

People

So far 2011 is looking to be a good year. We have seen a slight increase in business and have been fortunate enough to rehire two of our valued team members, Matt Durham and Nicolette Fisk.

Nicolette received her landscape architecture degree from UNLV in 2007 and is very familiar with the local physical and political environment. She is very knowledgeable of Southern Nevada plant material, especially having previously worked at the Desert Demonstration Gardens- (what use to be the Springs Preserve). She has been politically involved with ASLA's Advocacy Day as a representative for Nevada. In 2009, Nicolette moved to Hawthorne, Nevada where she expanded her career in federal and military project design as well as gaining a greater understanding of historical construction methods and health concerns. A couple of her most prominent projects include Sunset Regional Park Phase I and Horseman Dog Fancier's Park Master Plan. At Southwick LA, Nicolette is working as a Landscape Designer/CAD Technician. In her spare time she enjoys quilting.



Matt has officially returned to Southwick LA as a full time Landscape Designer/CAD Technician. He took a sabbatical to Egypt in 2009 to be with family but continued to work remotely for Southwick LA part time. Since then he has moved back to Las Vegas and continues to contribute immensely to our team. Not only is he a very skilled and proficient landscape designer, he also is very knowledgeable about plants and aspires to write a plant book in the future. A little secret, he is usually the author of our SLAM plant article. Matt was a huge asset in the creation and development of our branding campaign in 2010 and continues to provide outstanding graphic designs for our projects. Some of Matt's most prominent projects include Charlie Frias Park, Bonneville Transit Center, and Reunion Trails Park. In Matt's spare time he enjoys fishing, off-roading, hiking, photography and taking care of his plethora of cacti.



"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." – John Lennon

FAVORITE FLORA: STACHYS BYZANTIA - LAMB'S EAR



Though not found very often in Las Vegas, a landscape may have a dark, shady spot that most plants will have a hard time growing in. Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantia*) is a great groundcover to use under a shady tree or along the East or North side of a building. A native to Armenia, Turkey and Iran, Lamb's Ear grows 6" to 1 ft. high and spreads by surface runners. It is easily apparent where the name Lamb's Ear comes from; it has curved, green to light gray foliage

with silky hairs. The hairs make Lamb's Ear a perfect plant around pedestrian areas especially when children are present as people love to feel the plush leaves. Here at Southwick LA we have commonly used this plant in hospital settings due to its calming look and feel. This plant prefers shade to filtered sunlight in our warm climate. Try not to spray the foliage of this plant directly with water or with overspray from sprinklers as it will flatten the plant to the ground and eventually turn the leaves to mush. In warm microclimates Lamb's Ear can be evergreen, but in most situations will die back in the cold. As the weather begins to warm simply pluck the brown leaves off the plant and the new growth will fill in quickly.

Photo of the Month



"Opportunity"
Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC
Nicolette Fisk