

Home/Garden

www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net



The Choctaw Sun
Wednesday, April 4, 2007
Page 11B

Five steps to a beautiful garden

NAPSI — OK, you've seen all the garden magazines, and you've been to your friend's house with the garden that says "Wow!" Now you want to try your hand at designing one that's an extension of your personality.

"Like your wardrobe, your garden is uniquely yours," says Bayer Advanced™ Garden Expert Lance Walheim, co-author of "Landscaping for Dummies." "Don't be afraid to choose colors and textures that show off your personality."

Of course, a great garden takes planning:

- Work with what you already have - If a large tree is already part of your landscape, make it a part of your new garden design by layering. Plant smaller trees next to it, then shorter shrubs next to those. Fill in with plants and flowers that grow lower to the ground for a balanced look.

- Keep your good looks growing all year - Choose plants and shrubs that provide more than one season of color. By using a combination of flowers, fruit and foliage, as well as interesting barks, your garden's

beauty will appear different each season. Azaleas can show off bright blooms from early April through July. Hawthorns flower in mid-spring, and have orange-to-red leaves in the fall and berries in winter. Summer-blooming crape myrtles have shiny, peeling bark and orange-red color in autumn.

- Looks good, tastes great - Many fruit and nut trees have fragrant flowers, gorgeous foliage and delicious fruit. The textures and colors of many vegetables make them ideal for planting with flowers. Low-

growing berries work well as ground covers.

- Don't forget about fragrance - A variety of scents will add an extra dimension to your garden. Fragrances evoke emotional responses, and certain scents will set specific moods. Put strongly scented plants - citrus trees, gardenias or roses - toward the center of the garden and lightly fragrant ones - like paper whites, lilies of the valley or scented geraniums - closest to pathways or edges.

- Protect against pests -

Snails and slugs are among the most frustrating and destructive garden pests. They'll consume almost anything with fruit, flowers or foliage before you even know they're there. Bayer Advanced™ Dual Action Snail & Slug Killer Bait quickly attracts and kills snails and slugs. And there's good news for the 64 million pet owners in the U.S.: This product can be used around pets and wildlife.

Keep your good looks growing all year by choosing plants and shrubs that provide more than one season of color.

Stafford Contract Services
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
• Appliance Repair • Electrical Services
• General Home Repair • Plumbing & Gas Fitting

TIM STAFFORD
STATE CERTIFIED
MASTER PLUMBER/GAS FITTER
Maintenance Service Contracts Available for Commercial Property Owners

Local Phone (205) 459-2687 Cellular Phone (334) 341-1279

Fishpond management program planned

By John P. Ollison
Regional Extension Agent
Forestry, Wildlife, & Natural Resources

BUTLER — Alabama has about 50,000 small, private ponds covering more than 134,000 acres. Ponds are usually built for several purposes: irrigation, livestock watering, and recreation. Recreation is probably the most important reason for building a pond in Alabama. Unfortunately, most ponds are poorly managed for recreation, even though as much as 25 percent of all fishing takes place in private ponds.

Properly managed ponds provide excellent

recreational opportunities. A good fishing pond must be managed like a vegetable garden. It must be seeded (or stocked) properly, limed and fertilized correctly, weeded now and then, and harvested in the correct numbers and on an appropriate timetable.

The first step in recreational pond management is to decide what kind of recreation is desired. Ponds can be managed for fishing, swimming, wildlife attraction, and esthetics. It is difficult to manage for all of these recreational activities equally well, but the most important can be emphasized.

Blackbelt area landowners should plan to

attend a "Recreational Fishpond Management Program" planned for Tuesday, April 10 at 6 p.m. at the Central Alabama Farmers Co-op located 2519 U.S. 80 West at the intersection of U.S. 80 and Ala. 14 in SeRusty Wright, Extension Fisheries Specialist will give a presentation on "Managing Bass and Bream Ponds" and Extension Fisheries Specialist Greg Whitis will talk about

"Managing Recreational Catfish Ponds." Greg will also talk about what you should do if an alligator gets in your pond.

A meal will be served at this program so you must register by calling the Dallas County Extension office at 334-874-7269. In order to properly plan for the meal, registrations must be made no later than 4:30 p.m., April 6.

Choctaw Monument & Cemetery Services, LLC

Services Offered:
• Concrete Work • Coping
• Dirt Work • Grave Alignment
• Monuments • Monument Cleaning
• Monument Set Up

Harold DeVane
5858 Co Rd 6
Silas, AL 36919

251-542-9866 or
205-561-4863

Choctaw County Farmers Co-op

Ronnie Gibson, Manager

1006 West Pushmataha Street
Butler, Alabama 36904

Phone (205) 459-2588
Fax (205) 459-7601

Paint can transform outdoor decor

NAPSI — Home decorating trends come and go, but one thing is certain: Americans have rediscovered the potential of outdoor spaces. Last year alone, homeowners spent nearly \$5 billion on outdoor furniture and accessories, sparing no expense to bring the indoors out

and create high-end outdoor living spaces.

Don't have the money to invest in new outdoor furniture or high-end accessories? It's easy to transform your backyard into a luxury outdoor environment on a "real-world" budget. All it takes is a little imagination and a few cans of spray paint. Here are some outdoor decorating ideas from the experts at Rust-Oleum:

- Give your patio table and chairs a designer look. Designer patio sets can cost thousands of dollars. But with spray paints such as Rust-Oleum's new MultiColor Textured, it's easy to give your old patio set a rich contemporary look that's virtually indistinguishable from pricier counterparts.

- Transform ordinary planters into sophisticated garden accents. Flowering plants in stylish planters can add color and interest to any outdoor space. And it's easy to spray new life into old planters - or give inexpensive planters a touch of sophistication

DWAYNE'S Electrical & Photography

Let Us Light Up & Capture Your Spring Idea's and make your Idea's become Totally complete. For Your Supplies: Electrical, Total Lighting, Plumbing, and Hardware. "Come See Us." 12702 Hwy 17 South Gilberttown, AL 36908 (251)-843-5857 or dwaynes@millry.net



Let's talk about hammers, nails and paint. Your home is your castle, but every castle has improvement projects. Be it an addition, a new kitchen or a whole new look, Alfa offers great home equity loans at low rates. Call today and we'll talk about how Alfa can help you make your home into the home of your dreams.

ALFA FINANCIAL
AUTO • HOME • LIFE
www.alfains.com

Let's talk about tomorrow.



ALFA

Auto • Home • Life • Loans
Powers Weeks, Agent
13740 Hwy 17
Gilberttown, AL 36908
251-843-5556



A07

SOUTH ALABAMA GAS
Complete Gas Service

PROPANE GAS METERED SERVICE

Why should I get on Propane gas metered service?

1. It has the lowest residential gas rate.
2. We maintain the tank and meter.
3. You'll never run out of gas.
4. You only pay for what you use.
5. Monthly billing - we even read the meter for you.

How do I get propane gas metered service?
Getting on propane metered gas service is easy. All you need is a gas water heater or a primary gas heating system. There is a one time \$45.00 residential homeowner's meter deposit or a \$75 meter deposit on modular homes and rental property. All meters carry a monthly \$7.00 plus tax availability charge.

Sign up now for metered propane gas at \$1.69 per gallon. Price guaranteed through September 30, 2007. Call your local South Alabama Gas Office! Gilberttown, AL • 251-843-2401