

# Landscape now more popular

By Bruce Williams  
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Cooperative Extension Service

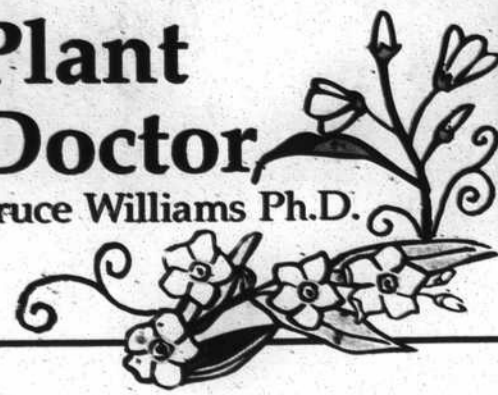
Americans seem to be landscaping their homes more now than ever before. According to some industry estimates, the average residential landscape will be changed, or re-landscaped, every seven years. I am not convinced these figures apply to eastern North Carolina, but they certainly are not too far off.

As a horticulturist, I see landscape design in terms of plant epochs -- periods of time in which plants of one species totally dominate home or commercial landscapes. These plant epochs begin when a plant is introduced and for one reason or another catches the fancy of homeowners, commercial nurserymen and the landscape designers. A plant epoch usually ends when folks get tired of seeing the plant, or cold spell, disease or insect problem so damage plantings that maintenance becomes impractical.

The late 1960s and early '70s were highlighted by the Arborvitae Epoch in which arborvitae and junipers dominated the landscape scene. The "Redtip Epoch" that began in the mid-1970s continues into the 1990s, but plantings are declining rapidly due to the spread of entomosporium blight. The present "Leyland

## Plant Doctor

Bruce Williams Ph.D.



Cypress Epoch" is under full steam and based upon past history will last another ten to 12 years.

Clothing, architecture and landscaping (including plant selection) styles change with the times. However, a landscape carefully designed for your needs will function and endure regardless of plant fads.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service has several publications that will benefit anyone preparing to landscape their home. "Residential Landscaping - AG-248" or "Landscaping Mobile Homes - leaflet #610" can be obtained from most extension offices or by sending me a SASE.

Here are some tips that would help in designing that home landscape:

•Design for maintenance. A landscape design that cannot be adequately maintained is a mess. Keep the design simple.

•Divide your outdoor space into discreet use areas (for example, the front lawn is the public area, the rear yard a private area, etc.). Think of your yard in terms of use.

•The landscape design should compliment and soften the architectural design of the residence. The landscape should never become the center of attention at the expense of the residence.

•The front door should be the primary focal point in the public area. Any plant, planting or pink flamingo that distracts the eye from the front door is too strong a focal point.

•Use form, color and texture to your advantage. Conical-shaped plants are more attention-getting than softly rounded plants. Hot colors, like red, attract more attention than the blues or pastel colors. Coarse-textured plants (eg. magnolia, aucuba, fatsia) attract more attention than fine-textured plants (eg. junipers, yaupon holly, boxwood).

•Use "cool" colors (like whites, blues or pastels) around decks, porches and patios. Cool colors generally work best around leisure areas in which people will be sitting or relaxing. Hot colors work best if used for attention-getters or to emphasize a focal point in the landscape.

•Ever try to hide a utility box or air conditioner? The most successful landscapers use fine- or medium-textured evergreen plants to hide ugly utility structures (eg. junipers, elaeagnus, yaupon holly, etc...). Never use a flowering plant to hide something. A showy planting (eg. azaleas) will draw special attention to the object you are trying to hide when the plant is flowering. The best camouflage is to set-up a strong focal point adjacent to or away from the object you are trying to hide.

•Planting directly around the base of pine trees causes the base and vertical trunk of the pine tree to become a very strong focal point. Plant in large "amoeba-like" islands around pines if plantings are needed.

•Always use curvilinear lines for defining walks, flower beds or mass plantings. Straight lines have corners and edges which can become undesirable strong focal points.

•Use native or naturalized plant materials whenever possible.

Send your gardening questions or comments to The Plant Doctor, P. O. Box 109, Bolivia, NC 28422.



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More birds are installed by set dressers near the "Birds II" proceeded near the yacht basin. Real "Gull Island Ferry" slip on Monday as shooting for birds were also used to enliven the scene.

## The chamber report

By Karen S. Hope  
Executive Vice-President

(This is a report on the activities of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce that appears weekly in The State Port Pilot.)

Thursday, membership chairperson Jean Smith, Coldwell Banker Southport-Oak Island Realty, will open the 1993 Chamber Membership Blitz Day.

Any chamber member wishing to participate in the blitz is encouraged to be at the chamber office on Long Beach Road at 8:30 a.m. We will have a short breakfast meeting and then team up to canvas the

Southport-Oak Island area looking for non-member businesses. The teams will be determined to convert as many of those non-member businesses to chamber membership as possible. At 1 p.m. the teams will converge back at the chamber office for lunch and report on their successes.

The chamber of commerce is your spokesperson, your voice on governmental and community issues; it's your advocate, improving community understanding of the free enterprise system; it's your training center, sponsoring seminars and workshops on subjects of concern and interest to businesses through

the Small Business Center at Brunswick Community College; it's your information bureau, facts on business trends and population; it's your goodwill ambassador, it tells the nation about commercial and recreational facilities; and it multiplies your effectiveness in the community by providing the structure, volunteer leadership, professional staff and full-time office operation to implement an effective program to meet the needs of a growing community.

So, if you get a visit by one of these energetic teams Thursday, remember they are offering your business the biggest organizational bang for your buck you'll find.

## Brunswick County realtors attend annual state meeting

President Dorothy Essey, Rosetta Short, Margaret Rudd, Sue Franks and Madeleine Gordon of the Brunswick County Board of Realtors recently attended the mid-year business meetings of the North Carolina Association of Realtors Inc.

The meetings were held June 2-4 in Raleigh.

The annual gathering of North Carolina real estate leaders provided opportunities for the association's committees, affiliates and directors to conduct business and make decisions relevant to real estate issues and its related industries. Two educational sessions were offered, including a fair housing seminar conducted by Robert Caldwell, vice-chairman of the Equal Opportunity Committee of the National Association of Realtors. Also, Billy Benton instructed attendees on "Developing Negotiation Skills with Buyers and Sellers".

With the 1993 General Assembly in full swing the meetings took on a political tone as legislative issues affecting property owners, such as seller's property condition disclosure, agency disclosure and land transfer taxes, were discussed. The highlight of the meetings was on Thursday when the association sponsored a barbecue luncheon with state legislators and their staffs.

"This provided an opportunity for members to discuss these pertinent issues with their elected officials," Essey said.

"A large number of proposed legislative issues which affect current and potential homeowners have been introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly this year," said NCAR president John Carroll of Asheville. "The North Carolina Association of Realtors will work diligently with our legislators to protect the right of all citizens in our

state to own and transfer real property."

"The Brunswick County Board of Realtors will continue working with Sen. R. C. Soles and representatives David Redwine and Dewey Hill to protect the rights of private property owners in Brunswick County," Essey commented.

### Dixon attends sales institute

Charles Dixon of Coldwell Banker Southport-Oak Island Realty has met requirements for completion of Level I of the Coldwell Banker University Sales Institute.

Dixon was recognized for his achievement at a seminar and luncheon meeting on June 8 at The Round Table restaurant at St. James Plantation.

Dixon has been a broker for 24 years and is associated with the Yaupon Beach office of Coldwell Banker Southport-Oak Island Realty.

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### Home school seminar topic

A home school seminar will be held Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Joy Assembly church on Highway 211 near Southport.

Topics include "Getting Started -- State Requirements and Recommendations", "Reasons to Home School", "Curriculum", "Socialization", "Teaching without a Degree or Teacher's Certificate", and a panel discussion with a group of veteran home schoolers.

This is a free seminar. Persons should bring a bag lunch, and drinks will be provided.

Persons should call 457-5864 for further information.

### UNCW graduation

Brunswick County was represented at the spring commencement ceremony at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Graduates were Patricia V. Ab-Hugh of Long Beach; Carolyn M. Sharpe and Amy R. Matthews of Yaupon Beach; Robert L. Marlowe, Ryan M. Boera, Sheila C. Alston, Martha E. Tabor, all of Southport; Freeman E. Walls of Boiling Spring Lakes; Beth D. Andrews of Winabow; Sheila L. Galloway, Elizabeth D. Haynes, Leamon W. Clemmons Jr., all of Supply; Valerian A. Mintz and Carol A. Jenkins of Leland; Jean W. Stanley and Rita F. Lewis of Holden Beach.

### Nursing graduate

John Peele Jr., son of John and Barbara Peele of Long Beach, was graduated with honors May 16 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Nursing.

He finished his senior year with a 4.0 grade point average. He was graduated cum laude and was inducted into the Gamma Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nursing. He is employed with Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro where he and his wife, the former Susie Kennedy, make their home.

He was a 1980 graduate of South Brunswick High School.

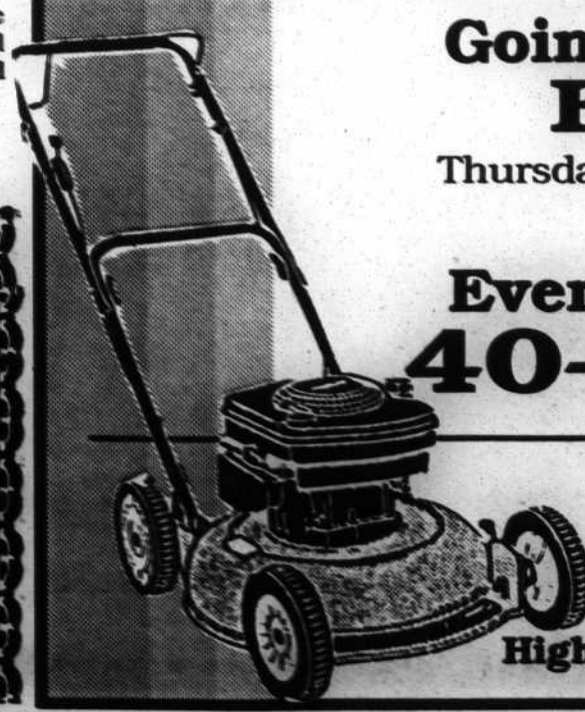


The Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce joined in the grand opening of Casual Cuts in the Live Oak Village Shopping Center. In attendance were (from left) chamber president Tony Carroll, Clay Lastinger, Lydia Peters, Chelsea Lastinger, Miss Brunswick County Larniece McKoy, Colleen Scott, Casey Scott, store owners Linda and Dale Scott, Caren Scott, Belinda Poindexter and Brandy Barcomb.

## Going Out of Business! FINAL SALE

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