

Protect Your License- By Stan Southwick

I spent four days the second week of September in Boise, Idaho at the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) annual meeting. First, Boise is a beautiful city with the Boise River running through the middle of town. The river is protected on either side by a greenbelt with trees, trails, benches, interpretive signage, and parks. You can fish right in the center of the city!



Anyway, I digress. I attended the CLARB meeting because I am a member of the Nevada State Board of Landscape Architects where we oversee the licensing of landscape architects in Nevada. The focus of our meetings was on the protection of licensure across the nation. There is a move among legislatures to deregulate licensing boards. One of the main bills being introduced, especially in the west, is the Right to

Work bill. This bill was introduced at the 2016 Nevada Legislature but never made it out of committee. The bill will come back in the 2018 session. The basic premise of the bill is that you cannot prevent someone from earning a living. Board regulation and licensing is viewed as a deterrent to earn a living because of the years of education, experience and costs that are required to obtain a license. This is not specific to landscape architects. The Department of Labor is currently evaluating 34 occupational boards in 55 states and territories from designers to realtors to medical professionals.

One legislator was asked how the landscape architecture profession would be regulated if there was no board or licensing. His response was, "Let them use YELP." This shows the ignorance that many have about landscape architects. The focus of landscape architecture licensing is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public who use professionally designed landscape spaces every day... whether they realize it or not.

Many of you are licensed and governed by a regulatory board. Become aware, get involved, help educate and protect public health, safety and welfare by protecting your license. You worked very hard for it.

"A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything."
 — Malcolm X

Favorite Flora:

Acacia crespedocarpa- Leatherleaf Acacia- By Matt Durham



This month's favorite flora is a tough, underutilized shrub with a lot of great characteristics. The Leatherleaf Acacia (*Acacia crespedocarpa*) is a native of Australia but will do well in the right spot in Las Vegas. This shrub is listed to grow up to 10-15 feet in height but with its growth rate dependent on its water intake, in a xeriscape landscape this plant may never reach heights over 8 feet. The Leatherleaf Acacia has an upright, compact growth form with small, thick grey-green leaves and leathery texture for which the plant derives its common name. It blooms mainly in the spring with small, puffy, butterfly attracting yellow flowers and may have smaller blooms throughout the

summer. Large seedpods are attractive when hanging from the shrub but can be this plants' one downside when they fall. These seedpods are green, changing to brown with prominent veins which give the plant its botanical name "crespedocarpa" meaning vein fruit.

Photo of the Month



Boise River
 Boise, Idaho
 Stan Southwick

This Acacia loves full sun, even reflected heat conditions. It is tolerant of poor soils and heavy air pollution near roads or freeways. It is extremely drought tolerant once established. Watering can be limited to once every week or 2 in the summer and once or twice in the winter. If a larger, quicker growing shrub is preferred more frequent watering can be applied. The slow growth limits pruning to an as-desired basis. Seedpod cleanup is needed during the summer months but leaf litter is almost nonexistent. Pair this shrub with other very low water need plants such as Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), and Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*).