



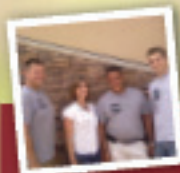
A PEEK AT THIS EDITION'S ARTICLES



JOE'S
TRAVEL
STORY



NEW
WEBSITE



MEET NEW
STAFF



BOBBY'S
CORNER

C a trip to the Crossroads

June 2004

By Joe Unger, Owner/President

This is not one of my regular trips so here's a little background history. Most of you that know me probably don't know that I am a twin. My twin sister and I led very different paths. She was involved in the music business and played in some of the top bands on the west coast. Her band, 'The Gun Club', traveled around playing with the 'Sex Pistols', Johnny Rotten and the likes. When she lived on Clara St. in San Francisco, Courtney Love and others shared her apartment loft. Once, back in 1978, I visited my sister Ann and we went out with a bunch of musicians, members of Captain Beefheart and Joe Strummer of The Clash (who she was seeing at the time) for an early breakfast. Anyway, back to my travel story.

My sister calls all excited and tells me that Eric Clapton has invited her and my brother-in-law to perform at the Crossroads Festival in Texas. She asked if I could come as a guest. Eric Clapton invited 60 of his favorite guitarists to perform, my brother-in-law Jay Gordon being one.

I never really liked crowds or big concerts, and the 1st week of June is a crazy busy time in the lawn business, so I said 'No'. Then I got another call and was told this was an opportunity of a lifetime, that even famous people would sell their soul to go, so I gave in.

The three day festival was in Dallas at Fair Park and the Cotton Bowl. I got to the hotel and there were super famous musicians and actors all around. Staying next to my room was Jimmie Vaughn (Stevie Ray Vaughn's brother) who brought his mom. I had use of the limousine

Travel Adventures

Many of you are always asking about my trips so this is one of many travel adventures to be told in the Lawn Ranger Newsletter.

Since I was a teenager I have traveled on a shoe string budget, backpacking all over the world for sometimes up to a year, mostly in third world countries.

- Joe Unger,
Owner of Lawn Ranger, Inc.



Musician Jay Gordon, Ann Unger, Actor Mickey Rourke and his dog 'Lol' by Joe Unger.

that would take me to the concert night and day.

After meeting up with my sister, I hopped in the limo with all these guys. I am really bad with names and faces; it turned out they were the band Styx. I had lunch with my sister and one of the members of the Doobie Brothers, who she knew back in San Francisco.

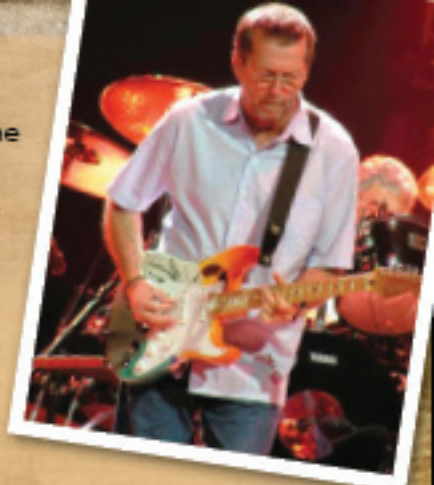
My sister and Jay took off, leaving me alone with hundreds of famous people. I felt totally out of my comfort zone. To give you an idea, Eric Clapton invited 60 famous musicians to perform. On top of that, there were hundreds of super famous actors and musicians invited as guests. An idea of who was there (me being the only non-famous person): Jeff Beck, Vince Gill, BB King, Pat Metheny, James Taylor, Carlos Santana, ZZ Top, Joe Walsh, John Mayer, JJ Cale, Neal Schon, Johnny Lang, Steve Vai, Marty Stewart and Pete Townshend.

Not feeling very comfortable, I tried to seek out a corner by myself. It was a little strange, a lot of musicians brought their parents, so there were a lot of older folks in their 70's and 80's. I spotted an empty chair at this large round table. I asked if I could sit with them and they smiled and let me join them. What a relief! We talked about gardening, they asked me questions about Minnesota. We were having a great time. Then I noticed that these famous people kept looking over at the table and looking at me with confused faces. Soon we were laughing and these old folks kept buying me beers. Then one by one, these super famous people kept coming to the table to shake hands with these old guys. Then this young famous guy comes up to me and says to the old man next to me, "Your one of my idols, I just wanted to shake your hand."

Then I said, "Ok, you guys are famous aren't you?" They laughed. I think they really liked me because I had no idea they were music legends. They sort of took me in and let me join them for the next three days.

Soon after that, all these famous people kept on introducing themselves to me, thinking I was someone special. The more I told them I was no one, the more they did not believe me. It was surreal. A guy at the bar said he was in the band 'Journey'. He wanted to know who I was. Pretty funny!

It was hot in Texas, so I took the limo back and forth to the hotel to rest. On the return trip to the Cotton Bowl, I waited in the VIP lounge for the limo with this 70-80 year old guy who was all by himself. We talked for a long time while waiting. He kept calling me 'Sonny'. We made our way to the Cotton Bowl VIP area. On the way up, he asked if I was going to be here for the



next hour and a half. If so, he could use some help getting back, so I said "No problem". As we headed into the VIP area, everyone looks at him and me.

About ten minutes later, I walk to the side overlooking the stage and watch Joe Walsh singing. Next to me all by himself was this guy with a baseball cap and mustache. So I start talking to him, I feel comfortable because he seems out of place too.

Then Eric Clapton gets up and introduces the next group of musicians: BB King, Robert Cray, Buddy Guy and Robert Randolph. Then he says, I want to introduce you to one of my idols, Hubert Sumlin. I look in disbelief, this is the guy I spent the last hour with! Then 80,000 people start clapping. So I get a little proud of myself and start bragging about meeting Hubert Sumlin to the guy next to me. We watched the next 40 minutes and had a great time listening to music. Then he wonders off. I go to the bar and the bartender says, "You know who that was next to you?" I say: "some guy with a baseball cap." He says, "No, that was Robert De Niro!"

Then Hubert Sumlin comes back and I get a ride back in the limo with Robert Cray, Buddy Guy, Hubert Sumlin and Robert Randolph. I get to talk with BB King and he tells me this was the apex of all concerts and if he did not play again he would die happy. We head back to the hotel and I end up drinking with these guys 'til 2:00 AM.

This was some trip; I got to meet the head honcho at Guitar Center who lined me up for a brand new Gretsch drum set with Zildjian cymbals. A different travel story. Who says Texas isn't exotic?

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New and Improved Website

Check out the relaunch of our new website www.lawnrangermn.com. Same address, great new look! Did you know we do commercial and residential landscape design/build, have an arbor care department, do residential and commercial holiday lighting and much more! Check out all our services and our photo gallery, upcoming events, and much more.

Bobby's Corner



Deer Ticks and MN

In just the past decade, Lyme disease has emerged as the most significant vector-borne disease in the United States. It is caused by a tick-transmitted bacterial infection from a tick commonly referred to as a deer tick. Since the Lyme bacterium normally lives in mice, squirrels and other small animals the problem continues to escalate in MN due to mild winters and the progressive infringement upon wildlife habitat by humans.

Signs and symptoms of Early Local Lyme Disease often start with flu-like feelings of headache, stiff neck, fever, muscle aches, and fatigue. A rash may accompany the flu like symptoms but may appear within a day of the bite or as late as a month later. This rash may start as a small, reddish bump about one-half inch in diameter and may be slightly raised or flat.

Remember that the majority of deer ticks live and feed on field mice. Mice do not harbor where they will be easily spotted by their predators; therefore deer ticks are rarely found in open, sunny areas. Deer ticks are most commonly found in unmaintained borders and the woods.

Specific sites where deer ticks like to harbor:

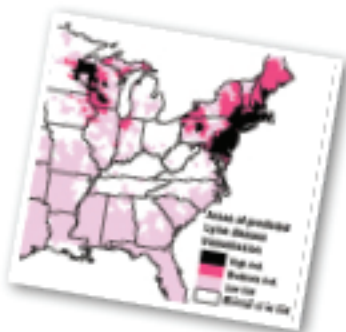
- Areas in which deer are frequently observed (shaded areas)
- Brush and wood piles
- Directly along the base of stone walls
- Wooded areas, especially near stumps or fallen logs
- Edges of lawns and under over-hanging bushes

5 Strategies for Integrated Tick Management:

1. **Surveillance:**
Detect tick infestations and identify tick habitats.
2. **Landscape Management:**
Reduce the amount of tick habitat and isolate it into manageable units.
3. **Targeted Pesticide Control:**
Implement host and habitat-targeted pesticide applications along with deer tick larval control programs.
4. **Personal Protection:**
Use repellents, protective dress and daily tick checks.
5. **Cultural Practices:**
Modify activities and practices in ways that reduce tick exposure.

Check out our regular tips and Q & A topics in this newsletter and future ones to answer your pressing questions. If you have a question about your lawn, landscape or garden send an email to bjensen@lawnrangermn.com and I will get back to you with an answer.

-Bobby Jensen



Meet Shonna

Shonna Dietz has joined our Account Management/Sales Team as an Account Manager. She joins us as a Certified Landscape Professional with an associate degree in Landscape Design/Horticulture and 8 years of experience in account management in the Landscape industry. Shonna enjoys working with clients and providing the best service possible to meet all needs and expectations while establishing a lasting professional relationship. She also enjoys dabbling with landscape design whenever possible.



Meet Josh

Josh Grussendorf joins the snow operations team as Director of Snow Operations. Josh has extensive knowledge and experience in landscape management and operations with 11 years of experience in the industry. He has a degree in Landscape/Horticulture along with other industry certifications. Josh enjoys many outdoor activities among his favorites are fishing, golfing, and traveling. He is looking forward to the first snowflakes to fly!



Meet Derek

Derek Field is from England where he worked in the grounds maintenance industry. After working as a crew leader in the company for 2 years, he has been promoted to Assistant Supervisor in Grounds Maintenance. His main claim to fame here in the USA is that he has a "really cool English accent". He is happily married with two kids, and enjoys writing poetry. He is in competition with several others in the office for the unofficial "Lawn Ranger worse joke 2011" award.



Meet Aaron

Aaron Pederson joins our landscape and sales division and is a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Horticulture program. He previously worked as an intern at the City of Cottage Grove and on a landscape crew for a small landscaping company. Additionally Aaron has been involved in the Army National Guards for the last 5 years as a heavy construction equipment operator. While he's originally from eastern WI, Aaron is happy to call the Twin Cities and the Lawn Ranger home.



Meet Miguel

Miguel Martinez joins our team as our Irrigation Manager. Miguel is originally from Puerto Rico and moved to Minnesota in 1993. Miguel is a Horticulture graduate from the University of Puerto Rico and has worked in the irrigation industry since 1995. (Jim Mold, former Irrigation Manager, is now the Quality Assurance Controller.)

