

The Family Tree

SUMMER 09

Arbor Day

Arbor Day Event a Great Success

Arbor Day was created to encourage us to show respect for something we often take for granted . . . trees. We celebrated again this year in cooperation with the city of York and American Tree Experts. The Garden Club of York graciously donated four pin oak trees, and we planted them in Memorial Park with the help of three third grade classes from Harding Elementary School. Of course, teaching the next generation to have a healthy respect for trees is what the day is really all about. They were enthusiastic helpers as we planted and learned about trees and their place in our lives.

We encouraged the children to visit the park and watch these trees grow and to tell their friends that we should all respect and care for trees. They were each sent back to

school with a goody bag that included a Douglas Fir seedling for them to plant.

Sometimes caring for trees requires their removal. Mike Ziegler of American Tree Experts drops this one as the children yell "Timber!"



Tom teaches children how to properly plant and care for a tree.



Mayor John Brenner presents Dave with a Proclamation thanking Heritage Lawn & Landscape Care for our participation in the day's events.

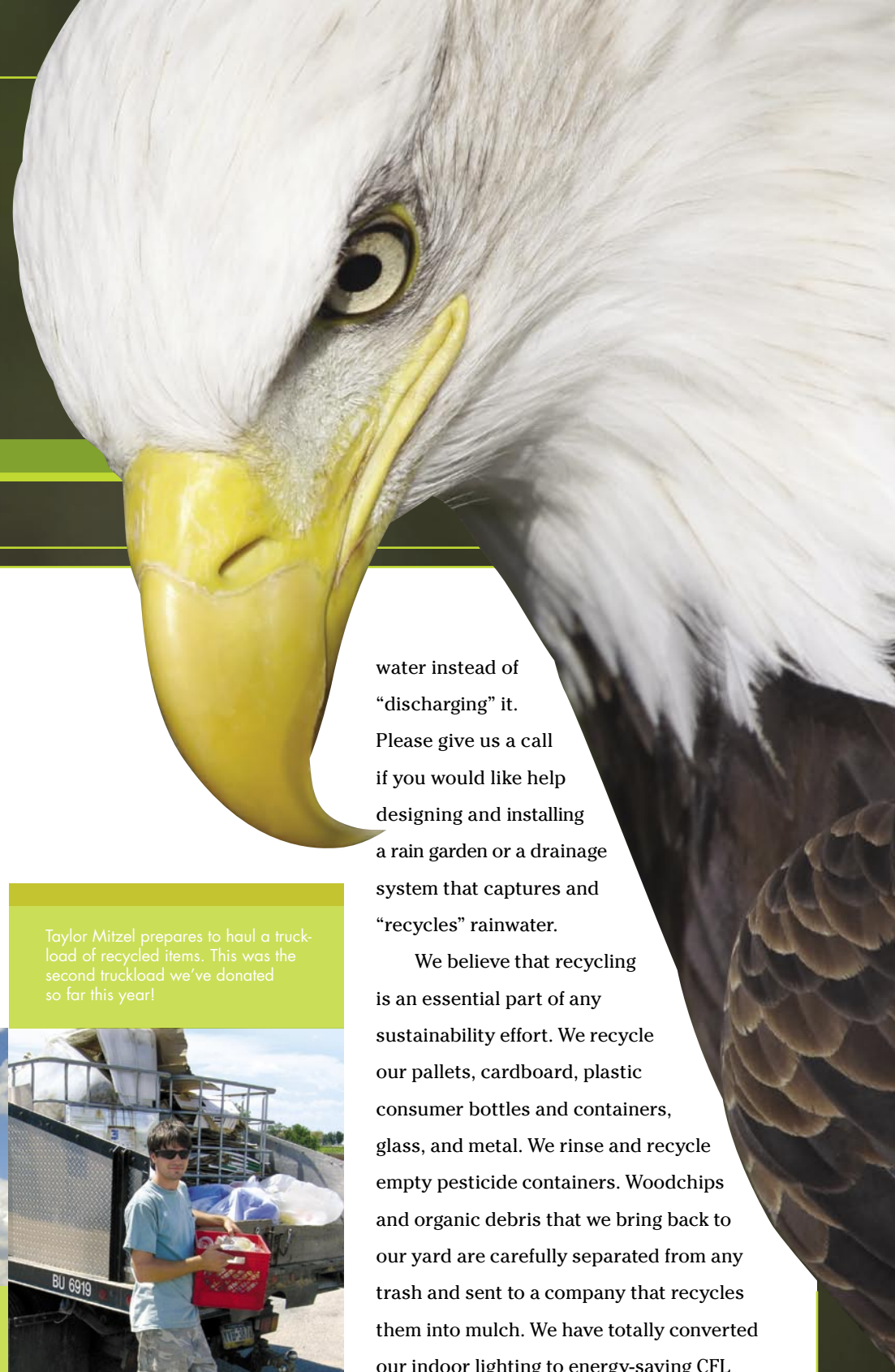


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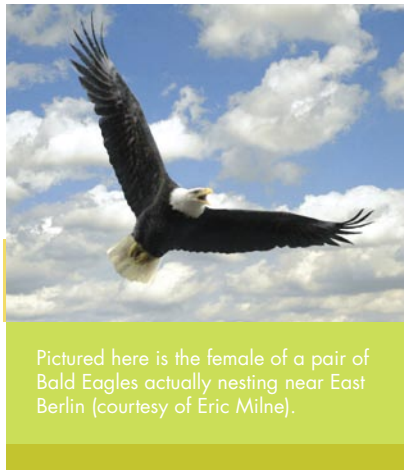
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

BEAUTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



According to Webster's the definition of sustain is to keep in existence; to maintain or prolong. Our definition of a sustainable landscape is one that is healthy and beautiful while eliminating any negative impact that can be caused by overuse or misuse of materials that are unfriendly to the environment. These days we are all interested in "going green," and improving and nurturing our outdoor environment is a great way to do this! So as part of planning and maintaining a landscape, we have gained a healthy respect for sustainable practices in the areas of erosion control, fertilizer use, pesticide use, and wildlife management. A great example of the result of our Nation's conscientious behavior is the return of raptors from near extinction.

At Heritage Lawn & Landscape, we practice and promote sustainable choices. We have removed all phosphorous from our lawn program fertilizers. We continually educate ourselves so that we can use proper timing of applications as a way to minimize overall pesticide use. We promote soil aeration not only because it is very beneficial for turf health but also because restoring soil pore space allows rainwater to percolate down into the soil. The soil is a highly efficient filtration system, and this process restores groundwater and restores aquifers instead of producing runoff. This requires us to look at storm water as a resource instead of a waste product. Rain gardens can also be constructed to "capture" storm



Pictured here is the female of a pair of Bald Eagles actually nesting near East Berlin (courtesy of Eric Milne).

Taylor Mitzel prepares to haul a truckload of recycled items. This was the second truckload we've donated so far this year!



water instead of "discharging" it. Please give us a call if you would like help designing and installing a rain garden or a drainage system that captures and "recycles" rainwater.

We believe that recycling is an essential part of any sustainability effort. We recycle our pallets, cardboard, plastic consumer bottles and containers, glass, and metal. We rinse and recycle empty pesticide containers. Woodchips and organic debris that we bring back to our yard are carefully separated from any trash and sent to a company that recycles them into mulch. We have totally converted our indoor lighting to energy-saving CFL bulbs — even our warehouse!

Go to our website and/or send us an e-mail request and we will be glad to forward you a copy of the eagle picture by Eric Milne.



Don't be surprised if the Emerald Ash Borer (**EAB**) is discovered here in south-central Pennsylvania sometime soon. Those of us who have followed this destructive pest's every move won't be. First discovered in 2002 in southeastern Michigan, this destructive pest now calls 12 states and Canada home. The most recent discoveries were in Kentucky and Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, this spring and a second location in West Virginia last year. Here in central Pennsylvania we are surrounded on three sides with the recent discoveries in northern West Virginia and Mifflin County to our west and north and a significant population in Maryland to our south. Unlike many other tree pests, the **EAB** attacks healthy trees. All ash trees are defenseless and eventually succumb to the feeding of the larvae beneath the bark. All along its path, every attempt to contain or eradicate the **EAB** has failed, so homeowners and municipalities are faced with a choice: apply treatment and try to protect ash trees or remove and replace them.

According to R. Chris Williamson, Ph.D. (associate professor in the Department of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin Madison) and Frederick Miller, Ph.D. (Joliet College professor and research associate at the Morton Arboretum), research suggests that the best control of the **EAB** will be obtained when treatments are initiated in the earliest stages of **EAB** infestation before visible symptoms are present, or perhaps even the year before trees are infested.

For more information go to our website—heritagelawnandlandscape.com. We provide you with links to more resources. One of the best is emeraldashborer.info. This is a site built and run by the USDA in cooperation with several state agencies. They outline treatment options and provide criteria to use when choosing a tree care company. We just can't resist the temptation to tell you that Heritage meets or exceeds every one of their criteria items! So, if you want the straight scoop on any pest or other issue on your landscape ask us. We bleed "green" and will always meet or exceed your expectations!

Leaves from an ash tree.

SUMMER LAWN CARE TIPS

FUN FACT

One gram of "healthy" soil can contain more than 3 billion organisms, with the vast majority of them being beneficial or essential for good plant growth!

One handful can contain more living organisms than the number of humans that have ever lived.

A major benefit of soil aeration is that it allows soil to breathe — and that helps keep your soil healthy and happy!

- Even if you do not mow at 3" during the spring and fall, a 3" mowing height is most important in the summer.
- Change your mowing pattern from one week to the next.
- If your lawn is very dry and becoming dormant (brown), delay mowing indefinitely.
- Try to mow during cooler temperatures. Mowing during the hottest part of the day can damage your lawn.
- Keep your mower blades at their sharpest!
- If you water your lawn, be sure to do it in the morning. If your lawn is wet overnight, especially during very warm summer nights, you could see an outbreak of turf disease.

Now is the time to think about overseeding your lawn this fall. Fall is the *best* season of the year to establish new grass. Don't miss it!

Thick, healthy turf will give you the curb appeal you're looking for.

We use several reliable methods of planting and establishing new grass. Call today for suggestions and a **FREE ESTIMATE**.

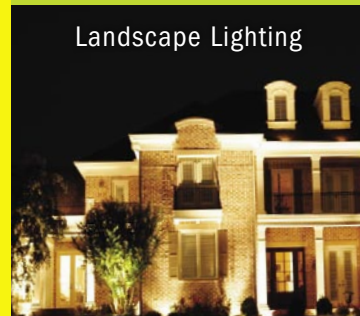


This method is called slit or slice seeding.

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