



H.A.M.

Landscaping, Inc.

Spring 2008 Issue

Ham I Am By: Herrick A Mann

SNOW & SAND

The "S" word was snow, now it is sand. Anyone that has had the opportunity to visit our new office knows what I mean. If you have to work in Cleveland, Ohio during the winter you may as well make it a "Tropical Experience". Our new offices are painted and decorated in a Tropical/Caribbean theme with offsetting pastels, artwork, nautical charts and an extensive sand collection. Yes, I have collected sand from my own travels and have received many samples/gifts from relatives, friends and clients from their travels. Sounds a little weird; not when you see it. Sand

varies widely from just a few miles away. East coast Florida beach sand from Miami, Boynton Beach and South Beach varies greatly; also Gulf Coast Florida beach sand from Sanibel and Captiva only miles apart, look very different. Yet, put it in a glass vile next to each other and sand from Sicily, Italy looks much like sand from Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Come by and check it out or better yet, if you happen to travel somewhere beachy and exotic, bring me a 8oz. or more sample of sand (a little more than 1/2 a water bottle). We will add it to our collection and give you a HUGE shout out in our next newsletter like this:

A BIG THANKS TO DEBRA ZABELL for her sand sample from Swami Beach, Oceanside, CA.



Herrick's Sand Collection

NEW ADDITIONS By: Ari Benjamin

Hello, I am Ari Benjamin and I am the newest member of the H.A.M. Landscaping team. I have joined the company as its Lead Designer and Sales Representative. For eighteen years I have been designing and building some of NEO's most imaginative and unique outdoor living spaces and landscapes. Having lived and worked in this area my entire career, I am familiar with the wide variety

of plants and hardscape materials that make our landscapes an extension of ourselves. I was born and raised in the Heights area and now reside in Solon with my beautiful wife of 11 years and two young sons. In between the endless school functions, soccer and swimming lessons and every 5 to 9 year old in my neighborhood coming over to play with my kids, I enjoy creating artwork out of copper, wood

and anything else I can get my hands on. I also love to travel and have found many ideas and inspirations that have found their way into my designs and landscapes over the years.

I look forward to meeting you to discuss, learn and imagine whatever it is you would like to see in your landscapes.

I am very proud to have joined a company that cares so much about it's client's, employees and communities.

IT'S A DOGS LIFE By: Cassie our 5yr. Old Black Labrador Retriever

I love to be in the great outdoors, no matter what the weather, day or night. There is nothing better than being out in the yard. From burying my bones in the lawn to rolling in the mulch and running inside to the white carpet (it's off white now), I've got the life! But don't think it's all fun and games. I do have responsibilities. Like a few years ago, H.A.M. Landscaping planted a whole bunch of Tulip bulbs in the yard and every rabbit, deer and nosey neighbor was trying to eat and swipe them. I put a stop to that real quick! Then, just last spring, H.A.M. Landscaping planted a bunch of flowering Crab Trees (my favorite) in our yard and this one big buck with bif antlers tried to scrape and break it! Needless to say, I took care of that. Those crazy animals think they own the place.

*So remember, if your owners are having a problem with deer, rodents or even geese and you are not the type of dog that likes to get your feet dirty, H.A.M. Landscaping has a complete line of pest control programs to protect your valuable plants and property. See ya out there,
Cassie
P.S. The nosey neighbors are still your problem!!*



FEATURE JOB WINTER 08 By: Herrick A. Mann

Winter Install 08— Purple & Chocolate

Can we design and landscape to a client's personality? "YES". In the winter time? "YES".... To both.

We have a client who loves the color purple (custom purple SUV, nails, lipstick, you get the idea) and chocolate (she custom makes chocolate candy for a living). She had us prepare a design for her this past fall which we installed in February 2008. The design included purple and lavender plants—Azalea, Rhododendron, Lilac, Dwarf Blue Spruce and "chocolate chip" Ajuga, a bronze leafed blue flowering ground cover. We also had the up-lighting and drive-

way lighting custom finished in white to match the white brick on her house. The pathway lights are copper stems with blue and white shades. This spring we will mulch the new landscaping with cocoa bean shell mulch.

If you are looking for a creative, custom landscape, give us a call. We would love to dazzle you with some ideas.

"We can customize your landscape to meet your personality"

THE PATIENT PROMISE OF SPRING By: Ari Benjamin

If there's one thing that this business has taught me, it's patience. I remember planting my first landscape, it was late spring so it was already too late for my Azaleas and Magnolias that I had thought about for spring. That next season proved to be exciting and busy and I learned a lot of important lessons and techniques about the elements that go into a landscape. But it took until spring that next year to teach me patience. I'm lucky to be able to still see my prized Azaleas and Magnolias today. Every year reminds me of that one special lesson. Some other promises of spring are more immediate—like the lengthen of the day. As the sun grows higher, it warms all of us and invites us to get out and imagine what we would like to see in our properties. Maybe it's a new blue stone patio, or some screening to block off an unsightly view. It might be an arbor to shade you from the hot summer sun or a

fire place to warm you on those cool crisp autumn evenings. Whatever it is, if you can imagine it, we can make it real. It's been a long winter and we still have a few more weeks to go. Some ideas to help you get ready for spring are: Pick your favorite views of your property from inside and out and think about what you would like to see. Ask yourself if you would like to entertain more. Maybe you need to give your yard more "winter interest". Another question is what you dislike about your property. Maybe it's a neighbor's basketball hoop or their driveway. It might be an area that never seems to dry up. Some problems, like noise, can be addressed by a water feature. They can be as large as a lake or as small as a simple bowl with a fountain in it. Nothing is as peaceful or relaxing as the sound of running water. Another thing to take into consideration is functional items like an area for sports or maybe you like to

create your own potted plants. A potting shed or table can make all the difference and can contain everything you need. One element that can really add to a property is landscape lighting. Lighting can bring a whole new dimension to a landscape. It can create visual interest year round as well as provide safety and security. Another aspect of our properties are our trees. Proper pruning and maintenance are needed to ensure a healthy trunk and canopy. Large shade trees can add considerable value to a property, but unless they are cared for they can become an eyesore and a safety hazard to you, your family and neighbors. Large trees and smaller ornamental trees and shrubs should be used to bring balance and scale to a property. Many landscapes lack a "visual weight" and the clear focal points that these trees and shrubs provide.

So as you take stock of your needs and want this spring, remember "If you can imagine it we can build it".

And I'll keep working on my patience!