

## Sharing - By Stan Southwick



I recently heard a retired heart surgeon talk about his pioneering efforts in helping develop the heart lung machine. He attributed much of the success of the development of this life saving machine to the free exchange of information between heart surgeons at the time. Unlike today, when researchers are more concerned about notoriety than helping humankind. Sharing what good you have is never a loss, it always comes back to you tenfold. I came across this Farmer's Tale that represents this principle well.

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

So it is with our lives ... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

Sharing the best of what you have is never a loss, it only makes you better.

"Friendship marks a life even more deeply than love. Love risks degenerating into obsession, friendship is never anything but sharing."

Elie Wiesel

## Favorite Flora:

### Olea europaea 'Montra' - Little Ollie Dwarf Olive - By Jon Marenfeld



Finding evergreen shrubs that can handle our vast temperature ranges and low humidity isn't too challenging. There are the usual suspects like Oleander, Texas Rangers, Senna, and Mock Orange which are seen everywhere. An alternative to those may be *Olea europaea* 'Montra' commonly known as Little Ollie Dwarf Olive. This evergreen, tough as nails, shrub is non-fruiting and tolerates our harsh summers with ease. It grows up to about 6' x 6' but can easily be pruned to keep it the size and shape you want it meaning it's one of the few desert adapted shrubs that you can legitimately hedge with hedge trimmers. It is multi-branching and has a naturally rounded form with deep green leaves that have silvery green undersides. It can be trained into a single trunk tree or used in topiary form. The Little Ollie is sterile so pollen and fruits are not a concern.

Care for *Olea europaea* 'Montra' is straight forward. Plant this Waterwise evergreen shrub in full sun in rich, well-draining, soil. It can handle salty soils, extreme heat, and reflected heat. Use as a specimen plant or in massings for a formal hedge. Water regularly and deeply during the first growing season to establish deep and extensive roots. After the first season reduce watering and monitor it during extreme heat conditions for stress. Plant it along with Rosemary, Bay Laurel, Lavender, Meyer Lemon, and Pomegranate for a Mediterranean feel.



Hemenway Park Bighorn Sheep Habitat  
Boulder City  
Cassie Grimes