

### Southern Nevada Has a Lot to Offer

When I moved to Southern Nevada 28 years ago, I almost put my mother in her grave. "You're taking our grandchildren to "Sin City"... all they do is gamble there!" was her impression of Las Vegas. Unfortunately, many people not from this area have a similar outlook. Those of us who live here realize that Southern Nevada is full of unique and diverse things to do. It is true that we live in the middle of the harshest desert in the United States, but our Mojave Desert is full of opportunities to experience nature in ways that are found nowhere else on earth.



Where else can you enjoy the cool mountain air of Mount Charleston at 11,916 feet above sea level and then within one hour be water skiing on Lake Mead at an elevation of 1,112 feet. You can experience many types of nature by walking, hiking, biking, boating or riding in your car with the windows down. We had a little brain storming session in the office to see how many nature areas we could identify. Here are a few: Mount Charleston, Lake Mead, Red Rock, Valley of Fire, The Wetlands, The Springs Preserve, Hoover Dam, the Colorado River, Bonnie Springs, Warm Springs and the Mojave National Preserve (great car ride by the way). Don't forget about the wildlife preserves at Ash Meadows, Corn Creek and Pahranaagat. The valley is laced with miles of trails including the 35 mile River Mountain Loop Trail. If you want to experience a freak of nature, just take a walk down the Las Vegas Strip. What other nature areas have we missed? I'd love to hear from you.

Tell all your relatives and friends that come to visit about all that Southern Nevada has to offer and get out and experience it for yourself.

"One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today."  
— Dale Carnegie

### FAVORITE FLORA:

#### EURYOPS PECTINATUS 'VIRIDIS' - GREEN BUSH DAISY



It is winter and the trees are bare, most shrubs lack color and the landscapes can seem pretty drab this time of year. Some just concede to the seasons, some prefer the change of pace from all the spring and summer color. For those looking to freshen up there winter landscape and add some life to it this month's favorite flora should catch your eye. Green Bush Daisy (*Euryops pectinatus* 'Viridis') is an evergreen shrub with dark green, deeply lobed foliage. This fast growing shrub will reach 3-4 feet in height and width but can be kept smaller with the right amount of pruning. The Green Bush Daisy prefers full sun but will grow in partial shade as well. However, to bring out its best quality, a showy display of yellow flowers, the more sun the better.

These yellow daisy-like flowers are most prolific in the spring but this shrub can continue to flower year round. The contrast between the dark foliage and the bright flowers can brighten up even the most dreary winter day.

This Native of South Africa does not demand much of your time to reap its rewards. It will grow in poor soil as long as it has good drainage, does not mind poor air quality of streets and parking lots, and is hardy to around 20-25 degrees Fahrenheit. Pruning is only required to maintain a desired size or shape and it can be cut back hard every few years if you have neglected it and need to start over. Green Bush Daisy can even be sheared into a hedge if desired. Plant this shrub in areas sunny and hot enough for cacti but where a softer form is required. This versatile plant can be paired with cacti, evergreen hedges or even tropical plants.

#### Another Great Sunset Las Vegas, NV

Steven Corry

Clark County Parks and Recreation

#### Photo of the Month

