



PG. 2

A Message from Matthew

PG. 3

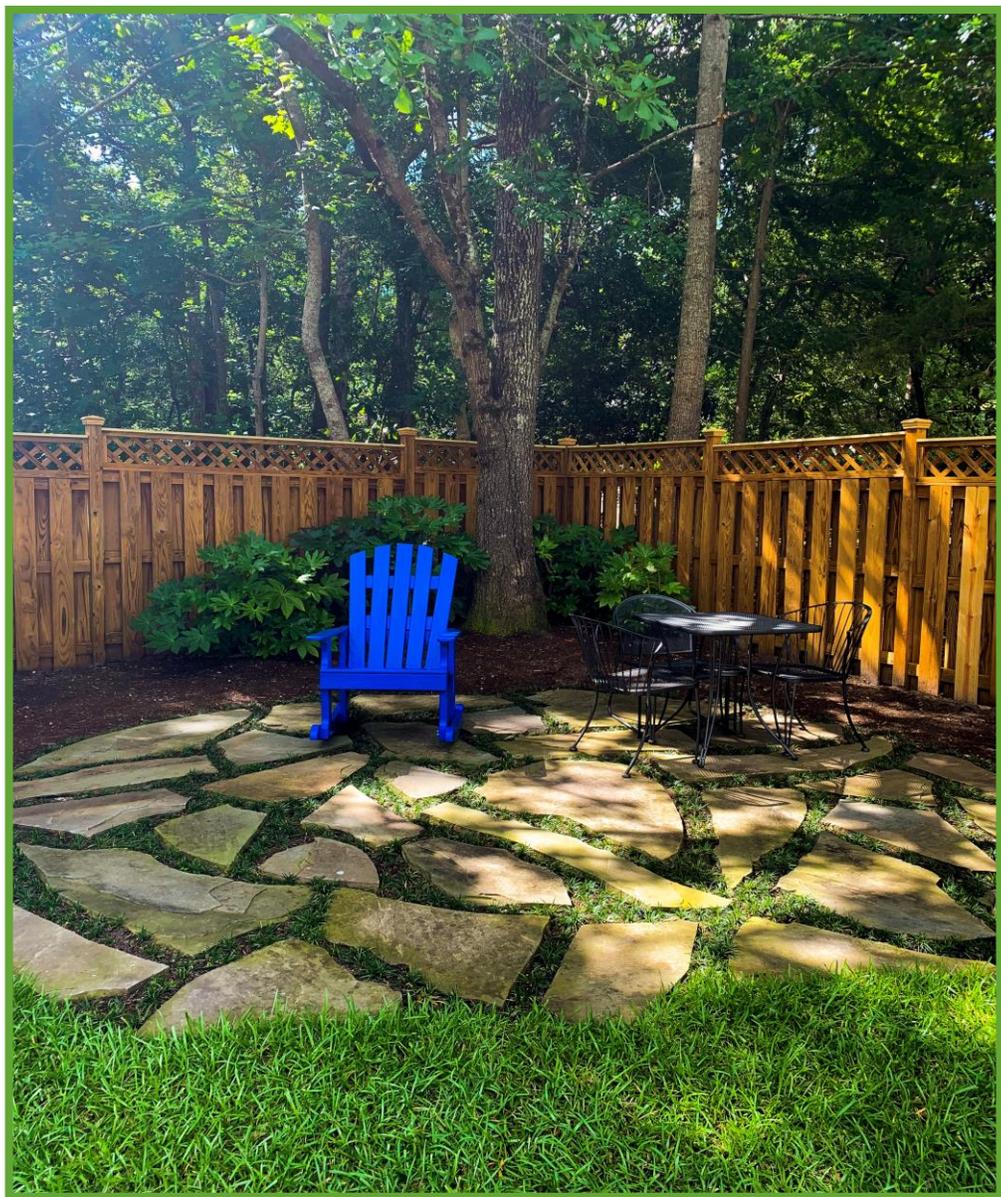
July is Smart Irrigation Month

PG. 4

A Low-Maintenance Landscape

PG. 5

Meet Our Team



Our Summer Focus:

- **July** – Mowing turf and lawn care
- **August** – Lawn treatments and pruning; maintaining flowers through the heat
- **September** – Preparations for Labor Day celebrations

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVIN'S EASY

It's summer along the North Carolina coast as evidenced by the multitudes of gorgeous annual flowers and tropical foliage plants bursting from gardens, the packed beaches and waterways shimmering in the haze of our legendary humidity, and the eerily comforting songs of tree frogs and katydids - with the occasional glimpse of a lightening bug or two. Summertime is for relaxing under a shade tree in your garden with a tall glass of mint iced tea and a best-seller that cracks when you open the binding. Summertime is for family gatherings on a soft green lawn, the smell of grilling food wafting into the house. In this issue, we feature something that our clients often request: a low-maintenance garden update. We will also talk about water conservation and performance irrigation methods – a vital subject for our dry, sultry summer months. So, sit back and enjoy this special time of year.

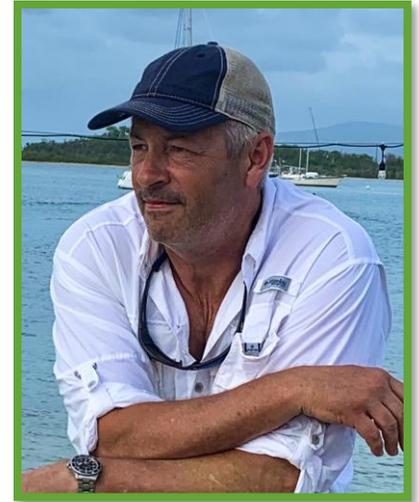


Dear Friends,

I hope everyone's summer is off to a fun and relaxing start. It has been the busiest spring/early summer ever for North State Gardens. Our list of maintenance clients continues to grow and with it the spring workload. We are also developing new design and installation business while helping repair/renovate/improve many landscapes after storm damage. It is a very satisfying part of my job to help my clients restore a landscape to pre-storm condition and put the events of last fall behind them.

Along those lines, a lot of us still have a way to go on getting our properties back to normal. Work has finally begun on my personal home, and I have moved my family into an AirBnB for a few weeks. We consider ourselves fortunate that we have a comfortable and convenient place to land. I know that some of you are still in the process of repairs, and you have had to miss a lot of your summer at the beach. I wish all of you a speedy recovery.

Do you realize that a gallon of water can cost as much as a gallon of gasoline? Although planet Earth is called "the blue planet" due to its abundance of water, only 0.3% of our water is available for humans, animals and plants to use. The rest is saltwater or tied up in glacier ice. July is "Smart Irrigation Month" and later in the newsletter we will talk about what a smart irrigation system is and how to make your existing system smarter and more efficient. Both our Irrigation Technician Susan and I are NC Licensed Irrigation Contractors, and we can easily run an audit of your existing system this winter to help mitigate future costs.



Many of us love our flower displays especially in summer. Although the interior of my house is a construction site, the deck is loaded with blooming planters and the annual beds in the yard are in their glory. Some of my favorite annuals are vinca, caladiums, scaevola, geraniums, angelonia and impatiens. Annuals are long-blooming; with proper maintenance you can get an entire summer of blooms. Of course, annuals need to be replanted, but the work seems very small in regards to the bounty. Perennials are relatively short-blooming but have the advantage of returning each year with little to no effort. Some of my favorites are gaura, rudbeckia, shasta daisy, catmint, and Russian sage.

So have a wonderful – and colorful – summer season. Autumn is just around the corner.

Matthew

A CASE FOR SMART IRRIGATION



If you have an older system, please consider having us perform an irrigation audit to see if we can save some money on your water bill and help save the planet's water supply. Fall and winter are ideal for this as we have time in our busy schedule.



With summer heat comes water conservation. So how can a smart irrigation system help? Traditional irrigation controllers operate on a preset programmed schedule, watering like clockwork even in a downpour. A smart irrigation controller monitors many factors to automatically adjust the watering schedule to actual conditions at the site using factors like weather, soil condition and evaporation.

An industry group called the Irrigation Association has dubbed July “Smart Irrigation Month.” The goal of efficient irrigation design is to apply an appropriate amount of water evenly to the turf and plants when and where it is needed. At North State Gardens, we utilize several tools and principles to be efficient stewards of our water supply including:

- ▶ Sensors that suspend watering after sufficient rainfall
- ▶ Use of drip irrigation in plant beds that places a measured amount of water exactly on the plant
- ▶ Use of the latest sprinkler nozzles, which are up to 30% more efficient than older designs
- ▶ Sprinkler head placement that achieves “head to head” coverage for an even distribution of water
- ▶ Maintenance practices that keep systems operating as intended as the landscape grows and changes

In recent years, the industry has placed more emphasis on efficiency and using less water. As a result, the available technology and best practices have evolved.



KEEPING THE UPKEEP DOWN: One Client's Landscaping Journey

After one client's landscape in Porter's Neck was badly damaged from Hurricane Florence, she decided it was time for a lower maintenance style of garden – without having to sacrifice the grace and beauty of an enjoyable environment.

The existing lawn was destroyed in all the debris removal, and the client also lost some trees. We added a couple of crape myrtles to balance an existing much-loved tree, and also added some grasses for texture. Our client says, "Matthew was great to work with. I had a limited budget, and he was able to break my project into phases and to reuse a lot of my existing plants. I saved some plants that have an emotional connection to me, and he was good about keeping them. We did a lot of collaborating together."



In the back yard, a swimming pool had been removed several years before, and there were lots of nice existing plants that just needed to be rearranged. We actually did not have to purchase one new plant for the back of the house! The client also had some flagstones on hand, so we used those to create a separate sitting area under a large tree. We chose plants, grasses and turf that this client could easily maintain as she is a hands-on gardener.

"I absolutely LOVE the back yard! This is what I have always envisioned doing back here!" says our client. We are happy to have made this client's vision into reality!



MEET OUR TEAM



 **Susan Parker**, our experienced Irrigation Technician, has been with NSG for over five years. Her turf degree from NCSU, experience working at Landfall and Airlie Gardens, and years of owning her own landscaping business have honed Susan's technical knowledge and problem solving ability.

"I love working outside and in the landscape industry in general. I enjoy most of the challenges irrigation throws at me, and I am determined to figure things out. I really like the staff and clients we have at NSG, so I take a lot of pride in my work. I want to provide great customer service and quality of work."

Susan enjoys spending time with her family boating and fishing. She is also a big sports fan, especially when it comes to basketball, and she occasionally referees and umpires locally.

Trouble shooting broken irrigation systems and designing new ones is a challenge that Susan enjoys. She is a NC Licensed Irrigation Contractor and can often save the client money by auditing older systems and making them more water efficient. **Schedule a system audit with Susan in the winter for water savings in 2020!**



 **Joe Bullard** has been with NSG for two years, and clients and co-workers alike describe him as always cheerful and friendly. Joe loves being outdoors which makes him perfect for a career in landscaping. "My favorite part of working at NSG is watching the yards we maintain grow and change overtime; it's fun to see how they evolve. I also really like the relationships you build with clients from week to week."

Joe's job is very physically demanding, but he is an athletic guy - he was a football player in college - and he enjoys the challenge. Joe says, "I like to surf, longboard, go to the beach - pretty much anything outside." And not surprisingly, he also enjoys gardening. "My favorite things to do are to take care of my personal vegetable and flower gardens."

Joe has a great work ethic and pays close attention to detail. He is an important part of our NSG team!