

# *Windswept News*

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## *Greetings for the Winter Solstice*

This next Sunday ushers in the first day of winter, better known as the winter solstice. Sunday will be the shortest day of the year. If we want to think positively, starting Monday, the days will be getting longer, followed by spring. Now I know we have at least 3 more months of "winter", but it is nice to think forward to spring '09'. We already have had a brief ice storm and fortunately the weather warmed and our driveway's ice melted. As I write this, it is snowing at a good clip, but it is a light fluffy snow and it is easy to move. A good snow early in the season is good for the plants and the ground because it prevents the frost from penetrating too deep into soil. If the soil isn't frozen around the roots, the plants will have a better chance of surviving the winter, either through less winter desiccation or frost heaving. If you get snow load on your evergreen shrubs, it can be removed by gently shaking the branch or lightly tapping them with a broom. In most cases however, our winter winds do a good job of getting the snow off the branches.

This Sunday also brings us to the height of our holiday season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you on behalf of *Windswept Gardens*, "Seasons Greetings" and may you have good health and happiness for the new year.

## *Bragging Corner for Windswept*

Many things have happened here at *Windswept Gardens* this fall. We were nominated and chosen to be 1 of 12 finalists nationally for the "Landscape of The Year". The judging committee reviewed some of our projects, interviewed clients and made the trip from Alabama to actually walk around those projects. On Nov. 14 Linda and I were treated to a 4 day cruise to the Bahamas where we got to meet the other 11 finalists and attend the award ceremony for the "Landscape of the Year". We meet some great companies from around the country and even though we weren't first we felt extremely honored to be selected to be with such a successful group of fellow landscape companies.

This last month *Windswept Gardens* was the featured landscape company in "Turf Magazine Northern Edition". This is a national trade magazine published in 5 different geographical areas around the country. Our article was in the November edition.

We also found out this last month, one of our projects will be highlighted in one of the special supplements published by "Better Homes and Gardens". I think the article is scheduled to appear in April of 09.

Lastly, I have been teaching Landscape Design at the University this last fall, and am proud to say there are some bright young people ready to enter this profession.