

What A Year... - By Stan Southwick



This past year has been quite the year! We have seen global panic, anxiety, fear, sorrow, illness, suffering, shortages, shutdowns, restrictions, and unrest to mention just a few. I never imagined that I would have to get up early to stand in a line in front of the grocery store to make the mad dash to the toilet paper isle only to find that the person in front of me got the last roll. Which makes me wonder, why toilet paper? I could understand meat or bread or even gasoline, but toilet paper? I've never been one to dwell on the negative. For

every negative there is a positive, a right and a left, up and down, in and out, good and bad, forward and backward, dark and light.

2020 marked the 20th year that Southwick Landscape Architects has been in business. We had grand plans of celebration, activities and growth that we were going to share with all of you. We didn't get to do any of those things, but many good things still materialized. We have started working with some new clients, learned how to work remotely, acquired some great projects for the new year, and kept our entire staff. I am looking forward to the new year and the opportunities it will bring. What a year...2021 will be!

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season filled with health, happiness, and all the good things you desire.

“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

C.S. Lewis

Favorite Flora:

Eremophila glabra 'Mingenew Gold' - By Jon Marenfeld



The popularity of plants from parts of Australia that perform well here is gaining traction. A vendor from Australia was at the Springs Preserve Plant Sale a couple years back and even Lowe's now has a section of Australian plants. Want something other than the same old groundcovers you see over and over and over again? This month's favorite flora is Eremophila glabra 'Mingenew Gold' more commonly known as Outback Sunrise Emu. This fast-growing evergreen groundcover, native to Western Australia, can grow up to 2 feet tall and up to 12 feet wide although in our climate I would expect it to be a bit smaller (1'H x 6'W). In spring and summer it is flush

with tubular yellow flowers that have a slight tinge of red to them.

Eremophila glabra 'Mingenew Gold', once established, is very durable. Plant it in full sun or mostly sunny locations with a bit of light shade in well-draining soil. Outback Sunrise Emu will also tolerate reflected heat. I planted 2 in my backyard this past spring and they survived our harsh, hot, rainless summer just fine on irrigation alone. I paired mine with other Australian native plants such as the Mulga tree and Emu Bushes (Eremophila maculata spp or Eremophila glabra spp.) and some cacti for a nice, low maintenance, evergreen, colorful xeriscape. You could also pair it with mesquite, palo verde, eucalyptus, or acacia trees, dwarf bottlebrush, or senna's such as Senna artemisioides, or Senna phyllodinea.



Santa Catalina Mountains Snow  
Coronado National Forest - Tucson  
Jon Marenfeld