



# CSI Las Vegas November 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Xeriscaping for Profit and Survival

 **Annalisa Helm**

Adult Education Specialist for the Springs Preserve

Las Vegas is in the throes of an extended drought. We allegedly get 4" of rain a year, but that hasn't been the case for a few years now. It's dry out here, and either we learn to live in a dry environment, or we go away. Las Vegas has probably been in the forefront of dry landscaping for years, but its recent growth spurt has overwhelmed the native cultivars, and exotic plants with high water demands have proliferated.

The adoption of LEED related tax incentives, along with growing governmental alarm of water scarcity has led to an awareness of the need to adopt water-smart landscaping, not only for commercial development, but for all the local nationals. A major step toward this state of moving from awareness to action was completion of the Springs Preserve – a model of sustainable living, and a teaching tool for the area.

Luckily, the methods for making commercial landscaping water-smart, work at the household level equally as well. And even more luckily, we have a presentation for this next meeting that will address everyone's needs, from domestic front yards to commercial frontage.

Ms Helm earned a BS in Environmental Science with a minor in Water Resource Management from the University of New Hampshire and a MS in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Education from Antioch New England Graduate School (now called Antioch University New England). She has been with the Springs Preserve for 3 years in the position of Adult Education Specialist. In this position, she oversees Natural History programs and collaborates on the Sustainable Living and Gardening programs. She chairs the Water Smart Landscaping Workgroup which is comprised of Springs Preserve and Southern Nevada Water Authority staff and develops classes focused on water smart landscaping and efficient irrigation.

The Springs Preserve is a 180-acre cultural and historic attraction offering an entertaining, educational and recreational gathering place to commemorate Las Vegas' dynamic history and provide a vision for a sustainable future. Commonly known as the "birthplace of Las Vegas," the Preserve features:

- LEED Platinum certified buildings
- 8-acre botanical garden that demonstrates water smart landscaping
- Interpretive trail system
- Museums and galleries

**PLACE:** Las Vegas Social Club @ Main Street Station  
*The meeting room is connected to the lower section of the parking garage facing the Hotel Casino.*  
**DATE:** Tuesday November 11th, 2008  
**TIME:** 4:30 PM Board Meeting \* 5:30 PM Networking \* 6:30 PM Dinner \* 7:00 PM Program

### Please RSVP Today

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**Cost is free to members**

**Guests: \$30.00**

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