

the ESTATE GARDENER

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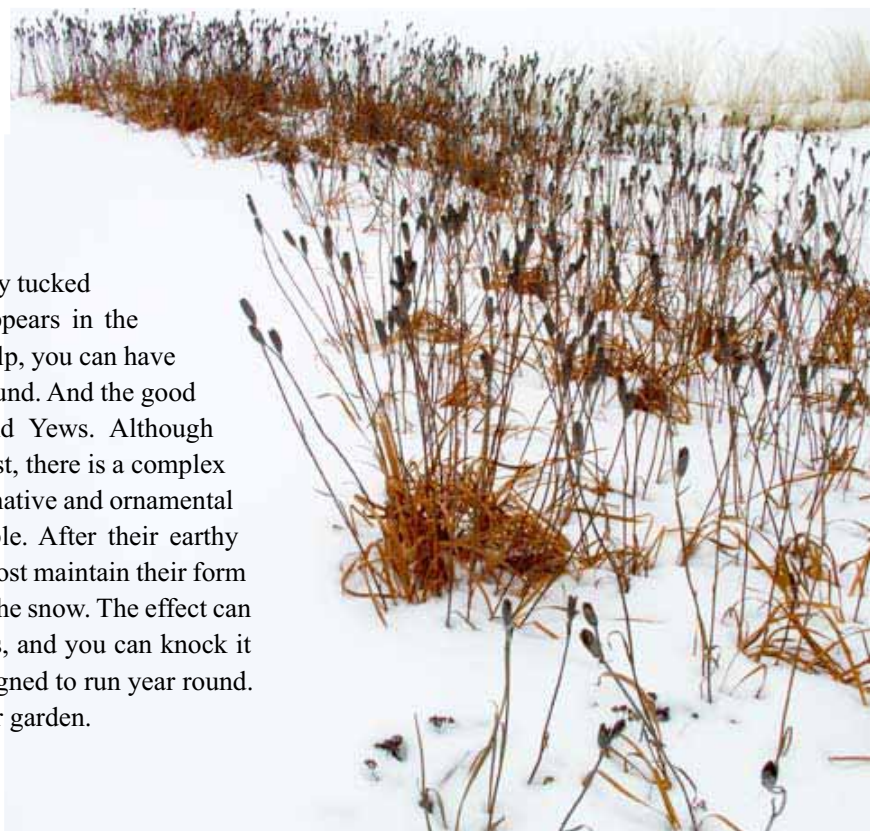
Elkhorn, NE 68022

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Winter Interest



This year marked a return of winter to our area for the first time in a while. Winter winds, snow and bitter temperatures have Mother Nature's beauty tucked away for protection. But not all beauty disappears in the winter. With planning, and Estate Gardeners help, you can have elements in your garden that contribute year round. And the good news is that doesn't just mean Junipers and Yews. Although evergreens certainly contribute to winter interest, there is a complex pallet to choose from. The rising popularity of native and ornamental grasses has made these plants readily available. After their earthy autumn show of rich browns, reds and golds, most maintain their form and color and are dramatic protruding through the snow. The effect can be multiplied if they are next to some boulders, and you can knock it out of the park if you have a water feature designed to run year round. Call us today and start planning for your winter garden.



Breuning Residence

Our last Issue highlighted a project for our clients Jon and Connie Breuning. Shortly after publication the Breuning project was presented with an Environmental Improvement Award of Distinction from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET).

The challenge to make this site both suit the needs and fulfill the dreams of its owners involved maximizing the small space on a steep slope and enhancing the livability of the area. Through the use of interwoven man-made and natural materials, we were able to create a functional, inviting terrace that becomes the centerpiece of the view from the wall of windows above.

The gathering of Landscape Industry leaders for the 37th annual Environmental Improvement Awards took place in Columbus, Ohio. Over 140 projects from North America were recognized.

PLANET's Environmental Improvement Awards Program reflects the association's commitment to creating and preserving the beauty of our landscape. The program is designed to reward independent landscape, lawn care, and interior plantscaping professionals who execute superior projects. PLANET strives to increase public awareness of environmental improvement through contracted landscaping, lawn care, and interior plantscaping and encourages the consistent use of quality materials and workmanship.

PLANET represents approximately 4,400 Green Industry service-provider companies and suppliers nationwide that specialize in lawn care, design/build/installation, interior plantscaping, and landscape management. These firms and their

employees represent more than 100,000 green industry professionals.



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GARDENER *profile:*



Kathi Blaine, office manager

during her service in the US Marine Corps followed by later study at Iowa Western Community College. She has many years of experience as an accounting manager and trainer with large agricultural firms operating throughout the Midwest.

A native of Spokane, WA, Kathi's education and work experiences brought her eventually to settle in the Omaha area. She received her early accounting training

Kathi has an amazing talent for extracting order out of chaos, always with good humor. She's just what's needed in a busy landscaping office. She keeps us all on track and more organized than we've ever been. She has helped us to develop systems to vastly improve accountability and efficiency which have strengthened our company and enhanced our commitment to customer service.

Kathi and her husband, Park, have two children and six grandchildren. Kathi is an avid gardener, an expert quilter and devoted Grandma.

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Michael Becker, CLP
CEO, Estate Gardeners, Inc.

A Letter from Michael Becker, CLP *Doing it right!*

How do you know when you are doing it right? It's easy to get so involved in the day to day aspects of running a business that you don't get a clear view of how you are doing. That is one of the reasons we value recognition from outside our company, especially when it comes in the form of awards. One of our most valued was in 2005 when we were the recipients of the **Better Business Bureau's Integrity award.**

Through documentation of our business ethics, involvement in the industry, and internal workings of our company, the BBB determined that we were deserving of recognition for our ethical practices and our commitment to institutionalize integrity into Estate Gardeners Inc. With this award we take our place alongside organizations like Cox Communications, OPPD and Girls and Boys Town. Wow, that's good company, and we are honored and humbled with our inclusion in this elite group of businesses.



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Michael Becker, CLP
CEO, Estate Gardeners, Inc.

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Seasonal Tip Success in 2007

The promise of a new spring in the garden makes rampaging weeds, oppressive heat and drought, and sore muscles just faint memories of seasons past. Some tips for a successful 2007:

- *Mulched beds require less maintenance*
- *Pre-emergence herbicides applied at proper time help control weeds in beds*
- *Over-watered and under-watered plants are more likely to attract damaging insects and diseases*
- *Grounds management services by Estate Gardeners, Inc.*