

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NNLA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SUN VALLEY LANDSCAPING

To promote our members and learn about each other, NNLA will begin highlighting members with a spotlight feature in the NNLA newsletter, Facebook page, and website. To participate, go to the NNLA webpage (nnla.org) and under member benefits you will find a button to click to complete a form. For this issue's member spotlight, we visit with Eric Walker of Sun Valley Landscaping.

Tell us about your business' background and history. How did the company start and where it is today? Describe your path to get here.

Sun Valley Landscaping is currently in its 28th year of business. It was started out of a rail car by the founder. It grew to include a support team of professional designers and landscapers to bring beautiful landscapes to the Omaha area. In 2012, a merger with another local landscaping company took place which accelerated growth. Today, we have four different divisions and over 80 employees. The Supply Yard, one of the four divisions, still operates out of the original location and is currently generating \$1M+ in annual revenue!

What are you known for or what is your niche?

The Supply Yard's niche is offering natural stone products to homeowners and contractors alike. This includes decorative beach pebbles from the west coast, to classic red flagstone from the Rocky's, to thermal finish bluestone from the northeast. In the winter, we do snow removal and sell snow and ice control products.

What are some highlights of serving your community?

Everyday we get to work with a diverse group of people from all sorts of backgrounds who enjoy the outdoors as much as we do. We get to share our expertise and skill to help create landscapes that'll be shared with the community, whether it's for a homeowner and their family or a commercial project that'll be shared by their employees and clients. Some projects that we've done to highlight this are a patio area for a local baseball stadium and donations to an elementary school for a student art project.

What awards or recognition has the business received?

We've been voted by our peers the Best Of Omaha award for several years now in the category of 'Best Landscape Rock & Granite', and recently just received it for 2023 as well! We've also received nationally recognized awards from the NALP and NNLA in recent years as well for projects and community involvement.

What are you passionate about professionally?

My professional passion is creating the best experience for our guests and team, both inside and outside of work.

What is your favorite way to spend a weekend?

My favorite way to spend a weekend is activities with the family and enjoying my interests and hobbies such as playing music and reading about history.

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Anything else you would like to tell people about yourself or the company?

I've been with the company for over 10 years and have learned so much about the industry! It has been a great launch to my career and have learned many facets of business such as logistics, sales and client relations, people and time management, financials, etc., from the professionals I work with. These lessons have allowed me to follow and achieve goals in my personal life as well.

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