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Truck attachments for transport, storage

Moving heavy equipment and tools is easy with the right truck accessories.



Truck Craft's TC-100 pickup dumper features a rear window protector.

■ The green industry is an industry that's laden with accessories. Tools, sprayers and other heavy equipment have to be trucked around, but it has to be done with safety and efficiency.

We received a great response to our last LM Reports on trailers. Here's more of what's available:

Art's Way Manufacturing Co., Inc., has applied its experience with farm equipment to the lawn and landscape market with the Mega Haul line of three wagons and two trailers. Their product line includes:

- a heavy-duty, conventional wagon for yard work; a flat-bed wagon for industrial and commercial markets;
- a tandem trailer for pulling behind a lawn tractor;
- and the Uni-Trailer, a universal trailer

designed to give ATV owners a small utility trailer to pull behind their ATV. Ron Hottes, president of Art's Way, says the products have been sparking interest. "We were very surprised with the market acceptance of the pilot run," says Hottes. "The acceptance of the test market units made it crystal clear that there is a need in these markets," for company products.

Truck Craft manufactures the TC-100 pickup dumper with a rear window protector. A tarp system can be added to completely protect the load in the bed.

Good dump attachments such as the Truck Craft model should include a variety of features, such as seamless floors; three-way tailgates; a bed wide enough for a full sheet of plywood; and easy installation, with no welding or cutting required. (The Truck Craft unit installs with four bolts and one wire in less than two hours.)

The **Stahl** company's Landmaster is also a tool and equipment storage unit. The dump bed features tapered side walls to accommodate service body sites, and are reinforced with a full length rib for rigidity.

A curbside horizontal door is equipped with cable stops to hold the door in a 90° open position, to become a handy work table.

Different sizes are available from Stahl: a 60-inch, 2.5 cu.yd. model, or a medium and light duty 84-inch model.

The Reading Body Works, Inc. has been making service bodies and pickup caps for 40 years. Reading products are made of two-sided, A-60 zinc-coated, galvaneal steel.



The Spacemaker Service Body from Reading Body Works, Inc. has room for nursery supplies and tools.



The Art's Way trailer is new to the green industry. A heavy-duty wagon is designed for conventional landscape applications.

An exclusive priming process fights rust and corrosion better. Other features include flange-mounted rubber door seals, slam action rivet-on locks, and stainless steel bolt-on hinges.

—Terry McIver

Circle No.'s

Art's Way	200
Reading	201
Stahl	202
Truck Craft	203

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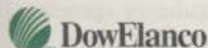
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Wetlands mitigation: what the law requires

A good environmental consulting firm can help you avoid problems, or take care of those that have cropped up.

by John B. Calsin, Jr.

■ "Our approach to the wetlands creation process is not to dictate where the created wetlands should be, but rather to have the landscape 'tell us' where it can succeed," says Mark Gutshall.

Ideally, this is how Gutshall works. Realistically, the ideal is not always attainable. Sometimes there is a problem.

Gutshall is president of Landstudies Inc. of Oxford, Pa., an environmental consulting firm that specializes in technical, and regulatory planning and services concerning wetlands and forests.

One of the typical problems, Gutshall says, is when a state, county, township or neighbor "blows the whistle" on work that was previously done to a former wetland. If it was filled improperly or impacted upon without a permit and has to be restored, then an enforcement action or after-the-fact permit is required.

Why would a landscaper, golf course superintendent or developer want a wetland created? Are the services of an environmental consulting firm necessary? How are wetlands created? And what is involved in the permit process?

Some answers—A wetland is more than just damp soil or a water-filled hole in the ground that some government regulator is making you sweat bullets over.

At an office campus or golf course, a wetland can be incorporated into an open water irrigation pond to eliminate the sterile look.

Wetlands can be integrated into a golf course or multi-unit complex, such as a townhouse landscape, for wildlife habitat or to enhance the presentation of a hole or tee.

In a community, a wetland can be used to create a nature center.

If you understand that none of these happen overnight, and then follow the

plans of an environmental consulting firm, the process can be much easier.

If you are about to enter into a wetlands project, you might want to maximize your property use while minimizing any risk exposure. You will also expect all proper permits to be submitted to avoid

tion, both federal and state;

- mitigation/restoration;
- habitat evaluations;
- stream macroinvertebrate studies;
- water quality analysis;
- land planning and feasibility studies;

and

• forest stand delineations and forest conservation plans in compliance with state legislation.

The permit process—While the balance of power has shifted in Washington, and there is talk of easing some environ-



If you are about to enter into a wetlands project, consider maximizing your property use while minimizing any risk exposure.

potential enforcement actions against the project. And that's where an environmental consulting firm comes into play.

The first step is an investigation by the firm to determine the presence or absence of wetlands in the study area and to give their approximate size and location. According to Gutshall, the search is usually relatively inexpensive and extremely informative.

When some type of wetlands action is necessary, the consulting firm should be a major player throughout the project's life. Gutshall recommends finding a firm that can provide:

- wetlands delineations;
- agency coordination/permit prepara-

mental restrictions, it cannot be counted on for some time. The qualified wetlands consultant understands the rules and responsibilities that federal and state agencies have concerning wetlands regulations and permit reviews.

The wetlands consultant ordinarily works with the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service and other various state and local agencies with which you may not personally have experience.

The requirements for obtaining a permit varies with the project's degree of difficulty, the size and type of impact being proposed. For instance, a golf cart crossing is much easier to secure than filling a wetlands to place a green or tee. Quality of the wetlands is also considered in this process.

As painful as it might sound, Gutshall believes in involving regulatory agencies

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 Confront



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in all phases of a project. Environmental consultants, like his, schedule pre-application meetings, on-site inspections, permit preparation requirements, project presentations and follow-ups—before restoring or creating the wetland.

"We are creating wetlands more often than restoring them," Gutshall observes.

The actual restoration or creation is not just sticking a shovel in the ground, moving dirt and channeling water, either. Some additional considerations:

- Site selection, collection and interpretation of hydrologic data, and plant community association. (Hydrologic data directly affects site location because both surface and groundwater and their ability to be directed, redirected or managed dictate wetland placement.)

- Soil analysis and suitability, such as the capability of retaining and perched water.

- Construction coordination with contractors.

- Selection and planting of native plant material.

- Non-cooperative weather.

Some problems that might arise—some of which can be foreseen and some which cannot—are:

- Time scheduling for site grading may

Site selection (above) and planting of native plant material (below) are appropriate considerations when dealing with wetlands.



not coincide with the availability of plant material, leading to not planting the desired plants at the appropriate time.

- Too much precipitation at the time construction is scheduled.

- Once the actual work begins, the site itself may not be exactly the way the cursory finding indicated, and modifications may be necessary. This requires flexibility from the design team and the permitting agencies. (This is where a good consultant is necessary.)

If someone is in trouble because a permit was not obtained and an enforcement

Definitions

Compensatory mitigation:

the actual creation of a wetland, following the mitigation process

Delineation:

the process of designing the boundary between wetlands and non-wetlands

Enforcement action:

a regulatory agency's requirement that a wetland be restored or a similar amount of wetland created, following a report of non-permitted work

Hydrologic data:

measuring or observing the amount, frequency and duration of water that's either on site or under ground to assess or predict what the level of amount of water would be for a given time or season

Mitigation:

avoiding, modifying and minimizing the impact of new construction on wetlands, as required by regulatory agencies

Perched water table:

clay layer underneath the surface at any given depth in which water becomes trapped between the surface and clay layer; occurs naturally or can be man-made

Restoration:

the enhancement or recovery of a degraded or low quality wetland

—J.C.

action is initiated, an environmental consulting firm can be especially helpful. With its help, a sound compensatory mitigation plan and prudent interaction with regulating agencies may pull a superintendent or contractor out of the regulatory quagmire.

—The author is a frequent contributor to LM. He is based in West Chester, Pa. For more information on Landstudies Inc., write to Mark Gutshall, P.O. Box 97, Oxford, PA 19363, or phone (610) 932-3762.

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Installing landscape timbers: a lucrative marketing opportunity

You can charge for 'pieces of art' rather than just landscape enhancements with this type of hardscaping.

by James E. Guyette
Contributing Editor

■ Each year an estimated one billion board feet of treated wood products are installed in American landscapes, and business owners nationwide are finding that splintering off into this type of service can build up the bottom line.

But no matter how tempting timber may be, you need to be in touch with the technical skills required before taking saw in hand. An improperly installed project can go against the grain of any local building inspector—and create ill will among clients, too.

Design developments by the makers of concrete block products has some consumers opting instead for stonework, but "wood still has that mystique about it; it's still popular," reports Dan Bywalec, president of D&B Landscaping Inc., Detroit, Mich.

D&B has been installing wooden landscape projects for about 18 years, and Bywalec believes that some property owners may balk at wood because of previous bouts with inferior products.

"People are apprehensive because they might have had timbers and they rotted," he explains. "People were disillusioned with the product, and it's not so much the wood but who was doing the treating." Improperly treated wood simply will not hold up.

Helpful hints—Other suggestions:

- **Get the right wood** for your region of the country.
- **Hang on to paperwork** when purchasing wood, "just in case something's rotten on down the road," says Bywalec. "You always have to keep the records on those timber jobs because some suppliers will say, 'Those aren't our timbers,'" if there's a quality control problem.
- **Know your supplier.**
- **Don't skimp on quality.**



There's no doubt about it: wood has a certain 'mystique' about it, but it takes design sense to build an appealing wood landscape structure.

• **Buy the proper product for the job at hand**, advises Fred Sydow of the Sydow Construction Co., based outside of Jacksonville, Fla. "Anything that goes into the ground needs a higher grade of treatment," says Sydow, whose company builds gazebos, fancy stairways, waterfalls, planters and retaining walls.

• **Call for help** at the slightest hint of any problem with a construction project, Sydow emphasizes. Good carpentry skills and design talents are a requirement, and it's simply not worth it to wing it, he notes.

• **Work with licensed landscape architects** at the design stage, and then follow the plans correctly in the building stage, Bywalec urges. "You have someone to stand next to you as long as you put it in the way he (or she) drew it."

When building a retaining wall, for example, water runoff patterns must be addressed and you need to guard against future erosion. "If you're building a timber retainer

wall, it's very important that you have the proper drainage." The wall should be backed with a suitable fabric material and it should have a T-shaped "deadman" going back at least four to six feet inside the area being retained. "If you don't have a 'deadman' in there the wall will fall over," Bywalec warns.

• **Be creative.** With the competition from concrete pavers and their spiffy design innovations, wooden projects need to have some bark to them, so-to-speak. "It's going to take some creativeness to build a (wood) wall and make it attractive in the 1990s," Bywalec observes.

"If you have to retain soil, why not make it something to look at?" challenges Kim Kocher, president of Stonewater Landscapes, Oakland, Calif. "It's an artistic outlet for me, but I also make it very functional," she explains, adding that she frequently consults with other professionals to ensure that everything is acceptable. "I get talked out of

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a lot," she reveals. "We do everything to code and standard construction practices."

Kocher's work tends to be at the high end of the design spectrum, and among her specialties is constructing what she calls "landscape rooms." These are essentially walls in a yard that resemble the walls of a house. They may have French doors or glass window panes that reflect



the colors of plant materials. In drought-stricken California she'll also install irrigation heads that create the illusion of rain outside the "window" while watering the flowers and adding an element of sound to the piece. "Every water feature we do is water tight—there's not a wasted drop of water," she stresses.

The designs are considered works of art, rather than fences, Kocher explains. "The free-standing landscape rooms serve as an alternative to fence heights and allow homeowners to achieve as much privacy as they desire without limitations to city fence



Kim Kocher, here with her father, Joe, is president of Oakland, California's Stonewater Landscapes. The company offers customers a variety of wood structures for high-end landscapes, as shown in the work-in-progress at left.



to \$22 to \$28. "I give my customers the options from high end to low end—it's just like buying a car," says Bywalec, adding also that "you have to look at it from

an artistic point of view."

codes." The works are often set off by including objects of "urban ore," which is what Kocher calls old-fashioned cast-off items such as washtubs, old pots and the like.

Pricing—These landscape room projects can cost a homeowner \$5,000 to \$11,000. In Detroit, a wooden retaining wall project can be priced \$12 to \$15 a face foot. A standard stonework front can be \$18 to \$20 a face foot, with fancier designs upping the price

The best selling point for wood work tends to be word-of-mouth advertising from satisfied customers. Sydow points out that he advertises in the Yellow Pages, makes his presence known to landscape managers, and he presents a book of photographs when pitching potential customers. Says Sydow: "They usually see what I've built or they see my portfolio."

Using wood in the landscape: tips

by Brian Lotz

■ Here are some important considerations when choosing wood for landscape/golf course projects:

□ Natural hardwoods make excellent bridges (pedestrian and vehicular), walkways, shelters, docks, piers, terraces, site furniture, light and sign posts, and retaining/noise abatement walls.

□ Use the right tree/wood species for the job. For instance, 12- by 110-foot clear span through truss bridge in the City of Batavia, N.Y. used "Ekki" for structural members because of its strength and availability in large sectional sizes. "Jarrah" was selected for

the rails, ballisters, decking and light fixtures for its superior aesthetic appearance and stability.

□ Use kiln-dried wood where you need a stable material. Kiln-drying stabilizes wood to a moisture content equal to the air which surrounds it. In many cases, no maintenance or preservative need be used.

□ Contact natural hardwood representatives before writing specifications for bid or to allow alternative bids. Pointing out environmental concerns will enhance the ability of bidders to properly respond in term of economics and suitability to the job.

□ Use natural wood sound barriers

where golf courses or landscapes are exposed to high vehicular traffic.

□ Knowledge of installation and maturation characteristics is also important. For instance, Ekki is imported only in a fresh-cut stage and has a moisture content of 35-40 percent. When used for smaller sectional areas, it is prone to movement from shrinking, twisting and warping. Therefore, steel dowels must be used for fastening.

—The author is director for Timer Holdings/Timbatech in Milwaukee. He has spent years providing his expertise to project managers.