

**Excuses, Excuses, Excuses-** By Stan Southwick



Sgt. Joe Friday, in the 1950's police drama *Dagnet*, would often remind his female interviewees "All we want are the facts, ma'am". That phrase, or the one later derived from it, "Just the facts, ma'am" runs through my head each time I hear someone coming up with excuses on why some

preset expectation was not met. I know that none of us are perfect and that we make mistakes all the time. But when someone tries to diminish or hide a legitimate mistake or oversight by making excuses to deflect or transfer the blame, I immediately lose trust in them and their ability to complete a task. It is more productive to admit the problem, offer a solution to rectify the situation and move on. A person who does that can be trusted to deliver the promised product despite any hiccups along the way. The next time you inadvertently make a mistake take ownership, rectify the situation and carry on. It's fun to watch the other person's reaction!

**Consultant of the Month**

June's consultant of the month is Doug Guild, Parks Superintendent, City of Henderson. Doug oversees the entire City of Henderson Parks Division, yet manages to keep open and responsive communication on projects. He has a very busy schedule yet when we talk with him, it feels like his sole focus is on us and our project. He is mindful of our time, gives clear guidance, and is always approachable and supportive. It is a great pleasure working with Doug and we look forward to his always cheerful attitude. Thank you Doug for making our work days brighter!



"It is easier to move from failure to success than from excuses to success."  
— John C. Maxwell

**Favorite Flora:**

**Elaeocarpens decipens- Japanese Blueberry-** By Matt Durham

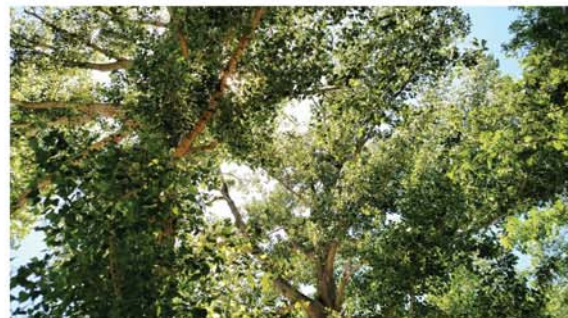


The Japanese Blueberry (*Elaeocarpens decipens*) is an evergreen tree/shrub that is native to Eastern Asia. It has deep green leaves that, as they die, turn a bright reddish orange color. These spent leaves can hang on this plant for several months creating a wonderful contrast. The Japanese Blueberry has small, white, fragrant, lantern shaped flowers in the summer. These give way to dark blue, purple to black olive shaped fruits to which this plant derives its common name. It grows in most parts of the world, and occasionally in Las Vegas, in a tree form with heights of 20-35 feet. However, it is usually found around the valley as a columnar shrub around

8-10 feet in height.

This is a low maintenance plant that can be sheered or pruned to shape. It requires regular watering and prefers partial shade locations. While this may not be the most drought tolerant plant, it certainly fills a role in Las Vegas landscapes. It makes an excellent screen or windbreak and pairs well with more lush plantings. For examples of this plant around town visit almost any casino on the strip. Japanese Blueberry works well with plants such as Japanese Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla japonica*), Dwarf Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis 'Little John'*) and Variegated Mock Orange (*Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata'*).

**Photo of the Month**



**Under the Cottonwoods**  
Topaz Lake, California  
Matt Durham