

On My Honor- By Stan Southwick



One of the important character traits that I learned as a young man in Scouting is contained in the first part of the Scout Oath... "On my honor, I will do my best". I grew up in a small farming community where a man's word was his bond and his deals were consummated by a handshake. After reading through the latest 80-page contract full of legal mumble-jumble that seems to twist the real intent of the agreement, I started to wonder if "Honor" is still the basis of everyday business practices. I understand the need for legal contracts and use them on all our projects. Although our contract is only 4 pages long. I tend to believe that products and services would be of a higher quality and at the same time more affordable if everyone held to the higher standard of being honest and doing their very best. This may be a utopian dream and may not currently exist in our global society, but I believe that honesty and integrity can be the foundation of our day-to-day relationships and communications. I definitely sleep better knowing that I've tried to be honest and do my best each day. Well, I'll get off my soap box now... I have a contract to sign.

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Consultant of the Month

As we sat down to nominate a client to recognize this month, we discovered that we had a difficult time deciding on a single person. So instead of highlighting one individual, we at SLA would like to recognize all the great clients that we have worked with this past year. You have contributed to our growth and success. Thank you and here's to another successful year.

"In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."
— Albert Camus

Favorite Flora:

Chamaerops humilis- Mediterranean Fan Palm- By Matt Durham



This month's favorite flora is a staple in Las Vegas landscapes. It can be found from the strip to the suburbs, around backyard pools and Casino front doors. The Mediterranean Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) is a hardy, easy to grow clumping palm. Its multiple trunks can reach up to 10-15 feet in height and spread and are topped with blue-green fronds. It has inconspicuous blooms which give way to bright green, then dull yellow fruits in late

summer. The Mediterranean Fan Palm is native to southern Europe and North Africa and is the northernmost naturally occurring palm. As such, this palm is cold hardy to around 10 degrees Fahrenheit. *Chamaerops humilis* can be grown in full sun to partial shade and is drought tolerant but does best with deep watering throughout the heat of the summer.

The Mediterranean Fan Palm can be used in a variety of ways. It can be a foundation plant in a tropical or Mediterranean themed landscape. Its dense growth can be used to screen walls, windows, and pool equipment. Their multi-trunk habit makes them ideal candidates for landscape lighting, turning them into a focal point. Its slow growth and minimal maintenance make it a favorite of many who grow it. The Mediterranean Fan Palm can be grown with a wide number of plants including, Star Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), Dwarf Mock Orange (*Pittosporum tobira 'Wheeleri'*) and Mexican Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*).

Photo of the Month



Frozen In Place
Eden, Utah
Matt Durham