



Landscape OF THE Month

An Anchor in Our Backyard

By Scott Hinson, President, Low Country Landscaping, Inc.

In an age where texting, Facebook and reality TV have taken the place of good old fashioned family time, creating an atmosphere where kids, teens and parents alike want to recharge and give their devices a rest is increasingly important. Growing up, the best memories were those spent with family and friends in the backyard tossing ball, playing Marco Polo in the pool and enjoying juicy burgers from the grill and s'mores by the fireplace. While it is difficult to compete with cyber relationships, we have opportunities to capture some of life's most important moments by making our home the place everyone wants to be.

At the home of Dr. David and Shelley Miles, at 1821 South Moorings Drive, this family chose to invest in their outdoor living space to create a place where they and their daughters can laugh, play, entertain friends and savor the pleasant outdoors coastal North Carolina offers. What began as a seldom used space now is where one can find the Miles on any given day.



Whether relaxing poolside on their expansive deck or melting away the day's worries in their spa, the Miles' outdoor living space serves as their own personal oasis. Their backyard can just as easily come alive with the laughter and splashing found in the pool and the summertime aromas from the outdoor kitchen and fireplace. Exciting features include swim-up seating where the Miles can enjoy drinks or a meal while remaining in the pool, lighted pool deck jets for their own personal light and water show, and a rounded-raised decking (affectionately known as "The Turret") to capture the cool evening breezes as well as watch Landfall's finest tee-off on number eight of the Pines Course. The Miles did not neglect to leave open grassy areas framed by lush landscaping where games of soccer, corn-hole and Frisbee are sure to take place. We used native plants in a style that reflects the traditional Carolina style and what southern landscapes best have to offer, insuring year-round color and rich foliage. The Miles family chose an old-world, tumbled paver in a heat reflective color to blend the style of their home



and to insure comfortable deck temperatures. Pavers are a great option for homeowners wishing to expand their patio and deck space given there are hundreds of beautiful options, and do not come with the challenges of cracking concrete and fading colors of concrete stamping. When choosing a paver, a home adds instant character and unsurpassed elegance and quality.

Low Country Landscaping Inc.'s motto is "we design outdoor living spaces around your lifestyle." We encourage homeowners to invest in their outdoor space by adding outdoor kitchens, outdoor fireplaces, swimming pools, paver decking and patios to not only optimize home values, but also home memories. We worked in collaboration with Mike Carpenter, owner of Shoreline Pools of Wilmington to deliver the ultimate outdoor living package. This dynamic duo has created many dreamscapes at

other fine homes in Landfall and around the Wilmington area. On this project, the team invited Brandon Tholen of Innovative Construction to renovate the rear of the Miles' home to connect the outdoor and indoor living space. Special additions include a new, easily accessible bathroom and changing area to keep little wet feet from the rest of the home, an outdoor shower and a beautiful, custom exotic hardwood gate.

In the age of technology, life seems to be moving faster and our children are growing up faster. What better way to push "pause" then to create a family-friendly environment where memories are real rather than virtual. Dr. Miles put it best himself, "by renovating our outdoor living space, we have created an anchor for our family to hold onto in life's busy moments." That's an anchor that will hold throughout life.

SCOTT'S HOMEOWNER LAWN AND GARDEN *Tips for September*

1. To control winter weeds in turf areas, put out a good pre-emergent by the end of the month.
2. Begin to throttle back your irrigation system as the temperatures drop to prevent excessive watering.
3. If you don't have a rain sensor, install one ASAP. These devices are very inexpensive and will save you money, prevent overwatering and help the environment.
4. Hurricane season is upon us. If you have not done so already, evaluate your outdoors for dead trees/limbs that should be removed to prevent damages during a storm.
5. Autumn is one of the best times to plant! Begin preparing your fall projects and new installations.
6. Outdoor fire pits and fire places can extend your enjoyment of the outdoors well into the coldest winter months.
7. If you are thinking about a pool, spa, or outdoor living space for 2013, the time to start the process is now. Planning and design, along with submissions to the Landfall ARB and city agencies, can take time.