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APRIL 2018

## Founders' Message

It's April, which means warm weather, green grass, and flowering plants are on the horizon. As spring arrives and 30 million acres of turf across the nation are turning green and growing, it seems fitting that the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) recognizes April as National Lawn Care Month. This is the perfect time to observe the importance of lawns and their aesthetic and environmental benefits.

Did you know...

- Well-cared-for lawns can significantly increase property values.
- A healthy lawn is of utmost importance to our environment. A 50-foot by 50-foot lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four.
- Lawns cool the atmosphere. Eight healthy front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning, which is enough for an average of 16 homes.
- Grass converts carbon dioxide to oxygen, a process that helps clear the air.
- Dense, healthy grass slows water runoff, removing contaminants and trapping soil. Fresh, filtered water returns to the underground water supply.

Here at Landesign, we're celebrating National Lawn Care Month by being proactive, and our lawn care program is already underway to help our clients ensure both a healthy and beautiful lawn throughout the year.



If you're interested in learning more about how we can help maintain your lawn and landscape, just let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

John and Denise Fitzgerald  
Landesign C&M, Founders



## 2018 Fire Prevention and Weed Abatement Season

Last year's tragic wildfires will no doubt have an impact on the 2018 Fire Prevention and Weed Abatement Season. Weed abatement regulations are typically enforced by our local fire departments from June 1st to October 31st, but we expect officials to be on high alert and enforce weed abatement laws

much more strictly this year.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining high weeds on their land throughout the dry season in order to remain in compliance with the city. There is a possibility that properties will need to be cleared more than once over the course of the 5-month enforcement window in order stay in compliance. Our Account Managers have already begun filling our May schedule, so please [contact us](#) ASAP if you need to schedule a weed abatement project this season.

While it's especially important to be mindful of fire prevention during this time of year, there are a number of fire safety precautions that you should always abide by, regardless of the season. Keep in mind that some of these are required by law.

- Remove dead limbs overhanging your roof, as well as any limbs within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Create common areas between houses and prune areas of heavy vegetation that may be a threat to both structures.
- Clear away any flammable vegetation within 10 feet of wood piles, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks, and fuel storage containers.
- Clear pine needles, leaves, and other debris from the roof of all buildings on your property.
- The defensible space should extend at least 100 feet out from your buildings in all directions.



For additional information on fire safety, check out the following resources:

- [Sonoma County](#)
- [Marin County](#)
- [Napa County](#)



Employee Spotlight: Ken Kauth



Please join us in welcoming one of the newest members of the Landesign Team, Ken Kauth, Enhancements Manager!

Ken was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. After getting degrees in Forestry and Parks & Recreation at Santa Rosa Junior College, he decided to continue his education at California State University Sacramento, where he earned a degree in Natural Resource Management and minored in Geology.

After graduating from college, he started working for a large timber company as their Community Relations Coordinator. While in this position, he worked closely with lobbyists in Sacramento and Washington D.C. and local governmental agencies on any issue concerning natural resource management. After working for a year and being asked to relocate out-of-state, he decided that it was time for a job change.

Ken's second job was as a Park Maintenance Manager for Sonoma County regional parks. In July of 1987, Ken realized he wanted to work in an area that did not involve politics, at which point he started K.J. Landscapes, Inc. The company specialized in estate installations and HOA maintenance. Just like many people in the community after the October 2017 fire, Ken decided to move on to a different chapter in life. After operating for 30 years, Ken shut down his business and came to work for Landesign.

Ken and his wife Lenora have lived in Sonoma County for most of their 39 years of marriage. They have three grown children and are empty-nesters at the moment. In their free time, they love spending time with their kids, family, and friends while enjoying outdoor activities and barbeques.

In just a few months Ken has made a noticeable impact on our company and brings with him a wealth of landscape industry knowledge. Welcome aboard, Ken!



We hope that you've enjoyed this month's newsletter! Please let us know if there is anything you'd like to see in future newsletters by replying to this email or contacting us [here](#) – we look forward to hearing from you!

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### Do You Have a Landscaping Project in Mind?

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