

# PATHWAYS

A PUBLICATION OF EAST COAST LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Spring 2008

East Coast  
Landscape  
Design  
301-421-4141

East Coast Landscape Design 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.

## A Word From Mark

President, East Coast Landscape Design

Well, we've made it through another East Coast winter, and now it's time to turn our attention to springtime.

While many of us have survived the cold by staying inside as much as possible, we'll soon want to enjoy all that the warmer days have to offer. Now is the ideal time to enhance or redesign your home's exterior landscape. A well-placed tree can add beauty, shade, and interest to your yard. A walkway made of pavers can add value and architectural detail to your home. And a well-planned landscape can give your home an instant "makeover."



As the owner of East Coast Landscape Design, I'm proud of the work that we've done for families throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia. I invite you to check out our portfolio at [www.eclandscapedesign.com](http://www.eclandscapedesign.com) to get ideas and gain motivation and inspiration.

For a complimentary consultation and estimate, please call me at 301-421-4141 or via our website, [www.eclandscapedesign.com](http://www.eclandscapedesign.com).

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue of our quarterly newsletter, which includes articles about the beauty and functionality of waterscapes and the affordability and ease of brick pavers. Also included is an easy recipe for a bird wreath – a project that even the youngest of children will enjoy making.

Sincerely,

Mark Simpson, Owner  
East Coast Landscape Design

## It's for the Birds

### What Does the USDA Have to Do with Residential Landscaping? A Lot!

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a Plant Hardiness Zone Map, which is tremendously helpful in determining which plants and trees do well in particular areas throughout our country. Our area – zones 7 and 8 – is an ideal area for some of the most beautiful and impressive trees available for home landscapes. Check out the specifics at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>.

The following are, according to the National Arbor Day Foundation, the 10 most popular trees in our area:

- √ Spruce, Colorado Blue
- √ Pine, White
- √ Boxwood, Korean
- √ Juniper, Bar Harbor
- √ Hemlock, Canadian
- √ Poplar, Hybrid
- √ Willow, Weeping
- √ Maple, Japanese Red
- √ Maple, Sugar
- √ Maple, Red

Remember, if you order by April 15th, you will receive a 10 percent discount on any of these "Top Ten Popular Trees!"

My daughter's second-grade class recently spent some time learning about how animals, particularly birds, fare during the winter months. Our chilly temperatures can make it tough on our feathered friends who don't fly



south during the cold season! To drive the point home, my daughter and her classmates made a birdseed wreath that proved to be very popular both with the students and the birds.

We tried the recipe at home and were delighted that it was affordable, easy, and effective in attracting birds to our backyard. Hope you and your family enjoy this craft as well.



### Birdseed Wreath

#### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 4 1/4 ounce packages, Knox unflavored gelatin
- 8 cups, high quality birdseed

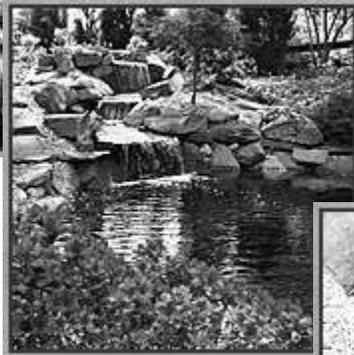
- Boil the water.
- Empty the gelatin into 8 tablespoons of cold water in a large bowl. Let sit for 1 minute.
- Add the boiling water and stir for about 3 minutes or until the gelatin has dissolved.
- Stir in the birdseed, mixing thoroughly.
- Let the mixture sit for a few minutes and then stir again. Repeat until the seed has fully absorbed the liquid.
- Spoon the mixture into a silicone Bundt pan. Place in the refrigerator for at least 3 hours.
- Remove the wreath from the silicone pan and let it dry overnight or longer on a cooling rack.
- Tie a loop around the wreath and enjoy watching the birds.

## Ponds—Form and Function Working



Just about everyone is drawn to the beauty and tranquility that is offered by home ponds, but concerns over cost and upkeep keep most families from installing a water feature. I hope the questions included in the sidebar

will help you realize that some misconceptions about water features are “all wet!”



## Paving the Way with Beauty

If you want to add update your home, while adding architectural detail, consider installing a pathway or a patio featuring pavers. East Coast Landscape Design, the leader in this area both in terms of design and installation, recommends this material for a number of reasons including the following:

- ✓ Pavers are four times stronger than concrete.
- ✓ Awe-inspiring designs can be achieved with the use of different shapes and colors of paver stones.
- ✓ Paving stones are non-skid, non-slip, and guaranteed to endure a lifetime of use and exposure to the elements without cracking or crumbling.
- ✓ Pavers are now manufactured to reduce fading and discoloration.
- ✓ Pavers are sand jointed, which eliminates the likelihood of joints cracking.
- ✓ Unlike some other materials, pavers don't expand or buckle when wet.



**Pavers are affordable, durable, and attractive.**

## Ponds Q&A

**Q:** How much maintenance is required?

**A:** An installed skimmer filter will take most of the work out of pond cleaning. In fact, you should spend less than 20 minutes a month on maintenance (emptying the net and rinsing a debris mat). In addition, an annual spring cleaning should take no more than one afternoon.

**Q:** How does the water stay clear?

**A:** Bacteria and enzymes seeded in your pond keep the water from getting murky.

**Q:** Are fish and plants necessary?

**A:** Aquatic plants not only add beauty and interest to ponds, they also help maintain the right balance of algae in the pond. It's your choice whether to have fish, but the truth is that fish do not require a lot of time or attention.

**Q:** What are the benefits of a waterscape?

**A:** Aside from the beauty that waterscapes offer, water features help to reduce noise pollution; attract butterflies, birds and other wildlife; bolster home values; and offer hours of enjoyment!

**Q:** How expensive are water features?

**A:** Projects vary in scope and cost. I invite you to contact us at 301-421-4141 to receive a complementary estimate.

# East Coast Landscape Design

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