

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

Carl Reiner

PINK FLAMINGO 2009



At the end of each year, we gather together with other Landscape Architects in Nevada for the annual pink flamingo themed NASLA Landscape Awards Celebration, affectionately known as the Pink Flamingo. We all look forward to this event. It is an opportunity to display the best work for everyone to see. This year was no different. We love being able to see what everyone is working on. We were pleasantly surprised this year with a few awards.

In the Un-built category we earned a Merit Award for Holy Spirit Church; for Parks & Trails we earned a Merit Award for Bradley Bridle Park; for Institutional or Corporate we earned a Merit Award for the Salvation Army Chapel and an Honor Award for Northwest Career & Technical Academy; and for Residential we earned a Merit Award for the Norellat Residence. We are very proud of these projects and are excited for the recognition by our peers. Stan was chosen by the Trustee, Ellis Atuñez, as the recipient for the Trustee's Award. He is honored to receive such recognition.

New to the Awards this year was the inclusion of the Viewer's Choice Award. Everyone in attendance was able to vote on their favorite project. This award went to JW Zunino & Associates for Symphony Park. This well known project will be downtown by the Government Center, near the location of the old Union Pacific Railroad Station.

We want to thank our clients for the opportunities they've given us to work on these projects. We also want to thank our consultants for their work on these great projects. We look forward to designing other exciting award-winning projects in the future.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

A simple update to an almost comprehensive list of events going on around the Las Vegas Valley during the Holiday Season.

- ✳ The annual SLA cactus garden tour at Ethel M will take place Thursday night the 17th at 5:30pm. We will be meeting at the office then make the short walk over to the garden. Afterwards, we'll warm up with some hot chocolate and treats. It's always a great time and a highlight of our December. If you are planning on coming please let us know so don't leave without you!
- ✳ The Springs Preserve has an eco-friendly LED light display throughout their garden. You can take it in December 18-24 from 5 to 9pm. They have live holiday music performances, craft activities, photos with Santa, train and pony rides. Sounds like and good time!
- ✳ If you haven't seen the snow in Town Square there is still time. It will snow nightly at 7pm through 12/23 with additional snow showers at 8pm Friday-Sunday.
- ✳ The Gift of Lights is open nightly at 5pm now through 1/3/2010 at Sunset Park. You don't want to miss this!
- ✳ 2009 Magical Forest benefiting Opportunity Village now through 1/2/2010 5:30pm – 9pm Monday through Friday. On Saturday it closes at 10pm.
- ✳ While most of the events listed above are free some have a fee. Be sure to come prepared! ✳
- ✳ **Santa Sightings:**
Ethel M's until 12/20 5pm-8pm Friday through Sunday and Town Square until 12/24 10am – 9pm.
- ✳ Please be aware that SLA will be closed 12/24 through 1/3 to enjoy the holidays with our loved ones. We wish safe and happy holidays to all.



FAVORITE FLORA: AGAVE VILMORINIANA - OCTOPUS AGAVE



Agave vilmoriniana (Octopus Agave) is a native of northwest Mexico. In its native environment, it is typically found clinging to the side of canyons, resembling giant spiders on a wall. However, here in the southwest, we use this agave to create a wonderful sculptural effect with the long, slender leaves and curved shape. This plant is perfect as an accent alone or in groups. It can be placed in areas such as patios, entries or around pools. It can also be used as a container plant, just make sure your container is big enough.

This native to northwest Mexico enjoys full sun to partial shade with deep waterings every month or two during the summer. It can withstand our freezing temperatures to about 20 degrees F with no damage. It grows to 3-4 feet high and 5-6 feet wide with gray-green spineless leaves that resemble an octopus. Be sure to space these about 6 feet apart or away from walls as these plants are not to be pruned.

Unlike other agaves, the Octopus Agave is relatively short-lived averaging 6-8 years before flowering. When the yellow flowers do appear, the stalk can be up to 15 feet tall. After the flowers fade they are replaced by a heavy set of the next generation plants. The original plant dies shortly thereafter so plan ahead with a replacement.

Another interesting fact, in its native Mexico, the dead plants are made into brushes with built-in soap which foams in water. The cleaning agent is naturally formed in the dry leave. These brushes can sometimes be found for sale on the Mexican west coast.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



SPHINX
EGYPT
MATT DURHAM