

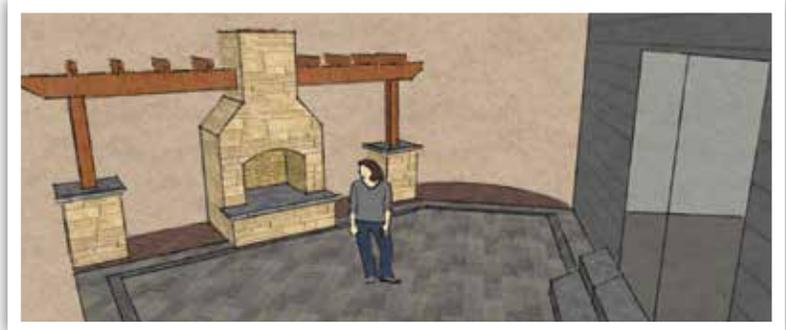
New Faces and New Roles

Over the past year, we have been blessed to be able to grow with our talented team members. Aaron Feather (Penn State '04) has been our Lead Foreman of General Tree Care for many years. He will be promoted to **Safety Director**. Aaron will strive to ensure our company goals: employee safety, training and skill development for our production staff, and maintaining consistent quality in our tree care offices. Last year, Randy Stroble (Mansfield '97) re-joined our team after 9 years in law enforcement. He spent 2016 in landscape sales. This year he will be transitioning to one of our **Lead Landscape Foremen** positions. He will use his extensive experience to groom our next generation of landscape leaders. With our recent growth, we have decided to again focus on recruitment at the collegiate level. Evan Brumfield (Penn State '14), has been named our **Recruiting Coordinator**, while he continues to serve as a Tree Care Foreman. Brady Rosenberry joined our staff as a new **IPM Technician**. Brady graduated from Penn State in 2016 with a four-year degree in Forest Science and is the newest member to the Plant Health Care team. Zach Fore, one of our Landscape Field Leaders since 2013, has been promoted to **Landscape Sales**. Zach possesses great communication skills, honed from his education degree from IUP. He has extensive field knowledge, and a desire to continually add to his knowledge base. These skills will allow him to transition into sales for both Cumberland and Dauphin County. Our Carlisle office now has a full-time **Mechanic**. Our unsung heroes behind the scenes are our mechanics, who do a great job maintaining our fleet of trucks, trailers, and various equipment. Jason Paylor, joined our team in late 2016 and will be instrumental in monitoring and maintaining our fleet. Shane Peck, who also joined our staff in 2016, is a second Mechanic and Welder for our Chambersburg office.



3D GRAPHICS TO AID IN LANDSCAPE DESIGNS

Three-dimensional graphics are a great facilitator in the design process. People learn in different ways, and sometimes a flat, plan view drawing cannot convey the details and intricacies of a design. With the advancement of computer software and popularity of shows on HGTV, three-dimensional graphics have become increasingly popular. When our landscape team has been commissioned to render a landscape design, we can now offer this style of perspective drawing. We have found that a key benefit of this type of graphic is helping the client to better visualize what could be a complex design. Additionally, it helps both the client and contractor finalize design details before the project begins! The software used to create the graphics can manipulate the model to illustrate accurate scale, color schemes, accent details, lighting, and more. These types of renderings can even aid in visualizing small foundation plantings, since sometimes the texture, form, and size of plant choices is essential to creating just the right atmosphere.



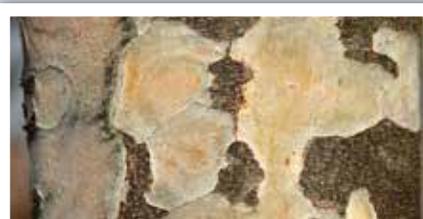
PLANT HIGHLIGHTS



Dunstan Chestnut has been a widely popular and talked about plant the last few years. The **Dunstan Chestnut** is the premier hybrid of American Chestnut, boasting its resistance to the Chestnut Blight and also heavy fruiting capabilities. Cultivating for this hybrid started in the 1950's and recently became available for retail. The American Chestnut was a massive tree and also a staple in our native forest. In the early 1900's, the Chestnut Blight wiped out nearly all of the American Chestnuts. With lots of combined help and research across the world, hybridization with blight resistant varieties began. The Dunstan cultivar is a combination of American, Chinese, and even Japanese chestnut varieties. We have planted several of these trees over the past few years and we are excited to play our small part in the "come back" of this iconic tree.



Our second plant highlight is **Persian Parrotia**. This is an often underutilized tree, but provides great character for all seasons of interest. This is a slow, often multi-stemmed tree that can eventually reach heights around 30 feet tall and a width of 25 feet. This tree blooms small red flowers in early spring. The fall leaf color is outstanding, with highly variable colors of yellow, orange, and red. The tree also has exfoliating bark, which gives a unique appeal during winter when the leaves have long fallen.



PLANT HEALTH CARE

In our 2016 newsletter we identified two pests and one disease threatening the horizon for our local landscapes. These threats included: Emerald Ash Borer, Thousand Canker Disease, and Spotted Lanternfly. **Emerald Ash Borer** continues to wreak havoc on our ash tree population. Professionals estimate 150-200 million ash trees have died in the U.S. to date and billions are infested. CVTSL Plant Health Care Manager, Jamey Schwartz, has been interviewed numerous times by local media about not only the active existence of the Emerald Ash Borer in our treasured ash trees but also the impact of its presence in our local community. The damage from the insect goes well beyond a dying tree in a homeowner's yard. There has been massive reverberation as boroughs, HOA's, and parks bear the staggering costs associated in the treatment and/or removal of these infested ash trees. Since the pest has now been in our region for several years, we are finding that many untreated ash trees are simply too far gone to be treated. Unfortunately, these untreated ash trees need to be removed for safety reasons. These trees become extremely brittle as the insect feeds making climbing hazardous. In fact, these trees have been known to implode when they are felled and make contact with the ground. On a brighter note, both **Thousand Canker Disease** and **Spotted Lanternfly** have not spread within the past year. Both Thousand Canker Disease and Spotted Lanternfly remain quarantined in the south eastern portion of Pennsylvania.

Call our office and have one of our trained experts inspect your property to analyze the health of your trees and shrubs. CVTSL offers the "Green Solutions Plant Health Care Program", which provides our clients with the added value of monthly monitoring and analysis of your specific plant needs.

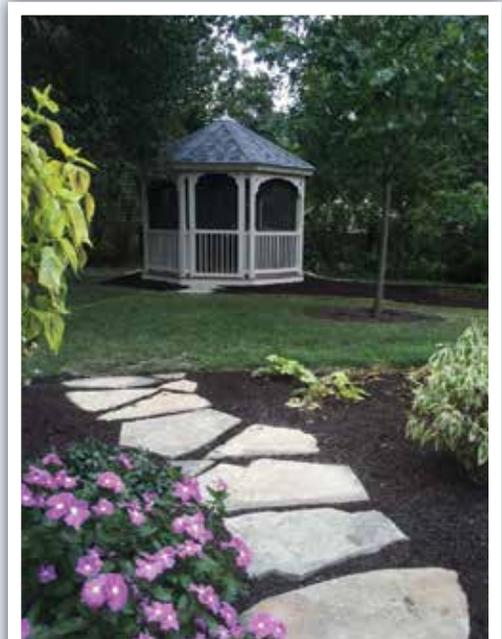
Current Plant Health Care clients should keep an eye out for our 2017 Service Proposals arriving via mail this winter. Our pre-paid option will help you save 5% on this year's proposed services.

INCORPORATING NATURAL ELEMENTS INTO DESIGN

With each year, we see greater demand for the use of natural materials being restored to landscape design. Man-made pavers, wall block, and steps are being replaced with flagstone, bluestone, boulders, and natural stone slabs. These natural elements allow the new landscape to better fit with surrounding features, such as an existing limestone barn foundation (first picture) or wooded setting (second picture).



Boulders can offer a more cost effective approach to grade retention (third picture). Also, flagstone stepping stones can be a natural pathway alternative to a more labor intensive interlocking paver system (fourth picture).





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Design and Installation of the Deb Creager Memorial Garden

We have previously discussed our involvement with Penn State Mont Alto in the planning and design for the Deb Creager Memorial Garden. This garden is in memory of the late Debra Creager, a member of the campus Development Office for 17 years. Last spring, our landscape crews took the

design from concept to reality. The garden features Deb's favorite design elements: purple plant characteristics, a cedar pergola, and close proximity to the campus chapel. In addition, the garden provides a patio surface, boulders, and bench. This garden serves as an extension of the chapel for wedding photos and gathering. We are very thankful to help provide a long lasting memorial to the Creager and Penn State families.

