

WICKENBURG LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, INC.

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Vol. 2 Issue 9

Magazine cover! Again!

Wickenburg Landscape was honored to have another of our recent projects "1876" featured on the cover of Arizona Landscape Contractors Association's (ALCA) August/September issue. We are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to work on this unique John Coleman sculpture. The ability to work with truly talented people such as Alvin Hancock and "Pete the Miner" along with their crews was a true joy. Working together with such great talent we are privileged to have our company's name and reputation linked with bringing "1876" to life here in the desert.

The ALCA ARIZONA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION
INFLUENCE September/October 2012

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**Affordable Care Act—
What it Means for Employers
Lighting Control**

COVER PHOTO: Wickenburg Landscape and Irrigation, Inc.

Irrigation Controller

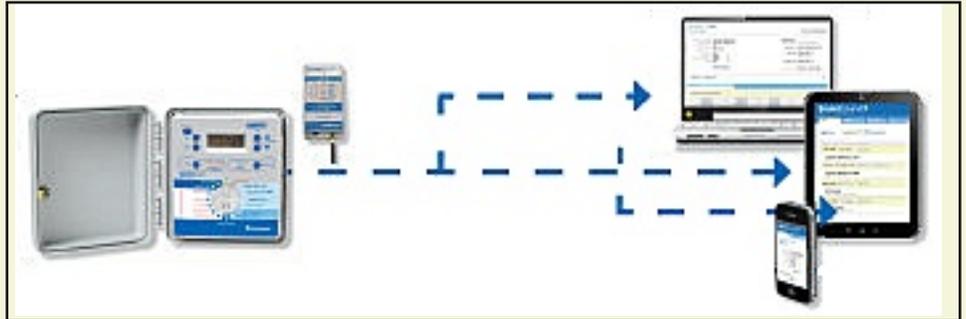
Irrigation system

Part 1 of 8.

The irrigation controller is the brain of the entire irrigation system. Your controller will ultimately determine how much and when water gets to your plants. The reliability of computerized irrigation controllers has steadily increased over the last two decades and now gives us the opportunity to implement the newest technology in managing our irrigation systems. Your irrigation controller is used to electrically turn on and off the irrigation valves which control the water flow to your irrigation system. While there are battery operated controllers that have come onto the market that are reliable and are useful in some situations we will focus here on 120 volt controllers that are connected to your home's electrical system.

We recommend that you do not plug in your clock because someone can accidentally or intentionally unplug the controller. Once the controller is unplugged or without power nothing on your irrigation system will function until power is restored and the program reset. Irrigation controllers use zones or stations to enable you to add the desired amount of time you want a particular irrigation valve to operate. Once this is set you will then schedule the days that you want this valve to operate on and then what time of day you wish this valve to start running. While this is a simplistic approach to scheduling of a controller each controller operates slightly different. Currently most people consider irrigation controllers as nothing more than a scheduler of our irrigation run times. While in its basic form irrigation controller can schedule what days to run and how long to run each station there is far more that our controller can perform.

We currently have controllers that will notify us by email when the backup battery is low. For security reasons we also get notified when anything gets changed on the controller. Within the next month or so we will have the capability to get email alerts telling us that our filter is clogged and needs cleaning. We can also get email alerts when there is a leak in one of the irrigation lines after the controller automatically shuts down that part of the irrigation system.



With the addition of an onsite mini weather station we also now have the ability to track rainfall, high and low temperatures and solar radiation (cloud cover). Knowing this information the controllers have the ability to "learn" how much and when to water each station on the system. This eliminates watering during rainstorms and the soil saturation that comes from this. The watering will also automatically increase during "heat waves" without any input necessary.



Have an upcoming event or party or just a part of the day you don't want your irrigation running? We can schedule that particular day or time off without ever going to your property. Would you also like a monthly graph detailing out your actual irrigation water usage? This can also be done without leaving our office. While these advancements do not eliminate the need of having an actual person walking around and checking your property for issues these new types of controllers will reduce the size and severity of issues that occasionally arise. Where irrigation controllers will be in the next ten years is anyone's guess however wherever they go Wickenburg Landscape is committed to remaining on the cutting edge of this rising technology.

"National Award Winning Landscapes"



WickenburgLandscape.com

