

John Cenicola—The Pond Crew San Antonio, TX

A New Way of Life

I worked in the Semiconductor field for 15 years. Pond building was a part-time weekend job with my brother-in-law (Mike Burger) and some friends on Saturdays. In 1995, when we started with Aquascape, Inc, we were in Albuquerque, New Mexico and that is where we really got things going. The first summer, we installed 17 ponds and it was all uphill from there.

Trading Dress Clothes for Boots and Shorts

In late 2000, my wife and I relocated to San Antonio, Texas with Philips Semiconductors and Mike kept the pond business open in Albuquerque. “The Pond Crew” was created in San Antonio in March of 2002 and we installed six ponds while only working part-time. In 2003, we installed 18 ponds and most were put in after July when Philips closed our site in San Antonio. That’s when I started the pond business full-time. I traded my dress clothes in for boots and shorts.

My wife and I decided to give the pond business a try and see what happens before I went looking for work. Well, 60 ponds later, this is our new way of life. Mike has been coming to San Antonio for periods of 4 to 6 weeks most of the year to help with building and has been a great help in the success of the business. With the closing of the Albuquerque store at the end of last year, Mike has moved to San Antonio to work full-time. 2004 has been an excellent year and our company name is getting out in San Antonio and the surrounding areas.

No One-Day Ponds Here!

South Central Texas has some pretty rocky grounds. We have great slopes and hillsides for building awesome water features, but a one-day pond is almost unheard of around here. Most ponds take two days to install because of the rocky ground, as many Aquascape construction guys will agree. Aquascape has come out with a system that was just too good to be true. We cleaned and repaired concrete ponds for many years. What a mess! When we got a catalog from Aquascape, we ordered some videos and could not believe how easy this could be. So in 1995, we attended a classroom seminar in Las Vegas and then a Build-A-Pond in Arizona. We have not installed anything else since. We have removed and revamped ponds and added the Aquascape products to make ponds better. Aquascape “rocks” in many ways.

