

Spring



Thoms Bros. News



Spring 2007 • Number 1

Welcome,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our first edition of Thoms Bros. News.

The topics that will be in Thoms Bros. News will help us service you better by educating you more about landscaping, the environment, and our company, Thoms Bros. Landscaping, Inc. This issue and future issues will include landscape trends, tips, new plant introductions, and many more topics that will be of significance to you. As landscaping and the outdoors becomes a bigger and better part of our personal and business lives, we want to be able to be there for you. We want you to first think of us, when you have a problem, dream, or need for your landscaping. Through this newsletter, you will learn about the various services that we offer. You will also learn how we are ever improving and expanding our firm with new employees, ongoing training and development for our current employees, and the new systems and technologies we put in place to keep a breast of the latest and greatest.

Along with this newsletter, we are very excited about the total revisions we are making on our website. The new site will be more professional, be more informative to clients and potential clients about us, and will be easier to navigate. Stay tuned for an official announcement of the release.

We look forward to sharing ourselves with you and hope you enjoy this issue as well as future issues. If you would rather receive this newsletter via e-mail or not at all, please notify our office.

Thank you for your patronage.

Steve D. Thoms

From the desk of:



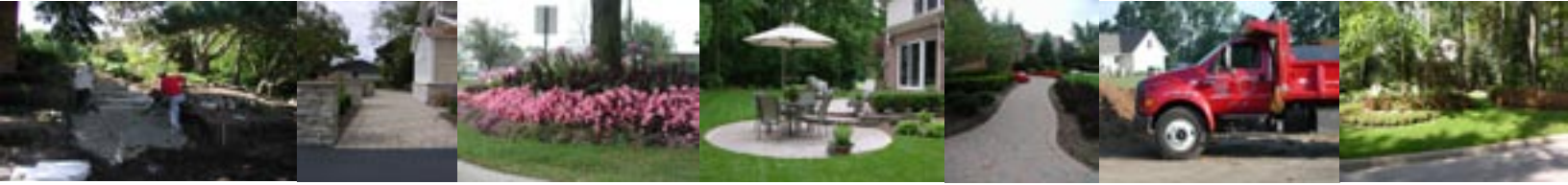
*Steven D. Thoms, MCN, APLD, CLP
Vice President/Landscape Designer*



Grilling and Barbecue Recipes

Grilling is a favorite method of cooking for many people. Men, especially, seem drawn to the allure of the open flame. Perhaps there is an innate sense built in to mankind from all the previous centuries of preparing food over open flame.

Grilling food seems to be gaining popularity with the rise of the TV food shows. With the popular landscape



LANDSCAPE TRENDS

FIREPITS and OUTDOOR ROOMS

Homeowners will be adding fire pits and fireplaces for outdoor entertaining in 2007 according to a new survey of leading members of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Homeowners are requesting landscape architects and designers to design complete outdoor rooms, such as kitchens and bars, for entertaining. Water features such as koi ponds, pools, and fountains continue to be popular. Steve Martino, FASLA, of Phoenix—recipient of both the ASLA Design Medal and the ASLA Residential Design Award of Excellence in 2006—cites private living spaces, outdoor rooms, and water features as top homeowner requests.



COMPANY NEWS

On December 8th, we were honored a Gold Award by the Michigan Green Industry Association for our commercial landscape reconstruction at the headquarters of the Philip F. Greco Title Company in downtown Mt. Clemens. This year 66 entries were submitted to MGIA's Annual Environmental Improvement Awards program. Steven D. Thoms, Vice President and Landscape Designer, accepted the award at the banquet, along with a design award on the project.

The Philip F. Greco Title Company project was a very rewarding job. The owner, Phil Greco, Jr., gave us a lot of freedom in our design. The aged, 30 year-old landscaping was immediately removed to make way for an exciting, and

trend of outdoor kitchens and all of those new, high tech grills has helped spur the interest in the oldest form of cooking. Even in our cold state of Michigan, the availability of indoor grills, sometimes built into the stove top, has also increased the availability of grilling recipes. There's just something about that grilled flavor that draws people in.

In the issues to come, we will share some of our favorite grilling and barbecue recipes.



Although we are not blessed with a long warm season like some other areas of the country, enjoying your backyard to its fullest is still of high demand here in Michigan. We see more and more clients asking for these new trends. Along with the increase in luxury items for the common person, people are just staying home more. Rather than go on trips, or go to the local restaurant, people want to entertain family and friends in the comfort of their own home. And, rather than being confined to the interior of their home, people want to enjoy their yard as well.

Here at Thoms Bros., we are using many products and manufactures to bring these new trends to our customers. For outdoor kitchens, our clients and personally our favorite line of appliances come from Viking (www.vikingrange.com). They offer a full range of appliances from refrigerators to grills to cabinetry. They have a

eye-catching plan. Attractive Oaks Fieldstone wall was used to give the elevation of the landscape some interest. While, the use of carefree and carpet roses, perennials, and flowering shrubs were used to give large splashes of color. The use of ornamental grasses along with the other plant material also added to the view of the front of the buildings.

Before we were called to the rescue, clients of the title company often wonder if the company was out of business. Now, with this new and exciting landscaping, no one drives by it without positively noticing the extreme makeover.

We would like to thank Mr. Greco and his family at the Philip F. Greco Title Company for allowing us to create this award winning landscape.

long history of high quality products and are offering the newest of technologies in their products.

Outdoor kitchens can be created as nice as any indoor kitchen. Sinks, electricity, and weather protection can make preparing that perfect meal. The appliances and other necessities for the kitchen can be supported in several different ways. Manufactured concrete walls, cement block with a stone or stucco face, and even outdoor kitchen cabinetry from Atlantis (www.outdoor-kitchen-cabinets.com/atlantis) can be used. Countertops are usually done in granite, but other choices like concrete can be utilized.

Please visit our website in the future for the service page on outdoor features.





Using a Trellis as a Simple Garden Accent

A trellis is nothing more than a support for climbing plants and vines, and yet, this simple feature may add year round interest to your garden and landscape as well as provide life and health to various plants.



» 2007 Perennial Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title of Perennial Plant of the Year to Nepeta 'Walker's Low'. Introduced in 1988 in Europe, Walker's Low catmint has become increasingly popular with each passing year due to its lovely blue-violet flowers and its long bloom time, attractive grey-green foliage, ease of propagation, lack of pest or disease problems, and low maintenance requirements.

Hardiness - USDA Zones 3 to 8

Size - 30 to 36 inches tall and wide.

Light - Best in full sun, but can tolerate shade in hot climates

Soil - Prefers well drained soil and neutral pH

Uses - Good companion plant for early and late blooming plants. Great for perennial borders, but can be used in herb gardens, rock gardens, as a ground cover, or as a container plant.

Unique Qualities - Will bloom continuously throughout the season if properly pruned. Great for attracting bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects, but is deer and rabbit resistant. Leaves release a wonderful aroma when crushed.



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