

Change Happens

This article celebrates five years of **SLAM**in'. This is the 60th monthly issue of the **SLAM** (Southwick Landscape Architectural Memo). We have covered all sorts of topics over the last five years introducing new employees, showcasing a unique project, philosophizing, editorializing and even talking about song lyrics. We have introduced you to 60 different plants and showcased 60 photos from all over the world. The layout of the **SLAM** has changed and we underwent an overhaul of our branding. Sometimes the publication has gone out on time and sometimes it hasn't. One thing for sure is that a lot has changed and I can guarantee things will continue to change. It seems like the only sure thing is change.

Some folks break into a cold sweat and develop migraines at the mention of the word "change". I like to look at change as "the spice of life". As landscape architects, we deal with change continuously. Our main pallet, plant life, is a living, growing, changing organism that we place on a canvas constantly affected by sun, wind, rain (or lack thereof), soil, pests and don't forget the maintenance guy. We have learned to adapt to change and to plan for change. Things are going to change whether you want them to or not. So seize the moment, hold on tight and start shaping the changes in your life.

Here are a few thought provoking words that may bring inspired change to your life.



"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."
- Mahatma Gandhi

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."
- Leo Tolstoy

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking."
- Albert Einstein

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."
- Andy Warhol

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
- Mother Teresa

FAVORITE FLORA: EPHEDRA NEVADENSIS- NEVADA EPHEDERA



Often going unnoticed, this month's plant can be found in the Great Basin, Mojave and Sonoran deserts with a range from Oregon to Mexico. Nevada Ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*) is an evergreen shrub growing from 1-4 ft. tall and wide. Small leaves grow from the joints of thin stems but quickly fall off. The stems themselves provide the shrubs evergreen appearance. Ephedra, being more closely related to pines than flowering shrubs, has blooms in April-June which are actually 1/4" cones similar to what you might find on a pine. This plant has a variety of uses. It is a

significant forage plant for animals such as the Desert Bighorn Sheep as well as domestic sheep and cattle. It has been used for food, medicine and brewed into a tea by Native Americans and early pioneers.

Nevada Ephedra can be easily grown under the correct conditions. Give this plant well drained soil and full sun and it is almost bullet proof. It is extremely drought tolerant and can live with little to no irrigation once established in a landscape. This plant can tolerate a wide range of temperatures and requires very little maintenance. To keep Nevada Ephedra looking nice simply thin out the dead stems or any stems that detract from the aesthetics of the plants shape.

Blue Metal Swirl Sculpture
Red Rock Visitors Center
Cassi Dawes



Photo of the Month