



Outdoors with Jon George

Outdoor Living

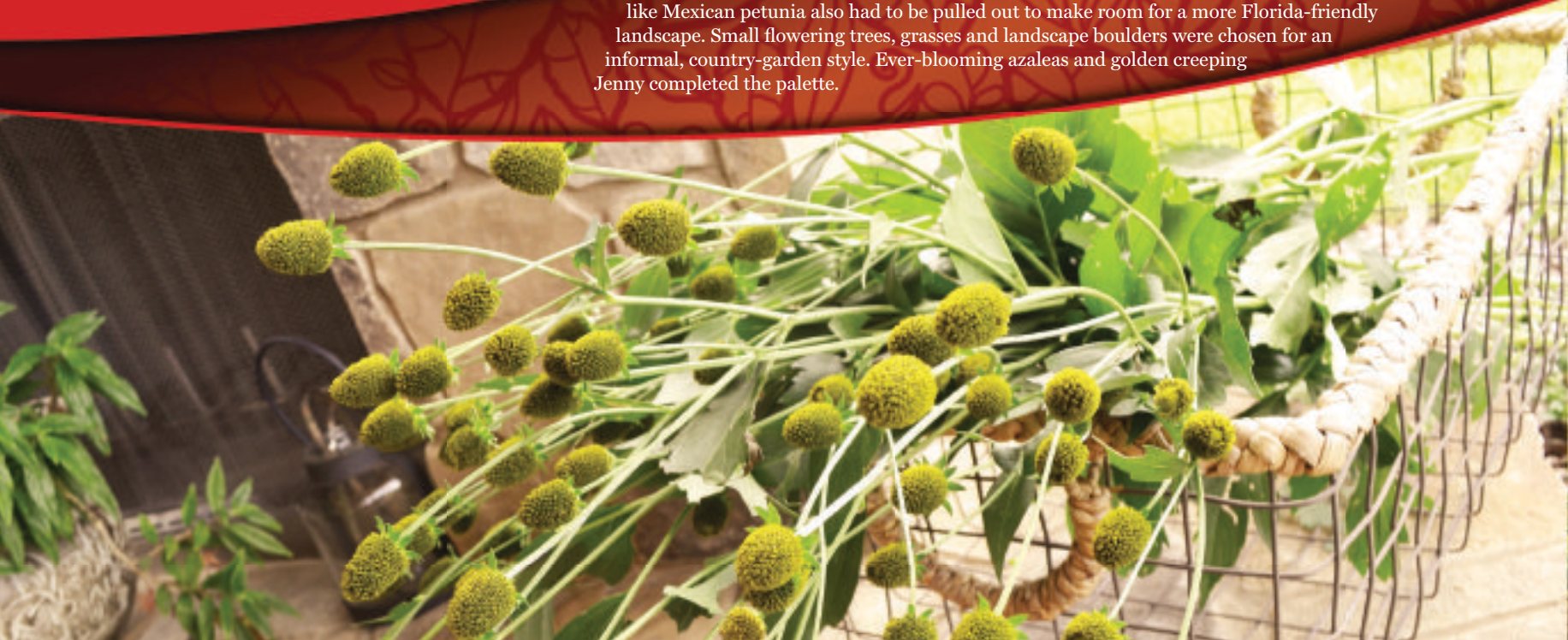
Enjoying the Beauty of Fall in Florida

Time for ENTERTAINING

When the owners of this country residence in Alachua decided to remodel, they started with entertainment in mind and added a guesthouse to the pool area. Taking in the views of the pool and surrounding countryside, the outdoor fireplace and living areas were built as an open breezeway to the garden. A perfect place for family gatherings, this new addition has quickly become a hot spot for watching the game and hosting numerous birthday parties. A side patio just for grilling out was also incorporated into the design, right off the main structure.

Time for Gardening

Cooler weather signals an innate response in gardeners to get their fingers in the soil again. This country garden needed an overhaul, as overgrown shrubs had almost completely obstructed the view from the pool patios. Invasive plants like Mexican petunia also had to be pulled out to make room for a more Florida-friendly landscape. Small flowering trees, grasses and landscape boulders were chosen for an informal, country-garden style. Ever-blooming azaleas and golden creeping Jenny completed the palette.





Jon George is the owner of Cottage Gardens, Inc., a Gainesville-based landscape design and installation firm. Jon has been gardening in North Central Florida for more than 30 years. You may contact his staff at www.TheCottageGardener.com or at cottagegardensinc@yahoo.com.

Time for RELAXING

The best season for entertaining and enjoying the outdoors is upon us here in North Florida. With the holidays quickly approaching, now is the time to take a moment and enjoy the fresh air and the warmth of the autumn sun. Consider an outdoor project, like sprucing up the herb and vegetable garden or putting up some new bird feeders. In this North Florida garden, entertaining has been simplified by tying together pool decks, a guesthouse and the landscape. For fall décor, the outdoors was brought in by using dried seedpods from the garden in a rustic fireplace bouquet.



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