2019 NJLCA Landscape Achievement Awards

Deadline for Entries: October 1, 2019

Fill Out Entry Forms ... Today!!
The New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association is proud to be the sponsor of the 19th Annual Landscape Achievement Awards and Dinner. The Landscape Achievement Awards program was created to recognize the outstanding work designed, built and maintained by NJLCA members. Winning entries will be announced at the Landscape Achievement Awards Dinner on December 3, 2019 at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ.

**Why Should I Enter?**

Being known as an “Award Winning Company” is a great way to separate yourself from the competition. It shows your superior workmanship, quality craftsmanship, attention to detail and most importantly, your pride in your work.

Marketing your award-winning status will help you generate new business and increase the visibility of your company. Think about it, who would you rather hire, an award-winning contractor or just an average contractor? Your award-winning status will also motivate your existing employees, while helping you attract new ones.

Award winning projects will be featured in *The New Jersey Landscape Contractor* magazine. Award of Excellence winners will get a full page article about the project and the company. Photos of projects will be used in NJLCA promotional materials, on our website, and in future publications, with full credit given to the award winning company. Press releases will also be sent to local, state and national media for additional public recognition.

**NJLCA Landscape Achievement Awards**

The Landscape Achievement Awards are classified into two main categories: Design/Build and Maintenance. These categories are then broken down into various subcategories (see entry form), providing companies of all sizes and experience an opportunity to win an award. There are three potential awards for each subcategory: the Award of Excellence, the Award of Distinction, and the Award of Merit, all of which are very prestigious.

The Landscape Achievement Awards and Holiday Gala Dinner honors all of the winning companies for their achievements. The Awards Dinner is also an excellent way to thank your employees for their hard work and dedication, while honoring them for a job well done. That’s why we encourage your employees to join you in accepting your award. All entries will be on display at the dinner (not just the winners) to show the breadth of the projects being entered. To help you market and promote your success, a professional photographer will be there to take publicity photos of you and your team.
**ENTRY CATEGORIES**

**Design/Build**
Design/Build projects will be judged on quality of design and overall craftsmanship, including plant selection and hardscape construction details. Unique site challenges and unusual circumstances will be a factored into the judges decision-making, as well.

**Landscape Maintenance**
Landscape Maintenance projects will be judged on quality of work performed, including proper pruning techniques, clean edging and bedlines. Lawns should be lush. Beds, lawns, curbs and sidewalks should be free of weeds and debris, with an overall healthy appearance. All beds should be properly mulched. Special consideration will be given for seasonal color displays.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

A project may be entered in up to three categories; however, one entry form is required for each submission.

All entries must be submitted with the knowledge of the owner/property manager. All submitted materials, including photos and descriptions will become the property of the NJLCA and may be used for future publications, marketing or advertising purposes, with full credit given to you. Entry materials will not be returned.

A minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 photographs must be included with the entry in digital format (jpeg, png, gif, etc.) Each entry must have a project description as well as one description for each photo (see entry form). Descriptions should include any special or unusual circumstances encountered during the project. **Do not show your company name in any of the photographs (including trucks, trailers, uniforms, shirts, lawn signs, etc.).** When possible, “in progress” and “before/after” photographs of the project should be included.

Take the opportunity to use the photo descriptions to tell the judges the story of your project, but please be clear, concise and to the point. Label the photos in the order you would like them to be viewed during the judging (01, 02, 03, etc.) and make sure that they correspond to the same number in the photo descriptions.

**Design/Build** projects must be submitted with a plan on at least one digital image, even if you did not design the project. Do not send originals. Photos must depict work that entering firm has completed.

**Landscape Maintenance** projects must be currently maintained by the entering firm and have been maintained for at least 12 months prior to October 1, 2019. Photographs must show sufficient detail to allow judges to adequately determine quality of work performed. Photos must depict work that entering firm has completed. Any work of which you had no control over must be noted on the entry form. Please note if seasonal color, fertilization, etc. are included in the contract.
ENTRY PROCESS

1. Fill out three page entry form

2. Save 5-15 photos (samples below), including the landscape design on a CD, DVD or USB Drive.

3. Mail entry forms, CD/DVD or USB Drive with check made payable to NJLCA.

10 TIPS FOR A STRONG ENTRY

1. Read the requirements carefully and submit a complete entry.
2. In all cases, pay careful attention to photo selection. Don’t show anything that could defeat the credibility of your project, such as brown leaves, debris, uneven pruning, etc.
3. Include overhead shots from a deck, upstairs window, ladder, with a drone, etc.
4. Close-ups of construction details help show quality of craftsmanship and attention to detail.
5. Try your best to show before, during and after shots of your work.
6. Wetting hardscape areas, prior to taking photos, will enhance the color and overall feel of those areas.
7. Keep descriptions concise. Make sure you include all of the challenges of the project and special qualities that make your project stand out as an award winner.
8. Identify any plantings, hardscape materials or construction details that are unique.
9. Hire a professional photographer for your “after” photos, if possible.
10. It is very important that your first and last photograph be two of the best since these will typically be viewed longer than the other photographs in your presentation.
**JUDGING**

An experienced panel of green industry professionals, including landscape architects, designers, educators and others will judge the entries. Projects will be judged on the basis of craftsmanship, proper horticultural practices, difficulty and overall quality of the project.

The judges will have no knowledge of the company that performed the work and will make decisions based solely on the photographs and descriptions presented to them. That is why it is imperative to use high quality, high resolution images along with well thought-out descriptions of the photos.

**REMINDERS**

1. A project which previously won an NJLCA award may not be re-entered in the same category.
2. Project's name, company logo (trucks, shirts, etc.) or address may not be shown in any photo.
3. All entries will be reviewed from the 5 to 15 photos submitted. They must show sufficient detail to allow judges to adequately determine the quality of work. Review your entry carefully.
4. Each entry should include the date the project was completed or taken over.
5. All installation and Design/Build entries must include a copy of the landscape design.
6. Any subcontractors work must be noted on the entry form.
7. All entries must be submitted on a current year entry form.
8. Awards are based on merit. Categories will not always have a winner, even if there are entries in that category.
All information must be typed or printed legibly on this form. Use copies of this form for additional projects entered (one entry per form). Company and project names should be typed or printed as they are to appear on the award. An application fee of $260 for the first entry (includes one seat at the Landscape Achievement Awards Dinner), a copy of your New Jersey Home Improvement Contractors Registration (if applicable). Each additional entry is $145. Please make checks payable to NJLCA. Entries must be received no later than Oct. 1, 2019.

Entry Materials Checklist
Please confirm that you have submitted each of the following:

- Completed and signed entry form
- CD/DVD/Thumb Drive containing:
  - 5 - 15 high resolution photos in image file formats (not .pdf files)
  - Photo descriptions must be numbered to correspond to the photos CD/DVD/USB Drive.
- Entry fee of $260 (1st entry), $145 (for each additional entry) with credit card or check payable to the NJLCA.

Name of firm entering project and project name (Exactly as it should appear on award and in press releases):
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Name of Contact: _______________________________ Designer: ______________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________ E-mail: ________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________ State: _________ Zip Code: ________________

Name of Project: ________________________________________________________________________________

Project City & State: _____________________________________________________________________________

Save money now by purchasing additional tickets with your entry. Regular price: $125 each.
Tickets purchased with your entry: $115 each (Save $10 each)

Total Entries - ________ = $____________________
Additional Dinner Tickets - ________ x $115.00 = $____________________
1/2 Table of 6 for Dinner - ________ x $575.00 (inc. free ticket inc. with entry) = $____________________
Table of 12 for Dinner - ________ x $1265.00 (inc. free ticket inc. with entry) = $____________________

Credit Card #: __________________________________ Exp: ______ CVV: _______ Billing Zip: _____________

Release and Consent
I verify that all of the information contained on this form is accurate, and I authorize and release this entry material to the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA). I have obtained permission from the client and photographer prior to submitting this entry and I understand that the NJLCA accepts no responsibility for copyright infringement or photography fees. I understand that my entry may be used for publications, promotions or other marketing purposes.

Signature: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________
(Please print)

Title: _____________________________________ Company: ____________________________

Entering Firm is an NJLCA:
- Member
- Would like to be a member (only Members may enter)

To join, choose your level and include amount below with your entry fee.

Annual membership dues:
- Regular Member Level I (Gross sales under $350,000) $235
- Regular Member Level II (Gross sales $350,000-750,000) $325
- Regular Member Level III (Gross sales over $750,000) $435
Project Information

Project Start Date: _____________________________ Completion Date: __________________________

Did your company design the project?  □ Yes  □ No

Work Completed

Which of the following did the entering firm have final responsibility for on the project?

- Drainage/Grading
- Retaining Walls
- Irrigation Systems
- Plant Material
- Water Features
- Ponds
- Pools
- Decks
- Patios/Walkways
- Driveways
- Outdoor Structures
- Container Plantings
- Turf
- Maintenance
- Lighting
- Chemicals and pest management
- Fire features
- Other: _____________________

List all work performed by subcontractor(s): ____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Project Category (Choose One):

- Maintenance
  □ Residential  □ Condo/Townhouse  □ Commercial/Industrial  □ School  □ Public Space

Design/Build

- Landscape installation without pool
  □ Up to $25,000  □ $25,000 - 50,000  □ $50,000 – $100,000  □ Over $100,000
- Landscape installation with pool (amount includes cost of pool)
  □ Up to $100,000  □ $100,000 – $250,000  □ $250,000 - $500,000  □ Over $500,000
- Interior Plantscaping/Landscaping
- Foundation Planting / Small Garden Installation up to 500 sq. ft.
- Ponds/Water features (not attached to a pool)
- Sustainable Landscape (LEED, Rain Garden, Green Roof, Green Wall, Native Plantings, etc.)
- Landscape Lighting
- Public Space
- Landscape Design Only

Were there any client constraints or site issues that prevented you from implementing certain design elements?

□ Yes  □ No

If yes, please explain: ______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Participation is open to all NJLCA Members in good standing, professionally engaged in and responsible for
the installation and/or maintenance of grounds described in their entry. All applicants must possess a valid NJ
Home Improvement Contractor Registration number (if required) and provide a copy with their entry.
Description of project:

______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Special or unusual situations encountered:

______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Photograph descriptions (descriptions must fit in the lines below):
1. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
7. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
8. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
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11. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
12. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
13. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
14. ____________________________________________________________________________________________
15. ____________________________________________________________________________________________