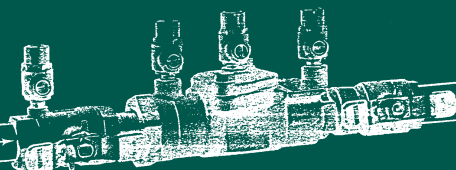
—David Chapdelaine

PART I: THE BRAWN

An automatic irrigation system is comprised of many different components, each with its own important function. While some of these components are required, others are optional or recommended. The brains and brawn behind a system include a water meter, back-flow preventer, pressure regulator, controller and a rain sensor. Your system starts at a water meter. Usually found near the curb, this device connects you to the city or county water supply. Some systems are set up with a meter strictly for irrigation. This eliminates sewer charges, a savings of up to 60% on the water bill. Somewhere after the meter should be a back-flow prevention device. In the Atlanta area these are installed under ground in a large plastic box, allowing easy access. The most common device used here is the double check, which protects the water supply if a back pressure (elevation change) or back siphonage (fire hydrant used nearby) situation develops. Designed to protect against toxic fluids, these devices are required by law.

Many systems use a pressure regulator. This bell shaped device, placed in line after the back-flow device, allows users to control the water pressure entering the system. This is recommended in many sections of metro Atlanta due to the high pressure. Excessive pressure will cause premature failure of electric valves and sprinkler heads, create possible water hammer and increase water loss at the site of a leak.

In our next issue we will discuss the brains behind your automatic irrigation: the controller and the rain sensor.



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.

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created by vast expanses of pavement. The recent Space Shuttle mission to map the Earth discovered that Atlanta's heat sink is now seventeen miles wide at its widest point!

Nature Scapes recognizes the price that prosperity is exacting on our city. One of our primary goals in landscape renovation is to plant trees whenever the opportunity presents itself as a means of fighting the deforestation battle. The tree in the cover photograph is a Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardi*) planted by Nature Scapes at Lenox Park. Other organizations, such as Trees Atlanta, have similar goals — to plant a tree in any and every possible urban location. This goal can be shared by all of us. If everyone living in Atlanta planted just one tree, think of the difference that over two million trees would make. Who knows? Maybe the tree you plant will grow into the next "Charter Oak" or Tree That Owns Itself!

Sources Cited for this article:

Famous and Historic Trees

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50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth

by The Earth Works Group.

50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save The Earth

by The Earth Works Group.

Satellite photos courtesy of American Forests and Trees Atlanta.

see <http://www.amfor.org>

WSB Radio



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