Dear Members

It has been five years since I first joined the MALP board and in that time we have had many educational meetings, work days and other events. I have met many wonderful people in the industry and it was a honor to serve as the Association’s president for the last three years. But it is time to hand over the torch. The position of President will be open for 2010. Elections will be held at the first meeting in January.

I will still be active within MALP but in a more low key role. I thank everyone that has encouraged and supported MALP over the years and I know it will continue its great work for the years to come.

Kind Regards
MALP President 2009
Susi Mastroianni

MALP Membership Benefits
* 10% off bulk EKO Compost purchases
* 10% off parts and accessories at Lawn Equipment
* 15% off at Irrigation Systems
* Meetings every other month* with experts speaking on subjects that affect your work
  (*complete with ono pupus!)
* Annual field trip
* Announcements of special events and workshops
* Free listing in MALP Membership Directory
* Networking with other professionals in your field

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Lawn & Garden Fair and Hawaiian Tree Give-away

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens & Maui Association of Landscape Professionals
1,000 Hawaiian Trees Will Be Given Away

FEATUREING:
- Honorable Mayor Charmaine Tavares to attend and plant a tree
- Educational Speakers & Booths
- Plant Sales: Fruit Trees, Succulents, Native Plants
- Tree Planting & Pruning Demonstration
- Soil pH Testing & Education by M.C.C. Agriculture Department
- Plant Pest Identification & Education
- Landscape Industry Trade Show
- Ono Food Vendors
- Garden Door Prizes & Silent Auction
- Anna Palamino Honorary Chair

Saturday, November 7, 2009
9 am to 2 pm

At Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, 150 Kanaloa Ave., Kahului. Across the street from the War Memorial Football Stadium. Free Admission and Parking at the War Memorial Stadium.

www.mnbg.org 249-2798      www.malp.org
Rock walls add a natural element to landscapes and enhance any garden style.

I was working on a landscape design project recently that had a variety of rock hardscape features. Each day it was fascinating to watch the transformation made with the addition of blue rock retaining walls, moss rock planters and bed borders, blue rock veneer on the hollow tile wall and moss rock pillars for a walk-thru arbor. The walls all looked very natural with no cement showing. Bill Maskell did the rock work on this project.

Bill Maskell was born on Oahu and has done Maui rock work for 26 years. He and his crew of 5, watched over by his dogs Nana Bell and Kui, have built everything including shower stalls, stair cases, chimneys, wall veneers, as well as standard walls.

I wanted to know more about the process and interviewed Bill for this article on rock walls.

Q – What kinds of rock do you use?
A - We use four kinds: Blue, Moss, Kapalua and River Rock

Q – How do you build the foundation?
A – There is a formula. The base is half the height of the wall.

Q – When you build a thick wall do you use all rock?
A – Usually there is recycled concrete in the back and the face of the wall is rock. If the backfill does not come up to the top of the wall then the decorative rock is put down to the soil line so the concrete doesn’t show.

Q – When do you need to get a permit?
A – Any wall over 3 feet requires a permit and an engineering stamp.

Q - How do you finish off the rock wall?
A – There are two ways. One is a cement cap and the other is a rock cap.

Q – Are there other ways of putting the rock wall together?
A – Another technique is using cement between the rocks. You see the cement lines but it does deter bugs and weeds.

Q – Is drainage a problem?
A – Our walls usually drain themselves because they are porous.

Q – How do you have to maintain the walls?
A – Rock walls need no maintenance whereas hollow tile walls may need crack repairs and the joints or repainting.

Q- How do you price the walls?
A – Usually pricing is by the square foot but sometimes an hourly rate is used.

Consider rock walls in your plans. They will make a beautiful, strong statement in any landscape.
Most of the fruit trees we buy today have been grafted to ensure reliable fruit varieties.

Grafting is the process whereby you join two trees together to grow as one. This site is very important to the tree as it is the place where the two trees join and should be clean and growing well together. Take care to inspect this site when buying fruit trees.

Some trees have a healthy root system that is resistant to certain diseases and other pests. This rootstock can be joined to a tree that may be susceptible to a disease but has desirable fruit. This becomes the scion or the top part of the tree.

This join is also where the vascular systems (the xylem and phloem), together with the cambium are joined. The graft can often be seen on young trees.

When you see sucker shoots growing from below the graft line you should remove them. These shoots are coming from the rootstock, and if not removed, may sap the energy from the desired fruiting scion. Rootstock suckers can have vigorous growth habit and the bark characteristics can vary from the rest of the tree.