



## Nature Scapes Helps ABG Prepare For Chihuly Exhibit

— Rick Barnes



Handblown glass art has been popping up all over the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, and this unique combination of art and plants has people all over the city talking! Opening May 1 and remaining on display through October 31, Chihuly in the Garden offers breathtaking glass sculptures adorning fountains, topping planters, and whimsically

mingling with the plants, flowers, and ponds of the midtown garden.

Nature Scapes, provider of turf maintenance and fertility programs to the Atlanta Botanical Garden since 1997, had a unique opportunity earlier this year to assist the ABG staff in preparations for this showing and got to share in the excitement (and stress!) of the deadlines associated with an opening day. Part of the plans called for a renovation of the entry landscaping along Piedmont Avenue. Nature Scapes won the bid to implement Phase 1 of the new landscape designed by Dottie Myers of Dottie Myers and Associates. This landscape upgrade was intended to add significant ornamental color to the area to draw attention to the entrance and the temporary Chihuly signage. Myers accomplished this through the use of large masses of both annuals and perennials, punctuated by more permanent plantings of trees and shrubs, back-dropped by the previously existing entry plantings. Nature Scapes removed excess existing plant material, prepared the beds, installed the ornamentals and perennials, and solved a drainage issue behind a newly constructed seat wall along the Piedmont sidewalk. This left only the planting of the annual flowers by the ABG staff to give them a chance to do other things toward meeting the May 1st Opening deadline.

Nature Scapes also dealt with a serious drainage problem around the large granite pond behind the Conservatory and Orchid House. The area was constantly being flooded by excess water from the carnivorous plant bogs on the slope above. The soggy conditions around the pond would have made close viewing of the glass objects

*(continued on back cover)*



## Lakemoore Colony: Park Living in the City

—Rick Barnes

When Lakemoore Colony was constructed by Atlanta businessman and civic leader Wiley Moore in 1951, the Buckhead area was far less densely developed than it is now and the park-like setting of the property probably went largely unappreciated. Today, Lakemoore seems more like an island of green in the maze of urban sprawl and remnant forest. The 15-acre site was originally developed as townhouse apartments, with 96 fire-proof units. In 1969, Lakemoore became the first condominium conversion in the City of Atlanta. Lush, open areas of fescue turf are punctuated with flowering trees that provide color and interest throughout the year. Much care is taken to thoughtfully improve the property while maintaining the integrity of the original design concept. Lakemoore utilizes both design and existing geography to full advantage. Many of the buildings on the south side of Lakemoore Drive overlook a natural wetland area and remnant pond, a recent addition to the Blue Heron Nature Preserve. A grassy slope containing a specimen Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and other trees provides a vantage point from which to observe the wildlife in the wetland. The clubhouse and pool area features a deck cantilevered over the lower end of the pond.

Always seeking ways to improve the property and its value, the residents have, in the last 2 years, reworked their property monuments with the help of the Nature Scapes staff and are presently in the process of simplifying, improving, and strategically relocating their building signage. Nature Scapes has proudly maintained the grounds of Lakemoore Colony since 1997, and looks forward to helping the homeowners tend their “island of green” in the years to come!



## Turf Talk with *Simply Green Lawn Care*

—Mark Moskwiak

Fall is the best time for aeration and overseeding of Fescue turf, as this will help the turf recover from summer stress and fungus. This is the best time for establishment of new cool-season turf plants and is a positive first step in the program that follows during the rest of the season. Core aeration is followed by application of a 3-way blend of turf-type fescue seed and starter fertilizer. Warm season turfgrasses (Bermuda and Zoysia are the most common) receive the first of 2 Fall-Winter applications of pre- and post-emergent herbicides to control unwanted weeds such as Henbit, Wild Garlic, and Annual Bluegrass. Pre- and post-emergence refers to whether the weed plant is present in the turf as an ungerminated weed seed (pre-emergent) or a germinated weed seed or perennial weed (post-emergent). The timing of these applications (as with all turf applications) is very important and often finally determined by the prevailing weather and climate of a particular season.

### An overview of our program for the turf on your property:

**Round 1** (January- February): Pre-and post emergent herbicide along with fertilizer for all around weed control and maintenance of good turf color on cool-season turf (Fescue).

**Round 2** (March- April): Second application of herbicides as well as a controlled-release fertilizer to feed growing Fescue and emerging Bermuda and Zoysia.

**Round 3** (June-July): Iron and a light application of slow-release fertilizer to Fescue; granular fertilizer for Bermuda and Zoysia to maintain color and growth. Post-emergent herbicide on an as-needed basis to control weed outbreaks.

**Round 4** (September-Mid-October): As described in the opening paragraph, aeration, seeding, and fertilization of Fescue turf; weed control begins on Warm-season grasses.

**Round 5** (Mid-October-November): Fescue turf receives controlled-release fertilizer; Bermuda and Zoysia receive the second application of weed control products.

## To Serve You Better

This spring, Nature Scapes contracted a customer survey to determine how you feel about our services. The study was conducted by Lassiter and Associates, an outside consulting firm. Several weeks were spent conducting interviews to gather objective market feedback of strengths and weaknesses to foster improvement in the Nature Scapes’ service model.

### Strengths

- Quality and consistency of service
- Responsiveness and ease of doing business
- Price, performance and value of service

### Needs Improvement

- Proactive suggestions for property improvements
- Website and differentiation from competitors
- Being more visible and better presenting the added value of our services

We thank Nancy Lassiter and her team for their professionalism and we deeply appreciate both the kind words and candid feedback from all the participants!



**Water:** Just when we thought we were finished with the “D” word (Drought!) after last year’s plentiful rainfall, the first 5 months of 2004 brought with it a return to dry weather. Fortunately, the normally dry months of June, July, and August have been wetter than normal, preventing the metro-Atlanta area from again becoming the parched landscape we had grown accustomed to in the period of 1998-2002. The return of dry weather reminds us to remind you the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has placed permanent water restrictions on our use of outdoor water, and began tightening up on enforcement of these restrictions on August 1, 2004. The current water use restrictions adopted by the agency provide for varying degrees of restricted outdoor water use through Non-Drought Periods and Drought Response Levels 1-4 during periods of drought having varying degrees of severity. Here is a brief summary of the Georgia DNR’s water use plan:

## Environmental Update:

### The Forces of Mother Nature Affect Us All!

—Rick Barnes

**Non-Drought Water Use:** Odd-Even; Odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays; Even-numbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Friday is a no-watering day!

**Drought Response Level One:** Add to the above restrictions watering on scheduled days from 12AM to 10 AM and from 4PM to midnight.

**Drought Response Level Two:** Watering on scheduled days only from 12 Midnight to 10AM.

**Drought Response Level Three:** Odd addresses may water only on Sunday from 12AM to 10AM; even addresses may water the same hours on Saturday only. Under level 3, filling of swimming pools, washing of vehicles and buildings, and non-commercial fund-raising activities, such as car washes, are prohibited.

**Drought Response Level Four:** No outdoor water use, with some exemptions.

For more information, go to [www.gadnr.org](http://www.gadnr.org). Under DNR quick links, go to DNR Rules & Regulations, click on EPD Rules and Proposed Rules, choose 391-3-30 (Outdoor Water Use).

As of this writing, these Rules have been adopted but no specific drought condition has been defined.

**Sudden Oak Death (SOD):** Mysterious mass deaths of Tanoak, a native California species, were observed as long ago as 1995. Since the Tanoak is not really considered a desirable species, there was not much concern about the deaths until the disease spread to live oak trees. The disease was identified as *Phytophthora ramorum*, Sudden Oak Death, in 2000. Sudden Oak Death is neither sudden nor limited to oaks. In fact, the disease may infest a tree for several years as trunk cankers under the bark. Only later will it cause a complete shutdown of the vascular system of the plant and the appearance of “sudden death” as the leaves finally wilt and branches die back. The disease also attacks some 50 additional species of plants, including Japanese Camellia, Mountain Laurel, Japanese Andromeda, and others, causing symptoms but not death.

SOD was limited to Western North America and Europe until this Spring, when a California nursery shipped potentially infected plants to 39 states, including Georgia. Don’t Panic! The unsold suspected plants were isolated and destroyed, and over 1000 tests of plants adjacent to the suspect plants have shown no

disease incidence. Because symptoms on non-lethal hosts resemble those of other problems, such as drought damage or fungal leaf spots, the disease can only be identified through lab cultures. The UGA Plant Disease Clinic is the only facility in the state qualified to test for SOD.

If you purchased and planted a plant grown at Monrovia Nursery since 2003, monitor it for symptoms. If the plant looks unhealthy in any way, notify your county extension agent. Do not remove or dispose of the plant. Any plants found to be infected with the disease will be removed and incinerated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Many fear Sudden Oak Death will be the next in a line of devastating plant diseases that have plagued the US over the past century. Dutch Elm Disease has decimated the population of American Elm trees in the eastern half of the country, changing the shady appearance of streets and towns in the East, Midwest, and Upper South. In 1904, Chestnut Blight was introduced to New England. In the ensuing decades, the American Chestnut, one of every four trees in the eastern forest, succumbed to the disease. In the case of both of these trees, new disease-resistant varieties are being developed to hopefully one day bring these plants back home. There is no cause to believe that SOD will inflict the damage of these 2 diseases. One final thought: please don’t mistake Sudden Oak Death for the rapid decline of many trees in the past year or two. SOD has not become established in the Eastern US. The tree death we have recently witnessed is largely due to the 1998-2002 drought, followed by the excessively wet conditions of the first half of 2003. This drastic imbalance in rainfall often spells certain death for mature to old-aged trees that are pre-disposed to decline due to adverse environmental conditions.

**West Nile Virus- Don’t Let Your Guard Down!** At this writing, 2 cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Georgia this year, both in Fulton County. In each case, Men were affected. There were 55 cases reported in Georgia in 2003, resulting in 4 deaths. For more about West Nile and minimizing the risk in your community, visit our web site, [www.nscapes.com](http://www.nscapes.com), click on media coverage, then click on “Because Those Suckers Bite: 14-Point West Nile Defense”.

## W H O W E A R E

*Cultivated News* is published two times a year by Nature Scapes, Inc., since 1983 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 Atl. Landscape & Turf Assoc. We also hold memberships and actively participate in the following organizations: CAI — Community Associations Institute (Georgia Chapter). BOMA — Business Owners and Managers of Atlanta, Inc. AAA — Atl. Apartment Association. SNA — Southern Nurserymen's Association. Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

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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## NS Helps Gardens



*(continued from front cover)*

floating among the plants in the pond a messy proposition at best. Our staff, with the help of ABG Special Events Director Tom Harvey, devised a system to intercept the water at the toe of the slope and carry it away from the pond, enabling us to provide a firm, dry walkway around it.

Nature Scapes is privileged to have played a small part in the Chihuly excitement! If you

haven't seen it yet, come and view this incredible exhibit yourself! The sculptures seem to change as the light changes throughout the day- even with each passing cloud. Glass seems to mimic living plants in one area, the Atlanta skyline in another, serpents in another. Color combinations among flowers and glass both soothe and dazzle the eye. Viewing the glass in the evening (open on Tuesdays until 9 PM) adds a whole new dimension to the art. It is truly amazing how 2 very different media —plants and glass — compliment and enhance each other! For more information on Chihuly in the Garden, contact the Atlanta Botanical Garden at (404) 876-5859 or visit their website at [atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://atlantabotanicalgarden.org).



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