

Landscapes for Life

Halian & Associates

Spring is here, and it's high season for landscaping companies like Halian & Associates Landscapes of McHenry, Md. With more than 25 years' experience in his field, and a team of skilled co-workers, Brian Branthoover has established a strong reputation in the Deep Creek Lake area and beyond for innovative, functional landscape design and construction.

"We do residential and commercial landscape design and installations, from the foundation all the way out," Brian says. "It's really soup to nuts, with everything imaginable. We do small to large projects." Many are broken down into phases, often seasonal, for optimal results.

A native of Blacklick, Pa., Brian enjoyed weekend visits to Deep Creek Lake with his family while growing up. After completing a Bachelor's of Technology degree in Landscape Design and Construction, and two additional degrees in Floriculture Production and Nursery Management, he returned to the area and set up a landscaping business. Seven years later, a tempting offer from a company in the northern Virginia area prompted him to move and sell his business. After another

seven years, he returned to Garrett County, in 2006, with his present company, Halian & Associates Landscapes.

Brian's primary goal is developing innovative designs that meet his clients' landscaping needs. "We specialize in functional designs for lower maintenance," he says. Each project begins with Brian's design team. He works on each design, assisted by graphic artist and design associate, Jeffrey Maule, and Kari Upchurch, a recent West Virginia University graduate with a degree in landscape architecture. All three work in the field performing thorough site analysis, consultation and sales.

"I'm the operations guy," he says, overseeing three hardscape installation crews, a masonry crew and three softscape crews during projects. Hardscape includes inanimate elements like stone, wood and pavement, while softscape refers to plants. Brian and his installation staff hold multiple certifications from both national and international organizations for concrete paver stone installation, segmented wall construction and modular block wall construction.

"We push teamwork, teamwork, teamwork," Brian says of his employees, rooted within the local community. "They are wonderful young men and women with strong Christian values. They are conscientious and trustworthy, they have a strong work ethic, and they understand the importance of



attention to detail during design and installation.

He notes a challenge that he says has become an industry-wide problem. "The deer population limits our creativity somewhat," he says; "so we focus on deer-proof landscaping." As an active member of five trade and nursery associations, Brian stays current with new developments in his field, and encourages continuing education with his staff.

With clients ranging from Western Maryland, Western Pennsylvania, Morgantown, West Virginia, Northern Virginia, and various points in between, Halian & Associates Landscapes is thriving.

"We pursue intelligent growth," Brian says. "It's all about perseverance. I'm an optimist, and keep plugging away."



Photo above: The Halian "Team."

Other photos reflect the team's expert stonework and landscaping skills in a pristine environment in the Deep Creek Lake, Maryland area.



Photography by: Lance C. Bell

