

The lazy river enters into the main area of the pool on the right in this photo. The pool has an 18-zone in-floor cleaning system, a large sunshelf area with two built-in, low-hanging hammocks near the waterfall, and a pool situated between retaining walls less than 15 feet from Lake Livingston. The large pool house pictured features an extra-large patio with outdoor kitchen seating area complete with TV and speakers.

Ask Brad and Patty Stephens, owners of Backyard Amenities, who they consider to be the most important person on their design and construction team and they will answer, "the client." Without a good rapport with their customers, they could never create the fabulous designs that have made their company one of the Houston area's most highly regarded. "We manage each project the same way," says Brad. "We talk things over with the homeowner, understand what is wanted, and communicate constantly, from the backyard evaluation to the first swim."

This type of hands-on customer service is one of

the reasons that the family-owned company enjoys a high referral rate and has been honored with numerous awards and inducted into one of the industry's prestigious hall of fames. Brad and Patty, along with their son, Brandon, are passionate about keeping close tabs on every custom gunite project's transformation from blueprint to swimming pool. All three work with various experts to ensure that the entire poolscape is finished to perfection, typically within 28 days from the start of construction. "We don't take shortcuts, we work hard and conscientiously," explains Patty. "When Brad and I started this company, we made it understood that we were

all about customer service. We give our clients the respect they deserve and the results they demand."

Backyard Amenities is a proud member of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals and Carecraft, a national association that brings likeminded pool designers and builders together so they can maintain and enhance their design and construction abilities through continuing education and networking. Carecraft has given Backyard Amenities eight Design of Excellence Awards, and the company has received two Gold Torch Awards from the Better Business Bureau and the Small Business of the Year Monument Award from Lee College. *

BACKYARD AMENITIES

A Member of Carecraft
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In Business for 15 Years
Builds 75 Pools per Year
Service Area
Houston and surrounding areas

Photography by Karin Gaylor



ABOVE: Overlooking Lake Livingston, the pool includes a center island with landscaping connected by a large moss-rock bridge. A waterslide and waterfall are nestled in the middle cove of the pool. This resort-style pool also features a beach entry.

LEFT: This house-side view of the lazy river shows a large flagstone-topped sunshelf, spacious spa, and three bar stools in front of the spa's stacked-stone spillway. The center island also includes a fire pit, seating area, and a large waterfall with built-in waterslide. The bridge connecting the island to the surrounding deck is flagstone covered with four fountains.

122 Luxury Pools & Fall 2013 Luxury Pools & 10th Anniversary 123