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Alan and Nicole Horne own Yard Elves, a company that specializes in custom landscaping and stone work. The pair are pictured at a south Fort Collins residence that has undergone a complete yard renovation, including a stone patio, rock work with integrated waterfall and a wood railing.

Q: Can you tell us about your business?

A: Yard Elves Inc. is a family-owned and operated landscape construction company in Northern Colorado. Beyond normal landscaping maintenance, our crews specialize in new construction, renovations, water features, ponds, stone patios and stone walkways.

Q: What is your previous experience?

A: I started my career in the horticulture industry over 18 years ago, by maintaining residential and commercial properties as a young teenager. This developed into a love for the industry that ultimately led me into landscape construction.

Q: What do you like most about the business?

A: Building new relationships. I enjoy meeting new customers and having the opportunity to be involved with designing and constructing an area that people can enjoy and appreciate.

Q: What are the challenges of your business?

A: Convincing customers how important it is to research who they are speaking to. Using a professional can help a homeowner avoid unnecessary future costs. Take the time to plan your project: Planning and designing something colorful and functional will make your area more enjoyable and will help maintain the value of your property.

Q: What do you wish more people knew about yards?

A: Don't forget to spend time in them. They can be used as a place to relax and enjoy our families.

Q: What are trends you are seeing this year compared to previous years?

A: Trends from the '70s are coming back into style. I dig it! On a serious note, Yard Elves Inc. completes background investigation checks and supports a drug-free working environment.

Alan Horne

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