

**Vegas Strong-** By Stan Southwick



I, like all of you, was stunned by the tragic event at the Mandalay Bay on October 1st. One of my dear friends lost a nephew that night. Sometimes bad things happen to good people. My deepest condolences go out to the families of the fallen and a speedy recovery for the injured.

Some good that has come out of this tragedy is to see this city unite and stand together. Everywhere I go, I see "Vegas Strong" signs. I was impressed by the 45 minute tribute to the victims by the Las Vegas Golden Knights before their home opener. This may be a good time to reevaluate how I live.

**Consultant of the Quarter**

I can always be a little kinder, have more patience, offer sincere compassion or be more helpful. Be a little more vigilant in looking for opportunities to be a positive influence for everyone we meet. We can all help our city to recover from this event and support the families suffering loss.

We do live in a great city!

**HUMPHREYS & PARTNERS ARCHITECTS, L.P.**

Ryan Faulds, with Humphreys & Partners Architects, may be a few states away in Texas, but you wouldn't know it. His communication and organizational skills are superb. He keeps his projects running smoothly by helping everyone stay on task and on schedule.

He is one cool dude... always cheerful, understanding, and approachable. He is also very knowledgeable and willing & wanting to listen to opinions, new ideas and others' knowledge. He's a team player and we are happy to be on any team that he is on.

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."  
— Marianne Williamson

**Favorite Flora:**

**Buddleja marrubifolia- Woolly Butterfly Bush-** By Jon Marenfeld



This month's favorite flora is an underutilized drought tolerant medium-sized shrub that deserves more attention. A native of the Chihuahuan Desert this desert native can take it all. From drought to heat to intense sunlight and reflected heat nothing seems to bother this shrub. This patio and pool friendly shrub grows up to around 5 feet high and wide and has grayish green leaves that are elliptical. The leaves are covered with fine white hairs which gives it a soft fuzzy look. As the common name indicates the Woolly Butterfly Bush attracts butterflies and other nectar loving species such as hummingbirds and bees. They're attracted to the large marble-sized, orange, globe shaped

flowers that appear from late spring to late summer.

The Buddleja marrubifolia likes well drained soils, full sun, and needs little supplemental water once established making it a great choice for xeric landscapes. If overwatered the Woolly Butterfly Bush will become floppy and become subject to root rot. Also avoid heavy clay soils. Some may find its lack of formal growth habit frustrating and be tempted to shear it into a box, ball, or drum into a more formal shape. As with many desert shrubs this will cause the plant to stress and flower less, if at all. It's best left natural. The best time to prune it is in the fall. Shape as needed and remove dead or damaged wood. Every 3 years or so cut it back to within a foot or two of the ground to reinvigorate the shrub. Plant it in groups for an informal hedge or as an open and airy accent around pools or other water features. Pair it with other desert adapted plants such as Damainita (Chrysactinia Mexicana), or Ruellia (Ruellia peninsularis) where its grey-green leaves the contrast nicely with their darker green leaves year-round. Layer the Woolly Butterfly Bush with Texas Rangers (Leucophyllum frutescens) in the back, Buddleja marrubifolia in the middle, and Blackfoot Daisy (Melanpodium leucanthum) in front to really set off the color contrast of foliage and flowers.

**Photo of the Month**



Purple Prickly Pear in Bloom  
Henderson, NV  
Matt Durham