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Industry awards Millennial workforce

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MOORE RECEIVES OUTLOOK AWARD

The Outlook Award recognizes an “up and comer” in the landscape industry and in ALCC. It acknowledges an individual who is less than 40 years old and who has made a substantial contribution to the industry and to ALCC, and who contributes significantly within his/her own company.

This year’s Outlook recipient, Michael Moore, Diggable Designs Landscape Construction, Lakewood, is a Colorado native who grew up in Centennial and graduated from CSU with a degree in Landscape Horticulture. While there, he met and soon married a young designer, Jessica. After graduation, they moved to San Jose, CA where they both worked for a successful bid/build construction company. Working there, says Moore, is where he developed his project management skills as a superintendent while building what he calls “really amazing projects” in downtown San Francisco.

After two years, the couple was back in Colorado and in 2010, still in the recession, they launched Diggable Designs with their third partner, Dylan Hicks whom Moore had known since childhood and worked with on landscape jobs during college. Under Moore’s leadership as general manager, their business has grown along with the strengthening economy. In 2015 they purchased a permanent home for the company in Lakewood.

Since 2012 Moore has been the leader of the Denver Chapter’s Day of Service. His estimating and organizational skills have driven the success of each year’s project.

Every project has been at a Denver area school, but each year has brought a new mix of challenges. The first two years at Excelsior Youth Center, Aurora, were straightforward - creating edibles gardens and building a perennial bed. But because the school housed at-risk teenage girls, there were security and related rules that impacted accessibility to the site, and to some extent, the work.

The 2014 Day of Service escalated to a new level of complexity when ALCC joined forces with Aurora Public Schools staff to do multiple renovations at an elementary school. ALCC volunteers, students from Pickens Tech and the Aurora Public Schools team partnered on a massive effort.

What could have been a day of utter chaos was orchestrated through the pre-planning and calm demeanor of Moore. By the end of the day, the team built two freshly planted beds and a block retaining wall, hauled away tons of gravel in dump trucks and removed countless 12+-foot-tall junipers.

The 2015 Day of Service came about because Moore knew of needs at Bill Roberts K-8 in Stapleton. The team renovated raised veggie beds at one end of the campus and prepped and planted a large xeric and native garden at the other side. Materials had to be moved back and forth throughout the day across the playground, so kid safety was priority #1.

All day, teachers brought their classes out to watch the work and talk with volunteers. In a spontaneous moment, Moore found himself teaching a class of fifth graders who sat cross-legged on the asphalt basketball court. There was no prep time or lesson plan, but he knew what to say and held their attention.

When the award was presented, Moore was gearing up for his sixth Day of Service project at Green Mountain High School where students were set to work alongside ALCC volunteers. Moore says being able to serve in a community you’re not a part of in your daily life is special and to do so while sharing his own skill set is a pleasure. He and his company also support community service projects in other fields.

Photo courtesy Winger Photography, LLC



Becky Hammond and Michael Moore

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