

Surrounded by the Best- By Stan Southwick



June 30th marked the end of 10 years of publishing the SLAM and the 120 featured articles, plant descriptions and photos. A lot of good things have happened over those years even as we went through economic downturns, work shortages and layoffs. One thing I know is that life can be good no matter what my circumstances. Sometimes I just have to work harder to achieve it. For me it all begins with attitude. I start each day telling myself how great today is going to be. Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing

are very important. Exercise a little, read a good book, put a smile on someone's face, lighten a load, let the ones you love know it. In business, the best CEO's do these things and surround themselves with likeminded people. I've always been surrounded by good people. Family, friends, employees, clients and others I meet each day add to the good I receive. Over the last decade, I've had some incredibly good employees. In fact, I believe that they are the best employees. Each one works hard and is concerned about the others. Ideas are freely shared. Help is given when needed. We're a close family. LIFE IS GOOD!

Consultant of the Month

July's Consultant of the month is Jun Angeles at SH Architecture. It is a pleasure to work with Jun. He gets us the information that we need in a timely manner so that we are able provide quality finished products for our clients, without undue hastiness. His organizational skills and clear communication have made projects run smoothly. Thank you, Jun. We look forward to working with you in the future.



So, get out and make today a good day! You only get one chance at it... don't blow it.

"The good life is a process, not a state of being. It is a direction not a destination."
— Carl Rodgers

Favorite Flora:

Rhus ovata- Sugar Bush- By Matt Durham



This month's favorite flora is the Sugar Bush (Rhus ovata). It is an evergreen shrub native to Northern Baja California, Southern California and Central Arizona. This large shrub, growing 8-12 feet tall and wide, has large, glossy, dark green leaves. The leaves are aromatic and can even be used to make a lemonade-like drink. Sugar Bush blooms in the spring with clusters of white to pink colored flowers, eventually turning in to groups of red berries. This plant can grow in a variety of light conditions from full sun to heavy shade. Once established it can also tolerate temperatures down to at least 10 degrees.

Photo of the Month

Sugar Bush is a large shrub and should be used where it has room to grow. It can be used as a screen, informal hedge or backdrop in a landscape. If this shrub does grow too large for its space or develops an unwelcomed form it can tolerate heavy pruning. Care should be taken when pruning this plant as it produces a sap that may cause a rash. Plant with other desert natives such as Agave weberi (Weber's Agave), Red Bird of Paradise (Caesalpinia pulcherrima), and Colorado Four O'Clock (mirabilis multiflora).



Southern Hemisphere Rainbow
South Africa
Kendra Koch