

Life in the Southern Arc

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## *Spring* HOME IMPROVEMENT

PLUS Sam & Rosco's in Douglasville,  
The Bradley Street Gallery,  
Summer Concert Series & more!

TRANSFORMING  
A BACKYARD  
INTO A

*Personal Paradise*

Once upon a time, you had to plan a vacation to relax and escape from the busy world and your hectic schedule, but today, more and more people are creating a relaxing "getaway" right in their own backyard.

by DEBORAH McCAGUE  
photography courtesy of  
BOSCOE'S POOLS



Outdoor spaces are no longer defined by a patio with a grill and some lawn chairs. Homeowners are creating remarkable areas complete with kitchens, fireplaces or fire pits for cool evenings, dining areas and comfortably furnished terraces, where they can entertain or relax and enjoy quality, family time. And pools are much more than just a place to splash and play. They are the beautiful centerpiece of a home's outdoor living space.

Boscoe's Pools of Sharpsburg, owned by Shane Carr and Jeff Holloway,

is one of the premier pool and backyard retreat designers in the Southern Arc. Just ask HGTV. The popular home and garden television network is filming one of the company's projects for the Saturday morning show, "Breaking Ground," which will air sometime in May. With one look at their portfolio, it is evident a pool can be a work of art these days.

"Almost anything is possible," Holloway says. "We can create any size or shape with options like tanning



ledges, waterfalls with hidden grottos, vanishing edges, spas that spillover into the pool or beach entrances. While some people prefer the illusion of nature with irregular curving shapes and waterfalls cascading over boulders, others are drawn to classic, elegant, Roman-style pools with straight lines, columns and materials like limestone, travertine and mosaic glass tiles."

With all the new features in today's poolscape, control and maintenance has gotten faster and easier. One of the newest devices is a programmable, computerized control system. With the touch of a button, you can turn on the spa, adjust the water temperature, turn on the lights, waterfall or fountain and set music that plays from speakers disguised as rocks. Some systems can be

linked with your computer or phone so that you make the adjustments remotely, and when you arrive home, your pool is ready and waiting. Now that's cool!

For pool maintenance, there are new choices too. Instead of vacuuming the pool yourself or having a device with a hose that slowly crawls over the pool bottom, you can opt for a built-in maintenance system that removes debris. Harsh and expensive chlorine and acid chemicals are no longer needed to sanitize water; there are salt systems or even better, a non-chemical, non-salt, ionic purification system, originally developed by NASA to preserve drinking water for its space program. This system kills bacteria, balances the PH and is safe and eco-friendly. New variable speed pool pumps are another

popular option. They are more energy efficient and can reduce energy costs from 30 to 90 percent.

Outdoor living spaces extend your home, and in today's housing market, a beautiful outdoor living area is a big selling feature for many homebuyers.

Since the state eased some of the water restrictions with regard to pools, now is the perfect time to plan your own personal paradise. Whether it is elaborate or small and simple, an outdoor retreat can provide all the best that the outdoors has to offer – sun, fresh air, the soothing sounds of water, nature, comfort and best of all – it's right in your own backyard. ■

#### **Boscoe's Pools**

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