Leo was born and raised in White Sulphur Springs graduating in the first class of Greenbrier East High School in 1969. He attended Marshall University afterward graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree. Following a two year employment as a medical technologist at the Greenbrier Clinic, he made the choice to pursue a different career in landscape design, something he has developed a passion for. As that business began to grow, Windy Knoll Nursery was created and operated in Lewisburg for 40 years.

In 1986 a significant opportunity presented itself as Leo met George Betsill, landscape architect for the Greenbrier Hotel. Many years followed with a close working relationship and Leo would attribute his success in many ways to the knowledge and wisdom he received from Mr. Betsill