



From Pirates to Paradise

Scott Hinson, President, Low Country Landscaping, Inc.

As Wilmingtonians we are all quite familiar with the pirates that once threatened our local waters including the infamous Blackbeard and Stede Bonnet, but most likely none of us have actually been a victim of a pirate's attack. When Carsten and Ingrid Steenberg, of 306 Fair Lakes Drive relocated to Landfall in 2008, never did they imagine they would encounter a modern day piracy on the high seas. The Steenbergs, owners of Nico Shipping which ships freight internationally, moved into their current home with hopes of creating their own personal paradise.

Their plans to create an outdoor oasis took an unexpected delay on an ill-fated day in 2008, when one of the Steenbergs' vessels sailing in international waters off of the Somalian coast was approached, boarded and hijacked by a group of such pirates. One of the first of these attacks, the vessel, cargo and its crew were held captive for ransom for approximately ninety days. After weeks of negotiations and no small sum, the ship and crew were safely released to their concerned and wearied owners.

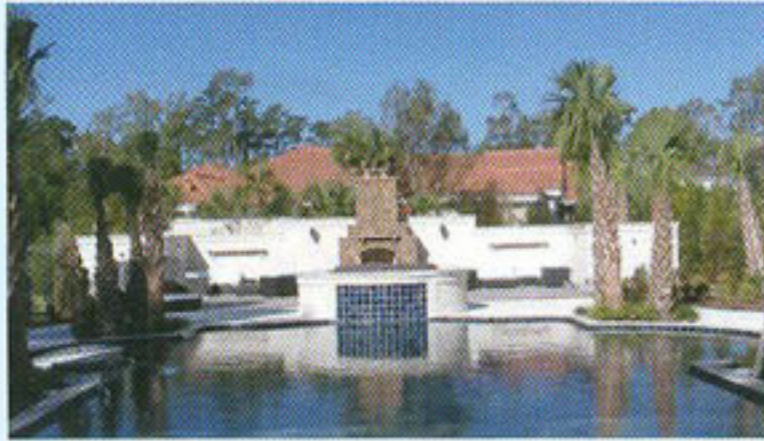
Having undergone such a traumatic assault to their property and business, the Steenbergs rallied to rebuild not only their security in the seas, but also their dream home and future. Inspired by a fantasy vacation in Fiji, Carsten and Ingrid sought the help of Low Country Landscaping, Inc. to duplicate the lush, tropical environment in their own backyard. Their home, located in the Highlands, offered tremendous opportunity due to its generously apportioned lot size.

Upon entry through the ornate stone columns atop with beautiful coach lamps, an expanse of natural stone, luxurious

water features, and sabal palms welcomes you to the oasis. No paradise would be complete without a vast pool reflecting the palm fronds and sunshine of our Carolina coast, designed and installed by Mike Carpenter of Shoreline Pools of Wilmington, LLC. Their beach entry is a unique feature to the pool, and it transports the Steenbergs and guests to the South Pacific shoreline. It also includes an underwater seating area and table for in-water drinks and dining, as well as a spill-over hot tub offering relaxation and the peaceful sound of flowing water.

Upon leaving the tranquil waters, the homeowners can find warmth and rest near a grand fireplace, fueled by gas for easy use. While the outdoor living space offers a serene safe haven, the Steenbergs also ensured it to be a place of fun and festivity. They encompassed more of their Fijian resort by incorporating a synthetic turf putting green in their rear lawn as well as the recreational amenities of an all-weather pool table and ping-pong table. From adults to children, there is always a celebratory atmosphere at the Steenberg residence with an abundance of available activities. Plenty of accommodations were made for seating for house guests as they entertain by the outdoor grilling area, while privacy was maintained with a large stone and stucco wall. As majestic as their outdoor living space is with hardscapes and the year-round blooms, their paradise becomes magical when alit at night with landscape lighting. On any given day, Landfall residents traveling on Arboretum are sure to catch sight of the Steenbergs enjoying their outdoor retreat.

Landfall living encourages homeowners to take their life story to create the atmosphere and outdoor living space that best



reflects their lives and lifestyles. Whether it is a trip to Fiji, a year in Paris, or a summer in New England, your outdoors should be filled with as much of your history as your home is. As in interior decorating, we can begin with your inspiration and vision and translate it into an outdoor masterpiece perfectly suited to you. While your story may not be one that includes an

eye patch and an “aargh, matey”, it is a tapestry woven by your memories, experiences and hopes for the future. Low Country Landscaping, Inc.’s tagline is “Dream, Design, Build, Maintain.” The Steenberg family took their dream and designed their reality... one that took them from pirates to paradise.

SCOTT'S HOMEOWNER LAWN AND GARDEN *Tips for the Month*

1. Now is the time to change your seasonal color. Some deer-tolerant annual suggestions include cabbages, kales and snapdragons. While pansies and violas offer the most color in the cooler temperatures, you may need to offer protection from our ever-roving deer.

2. For a DIY deer and rabbit repellent, mix the following ingredients thoroughly:

- Two eggs
- One cup of low fat milk
- One cup of warm water
- 1/8th tsp Hi-Yield spreader sticker

Fill a small hand sprayer with the solution and apply immediately. Discard any remaining solution, as it cannot be saved. Apply every 14 days or more frequently if it rains.

3. When installing your seasonal color, a greater impact is achieved with areas of concentrated color rather than individual, widely spaced plantings.

4. When choosing colors of annuals, keep it simple and select one or two colors that coordinate well with your home's exterior and existing landscape.

5. Two wonderful perennial shrubs to install this month offering color until the winter holidays are Encore Azaleas and Knock-out Roses. Both of these varieties will offer color multiple months of the year with minimal care.

6. Landscape lighting extends the beauty of your landscape as our days get shorter and adds security to your home. Consider having a low-voltage landscape lighting system installed to highlight your landscape and home's most beautiful features.