

Seasons Best - By Stan Southwick

This is a great time of year when we have the opportunity to recharge, renew, and recommit. So many good things have happened this past year that I would be ungrateful if I didn't say thank you to all those who have been a part of all those good things. Not only would it take me a very long time to thank everyone, but I'm sure someone would be missed. So, in the spirit of paying it forward, I thought I would take the opportunity this coming year to bring good things to others. Here is my beginning list, one that will be added to as opportunities come along. I invite you to join me.

Consultant of the Quarter

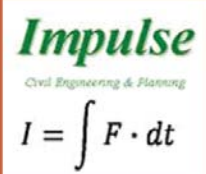
Recharge- I will take some time to recharge my battery so that I can jump start someone whose battery may be a little low.

Renew- I will renew an old acquaintance that has faded over the years to bring a smile to their face.

Recommit- I recommit to be a better person... and pass it on.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Pete Laas, Principal at Impulse Civil Engineering and Planning, has been chosen as Southwick Landscape Architects consultant of the quarter for the final quarter of 2017. Pete has been instrumental in the success of the various apartment complexes that are under development and construction around the Las Vegas valley. We've enjoyed working closely with him in understanding grading issues, as well as functional design layouts and circulation on numerous Ovation apartment complexes. Pete is always open to questions and is very knowledgeable in all facets of Civil Engineering. He is an excellent member of our team and we'd like to thank him for his tireless efforts and dedication to continued successes.



"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor."
— Charles Dickens

Favorite Flora:

Asclepias subulata- Desert Milkweed- By Matt Durham



If you are daydreaming about summer on these cold winter days, then maybe you should add this month's favorite flora to those warm landscapes in your mind. The Desert Milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*) is a shrub made up of slender green stalks and only bears small leaves after it rains. These stalks form a clump around 3 to 4 feet in height and width. It is native to the southwestern United States where it grows in desert washes and warm rocky slopes. It loves full sun and the heat and is only tolerant of cold to around 25 degrees Fahrenheit. Creamy yellow flowers adorn the ends of the stalks sporadically between spring and fall. These flowers are a source of food for migrating Monarch and Queen butterflies. Most plants in the *Asclepias* family are toxic, some fatally, to animals and humans. This Milkweed produces a white sap when its stems are

broken that can cause skin irritation and can be toxic if ingested.

The Desert Milkweed can be a great low maintenance addition to a desert landscape. It is extremely drought tolerant, loves to be planted in full and reflected heat and produce almost no litter. This plant can go years without pruning, although it is best to use gloves when you do to avoid its sap. This plant is great around pools and to attract butterflies. It is best paired with other low water use and butterfly attracting plants such as Desert Zinnia (*Zinnia acerosa*), Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) and Firecracker Penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*).

Photo of the Month



Through the Window
Valley of Fire, Nevada
Jon Marenfeld