

## Thomas Eaves

**Thomas Eaves** graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in 1973 after a four year stint in the United States Air Force. He grew up on a farm in Louisville, Mississippi where he loved scouting and became an Eagle Scout. He was married with a child when he began his academic career at MSU.

**DISCUSS YOUR CAREER JOURNEY.** I had a landscape architecture and a design-build company for the first ten years. After that, I traveled all over the U.S. working with a construction company that built mausoleums in cemeteries. In 1995, I opened a landscape architecture practice in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. We became known for high end residential projects. We design everything exterior except the residence itself. I've also spent my career trying to educate the public and professionals on what landscape architects really do.

**DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU TURNED A CHALLENGE INTO AN OPPORTUNITY.** As a landscape architect, you see things from a different angle. It was apparent when I was working on cemeteries. I would go into these cemeteries where people had been working their entire lives. They looked at it every day and didn't see what needed to be changed. My landscape architecture education and experience helped me immediately see what needed to be improved.

**WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE CURRENT INDUSTRY?** I enjoy making my local community a better place to live. Currently, we are designing a healing garden for a local hospital and cancer center.



**WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE WORKFORCE?** Landscape architecture has been and continues to be a very rewarding career. I see the opportunity as very bright and Mississippi State continues to be a leader in training for this profession. I've hired a dozen MSU landscape architecture graduates over my 40 plus years in the profession.

A backyard paradise designed by Thomas Eaves. (Photo by Brent Wallace)