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Harvest Landscape Enterprises, Inc.

Newsletter

June 2011

Signs of Summer: Lawn Sprinklers and Slip 'n' Slides



Remember the taste of water from the garden hose?

Summer vacation was a time of magic for a kid, and it still is.

Long days, warm evenings and the freedom of no school had us all playing in the streets until mom or dad called us home.

Summer taught us to live life in the moment.

Not much has changed. Kids today still enjoy that freedom.

We see it frequently this time of year:

- Broken sprinklers
- Trampled brush
- Makeshift forts
- Tire-marked turf

First reactions to these signs of summer might provoke anger or frustration. After all,

On the Wild Side of Landscape Maintenance

We see them every year about this time. Nature's Spring babies have grown and populated the region with an abundance of snakes, rabbits, coyotes and other wildlife.

Most are nothing more than an occasional nuisance. Rabbits born out of the last mating season nibble away at freshly-planted landscape. Coyotes watch workers from a distance, but they're still a genuine threat to small pets.

Then there are the rattlesnakes lurking in the slopes and brush that we frequently clear just before fire season. Our workers wear snake chaps this time of year to protect themselves should a rattler strike. Thankfully, the slithering serpents are more afraid of us than we are of them and will usually slip-slide away or shake their tail to send out a warning before we even come near.



What do we do with the rabbits? Blood meal, coyote or lion urine, even cayenne pepper helps to keep them away from flowerbeds. Otherwise, they can be trapped and relocated. Where in Orange County do we see this new wildlife in action? Mostly in San Juan Capistrano, Aliso Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita -- areas that border wide open spaces.

Tree Management: for Longterm Beauty and Vitality

Like every living organism, trees have a limited life span. A western hemlock will live more than 100 years; a European mountain ash just 25. Some trees succumb to pollution and disease in urban environments long before their time. The white ash lives just 30 years in cities and suburbs, but would live to 200 were it not for Dutch Elm Disease.

The landscape in most developments was planted at the same time, meaning that the trees are all roughly the same age. Urban foresters recommend a [tree management program](#) that establishes a cycle for replacing trees to ensure a steady balance of mature, mid-life and sapling trees. Harvest recently completed a tree management program for Bixby Village, where we mapped out all species of tree, forecast their life spans and developed a strategy for removing and replanting them to keep the property in shade trees long into the future.

who do these kids
think they are
disregarding the rules
and having fun?

Stop. Breathe.
Think back 20, 30 or
40 years.

Why is it that
sometimes, as adults,
we get so wrapped up
in the small stuff that
we lose perspective on
what really matters?

We are all hurt by the
economy. Many
people don't have
jobs. Those that do
are struggling to keep
up with inflation. Have
you checked the price
of a loaf of bread
lately?

The responsibilities of
raising a family,
running a business or
managing a
community can be
overwhelming when
money is tight. That
broken sprinkler head
-- sheared by a bicycle
making its way in a
quest for freedom --
becomes the straw
that breaks the
camel's back.

We get angry.
We yell.
We blame kids for not
understanding how life
really is.

Do they really not
know, or have we
simply forgotten?

*Steven Schinhofen is
President and CEO of
Harvest Landscape
Enterprises, Inc.*



Coastkeeper Gardens Project Receives State Grant

The State Natural Resources Agency has awarded more than half a million dollars to [Orange County Coastkeeper](#) to complete the Coastkeeper Gardens at Santiago Canyon College, a landscape demonstration project being implemented by Harvest Landscape Enterprises, Inc. The \$596,698 Nature Education Facilities Grant is part of the \$5.4 billion Safe Drinking Water and Water Quality and Supply Act approved by voters in 2006.

Harvest was selected to help build [Coastkeeper Gardens](#), a demonstration project featuring six themed native plant habitats including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian forest, grassland, desert scrub and southern oak woodland. Interpretive exhibits and displays will be included, along with ongoing educational programming.

We are proud to partner with Coastkeeper on many projects because of our shared commitment to the environment. Coastkeeper Gardens will be the largest demonstration garden of its type in Orange County. We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

Coastkeeper is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation and restoration of area wetlands and coastal waters. Part of their mission is to educate the public on the harm our landscaping can inflict on animals and plants living downstream. For information on Coastkeeper's many outstanding programs and projects visit www.coastkeeper.org



Part of the Harvest Family

We're big on family here at Harvest. That's why, this month, we tip our hat to employee Hector Valderama, who has been with the business since 1983, back when Harvest President Steve Schinhofen's dad, Steve Senior, ran things. Hector is a steady presence at Harvest, guiding new employees and celebrating everyone's joys and accomplishments in life and on the job. "I've been around everyone for so many years, it's hard not to see them like family," said Valderama, who has three grown children of his own -- Yamira 21, Hector 20 and Jesus 19 -- with his wife, Alicia Berenise. Hector enjoys his job. "I feel free working outdoors," he said, "it does not even feel like work at times." His philosophy on life: "I like to have a positive attitude and get along with others. It seems to work because I have never had any issues with people."

Welcome New Clients!

Harvest is pleased to welcome the following new clients to our family.

- San Juan Hills
- Ocean Ranch
- Eastbrook
- The Terraces

Thank you for joining us in our mission to create vibrant, efficient, and resilient landscaping. Elements of beauty with a proven return on investment.



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