

## Holiday Happenings

Well, it's that time of year again. It seems like it sneaks up faster and faster each year. This Christmas Season I'm going to forget the stresses of the past year and focus on the things that have long lasting meaning. As I stop and do this, I begin to realize that there are a lot of really great things that happened during the last twelve months. It is quite therapeutic to pause and count my blessings.



SLA had a great showing at the annual American Society of Landscape Architects, Nevada Chapter design awards this year. We came away with four merit awards. The Laughlin Regional Park Master Plan was recognized in the Planning category, One Las Vegas received a Resort award, the Upper Las Vegas Wash Trail Phase I took honors in the Trails category, and the Alber Residence was a Single Family Residential category winner. Each of these projects had a client who was willing to do something to make their project unique and award winning. We wish to thank each of them for the opportunity to work on their project.

Remember that there are many events going on around the valley during this season. A must see is the annual SLA Ethel M Christmas Light Walk happening Monday, December 19th beginning at 5:00 pm at our office. Come on by and enjoy the spirit of the season with family, friends and associates.

All of us here at SLA wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

"If A is success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut." - Albert Einstein

## FAVORITE FLORA:

### SPHAERALCEA AMBIGUA- GLOBE MALLOW



You can find Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) in a flower garden, vacant lot or natural desert around Las Vegas. It is one of the easiest shrubs to grow in our climate and can even be mistaken for a weed by some as they can pop up without warning in your landscape. This herbaceous perennial can grow from 1-3 feet tall and wide depending on the growing conditions. It prefers full sun, is tolerant of most soils and requires little to no watering on top of the rainfall we receive. Globe Mallow is native to the southwestern United States and can be found from low deserts up to elevations around 5000 feet. This range allows the plant to grow well in the summer and still tolerate temperatures below freezing. Blooming from the spring to the fall and sometimes through the winter, this shrub puts on a showy display of flowers that can range from orange, red, purple or white.

When using this plant in your own landscape, you can plant it around cacti or succulents such as Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus acanthodes*) or a Weber Agave (*Agave weberi*) to add more year round color. The flower stalks can also be cut and added to arrangements inside your home as well. For maintenance, simply cut the plant down to around 6" in early fall and watch it quickly grow back by the spring. Be careful when handling this plant as the leaves have tiny hairs on them which can cause irritation to the skin and eyes of some people.

Photo of the Month



The Veld  
South Africa  
Nicolette Fisk