

Thanks-Giving

As I got to work today and turned on my radio, I was reminded of what time of year it is... my two favorite radio stations are now playing continuous Christmas music! A little premature, I think. I opened the mail and saw a Thanksgiving card from an engineer we work with. Driving to a meeting the other day I noticed that the Pistache trees along Paseo Verde had all turned vibrant shades of red, orange and yellow. The temperature has dropped... well maybe not, but it should be dropping. So, here we are in the Holiday Season. Thanksgiving is, of course, the first of those holidays.

As I look back on the last year, and even the last several years, I realize I have a lot to be thankful for. The economic crash of 2008 affected us dramatically but we are still here. I'm thankful the key works in the office door each morning. I'm thankful that the lights turn on each day when I flip the switch. I'm thankful for fantastic employees who are extremely talented and fun to be around. I'm thankful that work is picking up a bit. I'm thankful to have talents to share with the interns that work for me and the architecture students that visited our office. I'm thankful the sun shines so much around here. I'm thankful my air conditioning works. I'm thankful the Water Street construction is done so I can get to work on time. I'm thankful I'm 6'-4" and can see over a crowd... although I don't fit in a compact. I'm thankful that I've never had to go hungry. I'm thankful for family and I'm thankful for my association with you. Life is good.

Thank you. Pass it along.

"An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day."
— Irv Kupcinet



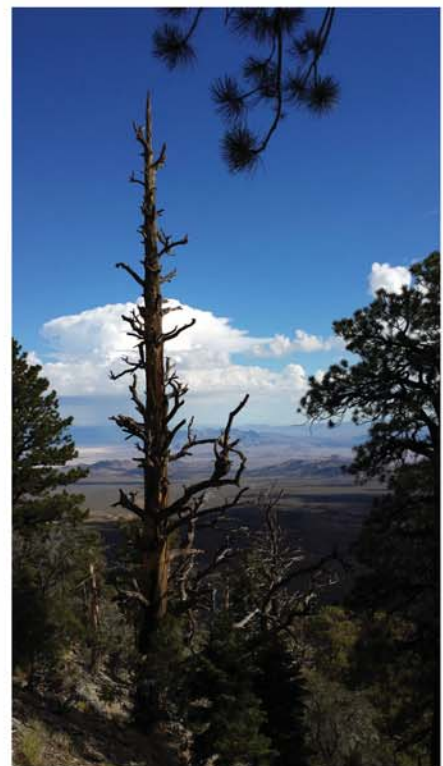
FAVORITE FLORA: OLEA EUROPAEA

Many plants contribute to daily life without a second thought. The Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*) can be found in your daily life as well as throughout history. Olive trees are cultivated in many parts of the world with numerous uses for the fruit itself and oil produced from the fruit. The olive tree has many symbolic connotations throughout history and across the globe from the olive branch being used as a peace offering to the olive oil being used to anoint kings. This evergreen is native to the Mediterranean, Africa and Asia. A tree can live to be over a thousand years old and many specimens throughout the world are considered to be well over 2000 years old.



The Olive Tree usually takes on a shorter and wider form with large specimens reaching 30-40 feet in height. Multi trunk forms are most common. Twisted and knobby trunks give way to silvery green leaves. *Olea europaea* produces small white blooms which ultimately lead to olives. For landscape purposes the fruit and accompanying mess that ensues when it falls from the tree discourage most from planting this tree. However, fruitless varieties do exist and are typically available in Las Vegas. Plant the Olive in full sun and well drained soil. This tree is drought and heat tolerant as well as cold hardy to about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. These trees can be excellent in a Mediterranean themed landscape paired with Rosemary (*Rosmarinus* sp.), Lavender (*Lavendula* sp.) and Japanese boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* 'Japonica'). Olives handle heavy pruning well and are easily shaped to fit in to smaller patios and yards.

Photo of the Month



A Break in the Trees
Cold Creek, Nevada
Stan Southwick