



WINTER 2012- 2013

# GROWING WITH THE TIMES

Nick Williams and Associates E-NEWSETTER



## Season's Greetings from Nick Williams & Associates!

This year we have a lot of exciting things to share with you in our latest newsletter, and some valuable tips on planting for the upcoming season as well. This time of the year brings us to warm thoughts and cozy environments shared with family and friends. It's the time to get those spaces ready—fireplaces, fire pits, outdoor settings for planned parties and meals. There's nothing like a gathering around a hearth or a conversation with wine around an outdoor fire pit to set the right holiday mood. Nick Williams' elegant outdoor lighting can also light the way, with that soft glow of indirect lighting that is so conducive to mood setting at this time of year. Our "Candle lights" are just perfect for lighting up your landscapes for celebrating the holidays with family and friends. Also take a look at our most popular fixtures, and possibly see something that might be a great addition to your holiday décor.



## WHATS WITHIN

### GREETINGS AND WHAT'S NEW

### WINTER TIPS AND MORE

### FIREPLACES AND FIRE PITS

### THE NW COLLECTION

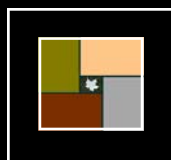
- FURNITURE (ALSO SEE OUR NEW ONLINE CATALOG)
- LIGHTING (ALSO SEE OUR NEW ONLINE CATALOG)



- RUSTIC COTTAGES
- SOFTTUB
- TUFF SHEDS
- ALDIK -FAUX FLOWERS
- FAUX BOULDERS
- FOUNTAINS
- CONCRETE POTS



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WINTER RECIPES  
AND MORE!

## HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT'S NEW FOR YOU IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

We'd like to introduce our new video: "Suburban Paradise," the story of how so many urban settings have undergone that magical Nick Williams transformation. ([link to video](#)) And while we're on the subject of videos, we may even sneak in a new Nick Williams ping pong video coming soon!

Also, we've just completed the setup for several more online garden tour homes, six new homes to showcase, with an emphasis on "before and after" photos so you can see just how dramatic these changes were. Of course, most of these wonderful landscaping, patio, and outdoor room designs are graced by the Nick Williams Outdoor Lighting collections, and we've included some stunning examples so you can see the effects of lighting in real life settings. Coming soon will be our online lighting catalog.

Of course, the holidays would not be complete without a strong focus on the element of fire. We have some great new photographs to spark your imagination, and maybe even make you wish you could pull up a chair and doze off by the fireside with dreams of sugar plums and reindeer! We showcase both outdoor rooms and patio settings with fireplaces and fire pits, a real fantasy land of color, mood and theme. The use of firepits, often placed out on the edges of designed spaces, invite your guests to venture out from all the activity to gather for quiet conversation, while the outdoor fireplace provides a wonderful gathering space for groups.



Nick Williams Outdoor Furniture and Lighting Collection

It's not too early to start thinking about ordering outdoor furniture for your yards from the Nick Williams Furniture Collection . Nick Williams is custom and "personalized" to complement the outdoor setting that's already been designed for them. Call in and talk to Suzanne about setting up an appointment to meet with Nick to discuss the possibilities.



Watch on our website for more on the Nick Williams Collection, including Nick's creative design process on common outdoor sheds, the new Rustic Cottages, Softub spas, & accessories like custom designed pots, faux foliage, fountains, & so much more! A MUST to check out is our new online Nick Williams Furniture Collection!



Working the garden this season? You won't want to miss out on some links with great tips for fall and winter planting. There's a winter "do's and don'ts" pruning guide and a nice series of links to guide you on special issues, like how best to handle Roses this time of year, or holiday flowers like Poinsettias. You also get great fall and winter recipes as well, so you can delight your guests with some additional magic (and love) from the kitchen.

Now is the time to take precautionary measures for upcoming frost or freezes. A healthy tree is the best prevention for frost damage, so we show you how to stop fertilization of trees and ease back on watering to allow trees to harden off and begin storing the necessary sugars in the root system to carry them through the winter. And with the seasonal time change, you'll want to make sure you've reset your lighting clock and irrigation clocks to reflect the hour change.

Before the rains really get started *why not have Nick Williams come out to clean leaves and debris from gutters on your roof and inspect everything for maintenance needs and get your yards fall and winter ready?* You'll want to have all drain grate covers cleaned out in your lawn and patio areas, and test your drainage system by running a hose through the drain and making sure the water comes out full strength at the drain line opening. If you are in an area prone to flooding with heavy rains, now is the time to stock up on sand bags BEFORE you (and everyone else) will need them.

**Sprinklers** also need attention to safeguard them from "freeze-ups". We'll show you how to keep a slow movement of water in your system to prevent costly freezes which can cause serious problems. If you have automatic sprinklers, turn down the amount of time on your sprinkler clock to decrease water to your garden. If we get the rain that we're promised, be sure to run your sprinklers manually, not on automatic settings. You don't want to over saturate your root systems, or cause extra water stress that could lead to erosion, especially in hillside landscaping. So it's a good idea to turn your sprinklers to a manual setting during a cold winter and only run it automatically on the days when watering is required.

These are just a few of the great tips you'll find, so dig in and enjoy this season's newsletter. We hope you'll find it interesting, inspiring, and a great way to help you set that all important holiday mood for your friends and family. You're all part of our family, too, and we wish you all the very happiest of holidays! And Happy New year 2013!

*Nick Williams & Associates, Inc.*

# NICK'S WINTER CHECK LIST

- Time to check your outdoor lighting for needed maintenance and upgrades.
- Think about places in your yard that you can "warm up" using ambient lighting.
- Consider bringing in other Fire elements - by adding an outdoor fire pit or a Nick Williams Fire Place

If you need help with any of the these needs or ideas  
GIVE US A CALL AT  
NICK WILLIAMS & ASSO.



818-222-7477  
NICKWILLIAMSDESIGNS.COM

- Check the maintenance on your existing fireplace and fire pit, particularly if gas is involved
- Check and clear all your drains for the coming rainy season.
- Clean your roof gutters
- Plant Winter Color in the garden
- Plant new trees & shrubs now to get a head start using winter rains for root growth & development
- Start planning your Winter Veggie garden
- Fertilize trees and shrubs before Winter
- Time to plant your bulbs for next Spring's daffodils and other Spring color



IRON PATH CAN-



RUSTY L



POPPY



MODERN



PIPELIGHT





# NICK WILLIAMS AND ASSOCIATES

"HERE IS A LIST OF JUST SOME OTHER SERVICES WE HAVE TO OFFER,...A FEW SERVICES YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT WE PROVIDE

Repair old gutters/install new gutters  
Mirrors and windows  
Painting and staining  
Refurbish Outdoor Furniture  
Gate Repair (wood gates, wrought iron gates, security gates)  
Skylight Installation  
Solar Panel (Sale & Installation)  
Home Security Systems  
Sound Systems  
Pool Re-plastering  
And Much More!



[Click here for more services](#)

*Click below for other Winter Tips and Articles*



WINTER GARDENING TIPS



WINTER COLOR CHOICES



WINTER PRUNING



MAKING THE WISEST



ANOTHER REASON  
TO GROW ROSES



POINSETTAS

Any questions or problems you may have,  
call Nick Williams and Associates at 818/222-7477

NICK WILLIAMS AND ASSOCIATES

## FIREPLACES



There's nothing that commands attention or sets mood in a room more than a fireplace.

Nick Williams specializes in the creation of unique fireplaces where unusual or striking keystones are crafted into the design.



The weathered, textured warmth of the stone creates an inviting focal point for any outdoor room.

And with just the right accessories to accent the mantle and hearth, your design is complete.







*Sunset Magazine: Cozy Winter Patios*





"WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE OUTSIDE AS LONG AS WE CAN" *Nick Williams*

Adding outdoor essentials such as fireplaces, hearth pits, or any element using fire makes being outdoors more desirable.











*Los Angeles County Arboretum  
Sunset Demonstration Gardens*







## FIREPITS AND MORE



There's nothing to warm the conversation and set a comfortable mood like a well placed fire pit. People instinctively gather round the warmth and hypnotic movement of an open flame. Placed near a pool or fountain, or at the edge of a garden patio overlooking a distant vista, and you have a perfect meeting place for friends to relax and share the moment with one another, or perhaps get their appetites ready for a good meal with a glass of wine with appetizers.

A fire pit can be something as simple as a gathering of stones, like a small camp fire near a flower bed or just off the edge of a patio, or perhaps nestled at the base of a larger stone boulder. It can also be a more elaborate or robust feature with a hearty open fire surrounded by custom stone work. Placement in conjunction with a water feature creates a "fire fountain" where the dancing life of the fire element can seem to emerge miraculously from a stone setting within a water fountain. The light reflects and glimmers off the water, and the effect can be mesmerizing!



















# THE NICK WILLIAMS COLLECTION



We often hear from our residential clients that their gardens have become their favorite gathering places, full of laughter and shared enthusiasm with family and friends. At the same time, many think of their garden as a private sanctuary, a place of calm and reflection. This is so encouraging for us, as it tells us that people have been touched emotionally by their garden spaces.

In our NW Collection, we're very excited to be able to bring to you a variety of items that we believe complement the design style that we have worked to create during the past 50 years. We think you'll discover that they will touch *your* emotions, and your senses, enhancing the outdoor living experience and adding to the sweetness and quality of one's life.

Just imagine that everyday you surround yourself with objects and experiences that delight your senses and bring you peace, calm, good health, friends and family. Colorful, fragrant plants in your garden, music that takes you away into the clouds, the pleasing sound of gentle running water from spilling fountains, the "campfire" smell of a wood-burning fireplace early in the morning - can you feel the calm settling in already?

Here you will find a great many things that are either my own design or that have become my personal favorites as accessories to a peaceful garden or outdoor patio setting. There are SofTubs, custom doors, musical accents, specially crafted copper gates, spas, ponds, individually crafted Nick Williams Tuff Sheds with Santa Barbara Stone and more.



And since so much outdoor design work revolves around stone, I've included my favorite stone veneers and materials for wall design, keystones, arches, window surrounds and related stone trimming materials.

Always a favorite, the incorporation of a free standing fountains, add both life and sound in the soothing movement of water. My son and son in law have specialized in the design of water fountains, which I have used extensively in my many designs. (Show images or link to etc)

Also be sure to check out the gas "Firecube" for something really special. As seen in the Oct 2009 issue of Sunset magazine. (link)-to this article

Finally, one thing I am truly excited about is the new *Nick Williams Outdoor Furniture collection!*

It embodies all the principles that have guided my design for many decades, beauty, sustainability and comfort. Our new *Longridge* line presents a crafted, cottage or mission style design in reclaimed Teak, with a wide range of wood finishes, Viro all weather wicker siding and cushion fabric choices that I have personally selected. This comfortable collection has everything: couches, love seats, chairs, tables, benches, screens end tables and more, and it truly puts the all important "human element" into any landscape, patio, outdoor room design I create. Designed specifically to compliment the styles I use in my landscaping work, I have also added in a little dash of innovative elegance with the "furniture jewelry" that makes every piece distinctive. Another perfect addition here are the concrete pots you can use for visual elements, planters and hearth accessories, also styled with this "jewelry" concept, which uses inlaid metal designs, shells, colored glass and stone to create a really distinctive final touch.

Take a few moments to enjoy and allow yourself to go through The Collection!

-Nick



#### *THE COLLECTION INCLUDES:*

- FURNITURE-Nick Williams Design
- LIGHTING -Nick Williams Design
- SOFTTUBS
- TUFF SHEDS with SANTA BARBARA STONE -individually crafted by Nick Williams
- RUSTIC COTTAGES
- FAUX PLANTS and FLOWERS -ALDIK
- FAUX BOULDERS
- FOUNTAINS
- CONCRETE POT S with jewelry -Nick Williams Design
- And MORE!

(PS - We encourage you to check The Collection frequently as we are adding new items all the time!)





## WINTER RECIPES

### SPICED NUTS

#### Ingredients:

2 cups pecans, almonds, hazelnuts or walnuts  
1 large egg white  
3/4 cup Xylitol  
1 1/2 teaspoons water  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Vegetable oil



#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper and brush heavily with oil. Whisk egg white until frothy. Add water, Xylitol and cinnamon. Whisk to combine. Add nuts and toss to coat. Spread nut mixture evenly over cookie sheet. Bake 20–25 minutes. Cool prior to breaking apart. Yield 12 servings, 1 1/2 oz. per serving.

### WASSAIL

Makes 2 quarts

#### Ingredients:

1 can (16 ounces) apricot halves, undrained  
4 cups unsweetened pineapple juice  
2 cups apple cider  
1 cup orange juice  
18 whole cloves  
6 cinnamon sticks (3-1/2 inches), broken  
Additional cinnamon sticks, optional



#### Directions:

1. In a blender or food processor, blend apricots and liquid until smooth. Pour into a large saucepan. Add pineapple juice, cider and orange juice.
2. Place the cloves and cinnamon sticks in a double thickness of cheesecloth; bring up corners of cloth and tie with a string to form a bag. Add to saucepan. (Or place loose spices in saucepan and strain before serving.)
3. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 15-20 minutes. Serve hot in mugs. Garnish with cinnamon sticks if desired.

### WASSAIL LORE

In days gone by...The lord of the manor would give food and drink to the peasants in exchange for their blessing and goodwill, i.e...

*"Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail too;  
And God bless you and send you  
a Happy New Year"*

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