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Ruppert Landscape **NEWS**

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Ruppert's Rich Schubach to Retire in 2016, Mike Felts Promoted to Branch Manager

Laytonsville, MD – Ruppert Landscape's **Rich Schubach** has announced that he will retire in January of 2016 from the position of Branch Manager in our Maryland Landscape Construction Branch. His position will be filled with the promotion of **Mike Felts**.

Schubach joined the company in 1982 as a Crewman in the Landscape Construction division and has since held many different positions, including Foreman, Nursery Manager, Landscape Purchasing Agent, Director of Landscape Operations and, most recently, Branch Manager. Throughout his career, he also served four years on the Board of Advisors for Mississippi State University and six years on the Board of Advisors for the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Maryland Chapter.

"In his 28 years with the company, Rich has made tremendous contributions," said CEO Craig Ruppert. "His greatest strength has been his ability to build and maintain trusting relationships with his team and customers." He continued, "Although we will miss working with him, his legacy will live on as part of our culture and an example for future leaders."

Schubach will remain with the company in an active advisory role with the management team.

"In my time here at Ruppert, I've learned a lot about the industry, made many life-long friends and worked on projects I can look back and say I'm proud of," said Schubach. "I look forward to watching the company continue to succeed and hope that the next generation of leaders gets as much out of the experience as I did."

The position of Branch Manager in the Maryland Landscape Construction Branch will be filled by Mike Felts, who has spent the better part of 2015 working side-by-side with Schubach to learn his new role and responsibilities.

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In his five years with the company, Felts has held positions as Estimator, Production Manager and most recently, Operations Manager. He also has prior experience outside of the industry, having been a partner in a general contracting company in North Carolina and serving six years as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. Two of those six years were spent deployed to Afghanistan. Felts graduated from Virginia Tech in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management.

“Mike’s clearly demonstrated leadership ability, innovation and dedication to the company made him our first choice when the position of Branch Manager was to become vacant with the retirement of Rich Schubach,” said Bob Jones, President of Ruppert’s Landscape Construction Division. “Like Rich, Mike embodies all the characteristics needed to continue to build a strong reputation in the Maryland Market.” He continued, “I’m confident that Mike will step up to the challenge and continue to succeed as he works to develop and grow the Maryland Landscape team.”

In his role as Branch Manager, Felts will be responsible for the overall development and health of the branch including the growth and development of his team, strategic planning, budgeting, training and day-to-day operations.

Ruppert Landscape, a family and employee-owned business, provides commercial landscape construction and management services in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina from 18 branch offices and has a long-standing tradition of giving back to the community. Visit us at www.ruppertlandscape.com.

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