ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

BY DANIEL G. JACOBS MANAGING EDITOR

With an average 265 days of sunshine a year, it’s no wonder these homeowners wanted an outdoor space to enjoy their Carson City, NV, home. But with summer temperatures averaging near 90° F., a livable space meant incorporating mature trees with a new back yard.

Outdoor Environments of Nevada got an unexpected assist when the homeowners decided to renovate the residence.

An extension took the home deeper into the back yard and, essentially, eliminated the existing landscaping, says Sara Anderson, owner of the 5-year-old, Reno-based firm.

The project was completed in two phases, beginning with the back yard, which was basically dug up during the addition to the home.

“They ripped all of the grass out of the back yard,” Anderson says. “There was a lot of construction and demolition. There’s also a dry creek that runs through there. We installed grass that flowed in and over the dry creek. We wove the grass and the beds through the dry creek.”

The company also installed lighting in many of the 30- to 35-ft. trees providing shade in both the front and back of the home.

The work earned the company the Nevada Landscape Association’s (NLAs) 2008 President’s Trophy. The more than $100,000 project, which covered about an acre also earned Outdoor Environments the NLAs lighting award.

But it wasn’t easy. Construction of the

After a home renovation destroyed the Russell residence yard, Outdoor Environments went to work and earned two awards for redesigning and rebuilding the front and back yards.
home addition wreaked havoc on a lot more than just the grass.

"The back yard took us a month because we had to build small walls, design drainage and the patio, and run all-new irrigation," Anderson says. "It was time-consuming. It's easier to start from scratch. When you're trying to redo stuff it's more time-consuming."

Outdoor Environments installed a large water feature in the back yard. Eight employees worked on the project — the back yard in the fall of 2007 and the front yard in the winter of 2008.

In addition to grass, Outdoor Environments installed irrigation systems in the front and back of the property (Carson City gets more snow, 22 in. per year, than rain, 12 in.). One difficulty was meshing what remained on the grounds with the homeowner's desire for a livable space in the back yard.

"The back part of the property was planted, but it wasn't utilized," Anderson says. "We used the shade so in the heat of the summer the client has a nice, cool patio area. We used the (existing) orchard with boulders and herbal plantings. But there's also patio area with full sun."

continued on page 54

This dry creek bed gave the Reno, NV-based landscape company an attractive landscape feature, which delighted the homeowners.

---

Jrco Heavy-duty Attachments for Commercial Mowers

Save Time • Save Labor
Offer More Services
Do more with your mower.

Tine Rake Dethatcher
Electric Broadcast Spreader

Call for Dealer 800.966.8442

www.jrcoinc.com

---

Berkshire Earthwings
patented tree staking systems
the professional's choice

Drive, then Pull to lock in place

Which would your customers prefer?

Call (413) 229-7919 or visit www.BerkshireEarthwings.com

---

TAKE YOUR OFFICE WITH YOU
CLIP2Go

GPS Tracking of Crews + Bilingual Directions + Start/Stop Times for each Job

Also with this amazing Software ...

- Route sheets for the crews
- Access to Customers, Jobs, Notes, History and Billing out in the field
- Modify information in the field and sync back to office
- Syncs with office via cable, Wi-Fi or cell phone (with data plan)
- Multi level password protection
- Spanish and English built in
- Requires CLIP, a Windows Mobile 5.0 device, TomTom mapping software, Microsoft MapPoint and GPS receiver.

Call 800-635-8485 to learn how to get started using CLIP2Go!

www.clip.com
Introducing the Select Cut System. With all these innovative features, the Cub Cadet Commercial TANK’s new deck is a marvel of engineering. It’s easy to see why the Select Cut System is the most advanced design available. Adjustability to match your mowing requirements means satisfied customers, and its efficiency contributes to your bottom line. Visit your local Independent Dealer for more information, or call 877-835-7841.

www.cubcommercial.com

Introducing the Select Cut System. With all these innovative features, the Cub Cadet Commercial TANK’s new deck is a marvel of engineering. It’s easy to see why the Select Cut System is the most advanced design available. Adjustability to match your mowing requirements means satisfied customers, and its efficiency contributes to your bottom line. Visit your local Independent Dealer for more information, or call 877-835-7841.

www.cubcommercial.com

Introducing the Select Cut System. With all these innovative features, the Cub Cadet Commercial TANK’s new deck is a marvel of engineering. It’s easy to see why the Select Cut System is the most advanced design available. Adjustability to match your mowing requirements means satisfied customers, and its efficiency contributes to your bottom line. Visit your local Independent Dealer for more information, or call 877-835-7841.

www.cubcommercial.com

Introducing the Select Cut System. With all these innovative features, the Cub Cadet Commercial TANK’s new deck is a marvel of engineering. It’s easy to see why the Select Cut System is the most advanced design available. Adjustability to match your mowing requirements means satisfied customers, and its efficiency contributes to your bottom line. Visit your local Independent Dealer for more information, or call 877-835-7841.

www.cubcommercial.com

Introducing the Select Cut System. With all these innovative features, the Cub Cadet Commercial TANK’s new deck is a marvel of engineering. It’s easy to see why the Select Cut System is the most advanced design available. Adjustability to match your mowing requirements means satisfied customers, and its efficiency contributes to your bottom line. Visit your local Independent Dealer for more information, or call 877-835-7841.

www.cubcommercial.com
The biggest challenge was the level of integration required. Outdoor Environments had to harmonize the existing environment with a variety of new features.

"It was bringing those elements all together," Anderson says. "They have large existing trees, 30 ft. to 35 ft. tall.

It was utilizing all the things that were there and incorporating new plant materials, grass areas and patio areas, while making the yard function in a different way."

Included in the many elements in this project was the installation of a new driveway, which Anderson subcontracted. That part of the project entailed ripping out asphalt and installing 6,000 sq. ft. of pavers.

"The driveway took us three to four weeks," Anderson says.

While the back yard required the bulk of the changes, Outdoor Environments also addressed the front yard.

"We put in new sprinklers in the front," Anderson says. "There were only two planters that we changed out there. The rest of it we left remaining.

"We only changed out the things that really needed to be taken out and replaced."

A new irrigation system in the front and back yards helps keep the turfgrass green and growing — that and Reno's average 265 days of sunshine a year.
Echelon® turns follow-up applications into a much smaller job.

The preemergent crabgrass herbicide that works harder, so you don’t have to.

Imagine a spring herbicide application that controls crabgrass, goosegrass, yellow nutsedge and green kyllinga, all the while dramatically reducing broadleaf weeds. It’s possible with Echelon® herbicide from FMC, the preemergent crabgrass solution engineered to do more in a single application than any other product. And with less need for follow-up applications, Echelon saves you time, labor and herbicide costs. Get more out of your preemergent crabgrass application with the maximum control of Echelon. For more information about Echelon herbicide, log onto fmcprosolutions.com or contact your local FMC Sales Representative or FMC Sales Agent.
THE MISSION

The long-neglected landscape of an Atlanta Arts & Crafts property gets spruced up with a new pool and some special extras.

"What an opportunity to work with such a dynamic piece of property, wonderful clients, and beautiful pieces of architecture," enthuses Adam Huber, who designed and led this installation project. He is a landscape architect with Roswell, GA-based Ed Castro Landscape, and worked on the project with colleague Melda Sertkaya.

The home's new owners had decided that their overgrown landscape was in "desperate need" of a new strategy, Huber says. To that end, the project focused on simple, clean lines and contrasting areas.

A pool, several outdoor terraces and a new overflow parking area were installed, as were a front meadow with a grass paver system and a play lawn. Lighting was also added.

Stepping stone paths with gravel in between link the pedestrian circulation throughout the property. A side yard terrace provides a transition area and blends well with the natural woodland feel throughout, while masses of plantings add a colorful foreground to the distant pool setting.

Although the challenges on this project were relatively few, proper drainage was an issue along the frontage of the property. This was handled by installing a dry creek bed. As an extra measure, the adjacent overflow parking area has a gravel base with special soils, creating an eco-friendly grass paver area.

The clients were pleased with the transformation. "This outdoor environment will be enjoyed for many years to come," Huber adds.
Ed Castro Landscape offers design, construction, maintenance and horticultural services for the Greater Atlanta market. Founded in 1992, the company has more than 85 employees and focuses on high-end residential — although its team works with a wide variety of clients and budgets. This project was a Merit Winner in the Professional Landcare Network’s (PLANET’s) 39th annual Environmental Improvement Awards program and Grand Award winner for the 2008 MALTA (Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turf Association) Professional Landscape Awards. For more information, visit www.landcarenetwork.com.

THE WORK

1 | STONE PATIO. The front of the home now features a large Norway spruce and an inviting stone terrace, comprised of a large piece of bluestone set on mortar pads with low ground cover between.

2 | FROM DEAD SPACE TO COOL POOL. An overgrown and unusable area next to the existing “Little House” (see insert) lent itself to a potential pool location. The contrasting colors in the pool area now have a dramatic effect. Note the low-to-ground seating boulders brought into the terrace.

3 | MAKING THE GRADE. Granite walls that match existing materials on site were constructed to level the pool terrace area. Before, there was a distinct difference in grade.

4 | KEEPING DRY. A dry creek bed was created to handle a wet area on the property, while the grass paver system serves as overflow guest parking. Drainage was the main challenge with this project.

5 | OVERFLOW PARKING. An area next to the garage was reclaimed to serve as an additional pervious parking area, with a granite wall added. Now the homeowners can do more entertaining without having to worry about guest parking.
Many property owners want to hide their garbage dumpsters, electrical boxes and other infrastructure features from plain sight. There is a right way and a wrong way to provide attractive screening without drawing undue attention to these areas. Unnatural spacing between ornamental plantings is a common issue.

Most times doing nothing around these features is the best answer. Doing nothing allows the eye to pass over the feature. Far too many times, contractors add a single line of plants around the outside of the structure. Such a display of neatly pruned or sheared shrubs only serves to draw your eye toward the very feature you are trying to de-emphasize. A better approach is to install three to five plants in a more naturalized planting scheme. This has the desired effect of allowing the eyes to pass over and through the area. Planting this way makes a necessary but undesirable feature blend with the surrounding landscape.
IA RE-ENERGIZES WITH NEW LOGO, TAGLINE

The recent 2008 Irrigation Show was jammed with events and products to address growing concern over water issues. 

BY RON HALL EDITOR-AT-LARGE

As concerns over water issues, especially landscape irrigation, accelerates the Irrigation Association (IA) is stepping up its efforts to meet these concerns.

The IA, during its recent 2008 Irrigation Show in Anaheim, CA, unveiled a new logo and tagline — "Smart practices. Sustainable solutions" — which is the most visible signal of the IA's mission and its members' commitment to efficient water management.

The scuttling of the previous logo and tagline after 30 years also points to the IA's growing focus on the Green Industry. This was reinforced by the larger presence of landscape- and golf-focused suppliers over agricultural irrigation suppliers at the trade show, which attracted 340 exhibiting companies.

The new logo design, with its stylized green leaf and the blue drop, emphasizes the growing cooperation between the living plant industry and water agencies for water management best practices.

"As we expand our efforts to promote efficient irrigation and the importance of working with irrigation experts, we need a brand that helps policymakers, consumers and those outside the irrigation industry understand who we are and what we're about," said incoming IA President Stephen W. Smith, CEO of Aqua Engineering in Fort Collins, CO.

The IA's new officers and board members (and the industry in general) face a number of water-related issues and programs during 2009, which was reflected in the brutally full schedule of educational sessions, committee and strategy meetings at the conference. More than 500 attendees attended educational sessions and certification exams.

Making WaterSense
One of the larger presences at the conference was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense program. Its broad goal, which it promotes by attracting partners and labeling water-efficient products, is to save water and protect the environment.

In the three years since its launch, the program has attracted hundreds of "partners" — contractors, water agencies, governmental bodies and supplier companies. Landscape professionals can become WaterSense partners when they're certified through one of four IA certification programs.

During the IA's business meeting, the EPA recognized Timothy Malooly, as its WaterSense Irrigation Partner of the Year. Malooly is president of Irrigation Consultants as well as Control and Irrigation by Design, two related irrigation firms in Plymouth, MN. His companies designed and installed the water-efficient irrigation system for the first residential project to receive Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program.

Grower issues
Also during the 2008 show, the IA held its second annual Grower Forum, attracting nearly 100 industry professionals. A panel of five water and environmental experts discussed water reliability challenges facing California's farmers, the role of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the water supply for the state's growing population as well as the need for efficient water use by all sectors, and new water storage and conveyance.

The Forum was co-hosted by the California Agricultural Irrigation Association and sponsored by John Deere Water Technologies.

For expanded coverage of the IA's 2008 Irrigation Show, visit www.landscapemanagement.net.
**New versatility**

The new Brillion LSS6 seeder features mounting capabilities for both skid steer loaders and tractors, adding flexibility to landscape management. The LSS6 seeder uses Brillion's time-proven blade agitator metering system to provide accurate and reliable seed placement for a wide variety of seed sizes.

The LSS6 itself is 84 inches wide with a seeding width of 72 inches and a hopper capacity of 4 1/2 bushels.

To find out how the versatile new LSS6 Skid Steer Landscape Seeder can work for you, contact your local Brillion dealer or call Brillion Iron Works for more information.

---

**Green blocks**

Integrity Block provides a green replacement for concrete block. The replacement is environmentally friendly and meets the same performance standards as existing materials. It can be used for structural, architectural and landscape applications that can generate valuable LEED credits.

www.integrityblock.com or 650/641-3104

---

**Extra traction**

Caterpillar's new 279C, 289C and 299C are compact additions to its line of rubber-track loaders. They feature two-speed drive systems, a maximum speed of 8.5 mph, and steel-embedded track and steel undercarriage components for durability.

www.cat.com or 309/675-1000

---

**Strong in snow**

The auger housing on Husqvarna's new XLS snow thrower series is 40% stronger than its standard auger housing for added strength and durability. A high-speed impeller throws snow up to 50 ft. Other features include an aggressively serrated auger, maintenance-free gearbox, halogen headlight, power steering and built-in hand warmers.

www.usa.husqvarna.com or 800/HUSKY-62

---

**Big dog**

Features of Kuhns Power Equipment’s Power Dog hydraulic powered tiller include dual rotating tines, a quick-adjust tilling depth, variable speed on the go, and clean, easy-to-adapt controls. The series, which is made in the U.S. and includes Power Dog 209 and Power Dog 213, also increases ground clearance and evens the soil as you till.

866/505-8085

---

**Brillion Iron Works, Inc.**

www.brillionfarmeq.com

(800) 409-9749

©2006 Brillion Iron Works, Inc.