

WVNLA NEWS

West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. www.wvnla.org November 2009

Background of Farm Family Insurance

by Jarrod Knight

Farm Family was founded to serve the unique insurance needs of farmers and the agribusiness community. With the assistance of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Farm Bureau® leaders worked to establish a program designed to provide insurance to meet the needs of farmers and their families in the Northeast. Through a united effort, this concept became a reality when Farm Family Life Insurance Company commenced business in 1954. In 1956, Farm Family began to service the property and casualty needs of agribusiness with the formation of Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company (formerly Farm Family Mutual Insurance Company). Currently, The Farm Family group of insurance companies serves the needs of agriculture, small businesses, and families in 12 Northeastern states with both life and property/casualty insurance products.

Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company, Farm Family Life Insurance Company, and United Farm Family Insurance Company are headquartered in Glenmont, NY and are a part of the American National Family of Companies. Please see our ad on page five for further information.



Tidbits, Updates, Etc.

- MANTS (Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show) date: January 6-8, 2010, Baltimore Convention Center.
- WVNLA 2010 Winter Meeting, Thursday, January 21-22, Embassy Suites, Charleston Featuring Anne Raver, *The New York Times* Garden Columnist; Daniel & Charlotte Peters, Longshadow Planters; Plants, Trends, and New Ideas; Bugs & Thugs; Becoming a Better & More Creative Thinker and much, much more. Mark your calendar!



Wood Debris Recycled

Greg Dacal, of Control Products, Inc., is a WVNLA member and recently donated products to make the Women's Resource Center in Beckley a success.

Greg has a great solution for unwanted tree stumps and other unwanted green waste that are either imbedded in the ground or taking up valuable development space. Greg's company uses a wood shear to break down the green recyclable materials so that the resulting mulch can be utilized for erosion control, boiler fuel, and landscaping projects.

This relatively new piece of equipment is attached to a John Deere excavator, then the high-strength blades tear the wood apart. The piece of equipment also has a back drag plate that is used for filling holes and grading. A seventy inch stump can be shredded in three seconds, saving time and money for the developer. The shear also (*continued page 2*)

- ANLA (www.anla.org) Management Clinic, January 31- February 3, Louisville, KY
- Green and Growin Trade Show, January 12-16, Greensboro, NC
- Southern Nursery Association Forum, February 12-13, Atlanta, GA
- PANTS (www.pantshow.com), August 3-5, Philadelphia PA
- CENTS (www.onla.org), January 25-27, Columbus, Ohio



Decorate with Style!

Accentuate your client's personality in their winter wonderland by adding elements that they love: glitz, pizzaz, velvet, flash and even quiet, subtle, yet beautiful decor. You can really please your clients in the upcoming winter season by selecting the right design and style of lighting and decor. Styles can be categorized by, but not limited to:

- arts and crafts/mission
- traditional
- contemporary
- tropical/british
- french country
- colonial
- global chic
- victorian

Once the style has been approved by the client, which definitely should also accentuate the architecture of the house, creativity is yours to help add that special unique charm! If the client wants something different for the holidays, add glass beads, fringe, ENORMOUS bows and even oversized ornaments to outdoor lights and greenery. Colorful beads and detailed fringe can be found at Michael's or a local craft store. Any of these elements will make great additions to wreaths and other decorations.

Accent a focal point by changing the color of the bulb or adding an additional strand of colored lights to existing evergreens or a specimen evergreen.

Don't forget to use energy-efficient LED bulbs. Your client will be rewarded with a lower power bill. Also, use only holiday lights that have been certified by Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or another recognized testing agency. Think outside the holiday box for a change, you and your client will benefit from it.

The internet is a great source of raw materials and there are companies close by that specialize in outrageous and classic decor. Try visiting www.beckergroupdirect.com and make note of their lighting, inflatables and giant sized decor. Have fun!



(Wood Debris continued from page 1) creates a safer working environment because chain saws aren't used at the site, plus, processing wood is faster than by hand. The once landfill-dumped stumps, trunks, and other wood debris can be recycled for a better quality environment.



Holiday decor by TerraSalis Garden Center

2010 Landscape Design Awards

Information packet available at:

www.perennialplant.org/resourcefiles/2010LDA.pdf

Initiated in 1992, this award program recognizes design projects that are exemplary in use of herbaceous perennials to help create balanced and beautiful landscapes.

The "after market" applications of our growers' products and the design, installation, and maintenance of plants in gardens and natural settings are of special interest to the Perennial Plant Association (PPA). Both experienced and novice landscape designers are invited to participate.

Note: Applications are due February 10, 2010 and winners will be contacted by April 15, 2010.

Dawn Hummel, Publicity Coordinator

Please note:

You will find all information regarding our board of directors by clicking on the *officers and contacts* page of our website www.wvnla.org

A Versatile Groundcover by Barry Glick

Waldsteinia fragarioides is one of the most versatile groundcovers I've ever grown. I use it in full shade and in full sun. It's native to 25 states in the US and several in Canada and will grow happily in just about any climate.



The growing habit is that of a mat-forming plant (2" to 6" tall) which spreads by runner-like rhizomes creeping just below the soil surface. *Waldsteinia fragarioides* sports 5-petaled bright yellow flowers (3/4" diameter) which bloom singly or in clusters in mid to late Spring, and trifoliate leaves with wedge-shaped leaflets (each 1-2" long). Flowers and leaves appear on separate stalks and the foliage is evergreen, but turns a sexy bronze color in cooler climes. The fruits produced are not really berries however, they're single-seeded achenes which are inedible, hence the common name of "Barren Strawberry".

In one of the perennial beds in my garden, I used *Waldsteinia fragarioides* to replace some Vinca that I had unknowingly planted 30 years ago and had struggled with removing for the past 10 years. I think I finally got it all! It's a dry, full sun area and the *Waldsteinia* has gently carpeted the ground like a painting. I also use it in a somewhat moister, shady bed under a Birch tree and it is equally as happy there as in the sun bed.

Even if it wasn't brilliantly glistening with primrose yellow flowers in mid to late spring, the foliage is delightful and holds up well all the growing season long as it appears to have no insect, pest or disease problems.

As a bit of botanical trivia, the genus *Waldsteinia* was named for Francis Adam, 1759-1823, an Austrian botanist, author and the Count of Waldstein-Wartenburg. The specific epithet *fragarioides* refers to the strawberry like foliage, *Fragaria* being the name of the genus that strawberries are found in. Both plants are members of the Rosaceae (Rose) family, a very large family of plants with over 3000 species in more than 100 genera, the genus *Rosa* (Rose) being the most well known.

I'd love for you to experience this plant in your garden and I've plenty to share with you. What you'll receive are bareroot blooming size plants out of our 2" Anderson Treeband Pots® in full active growth. They'll arrive with their roots wrapped in long fibered, unmilled sphagnum moss. This material is antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral and a very useful material. I have them for sale. Please visit www.sunfarm.com or call Sunshine Farm & Gardens at 304-497-2208 or email barry@sunfarm.com for specific information. Larger quantities available at even lower prices upon request.

If you are a nursery, garden center, landscape architect or garden designer etc, please make sure that you are also on my wholesale mailing list by emailing me at my personal email address - barry@sunfarm.com - with the words WHOLESALE LIST in all caps in the subject line.

By the way, if you haven't read the story in *Greenbrier Quarterly* magazine about me, you can read it on line at <http://sunfarm.com/images/GVQ08-2.pdf>

Happy Gardening



Crabapple Delight

Now is the perfect time to plan ahead for a colorful spring display of flowers from the highly recognized Flowering Crabapple. Below are some crabapples and contrasting/complementary plantings that can be planted in a sunny location for a multi-season display of interest.



Robinson Crabapple has an upright spreading form with bronze/green foliage, covered with deep pink flowers, followed by red fruit. Pyramidal boxwoods, Bloodtwig Dogwood and Dwarf Fountain Grass will bring out the seasonal color showing.

Coralburst Crabapples have a tight, dense rounded form, with coral pink flowers, followed by bronze fruit. To emphasize the symmetrical dense form, plantings of Green Velvet Boxwood, Bearded and Siberian Iris, and Otto Luyken Laurel will accentuate this.

Prairifire Crabapple has a spreading rounded form with one of the best red-leaf color display. The flowers are bright pink/red, followed by dark red fruit. Centennial Hollies, Winterberry Hollies, Dragonwing Begonias, Lime Spireas and Bird Nest Spruce will highlight this tree.

Sargentina Crabapples are superb for small intimate spaces. The 5'-6' size dwarf tree has red flower buds that open to white flowers, then the tree is covered with bright red fruit

for winter. This focal point is great used near a sidewalk or outside a kitchen window. Plantings of Lenten Rose, Black Mondo Grass, White Allysum, Dwarf Boxwood and Carpet Roses will work well with the Sargentina Crabapple.



If using a Crabapple with fruit is an issue, why not use Spring Snow Crabapple? This sterile crabapple has pure white fragrant flowers that can be planted near patios and walkways. Place 3 Spring Snow Crabapples with two Fat Albert Spruces, 7 Blue Fox Fescue, a mass of Dwarf Red Cannas, 5 St. Johnswort, 3 Sandcherry, and 3 Chionoides Rhododendron with this wonderful fruitless crabapple tree.



Floating Islands, Wildlife, Beauty and Clean Water

We recently ran across a website (www.floatingislandinternational.com) with some amazing information about a beautiful water feature which provides many other benefits, from habitat restoration to water cleansing. A floating island is a Floating Treatment Wetland, planted with wetland or garden plants. What follows is a sample of some of the ideas available, but to really learn more, please visit their website.

BioHaven® Floating Islands are the new wave of water stewardship. Modeled on Nature's floating wetlands, they offer the same benefits in an expanded form. There is no waterway that will not benefit from the BioHaven® family of floating docks, walkways or floating wetlands. *continued on page 5*

Common Ground

Why do so many green enterprise professionals choose Farm Family for their insurance needs?

Our agents take a personal interest in protecting what you value most. And we take the time — to visit, to listen and to understand your unique business concerns.

Even if you're not in the market for insurance right now, you owe it to yourself to come talk with us for a few minutes. Our comprehensive, cost-effective coverage just might make you think twice about your current plan — and plant the seed for a fruitful relationship rooted on common ground.

For more information contact:

Trinity Financial Group

Jarrod Knight and Brad Morris

632 E. Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Office: (304) 566-7580



Floating Islands continued

Wildlife Habitat

Is there anything that warms the human spirit more than seeing a wild creature blythely going about its business, right alongside us, not even knowing we're there?

BioHavens are truly havens for all kinds of wildlife, from mink and muskrat to nymphs and microbes. Ducks love them for brooding and roosting, loons nest on them, fish congregate under them, koi feed off them, tiny water snails shelter inside the matrix, and most importantly microbes proliferate on them, starting off the food chain and supporting all the above.

Some creatures we've never seen on a floating island to date are: deer, rabbits, bear, coyotes, mountain lions.... they have to make more effort to reach a tasty morsel on a



A 520 square foot island!

BioHaven than on land!

So with this protection, shelter and food source available, here are some ways we can use BioHavens to support the wild creatures we care about:

- Protected species regeneration
- Waterfowl attraction
- Zoo enclosures
- Fish spawning platforms
- Fishing platforms
- Goose magnets

Beautification

The aesthetic possibilities of BioHavens are endless! Whether you prefer a natural, wild look, or a tended, cultivated look, BioHavens will co-operate, though, as with any other garden, the results reflect the efforts of the steward.

The beauty of BioHavens is that they support terrestrial (garden) plants as well as wetland plants as long as the water is aerated. This gives almost limitless opportunities for creating your own unique waterscape expression.

- Waterscaping
- Gardens
- Public Gardens and Parks



Floating Treatment Wetlands

Constructed wetlands are commonly used to cleanse water of pollutants. They work by exposing water to natural processes - microbial processes - facilitated by plants and organic matter. In order to expose as much water as possible to the beneficial activity of the wetland, they are created wide and shallow.

This approach is natural and effective, but very costly in terms of the land required to create this shallow, wide tract.

BioHavens act like a constructed wetland but with none of the land requirements. They

Floating Islands continued from page 5 represent a concentrated wetland effect. With the huge surface area presented by the individual matrix fibers, every 250 sq ft island equates to 1 acre of wetland surface.

Whenever you launch a BioHaven you effectively launch a floating wetland. The water doesn't have to be shallow for the benefits to be realised - solar-powered pumps can be used to circulate water through the island to increase exposure to microbial activity.

Floating Treatment Wetlands (FTWs) are a relatively new development. In a recent review of all the offerings on the market today, NIWA (the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric research, of New Zealand) identified BioHaven floating islands as the most innovative and advanced of all.



Calling All Writers

Several of the articles in the issue were contributed with assistance and encouragement from our members. Thanks.

If any WVNLA member would like to contribute an article and/or photos to the newsletter, please contact Beth Loflin. You may email or snail mail either. Please make sure photos are high resolution for print and while we do understand that you are in business - please do not make the articles too commercial. We would be pleased to include your web address and phone number so that if someone is interested in a purchase, etc., they can easily contact your company.

We want to spread the news and share the images of our members businesses and projects. Keep us up-to-date about you. contact:

Box 20284

Charleston, West Virginia 25362

304.553.1234 www.wvnla.org

email: wvnlassoc@gmail.com

