



PATHWAYS

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East Coast
Landscape, Inc.
301-421-4141

East Coast Landscape is a licensed landscaping company that provides landscape contractor services including landscape design, upgrades and installations. Our experienced landscape designers specialize in peaceful spaces, colorful perennials, garden themes, water gardens and features that are bursting with exciting colors and aromas.

Greetings From Mark

Dear Friend,

Even though our area didn't experience a harsh winter, there's no doubt most of us are still welcoming Spring with the same gusto that we always have.

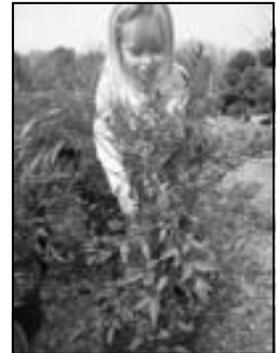
Our furry and feathered friends are eagerly anticipating Spring as well. There are some members of wildlife that we want to attract – birds and butterflies come to mind – and others, like deer, that we'd like to admire from afar. In this issue of the newsletter, I've included tips on how to attract both birds and butterflies. I hope you enjoy them, as well as an article on the latest in gardening trends.

At East Coast Landscape, we like to say that we want to be your exterior decorator! Different families have different needs and desires, and we can help with a variety of projects, including:

1. Designing and creating a landscape plan that enhances your home's beauty and property value;
2. Creating peaceful sanctuaries with waterscapes and landscapes;
3. Planting trees for beauty and shade; and
4. Designing and installing hardscape features, such as walkways, patios, and decorative walls.

Whether you want to create an exterior that makes a dramatic impact, want attract to butterflies and birds, or simply want to add to your existing landscape, East Coast Landscape is the place to call. Give us a call today at 301-421-4141 to schedule a free consultation.

Mark Simpson
www.eclandscapedesign.com



My daughter,
Sabrina,
appreciating some of
our beautiful, healthy
plants.



Attracting Butterflies

Color

Both birds and butterflies are visual creatures, and are naturally attracted to brightly colored fruits and flowers. Think shades of pinks, yellows, oranges, reds, purples, whites and blues.

Food

A blend of wildflowers and grasses that bloom from early Spring through early Fall will provide nourishment for the butterfly season. In addition, providing larval food plants is essential to keeping a steady flight of butterflies in view. Such food will attract females into your garden, where they can lay their eggs.

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How to Attract Birds to Your Garden

Imagine looking out your window while eating your breakfast and being treated to the frenzied flight of a hummingbird, the burst of color on a cardinal, or the melodic song of a mockingbird. Being able to enjoy the flight of nature need not be difficult. In fact, you really need to keep only three things in mind: food, cover, and water.

Food

To make sure that birds have enough food to feed on throughout the year, make sure your landscape has an assortment of plants that provide seeds, berries, nuts and other food.

One of the best sources of food for birds is deciduous plantings – plants whose leaves drop in cold weather. Likewise, evergreens provide much-loved and much-needed berries and seeds.



Cover

If you want your home's exterior to be a haven for birds, then spots providing shelter and a place for breeding are essential.

Think in terms of layering and diversity. Doing so, will virtually guarantee that you'll attract more birds – and they'll want to stay longer as well.

Water

There's no need to provide pools of water for birds. In fact, birds prefer shallow water – 2" to 3" deep.

For birdbaths, keep some pointers in mind:



1. Add some stones for smaller birds and butterflies to land on.
2. To prevent algae and harmful bacteria, empty and thoroughly scrub the birdbath every two to three days.



Plant your garden with birds and other wildlife in mind.

3. Consider placing your birdbath near the sound of gentling rolling water. You don't need to invest in an expensive water feature; even running a hose over large stones will do.

If you don't care for birdbaths or wish to avoid the required maintenance, consider filling a natural depression in the ground with water – you and the area's birds will be glad you did!



Chances are your budget and time might keep you from creating a bird sanctuary overnight. That's okay; it can be a gradual process. By providing food, cover, and water, you'll go along way to attracting our feathered friends.



Trends in Gardening

Making one's home as beautiful on the outside as it is on the inside is a trend that shows no signs of ending. Entertaining outdoors is more popular than ever before, and the following are some landscape projects that reflect that trend.

Water gardens are exploding in popularity. East Coast Landscape is installing various types of water gardens – from small pools with gentle bubblers, to huge ponds with breathtaking waterfalls, complete with fish and waterlilies! It doesn't matter whether your yard is flat, sloped, narrow or expansive. You'll enjoy the tranquility that a water feature brings, and beautiful birds, butterflies and other wildlife will enjoy it too!



Concerned about leakage and maintenance? Call us today at 301-421-4141 – we'll be happy to tell you how new materials and building processes have eliminated leakage and how biological filters have made maintenance simple.

Plain concrete is out. Walkways and driveways can be inviting, creative, and beautiful. At East Coast Landscape we can suggest attractive, structurally sound and cost-effective alternatives to concrete. It's a home improvement that you and your guests will enjoy for many years to come.

All-perennial gardens are being replaced. All perennial gardens don't capture a lot of attention in the winter months; that's why more families are adding shrubs – rich with a variety of colors and textures – and evergreens to their landscape. East Coast Landscape can help you choose a nice selection to complement your existing perennials.



Outdoor lighting is burning bright. Attractive outdoor lighting shines a spotlight on walkways, patios, walls and selected plants. Not only does outdoor lighting highlight your home's beautiful features, it also improves safety and security. Call East Coast Landscape to discuss how energy efficient and convenient outdoor lighting can be!

Lawns are becoming smaller. Lawns are becoming smaller, while groundcovers are increasing in variety and color options. The benefits to a smaller lawn are obvious – less mowing, fertilizing, and weed-control to worry about! Groundcover can take many forms – some are evergreen, others have colorful flowers, and some have both. Whether you want to lighten up dark spots in your garden, or want to make landscape maintenance easier, East Coast Landscape has a lot of options for you to consider.



Attracting Butterflies,

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Landscape

Like birds, butterflies enjoy edges and layers. When planning your garden, include plants and grasses that shelter butterflies from the wind. The sun is very important to the body temperature of butterflies, so consider arranging some flat rocks in a sunny, windless spot along an edge.

The following plants are great for attracting our fluttering friends to the garden: the daisy family, including sunflowers, marigolds, and zinnias; the pea, clove and legume family; the mint family; the parsley family; and the violet and pansy family.

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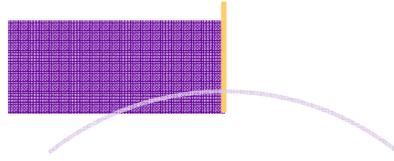
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East Coast Landscape brings you the
latest in landscape trends and tips on how
you can attract birds and butterflies!

