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LANDSCAPE COMPANY

Spring Is In The Air!

Why is it we welcome Spring with such enthusiasm each year? I think it's the chance to match the season's rush of growth and renewal with our own dreams and the opportunity of a fresh start.

Whether you are awaiting the return of robins, orioles, and blue-birds; eagerly comparing seed choices or starting seedlings; inspecting the snow crust for the first shoots of daffodils and tulips we all feel the energy and revitalization of Spring.

With those thought in mind, I also want to welcome you to the re-birth of our quarterly newsletter! In coming issues you'll find plant profiles, recipes, landscape tips and reminders, bird and animal features, and DLC employee tidbits.

Soon I'll be off to trade my own garden dreams for the smell of dirt on my hands, that is once it stops snowing!

~Robin Tupper, Landscape Designer

Plant Profile - Rhododendron "Olga Mezitt" Cary Award Winner 2006

This is a reliable, small-leaved, early rhododendron that welcomes Spring in bright clear pink flowers, the interiors freckled with deep red spots. It flowers in early May, and performs best when grown in full to partial sun in good garden soil, 'Olga Mezitt' will reach 4-5' tall and 3' wide in ten years. This introduction from Weston Nurseries is

named for the wife of Peter J. Mezitt, whose name is memorialized in Rhododendron 'PJM'. "Olga Mezitt" is hardy to zone 4 and besides a lush floral display in spring, it provides lustrous green, scented, disease resistant foliage in summer. The leaves turn to coppery-red shades in winter months providing interest all year long.



Rhododendron "Olga Mezitt"

Nicole's Memo

If you find yourself passing by our shop on Lisbon Street through the course of your travels, please take a moment to check out our newly renovated offices. Our guys have been hard at giving our offices a complete facelift, and the final result turned out fresh and modern, while still maintaining a homey feel. So stop in, say hi, and take a tour to see what our versatile landscapers can do even in the off-season!

~ Nicole Davis, Vice President/Office Manager

"In the spring,
at the end of the day,
you should smell
like dirt."

~Margaret Atwood

In The Flower Garden

Firewitch Pinks (*Dianthus* 'Feuerhexe')



Members of the **Perennial Plant Association** vote each year to select a perennial with good performance over a wide range of climates. The 2006 winner is **Firewitch Pinks**, or *Dianthus* 'Feuerhexe'.

'Feuerhexe' is hardy in USDA Zones 3 to 9, or perhaps into Zone 2 with reliable snowcover in winter.

This sun-loving plant is a German selection of hybrid Cheddar Pinks first introduced in 1957, but it was not really known in North America until the late 1980s. It's a low-growing alpine perennial featuring evergreen leaves of blue-grey with a grassy texture, with upright stems to 8 inches that bear single magenta-pink blooms about an inch across. Flowers are very

fragrant, smelling sweetly of cloves, and appearing in mid to late spring. A quick trim or clipping of the spent blooms and stems often results in repeat flowering later in the summer or fall. Use Firewitch Pinks in the rock garden, for edging sunny borders, on slopes or walls or even in mixed containers. All Pinks prefer a well-drained sandy or sandy-loam soil, which encourages them to stay compact. They are very drought-tolerant once estab-

lished. Good companions are other rock garden perennials such as *Sedum*, Hens-and-chicks (*Sempervivum*) or Rock Rose (*Helianthemum*), since all thrive in full sun and well-drained conditions.

Do not cut Pinks back in the autumn, since they are evergreen. A light clipping after the first round of blooms is all they require.

- adapted from the Perennial Plant Association fact-sheet.

From Gary's Desk

Wednesday the 14th of March I watched the morning news and couldn't believe the weatherman was forecasting eight to ten inches of snow. I thought to myself, "What the heck is he talking about, it's 50°F and the snow is melting faster than a butter on a hot tin roof". Sure enough, that was the first time this year the weatherman was right. I now have a four foot pile of snow in front of my window, but as I write this the temperature is back to 37°F degrees and rising so hope does spring eternal. I look forward to working with our customers this year and seeing what we can do to beautify their world.

New Services

A new program we are launching this season in the Lawn Care Program is a customer referral incentive. We feel that it is important to recognize how valuable your opinions are to our business! To show our appreciation when you send others our way, we are offering you a credit of \$20.00 for any new client you refer who enrolls in our Lawn Care Program. Simply have your contacts mention your name when they enroll in the service.

In the spring,
I have counted
136 different
kinds of weather
inside of
24 hours.
Mark Twain



Brandon Bichrest - DLC 2006 Rookie of the Year

Brandon Bichrest was awarded the title Rookie of the Year in December at the annual Davis Landscape Co., Inc. Holiday party after a secret ballot vote among all Davis employees.

Brandon began working at DLC after graduating from Lisbon High School in June 2006. He resides in Lisbon with his parents Linwood “Woody” and Laura Bichrest, and has a strong knowledge of construction techniques from working alongside his father. His outside interests include fishing and snowmobiling.

New Employee Spotlight ~ Chris Turmelle

Chris Turmelle is the new Lawn Care Program Manager at Davis Landscape Co., Inc. Chris holds a Master Commercial Applicator’s license with the State of Maine and has eight years experience in lawn care.

Chris says, “It will be my honor to continue the Davis legacy of quality in this department and to be attentive to your needs. I look forward to the upcoming season and will hopefully meet you when I am out to begin services on your lawn. As in prior seasons, we will continue with the same schedule of services, unless contacted by you. It will be my pleasure to answer any questions you may have at any time.”

Leo Demers Selected DLC 2006 MVP

In December at the annual Davis Landscape Co., Inc. Holiday party, Leo Demers was chosen as MVP for 2006. The MVP is selected in a secret ballot among all Davis employees.

Leo has been with Davis Landscape Co., Inc since 1989. He started at the bottom of the ranks and has worked himself up to being one of the finest employees in the history of the company, and is currently the Hardscape Supervisor. Conrad says of Leo, “His attention to detail and perfection make him second to none”. He resides in Auburn with his wife Wendy and their recent addition, baby son Nicholas. He enjoys fishing and riding motorcycles.

