



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEBER

The first component of your outdoor kitchen should be a top-quality grill, such as the Genesis S-330 gas grill from Weber, new for 2011.

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Ease of Use

Several factors need to be considered to make the outdoor kitchen an enjoyable living space, the designers noted.

The area should be close to the house and should blend with the landscaping. At the same time, the grill cannot be placed under an overhang, or too close to the house, because of potential smoke problems. Municipal ordinances for setbacks must be met, as well.

The design should take into account the prevailing wind direction, the direction

of the sun and the possible need for awnings to protect diners from strong rays.

"You also do not want too many turns between the indoor kitchen and the outdoor eating area — make it easy to navigate," Prastos said. "And you do not want the cooking area isolated from the dining and lounging area, because you do not want the cook isolated."

"After you and your designer have considered all of this, the only thing to add is 'Bon appétit!'"

— KAREN DEMASTERS

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Calendar of Home Events

May 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "Beekeeping Presentation," Wild Birds Unlimited, 189 Route 17 South, Paramus. Free.

Bees, such as honey bees and orchard bees, are important pollinators for farm crops and fruit orchards, as well as for berry-producing shrubs and flowers in your yard. Learn all about the art of beekeeping with Frank Mortimer, president of the Northeast Beekeepers branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. Topics will include an overview of bees, common myths and misconceptions, and the health and future of our bees.

Mortimer and other local beekeepers will give an hour-long presentation and will then be available to answer all

of your questions following the program. Beekeeping equipment will be on display as well.

For more information, call 201-599-0099 or visit www.wbu.com/Paramus.

May 28, 10 a.m. "Attracting Butterflies," Wild Birds Unlimited, 189 Route 17 South, Paramus. Free.

Find out how to attract the greatest variety of butterfly species to your yard. Don Torino will talk about the use of nectar plants, host plants and other techniques to make your backyard prime butterfly habitat.

For more information, call 201-599-0099 or visit www.wbu.com/Paramus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Learn how to attract butterflies to your yard at Wild Birds Unlimited, May 28.

May 21 and 28, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. "Healthy Lawns," The Home Depot. All locations. Free.

Customers will learn how to enhance the health of their lawns, recognize the causes of common lawn problems and

prevent conditions as well as apply solutions to existing problems.

To sign up for the free workshop, visit homeimproverclub.com/workshops.

June 11, 12 p.m. "Free Paver and Retaining Wall Clinic," Progressive Brick Company, 190 Route 17 South, Hasbrouck Heights. Free.

Learn how to install paver walkways and retaining walls from the experts at Progressive Brick Company who will give a free demonstration. For more information, call 201-288-2121 or visit progressivebrick.com.

Email event information, along with a high-res jpeg, to rainone@northjersey.com.

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Prepare meals in the outdoor kitchen

With the advent of summer, it's time to move life outside. That includes not only picnics and barbecues, but entire meals prepared in fully stocked outdoor kitchens.

Living Al Fresco

Everything you have in an indoor kitchen can now be installed in an outdoor setting with weatherproof fixtures. The family can dine surrounded by a landscaped yard, a pool or other amenities.

"You have to determine what your goal is first," said Glen Lumia, owner of Creative Design Construction and Remodeling, Northvale (creativedesignconstruction.com). "How often are you going to use the area and for what types of events? Then decide on a budget."

The days of a simple picnic table and a barbecue are passed. Now the outdoor kitchen is an extension of the lifestyle the family has established indoors. The kitchen, whether indoors or outdoors, is often the focal point of family activity.

"You spend all this money on an indoor kitchen with an island to be the center of the family life," said Nick Prastos, owner of Platon Design Group, Englewood (platon-designgroup.com). "Now families want the same feeling outdoors so they can sit and enjoy company while preparing a meal."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLATON DESIGN GROUP

Though modest in size, this outdoor bar/dining space by Platon Design Group offers all the essentials — a grill, ample seating, a TV, a solid roof overhead and easy access to the kitchen just across the patio.

What can be included:

- a standard grill with a searing area for steaks and fish and burners for boiling water for corn on the cob
- a refrigerator
- a pizza oven
- a wine cellar
- a sink for cooking uses and an outdoor wet bar.
- weatherproof storage cabinets
- a cigar humidor

Budgetary Considerations

Be aware, though, that extending your kitchen space beyond the home can become costly.

"A small outdoor kitchen with 6-foot-long counter space, a grill, a refrigerator and storage space can be \$10,000," warned Carolina McCarthy, designer

and owner of Outdoor Living of New Jersey, Saddle Brook (outdoorlivingofnj.com). "Most homeowners go for 10 to 20 feet of counter space, but you can do up to 70 feet."

"The space needed depends on the number of people you will be entertaining and the amount of times you plan to use the area," said Prastos.

At a minimum, electricity and water need to be provided to the area. If a homeowner wants to keep it simple, an inexpensive grill can be used as the basis and a few amenities added, but most area designers recommend against cheaper products.

"You can get a grill for \$150, but it won't last," said Doug Fleischer, owner of Modern Propane of Lodi (modernpropane.com). "Or you can spend more, plan to put in replacement parts as needed,

and your grill will last for years."

Materials that can be used for kitchen areas:

- brushed granite counters, for a weatherproof surface without the shiny look
- a gazebo setting
- for sun and rain protection, either a permanent roof or a motorized, fabric roof
- stainless steel for appliances and storage areas

Other amenities that can be included:

- game tables
- a pool
- an additional bar area
- access to big-screen TV for watching sports

See next page

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From previous page

"There can be sagging in the structural beams, and the rafters may have to be changed," Georgoutsos said. "The perimeter girders — which hold up the rafters and are supported by the columns — can decompose. We go in and, depending on the span, would use either Douglas fir or LVL (laminated veneer lumber)."

He explains that the engineered lumber is ideal for supporting a wide span while maintaining a traditional look — "The detail is the same as before, but it holds up better for a large expanse."

An old porte-cochere may need rehabilitation for a number of reasons, Georgoutsos said. "Just because it was built long ago doesn't mean it was built right," he noted, with a laugh. "Also, now we have more advanced building techniques and codes, and what was acceptable 100 years ago wouldn't be today."

He admitted with regret that few original porte-cocheres remain standing and in use these days — "A lot get taken down."

"It was the epitome of affluence,"



PHOTO BY EILEEN WATKINS

Starting in the 1890s, visitors to Ringwood Manor who arrived by carriage disembarked beneath this classical porte cochere. The old cement hitching post has been added to keep cars from driving all the way through.

he said. "You had to have horses you were stabling, and property. It's the more stately homes that have them."

— EILEEN WATKINS

ARRIVING IN STYLE AT THE MANOR

One porte-cochere that's open for public viewing can be found at Ringwood Manor, Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood. The older, Federalist parts of the house date from the early 19th century, but the porte-cochere was added around 1900, when owner Abram S. Hewitt adapted the Victorian house in a more neo-classical style. Architect Stanford White, of the noted firm McKim, Mean & White, created the porte-cochere with its graceful ionic columns.

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Thursday, May 26th
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