



**WATKINS
AND COMPANY, INC.**
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING
Adding beauty and value since 1984

LOOKING AHEAD

In uncertain times, some things remain certain: the green industry - landscape businesses and related trades - continues to be a vital part of the overall high quality of life that we all seek. I am proud to be part of an industry that reaches beyond 'pretty' and makes real contributions to the development and improvement of our outdoor environments. In the past years, we have had the chance to work on projects involving watershed protection, the largest green roof in the state & restoration of sites using native grasses. Landscape architects and contractors continue to develop new means of creating beauty and utility in the landscape and new ways of connecting people to the land and the environment. For us, that's what it's all about.

Keep a watchful eye in your own environment in February: a few daffodils may emerge, a witchhazel will bloom bright yellow, and the bark of white oaks will shine like armor in the winter sun. Each season has its beauty, and winter is a marvelous one to view the landscape. And, each season has its proper activities: now is the time for pruning, tree planting & planning for the coming year. Late February and March are times for Spring Clean Ups and getting your garden ready for the growing season.

With each passing year, I become more convinced of our industry's vital role - being part of the design, shaping & maintenance of the land on which we live. In our busy lives - with work, children, schools, aging parents, houses & cars - the landscape takes on more significance as a source of rejuvenation and inspiration. We are looking ahead to the good things that a lifestyle connected to the outdoors brings.

The last few years have been challenging, but through it all, we have been sustained by a core of great customers, and for you, we are grateful. We look forward to hearing from you soon - we are at your service.

CALENDAR

February

Create a plan - Tired of the cold and gray? Think Spring to brighten your day. Have Heather come over to discuss garden design and beautiful plants and flowers. If you have a new garden spot in mind or need to renovate an existing area, Heather will create a landscape plan for you now so it can be implemented the first of Spring. So don't wait. Be the first one to have a brand new garden blooming.

Hardscapes - We build patios, walkways and stone & timber walls to enhance your garden and to solve problem areas in your yard.

Snow Removal - Just in case we receive a late winter snow, give us a call. We are here to dig you out!

Spring Clean Ups - Give us a call to get on the schedule for your spring maintenance needs. We will tidy up your garden beds by cutting back perennials, pruning shrubs & trees, edging, mulching, weed control & removing leaves.

March

Plan Installation - We do not just install our landscape plans, but also the plans of other landscape architects and designers. We are known for our proper planting techniques and thorough bed preparation, and these professionals trust that we will install their plans with the utmost care.

Tree Planting - If you are looking to enhance your yard with a larger flowering or shade tree, have it freshly dug and installed in March and April. Early establishment in cooler weather means less watering. Give us a call to put your order in now.

Lawns - Apply pre-emergent to prevent crabgrass; have a soil test taken; add suggested amendments; and top-dress the lawn with compost to help maintain moisture, break up the clay & enhance root growth.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Winter's question

For a gift certificate from Crozet Pizza:

Babe Ruth is reputed to have worn this leafy green under his cap to keep him cool. **What is it?**

Summer's question

This summer-flowering, native tree is a beautiful ornamental, with its mid-summer blooms and fabulous fall color. It is also used in the production of honey. **Answer: Sourwood**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Compost...because a rind is a terrible thing to waste.

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You are welcome to send this e-mail to anyone who may be interested.
We look forward to corresponding with you periodically. If you would care to unsubscribe at any time, please reply to caroline@watkinscompany.net