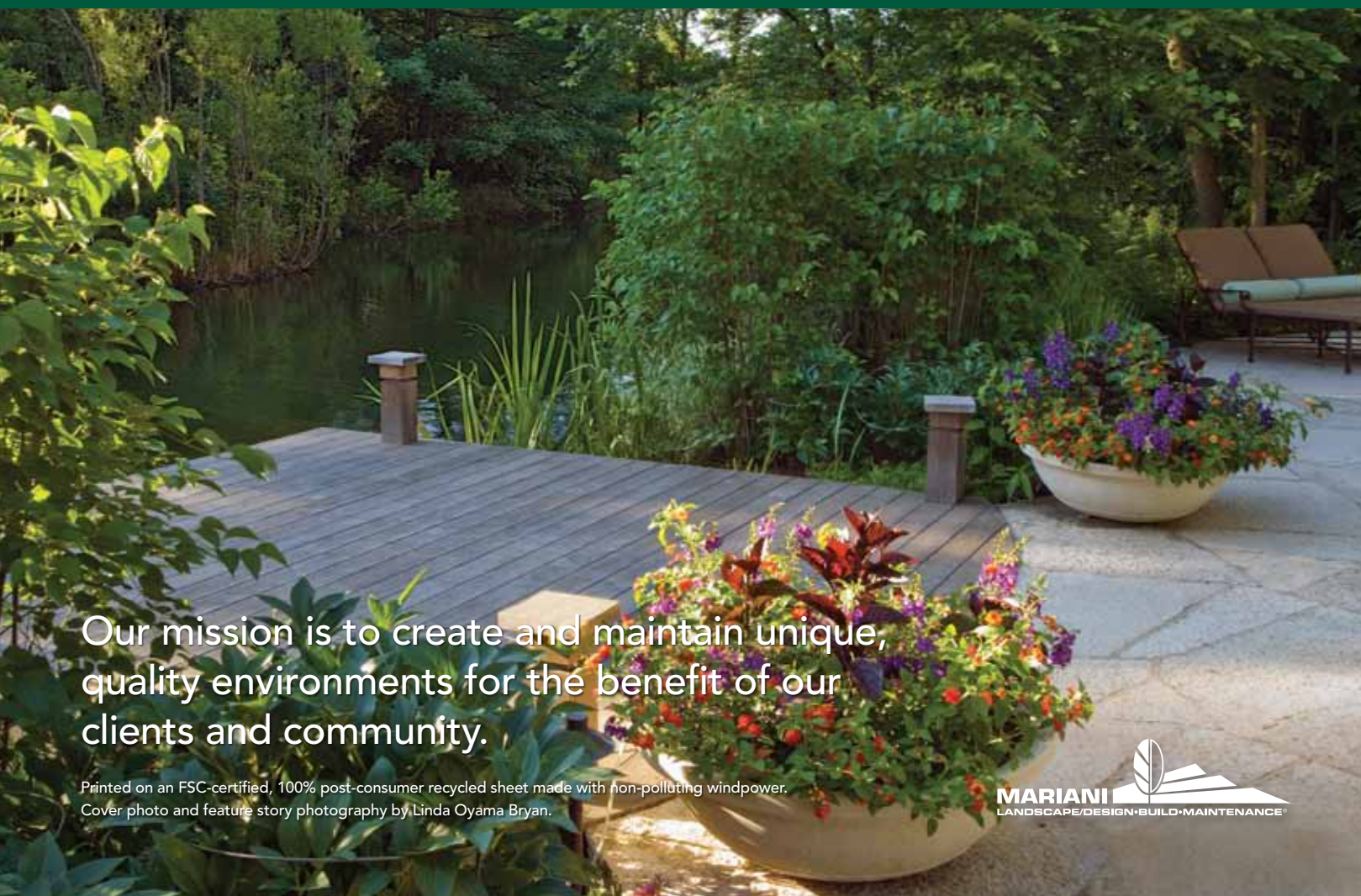
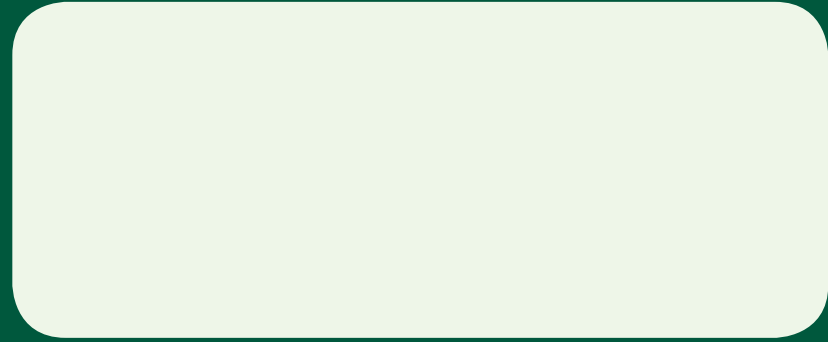


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MARIANI LANDSCAPE
DESIGN-BUILD-MAINTENANCE

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MARIANI LANDSCAPE
DESIGN-BUILD-MAINTENANCE



A FAMILY-FRIENDLY RETREAT

Butterfly gardens bring your landscape to life

Designing an al fresco dining destination





Dear Friends,

There were a couple of fun family things happening at the Mariani home and garden this spring and summer. We now have several different projects in a constant state of change at our home garden. We started by preparing the soil in our veggie, herb and cutting flower garden. We hope for dry enough conditions to

add organic compost to the soil so we can start the early cold hardy lettuces, arugula, cilantro, parsley, onions, broccoli and whatever else we can get to grow. We have tons of flowering bulbs that we plant every fall in the garden and throughout the property which enables Sherri to have beautiful flower arrangements all over our home—there is something unique and special each day. This spring was simply magical; the spring color of redbuds, crabapples, forsythia, lilacs, and deutzia along with the robust performance of vegetables herbs and perennials were simply amazing. Once things heated up we planted heirloom tomatoes, eggplants, tomatillos and every conceivable pepper we could find, plus Italian cucumbers, beets, kale, Swiss chard, zucchini, peas, beans—you name it, we tried to grow it. Our garden produces fabulous healthy organic vegetables and herbs along with some great black figs taken from a cutting my grandfather brought to this area from Italy in 1915!

This fall, take a walk into your garden. Pick an heirloom tomato the size of a softball, grab a fresh cucumber and a few basil leaves, or when it's cool enough this fall, some arugula, a little burrata, fresh mozzarella, extra virgin organic olive oil, and the best balsamic you can find, and you have a meal fit for royalty. For those of you that would like a little help or would like us to handle every single step, with the exception of eating your prized foods, we are well equipped to take the lead!

Over the years, we have been asked to be involved, one way or another, with designing or building and/or maintaining many prairie plantings. I thought it time to jump in and become a real expert by getting down and dirty and taking on every single aspect of what it really takes to build a successful prairie.

Jim Osborne and I selected the right location, which is about two acres in size at the rear of our property adjacent to the forest preserve. It starts with proper soil preparation, followed by the right seed choices planted in the appropriate places and at the appropriate times. Once the new grasses and perennials begin to germinate, the real work comes into play—a daily hand-to-hand combat approach to eliminating weeds and other volunteer invasive plants that dominate 95 percent of all prairies. The necessity to monitor germination and control the infestation of weeds and plants is why most of these prairie attempts turn into nothing more than a weed patch. Now we are going on our third year and have done our groundwork properly to take the necessary steps to control the weeds and other invasive plants. This summer we have had blistering hot 95 degree days with no rain, yet to watch beautiful prairie grasses and plants not only survive but thrive without the benefit of any water, fertilizer or pesticides, shows the benefit of this plant palette. The good news is that it looks wonderful; the bad news is that I see some queens anne lace flowering, ready to spread the pesky seeds throughout the prairie, so I am heading out there right now to get them before they get me.

Hope you are enjoying your garden as much as we are enjoying ours.

All my best,

Frank Mariani, CEO

Events



North Shore and Hinsdale Garden Walks provide attendees with landscape ideas

According to Pioneer Press, “Judging from the oohs and ahhs [from attendees at the Hinsdale Garden Walk], garden maintenance pays off especially when professionals are involved.” This year, Mariani clients opened up their properties in Hinsdale and along the North Shore to give attendees some ideas for improvements to their gardens.

The Hinsdale Garden Walk was sponsored by West Suburban Living and showcased the gardens of three homes. Visitors had the chance to learn about specific plant types, landscape design trends that add value to the landscape and met with Mariani’s landscape architects.

Despite a few morning storms during the North Shore Garden Walk, attendees were not discouraged from touring three of some of the most prestigious, private estate gardens along Chicago’s North Shore.

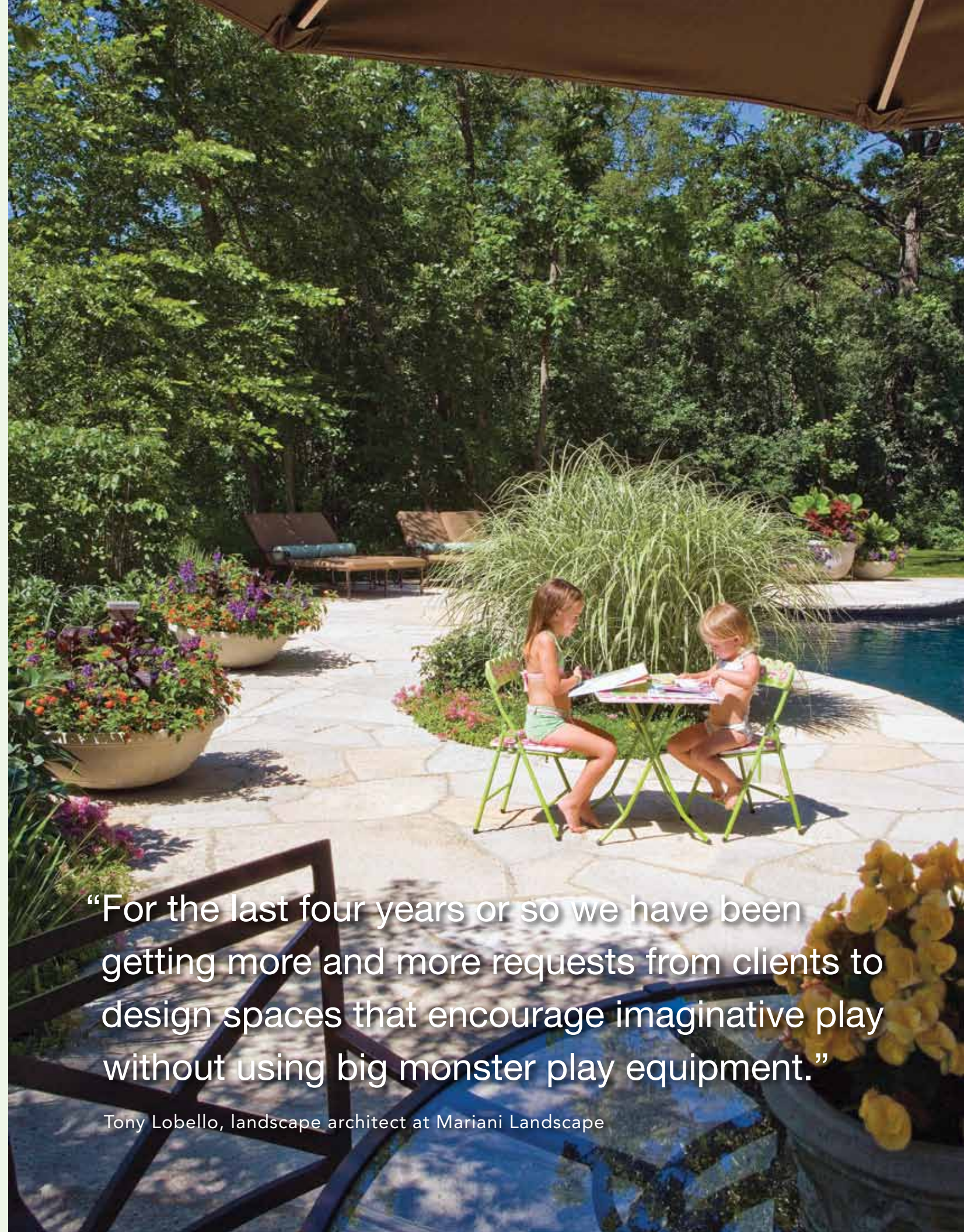
Thank you to the valued Mariani clients that opened up their homes for the garden walks.

Learn about our holiday decorating services and become a fan of Mariani’s Facebook page

Mariani Landscape is on Facebook. By becoming a friend of Mariani you will learn about our holiday decorating services and new landscape design trends, view beautifully executed projects created with value that lasts and see Mariani Landscape projects in the news

View one of Mariani’s recent posts to learn how small changes to a landscape can make a big difference. To become a fan of Mariani’s Facebook page, visit www.facebook.com/marianilandscape and click “like”.

Our holiday boutique will be open seven days a week beginning November 18 through December 19 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.



“For the last four years or so we have been getting more and more requests from clients to design spaces that encourage imaginative play without using big monster play equipment.”

Tony Lobello, landscape architect at Mariani Landscape



A Landscape for All: Creating a Family-friendly Retreat

Quality family time was the leading inspiration for the landscape design of a traditional colonial home in Lake Forest now offering an outdoor sanctuary for entertaining and relaxation, swimming, fishing and creative-play.

Initially the homeowner wanted to create a special space for their son's wedding, but the project quickly turned into creating a space for future grandchildren and family get-togethers. "The homeowners wanted a usable space that could be enjoyed for years to come by generations of family," says landscape architect Tony Lobello. "The front of the home features more formal design elements to complement the façade, but the back of the home is completely freeform design. It is the perfect setting for a family to enjoy time together."

Working with the charming character of an oak tree forest and pond, the rear landscape features a dock extending from a native-landscaped shoreline used for fishing and swimming. "The homeowner wanted to be able to fish with his grandchildren. And if they wanted to jump in and swim, he wanted them to be able to do that too," says Lobello. The pond's restored shoreline features native prairie grasses and colorful irises.

When not swimming or fishing in the pond, family time moves to the home's spa and pool. "We wanted to provide multiple spaces for family enjoyment," says Lobello. On the lower terrace, Flagstone surrounds a pool with curving, fluid edges to create a natural transition between the lawn and dock area. "In the pool

design we also made sure that there was a shallow end for play, but also a deep end for swimming," says Lobello. On the upper terrace, the spa is also surrounded by Flagstone but is coped by limestone around the edges to protect against scraping. Ornamental plants in limestone containers rotated each season and prairie grass flourish to complement the hardscape and water features.

Between the home, pool and spa terraces, a sprawling lawn is bordered by plant beds filled with pink astilbes, white hydrangeas and large boulders to add texture and form. Shaded by large, mature Oak trees, the lawn acts as a place for creative play for the grandchildren. "For the last four years or so we have been getting more and more requests from clients to design spaces that encourage imaginative play without using big monster play equipment," says Lobello.

While family interaction is an integral part of the design, it was also important to create a space to sit and relax. Outdoor seating areas are strategically placed throughout the landscape and on all terraces for both relaxation and to keep an eye on swimmers. Mariani also worked with the architect to determine placement of a pool house with french doors transitioning from an interior space to an outdoor space for dining.

Through collaboration with the homeowner and architect, Mariani created a usable outdoor space for relaxation, entertaining and family fun for years to come.



Designer Spotlight

Tony Lobello



Since 1987, Tony Lobello has brought his classic design-style and deep horticultural knowledge to Mariani Landscape. And while creating eye-catching landscapes that feature bright, contrasting colors have become a signature of his work, so has his extreme attention to detail and innovative landscape design solutions.

"Landscape architecture has always been a passion of mine. While I may put my signature touches on a project, I always look at each project individually to determine the best solution for the homeowner and the landscape," says Lobello.

Based in Mariani's Westmont office, Lobello creates landscapes in the western suburbs as well as the rest of the Chicagoland area. His goal: create a wonderful outdoor experience for his clients that has long lasting value. According to Lobello, "It's important to create a usable outdoor space for families and friends to enjoy year-round."

As an expert horticulturalist and landscape architect, Lobello has been an instructor at The Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden and College of DuPage in a range of courses for design, identification and plant-related educational programs.

Lobello was named 2003 Man of the Year by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA), a professional 865-member green industry organization. He served as the president of ILCA from 2004-2005 and continues as an active member in ILCA and the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. His projects consistently win awards from both organizations.



Bring Your Landscape to Life with a Butterfly Garden

Like many trends, butterfly gardens came to the U.S. from Europe. Botanical gardens, zoos and other museums created indoor and outdoor spaces for the public to enjoy beginning in the 1980s. Yet it is plants native to the Midwest—daisies, dahlias and columbine, for example—that attract butterflies. With more and more people choosing to plant native, Mariani Landscape recently began promoting the design of butterfly gardens for homeowners and homeowner associations.

“It’s a wonderful way to add value to your outdoor space, and to return outdoor spaces to the way they were hundreds of years ago,” says John Mariani. “Not only do you get a beautiful outdoor space, you will attract gorgeous and beneficial butterflies. More over, these spaces are easy to maintain, making it a great value.”

Butterfly gardens can be created on a budget for many uses, whether it is for a children’s garden, conservatory or a backyard. Because butterflies and bees are attracted to color and scent, a butterfly garden acts as a perfect landing spot to rest, pollinate and feed - all while adding color and wildlife activity to any outdoor area. Watch caterpillars evolve into beautiful butterflies. See bees facilitate the growth of colorful and fragrant flowers. Witness hummingbirds suspend in mid-air with a customizable perennial butterfly garden.

Butterfly watchers will appreciate the array of species that flock to feed, rest and warm up in the sun, such as Monarchs, Swallowtails, Viceroy, American Lady and Skippers, among others. Flower lovers will enjoy generations of their favorite flowers due to bees’ involvement in the pollination process. Bird watchers will marvel at hummingbirds that hover in mid-air to feed and the variety of other colorful bird species that stop by to admire the colors.

Butterfly gardens may be planted in any season and are typically filled with perennials, so the plants will return each year. There is no minimum or maximum garden size and all plants, including daisies, Indian plantains, dahlias and columbine, are native in order to facilitate butterfly growth.

A rich assortment of colors, smells and wildlife occupy a butterfly garden, and with a little care each year, adults and children alike may enjoy them for generations to come.

To get an idea of the shape your butterfly garden may take, explore the Morton Arboretum in Lisle or the Butterfly Exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago – then contact your Mariani representative at 847.234.2172 to get started on your own.

Dinner with Nature: Designing an Al Fresco Destination

Enjoy the sounds of nature, feel the cool breeze of dusk and take in the beauty of fall’s changing leaves – all while dining al fresco in an elegantly designed outdoor space providing comfort and privacy.

According to Mariani Landscape’s Dan Miller, the key for success in designing an outdoor dining area is creating scale and enclosure. “When you dine, you do not want to be on display. It is important to create a room-like feel.”

To create an outdoor dining space, Miller suggests using plant material such as boxwoods or evergreens to create a sense of enclosure. In some cases, flowering shrubs such as Spirea or even Cornelian Cherry trees can act as walls to an outdoor room. “Typically we only have enclosure on two sides of an outdoor room to avoid a cave-like feel and to keep the space open-air,” says Miller. A pergola can also create the illusion of a ceiling and flagstone, bluestone and slate offer a finishing touch to a room’s patio surface.

For smaller budgets, alternate materials like gravel paving in seating areas create a casual dining/entertaining space. And deciduous plantings instead of walls or evergreens can create a sense of enclosure. “Using deciduous hedges to define rooms creates a similar effect that evergreen hedges or solid masonry walls create,” says Miller.

When it comes to preparing food, outdoor dining spaces can have all the accoutrements of an indoor kitchen. Outdoor kitchens can feature working sinks, sophisticated cabinetry, wine storage and weather resistant granite and bluestone counter tops. Appliances such as fully integrated grills, refrigerators, icemakers and warming drawers can also be installed. According to Miller, counter top pizza ovens are also a growing trend.

Adding garnish to a meal only has to be steps away when containers are filled with fresh basil, thyme, mint or oregano. By planting herbs in containers, the growing season is extended because plants are not susceptible to the changing ground temperature. Creating an organic vegetable garden will also give a meal a fresh from the farm feel. For a home in Lake Forest, Mariani created a vegetable garden adjacent to the dining area featuring fresh tomatoes, onions, peppers and vegetables that could be handpicked and brought directly to the table.

To keep warm, installing a custom outdoor fireplace can extend the use of an outdoor space and act as a focal point. “An outdoor fireplace can also help create the illusion of enclosure,” says Miller. Fire pits are also a way to extend usage and can also act as a gathering spot for making s’mores after a delicious meal.

Dining al fresco does not mean sacrificing comfort and privacy. Extend your dining experience outdoors with the help of Mariani.



Charity Spotlight

Pathways Awareness

For eighteen years, Mariani Landscape has had a close partnership with Shirley Ryan through the landscape installation and maintenance of her beautiful gardens. While developing this relationship, Mariani has learned of Pathways Awareness, an outpatient pediatric center Mrs. Ryan co-founded nearly 25 years ago.

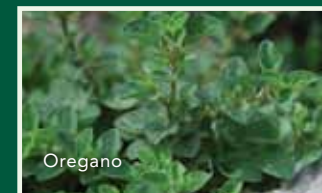
According to Pathways, each year over 400,000 babies born in the United States are at risk of having a motor delay. Early motor delays are delays in children’s ability to meet critical physical milestones in the first months and years of life—how well and soon they move and interact with their environment. A wide range of neuromuscular conditions—from nonspecific low muscle tone to cerebral palsy—may cause delays in these functions. Regardless of the underlying condition, experts agree physical therapy significantly improves outcomes in children with early motor delays.

As a long-time advocate for persons with physical and sensory issues, Mrs. Ryan was inspired to create Pathways Center in 1985. Pathways’ goal is to unlock physical and sensory movement abilities in infants and children. Through the organization’s center, web site, programs and medical advisory board, Pathways supports parents by providing knowledge, information and a sense of community as they guide their children on life’s journey. Mariani Landscape supports Pathways Awareness and Shirley Ryan’s mission to educate the public on children with early motor delays.

For more information or to donate to Pathways Awareness, visit www.pathwaysawareness.org.

Featured Foliage

Pizza Straight from the Garden



Oregano

Grow the ingredients for family pizza night in your own garden.

From ripe tomatoes, sweet bell peppers and garlic to fresh oregano and onions, see your pizza toppings start from a seedling and grow into mature plants ready for harvest.



Fresh Tomatoes

Plant in a space in full sun and good soil or in a large container with holes.