



all things outdoor

WINTER 2011

WINGREN LANDSCAPE GRAND OPENING & HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Wingren Landscape celebrated the grand opening of its new facility at 5126 Walnut Avenue in Downers Grove on September 22, 2010. The ribbon cutting ceremony included the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce, employees and long time friends and customers.

An open house and holiday festival followed that allowed customers the opportunity to tour the new facility while sampling a variety of delicious holiday refreshments.

The holiday festival was presented by Larry Jones, Wingren Landscape Lighting Department Manager, and featured a lavish display of the newest holiday lighting and decor displays. "My new supplier, *Holiday Bright Lights*, offers superior products, the kind that are offered in upscale catalogs like Hammacher Schlemmer and Frontgate" said Larry. *Light Links* allows the homeowner to choose a scheme like snowflakes or mittens and then use that scheme in both roofline and free standing displays. *Stay Lit Technology* is another feature that allows a string of lights to remain lit in the event one bulb should burn out.



Jeff Wingren presides over ribbon cutting ceremony cheered on by employees, friends and customers.



Larry Jones and Jose Oviedo prepare a Christmas tree for delivery



FORCE AN EARLY SPRING

Ah yes, here we are in the middle of January.....anyone thinking spring out there?

Actually, it's not too early to let your mind wander and figure out a way to make spring appear earlier than usual. One way to experience an early breath of spring is by forcing branches of spring flowering trees and shrubs indoors. Forcing branches is fairly easy; the hard part is forcing yourself outside in the cold and snow to cut them!

Easily forced branches:

- Crabapple
- Lilac
- Quince
- Forsythia
- Witch Hazel
- Serviceberry
- Redbud



CUTTING

- Cut in late February or early March after an appropriate dormancy period
- Look for branches about 2-3 feet long, heavy laden with buds
- Try to cut on a relatively mild day with temps above freezing
- Ask your account manager to keep branches for you after rejuvenation pruning

FORCING

- Prepare a bucket with very warm water (100-110 degrees) and add floral preservative
- Fill a sink with very warm water, hold the branch under water and at the same time make a second cut 1-2 inches above the initial cut
- Place branches in prepared pail and place in cool basement or garage with a temperature of about 45-55 degrees
- Cover branches loosely with plastic or mist daily to prevent drying out
- Check water daily and change when it becomes cloudy or discolored

ENJOYING

- When buds begin to swell, anywhere from 1-6 weeks, arrange branches in vases and place in a cool spot in your home
- Enjoy these colorful blooms even though the weather outside may be drab and cold!
- Blooms usually last a week, but cutting branches each week will provide a continuous display, with newly blooming branches replacing spent ones

New Face at Wingren Landscape

Matt Thumm Joins the Wingren Family

Wingren Landscape welcomes Landscape Designer Matt Thumm to the construction department. Matt brings over 13 years of experience working in landscape design on a variety of projects and looks forward to becoming more involved here with the entire process from design through construction. He has been previously involved with several projects in Forest Gate Subdivision, Crystal Tree Golf and Country Club, and Veteran's Park, all familiar to Wingren Landscape.

Matt grew up in Rockford and received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Illinois. He and his wife Tracy have three children, Ryan (6), Colleen (4) and Andrew (8 months). In his free time Matt enjoys working in the yard, fishing and camping with his family.



Make Your Landscape Happy with Rejuvenation Pruning

It's cold outside, and you are thinking about curling up by the fire with a good book. If you look outside at the snow covered landscape and see overgrown, unruly, crowded branches competing for space... **IT'S TIME FOR REJUVENATION PRUNING!**

Why late winter?

- ✂ Plants are dormant and energy to close off a pruning cut does not compete with flower and fruit production
- ✂ Insects and diseases are less likely to infect plant material
- ✂ Overall structure and growth pattern of plants is more evident when leaves are not present

What is renewal pruning?

Sometimes the whole shrub is in need of a drastic trimming especially those with overgrown weak branches. Renewal pruning consists of trimming an entire plant to about six inches above ground. Sounds harsh, but it really is not, and renewal pruning is very beneficial to plants that are sorely overgrown. The process can also be done in intervals, removing about one third of the oldest branches one year, another third the next year, and so forth. Either way, renewal pruning produces healthier, more beautiful and productive plants!

Although most trees and shrubs benefit from winter trimming, spring blooming trees and shrubs are the exception. Since the buds for these plants are already formed by winter, pruning is best left for late spring, after flowers are gone. But if you have a Magnolia or Crabapple showing signs of pest of fungal disease, rejuvenation pruning is recommended for curative health and rejuvenation.

In any event, rejuvenation pruning is best left for professionals and winter is the perfect time to evaluate the health and growth patterns of your landscape. Call your account rep today, and be sure to ask for some appropriate branches to force for early spring color indoors!

Big Mac Under Glass

Wingren Landscape is proud to be part of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana by participating in their Big Mac Under Glass event held at Navy Pier last summer.

Larry Jones, head of the Wingren landscape Lighting Department donated a holiday lighting package valued at \$1500 to be offered in a silent auction. A lucky couple from Burr Ridge enjoyed a beautiful holiday lighting display at their home while generously donating to Ronald McDonald Charities.

Larry Jones commented, "Ronald McDonald is such a worthy organization. I was pleased to donate the materials and my time."



winter flowers



SUPER SMART IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

ET "phone home"? No, ET manage my irrigation system!

The new standard in weather smart irrigation is the ET Manager, a powerful irrigation management solution for anyone hoping to save water costs and encourage a healthier landscape. Once used only on golf courses and larger municipal parks and expansive green areas, this new technology is now available to anyone with an irrigation system.

ET or evapo-transpiration is the amount of moisture lost from the soil through evaporation plus the plant's water loss through transpiration. Super smart sensors are connected to the controller and measure ET levels and current weather conditions from local weather stations. Weather stations transmit temperature, humidity, recent precipitation, and some even sense wind and solar radiation. Information is transported to the controller and calculates how much water is needed at any given time and delivers accordingly.

The ET Manager is easy to install, usually in less than an hour and is surprisingly affordable with cost based on the number of zones in your system. Michael Zimmerman, Wingren Landscape Irrigation Technician, says "Water savings up to 30% can be realized with the ET Manager. They literally pay for themselves in a year or two." Best horticulture practices favor deep, less frequent watering. An ET Manager installed to your system will result in significant water saving, deeper root systems, less fungal diseases such as dollar spot, and a healthier landscape. The planet will thank you too!

Perhaps you have had the pleasure of enjoying some of winter's most sought after flowers, the **Poinsettia** and **Christmas Cactus**. But do you know where they come from?

Poinsettias are native to Mexico where the Aztecs used them for dyes and medicinal purposes. They were introduced to America by Joel Robert Poinsett, the first United States ambassador to Mexico. Did you know that what we recognize as flowers are really leaves! The flowers are those small yellowish green balls in the center.

Christmas Cactus is available in a wide variety of colors from pink to red, purple, and orange, and their cascading habit makes them perfect to use in hanging baskets. They come from the mountainous forests of southeast Brazil, and are really NOT cactus at all requiring regular watering like other houseplants. It is best pruned after flowering. To encourage blooms for the next season, place a Christmas Cactus in a cold environment for a few weeks to stimulate setting of buds.

Email Notification System

Wingren Landscape is pleased to announce implementation of a new e-mail system that automatically notifies customers by email of service related issues and information. E-mail notification is a useful tool designed to keep our clients informed of timely and critical information taking us all to a new level of customer service. It will be utilized during both winter maintenance and landscape maintenance, informing participants in advance of changes in maintenance scheduling, or service cancellation due to weather conditions. It will also advertise perennial care offers from Julie Kuse, and the quarterly newsletter.

Currently, we are using this system to advise snow maintenance customers of extreme weather advisories and updates. The email notification was first used during the recent snowfall on December 4, 2010.

In order to participate, it is necessary to opt into the system, but this is very easy to do! And, at the present time, email sign up is limited to snow customers only. We encourage you to visit our website: www.wingrenlandscape.com and register by providing your name and email address. That's it! Another opportunity to sign up for the landscape season will be available in early spring.



WORDS FROM WINGREN

Dear friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and joyous new year.

Thus far our winter headline seems to be record cold! Many of you are aware of our e-blast weather report, which reports on expected snowfall and inclement weather conditions in the winter, and continues through the year as storms that may cause damage approach. These alerts help you anticipate Wingren Landscape services for snow removal and salting during the winter months as well as alerting you to our schedule for site visits after storm damage in spring, summer and fall. If you'd like to receive the Wingren Landscape weather and service alerts, please go to www.wingrenlandscape.com and register so that you become part of our database.

Although Spring seems a long way off it is not too early to think about irrigation and the benefits Wingren Landscape can provide with our irrigation system installation and servicing. It's beneficial to have your landscaping, maintenance and irrigation services integrated under one roof. As the experts on your home and business landscape - we have complete knowledge of your unique outdoor requirements, and so can coordinate services with our regular maintenance visits. So whether Mother Nature has brought more dry or wet weather than usual, adjustments can be made in a timely manner. Irrigation systems should be installed before annual flower installation - so let us know now if you are considering a new system so we can discuss before spring arrives!

Sincerely,

Jeff Wingren
President



Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together.

Verna M. Kelly

all things outdoor...
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
INSTALLATION
MAINTENANCE
CONSTRUCTION
LIGHTING
IRRIGATION
PERENNIAL CARE

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