

**Getting Older-** By Stan Southwick



We are living in the time when the largest population boom is retiring. The Baby Boomers, of which I came in on the tail end, have aged and are retiring... although my retirement is still several years away. As a group we are retiring younger than preceding generations. We are also healthier than previous generations at our age. So, what do all these retired, health people do with their leisure time? Design professionals now must focus as much of their design efforts on the needs of retiring Baby Boomers as they do on the kids of the Millennials. It used to be that when we designed a public park, our main focus was getting a real cool playground for two groups of people... kids ages 2-5 and kids ages 5-12. Now our focus is equally shared with all ages of users. Walking paths are not just sidewalks connecting areas of a park but now have a cushion course for comfort and are laid out and marked with exact distances. Not only are cool playgrounds important but equally cool exercise equipment are popular park elements. These exercise stations aren't just a chin up bar and a balance beam. They include high tech outdoor equipment similar to that found in your local gym. Pickle Ball is becoming very popular also. What is Pickle Ball you ask? It's a cross between tennis and badminton. Imagine playing with paddles and a softball size wiffle ball on a half size tennis court. Baby Boomers may be getting older but they are not slowing down.

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**Consultant of the Month**

Helena Murvosh, a civil engineer with Stanley Consultants, has been selected as consultant of the month. SLA has had the privilege of working with Helena on multiple projects



over the last several years and we appreciate her invaluable experience and knowledge. She is always upbeat and a positive member of any design team. Helena excels at being thorough in her work and providing solutions no matter how difficult the problem. We always have a fun time working with Helena; we are grateful for all she does on current projects and we look forward to working with her in the future.

"The future ain't what it used to be."  
 — Yogi Berra

**Favorite Flora:**  
**Agapanthus africanus- Lily of the Nile-** By Matt Durham



The Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus africanus*) is native to the Cape of Good Hope region of South Africa. The plants are typically found in mountainous terrain from sea level to about 3500 feet, growing between rocks. It was introduced to Europe in the late 17th century where it became a popular container plant. Lily of the Nile plants are made up of clumps of large green leaves. They can grow to about 2 feet in height and width. In midsummer, tall stems topped with an umbel (a grouping of flowers spreading from a common point) consisting of light to deep blue funnel shaped flowers emerge. These stems can be cut for a great addition to fresh flower arrangements.

Lily of the Nile is best grown in partial sun in Las Vegas and does well in the filtered shade under trees or along the north side of a building. Extreme sun as well as persistent frost can damage leaves. It performs best with regular watering especially in the heat of the summer and until it gets established. Spent leaves and flower stalks can be pruned off. Lily of the Nile works great in containers as well as borders and mass plantings. It can be grown in cottage or tropical themed landscapes and pairs great with Mock Orange (*Pittosporum tobira*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and Powis Castle (*Artemisia 'Powis Castle'*).

Disclaimer: Lily of the Nile is commonly referred to as *Agapanthus africanus* in most gardens and nurseries. However, most ornamental plants grown and sold are actually *Agapanthus praecox*. The true *Agapanthus africanus* is similar in appearance but much more difficult to grow.

**Photo of the Month**



Aurora Borealis (Bucket List Item... Check)  
 Prince Albert, Canada  
 Caryl Davies