

# Let's Talk Trees

Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life



## From Joe...what's new

It seems all too often we hear people say, "I didn't know you do that" when we tell them about our range of services. We try hard to communicate this information in as many places as possible, including both print and web, but for some reason it seems the message just isn't getting across loud and clear. So, let me reiterate: NPHC is a full service landscape maintenance and landscape construction company!

### Landscape Maintenance

NPHC offers a full range of tree and plant health care services. This is how we started the company years ago and it is what we are best known for. I tell people we do anything and everything having to do with trees and shrubs, including consulting on tree and construction issues. It's true! We also offer complete landscape maintenance packages that include all phases of lawn care, fertilizing, weed management (including shrub beds and bare ground), spider and ant barrier sprays for home perimeters, aerating, mowing, edging and blowing. If you want the one-contractor-does-it-all approach to caring for your landscape, look no further than NPHC.

### Landscape Construction

We also do full scale landscape construction. This includes grading and excavation, natural and concrete patios, steps, paths and walls, water features, irrigation install and repair, lawn renovation and, of course, beautiful plantings. We have excellent, reliable sub-contractors for concrete edging, hydroseeding and bark blowing and arrange those services for your convenience. I am still looking for a reliable flat work concrete guy – know anyone?

All of this is to say, when your landscape is in need of attention please don't hesitate to take advantage of our full range of services! We want to be your only call when it comes to caring for and improving your landscape.

In care of trees...and the landscapes they thrive within! ☺

*Joe Zubaly*



# The Cool Crowd

## Glen Willow Community

Since 2004, NPHC has proudly been part of maintaining the grounds of the Glen Willow Community on Spokane's south hill. Developed roughly 30 years ago, Glen Willow has several community plant features as well as a pool for members and guests. Proactive with the overall care of their trees, the HOA has developed a low maintenance renovation plan to make over the landscape. This plan intends to create subtle changes that will serve to reduce or maintain landscape maintenance costs, while sustaining the natural beauty.

Glen Willow lost a cherished community and HOA Board member, Joan Douglas, suddenly this year. Joan was instrumental in developing the renovation plan, was a dedicated advocate for her community, and is greatly missed. ☺



Just like the card says:  
Tree Care Experts...

# and more.

# Landscape Showcase: Williams Residence

In this issue we showcase a recent landscape project that has many unique features and does a great job highlighting the range of services we offer. It was a blast being part of this project and helping our client realize a big dream!

## Hardscapes

Phase 1 of this residential landscape is located on the north-facing slope of the South Hill. The project incorporates all of the aspects that mark a "showcase" landscape, including:

- demolition of site and disposal of debris
- renovation of existing natural stone retaining walls in backyard
- installation of large split slab staircase
- incorporation of flagstone stepping stones through lawn area from driveway to new staircase

Large accent boulders were incorporated to soften and tie together the slab staircase as well as provide soil stability and enhance aesthetic value of the front slope for planting. In addition to hardscapes, we utilized historic bricks (salvaged from a city project) to create a walkway along the south side of the garage. Existing pavers on site were also salvaged and utilized to construct and recreate a terraced sitting area and patio.

## Turf

The newly installed turf area required very specific and monitored preparations due to the extensive and sensitive root system of an existing Norway maple. Soil preparations, installation of turf and watering cycles were all completed with the main goal of preserving tree health and root integrity.

## Irrigation

Irrigation was installed throughout the front yard for new turf and planting bed areas with future expansion box located at rear of garage. This system will operate approximately 10 zones with one zone functioning as the auto-fill for the anticipated water feature in backyard.

## Plants

Phase 2 of this landscape installation will involve all the planting and bark mulch. Northwest Plant Health Care looks forward to working with the Williams in the future and completing their dream landscape! 🌿

## Seasonal To Do

- Evaluate & winterize irrigation system
- Apply systemic insecticide to control tree pests next season
- Fertilize lawn for winter health
- Incarcerate plants for deer protection
- Rake up leaves and fruit to reduce pest populations next season
- Winterize roses



Ben L., Patrick and Bret did an  
**outstanding**  
job and were very professional. I am  
continually impressed with the NPHC team!  
**Thank you**

for always taking such great care of our  
landscape. ~ Cynthia K., Post Falls



Check out the  
stairs and turf!



Recycled  
pavers.



*This recipe is inspired by a recent trip to our favorite spot (Pacific City, OR) for prime crab-catching season and to watch our son Ben surf in the Cape Kiwanda Classic. Enjoy!*  
~ Kate

## Cape Kiwanda Crab Cakes with Chipotle Sauce

- 1 Lb. De-shelled Dungeness crabmeat
- 1/3 c Italian bread crumbs
- 5 T Mayonnaise
- 1.5 T Dijon mustard
- 1 Egg, stirred
- 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1.5 T Fresh dill, diced fine
- Liberal fresh ground pepper
- ¼ tsp Salt
- 1 T Grape seed oil for sauté
- Lemon wedges for garnish

### Chipotle Sauce:

- 1/2 c Mayonnaise
- 1/2 c Plain yogurt
- 2.5 T Fresh dill
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- ¼ tsp+ Chipotle powder
- ¼ tsp Sugar

Put first nine ingredients together and mix in a bowl. Form into 8 (½ inch thick) patties. Sauté in grape seed oil over medium heat until heated through and lightly browned on each side. Mix sauce ingredients in bowl and serve on the side of crab cakes! Serves four. ↪

surfer Ben!



## Who's hot!

### Craig Forbes

Greetings! My name is Craig Forbes and I am the new Landscape Division Manager here at NPHC. I am also a 24-year veteran of the Green Industry and recent transplant from Portland, Oregon. I moved to Spokane in May, along with my fiancé and our three children, and we look forward to experiencing all the area has to offer.

I bring to NPHC a broad range of industry experience and my areas of expertise involve all phases of landscape design and installation. In 2005 I obtained my Certified Arborist certificate, which has proven to be quite rewarding. It's funny, but what was once "just a summer job" has evolved into a career with a passion to teach and share knowledge.

As the new Landscape Division Manager I'm excited for the opportunity to develop new business and eagerly anticipate meeting our current clients and nurturing long-term relationships. ↪



*Craig is one of eleven ISA Certified Arborists on staff at NPHC. We employ more Certified Arborists than any other company in the area!*



## What's not!

### Wild Violets

Lawn Violets are perennials that grow low to the ground and tend to form dense mats if control measures are not taken. They are very shade tolerant, prefer lawns located on moist, fertile soils, and tend to be most visible during spring and fall. Leaves of the common violet are oval to kidney shaped with a heart-shaped base. Flowers are blue or purple and form in the spring. They reproduce by seed and also spread by creeping roots and rhizomes, which can make them very hard to control.

If violets are a problem, one option is to dig them up. To ensure success you must pull up all the roots and stems or the plant will grow back. To keep violets from invading, maintain a thick turf through proper lawn care practices and reduce heavily shaded areas by having your trees pruned on a regular basis.

Although control is difficult, existing violets can be treated with post-emergence broadleaf herbicides in the period from mid spring to early summer and/or mid to late fall when the plants are actively growing. This time frame allows plants to absorb the chemical better. And remember that broadleaf herbicides can be damaging to trees and shrubs, so exercise caution when treating within the root zones of these plants. ↪



Beat the deer this winter!

Rates effective Dec.-Feb.



Proudly celebrating 15 years of plant health care. Thanks for choosing NPHC!



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**THE  
INSIDE  
DIRT**

Showcasing a  
special landscape

Those pesky  
lawn violets

Meet Glen Willow  
Community

## Community pruning is win-win-win



NPHC frequently partners with community groups to embark on pruning projects in local neighborhoods. We like to schedule these events for the winter months so we can offer significant discounts in hopes of enticing many in the neighborhood to participate.

Some of the neighborhoods we have worked with are Best Hills Meadows, Glen Willow and Foothills. The funds available for this type of work come from the dues homeowners pay as part of an association fee. By contracting through the associations we can really work to beautify the common areas for all to enjoy.

We also partner with neighborhood groups that are more loosely organized. Usually it helps to work with at least one person from the neighborhood who is a real tree advocate. With "help on the inside" we have been successful in galvanizing support and community involvement.

In all cases we are able to create a win-win-win pruning project. The homeowners are able to get their trees pruned at a greatly discounted rate, the neighborhood trees flourish and increase property values, and NPHC is able to continue working through the winter months. And, we wouldn't rule out an offer of hot chocolate for those who would like to help!

If your community is in need of some tree maintenance and wants to get the greatest value for its buck, call us today and we can discuss planning a community tree pruning project this winter. ☺

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really work to **beautify**



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