

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE
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IF LIFE SEEMS JOLLY ROTTEN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN!
AND THAT'S TO LAUGH AND SMILE AND DANCE AND SING WHEN YOU'RE FEELING IN THE DUMPS DON'T BE SILLY CHUMPS
JUST PURSE YOUR LIPS AND WHISTLE - THAT'S THE THING!
ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

The Bright Side - By Stan Southwick

As we go through life's challenges and experiences, we always have two choices. We can be miserable and complain about the situation or we can look on the bright side and find the good. If there is a yin, there is a yang. If there is wrong, there is right. If there is sad, there is happy. If there is dark, there is light. I've found that a little ray of light is always shining, even at the darkest times. Here are a few of the good things that have surfaced over the last two months.

- Mother Earth is getting a breather...literally.
- People are finding creative ways to check on their neighbors and reach out to others.
- Grandpa is figuring out how to work his smart phone.
- We are becoming cleaner.
- The "rat race" is not quite as fast.
- The whole work at home thing is working out quite well.
- Business practices are getting more efficient.
- Our canine companions aren't alone all day anymore.

Generosity and community spirit are up...a lot!
Some are developing new talents or starting new hobbies.

These are just a few of the things I've noticed. What can you add? I'd love to hear. A design professional I have been blessed to work with for nearly 30 years ends every conversation with these words... "KEEP SMILING".

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice."
Bob Marley



Favorite Flora: Tipuana tipu - By Jon Marenfeld

If you are looking for a good summer shade tree that flowers and has a slightly tropical feel to it you should consider the Tipu Tree, Tipuana tipu. Although not common here in the Las Vegas area they are gaining in popularity. This long-lived moderately fast growing semi-evergreen tree, native to Bolivia and Southern Brazil, grows in our climate to about 35-40 feet high and a slightly smaller spread. Typically the trees overall shape is like an upside down vase with a high canopy and has dark brown fissured bark. In spring and summer it produces small showy yellow pea shaped flowers. Tipuana tipu is deciduous but only for a relatively short period of time in winter and very early spring.

As is the case for most desert adapted trees caring for the Tipu Tree is relatively easy. Plant it in full sun to partial shade in just about any type of soil but it does prefer a more acidic PH level. The tree is hardy to the low 20's and may show heat stress if planted near asphalt and concrete surfaces. While drought tolerant it performs best with regular watering and good deep watering once a month in the hottest and driest parts of summer. Pair with other leafy evergreen plants like Winter Blaze Emu Bush (Eremophila glabra 'Winter Blaze', Outback Sunrise Emu (Eremophila glabra 'Mingenew Gold), Toothless Desert Spoon (Dasylirion longissimum), and Wall Germander (Teucrium chamaedrys) for pops of color all spring and summer.



Grafton Ghost Town
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