



*East Coast landscape Design*

# Homefront

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## The History of St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day, colloquially St. Paddy's Day or Paddy's Day, is an annual feast day which celebrates Saint Patrick (circa 385–461 AD), one of the patron saints of Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century.

The day is the national holiday of Ireland. It is a bank holiday in Northern Ireland and a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Montserrat, and the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador. In the rest of Canada, Great Britain, Australia, the United States and New Zealand, it is widely celebrated but is not an official holiday.

The modern secular holiday is based on the original Christian saint's feast day also thought to be the date of the saint's death. In 1737, Irish immigrants to the United States began observing the holiday publicly in Boston.



### In Ireland

On St. Patrick's Day, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion in Ireland. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions, and fireworks.

### The First Parade

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates.

### Going Green

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore, and Russia. All around the world, St. Patrick's Day is bursting with folklore; from the shamrock to the leprechaun and to pinching those that are not wearing green, it's truly a holiday that has been embraced by many cultures.

# email the expert

**Q** – I'd like to make sure that I'm on the right maintenance schedule for my deck. How often should I have it cleaned and how long does sealant last?

- Bob Ryan

**A** – That's a great question Bob. Many people realize too late that without proper maintenance the lifespan of your deck can be surprisingly short.

First let me say that spring, summer, and fall are typically the best time for deck maintenance. The key factor is temperature. Almost all deck preservative products cure and dry properly when the temperature is at least 50 degrees.

Cleaning and sealing your deck depends on climate, weather, and sun exposure. Decks in the direct sunlight tend to fade and dry out. Decks in humid and shady areas may grow algae and fungus spores. Both problems require attention yearly, or no later than two seasons apart.

One additional factor to consider is your choice of products. Having your deck cleaned and sealed with quality products will help prolong your enjoyment of your outdoor getaway.

*You can e-mail the Expert by sending your questions to [mark@eclandscapedesign.com](mailto:mark@eclandscapedesign.com). Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question.*

## THANK YOU FRIENDS FOR YOUR REFERRALS

We cannot thank everyone enough who has referred East Coast Landscape Design to their friends or family this past month. Your kind actions are really what make us a success. Here are a few:

Susan Sekera referred the Klementowiczs  
Mr and Mrs Hall referred the Bright Family  
Mr and Mrs Salazar referred the Tucker Family

## Would you like to have the nicest home in the neighborhood?

Do you know we are experts in a variety of home improvement projects? If you're considering a new project for your home, please give us a call. We'll be happy to answer all of your questions and provide you with our expert advice.

Here's a list of some of the projects we specialize in:

Outdoor Kitchens	Architectural Designs
Fireplaces and Firepits	Low-voltage Lighting
Patios and Walkways	Ponds and Waterfalls
Stone Retaining Walls	Rainwater Reharvesting

## famous quote

"As a rule, men worry more about what they can't see than about what they can."

Julius Caesar.

## Looking to Add Some Color?

Here is a pretty flower to help get your garden ready for spring:

### Trumpet Lily Regale –



Trumpet Lilies are one of the most fragrant flowers that can be planted in your garden! The Regale Trumpet Lily is shown here. Distinctive trumpet-shaped blooms are some of the largest produced by any lily. They are truly breathtaking as they reach heights of 4-5 feet. Excellent plants for naturalizing, they bloom in late summer. Good for cutting.



"YOUR MOTHER AND I FOUND OUT YOU'VE BEEN BLOGGING. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT WE'D LIKE YOU TO STOP."

## JUST FOR LAUGHS :)

A report by Standish Group says that adoption of open source software saves consumers over \$60 billion per year. A number so great that it makes one wonder; in a virtual world without walls and fences, who needs Windows and Gates?

## “Green” Lawns can Help the Environment And Save You Some Money!

## trivia challenge

Looking to make some upgrades to your landscaping this year? Make sure you keep the environment in mind during your planning. A lot of people are already aware of how to conserve energy within their homes, but here are some tips to think about for your surrounding landscaping.

### Incorporate Native Plants

When planning your landscape, incorporating native plants is always a good idea. They are adapted to your area and require less maintenance and water than exotic plants. You can also reduce the need for pesticides because they're more resistant to pests and diseases. You don't need to exclude foreign plants from your landscaping, but incorporating natives in your plan can make a big difference.

### Conserve Energy with Solar Powered Lights

Using a few solar powered landscaping lights, as opposed to an entirely electric powered lighting

system, can help to reduce your overall energy use.

### Use Natural/Organic Fertilizers for Maintenance

Using just a couple natural products (fertilizer, pesticides, etc.) can help by reducing the amount of potentially harmful wastewater runoff in the environment. This can also create a healthier environment for your family and pets.

### Plant Shade Trees to Reduce Energy Use

Planting deciduous trees (trees that drop their leaves in the fall) is a great way to help reduce the work load on your HVAC systems by reducing the direct sun on your home. When these trees drop their leaves, they also allow sunlight to warm a home during the winter. If possible, plant tall trees on the east and west-facing sides of the house. Planting trees on the south facing side of your home can help shade the roof, as the sun will not hit that side of the house much during the summer.

Julius Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March, 44 BC. In the Roman calendar the term “ides” was used for the 15th day of the months of March, May, July, and October. What day of the month did “ides” refer to in the other eight months of the year?

- A: 12th
- B: 13th
- C: 14th
- D: 16th

The first correct answer faxed to **301-476-7483** or e-mailed to **mark@eclandscapedesign.com** will be this month's winner of 2 Movie Passes



## WE WELCOME OUR NEW FRIENDS INTO THE EAST COAST LANDSCAPE DESIGN FAMILY

We believe in treating all of our clients like family, just ask any of our longtime clients. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and hope to see you again very soon. Here are just a few of the new members of the family.

- Mr & Mrs. Greer Hoyt
- Mr. & Mrs. Royce Watson
- Ms. Deborah Murton and Family

Thank you and welcome to everyone who recently joined the East Coast Landscape Design family... we couldn't do it without YOU!

## REFER YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY AND GET A \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE

Many of our customers “find” us as a result of word of mouth. This simple, yet gracious, act by our customers has allowed us to be successful. For this generosity, we offer our gratitude and a token of our appreciation through our Referral Reward Program!

### Here's how:

1. Simply refer someone to our services by sharing our name, phone number, email or by giving them this newsletter.
2. Ask them to mention your name.
3. When your referral becomes our client we will automatically mail you a \$50 **East Coast Landscape Design** gift certificate.

When you refer your friends, neighbors or family, you've helped our business grow. Offering you this reward is our way of letting you know just how much we appreciate your actions

Remember to tell your friends to mention your name whenever they use our services!

# Sudoku Puzzler

The Rules of Sudoku ( sūdoku<sup>2</sup>)

The classic Sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares.

The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

The difficulty lies in that each vertical nine-square column, or horizontal nine-square line across, within the larger square, must also contain the numbers 1-9, without repetition or omission.

Every puzzle has just one correct solution.

	5	8	2					
4			9	8			5	
	7	2		3			9	
	9	5				7		8
		1				4		
8		6				5	3	
	3			7		6	2	
	8			2	9			5
					4	9	8	

For the solution to this issue's Sudoku Puzzler, email us at [you@youreemail.com](mailto:you@youreemail.com)



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## Green Tip

### A Better Nightlight

Take advantage of ultra-efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs) for your nightlights in hallways, kid's bedrooms, etc. LED technology is greener than standard incandescent, even fluorescent, lightbulbs because they generate almost no waste heat. Most of the electricity used is output as light.

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### WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING...

"From start to finish we felt like our project was in good hands. Our only regret is that we didn't have this done while our oldest son was still living at home with us. Thanks to you though, we can still enjoy it with the other children."