Arizona Landscape Contractors’ Association

Represents Nearly 400 Companies

Approximately 30,000 employees

$700 Million in Arizona Revenue

Representation and Advocacy

Promotes Professionalism

Provides Education, & Certification

Networking

Excellence In Landscaping
What is **SLM**?

- Collaboration between Architect Janet Waibel & Landscape Contractors
- Editorial review by landscape contractors & industry experts
- Standards provide the best recommended practices
- Provides a standard by which qualified maintenance is measured
- Curriculum developed for certification purposes
Who endorses SLM?

- Arizona Landscape Contractors’ Association
- Building Owners & Managers Association of Greater Phoenix
- Arizona Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
- Arizona Association of Community Managers
- Arizona Nursery Association
- City of Phoenix
ALCA is establishing partnerships with:

- City of Phoenix
- City of Glendale
- City of Tempe
- City of Scottsdale
- City of Mesa
- SRP
- AAM, LLC
- Brown Community Management
- Rossmar & Graham
- Arizona Community Management Services
- Associated Property Management
- AZ Municipal Water Users Association
- Smartscape (AMWUA)
Where is SLM?
30 Years demand for quick labor.

Customer’s Demand for Visual Confirmation of Work

Population unfamiliar with the Desert Landscape

Landscape Appearance Continues to Decline
Why are sustainable practices important?

Improve the quality and appearance of our surroundings.

Preserve limited and valuable natural resources such as water and plant materials.

Reduce generation of waste.

Reduce and prevent air, water, and soil pollution.

Promote healthier, longer living, mature plant materials.
Who benefits from the application of SLM practices?

- Residents
- Community Manager
- Property Owner
- Businesses
- Landscape Contractor
- The Community
Topics Covered

- Planting Composition Explained
- Planting New Trees
- Tree Staking
- Pruning Trees
- Palms
- Shrubs and Groundcovers
- Renovation Style Pruning
- Cactus and Succulents
- Ornamental Grass
- Decomposed Granite
- Turf Management
- General Irrigation
- Turf Irrigation
- Site Drainage
- Urban Soils and Urban Plants
- Fertilizer and Soil Conditioners
- Pesticide and Herbicide Application
Pruning Trees

Do not prune unless it is necessary.
Have a reason… a goal… an objective.
Understand how trees respond to pruning and the effects of severe pruning.
Tree Pruning
Pruning Trees

- Protected
- Open to Sun Burn
Improper Tree Pruning
Right Tree, Right Place?
Proper care for shrubs & groundcover allows these plants to fulfill their design intent.

The investment made in design, installation, and care of the plants increases.

Encourage the natural growth and flowering.
Why is this different from past practices?

Knowledge of blooming periods is necessary. Prune after flowering period.

Do not create cubes, beer cans, balls or any other geometrical shapes.

Allow shrubs and groundcovers to fill spaces.
What is the anticipated outcome of doing it the correct way?

Past practices removes flowering blooms. Proper pruning promotes beautiful color.
Renovation Style Pruning

Why is this important?

- Excessive pruned shrubs are in a continuous state of stress which requires more water to recover.

- Enhances seasonal color.

- De-emphasizes a strict monthly or bi-monthly trim schedule.

- Reduces air and noise pollution from gas powered hedge trimmers and blowers; reduces fuel consumption of these pieces of equipment.

- Increases overall focus on what is best for the long term health of plants.
Renovation Style Pruning
What work is necessary to better support the renovation style pruning goals?

Educate property owners, HOA boards & property managers on the benefits.

Crews are trained to identify individual plant species and the proper pruning schedule for each.

Document aesthetic and tangible improvements.
Turf Management

Better quality turf.
Less water usage.
Reduced fertilizer usage.
Reduced weeds, pests and disease.
What is Sustainable Irrigation in the Desert Southwest?

Simply making the best use of the water we have available.
What is “Sustainable” Irrigation?

This is not an example of sustainable irrigation!
Sprinkler Maintenance

Eliminate watering concrete. It won’t grow no matter how much it’s watered!

Sprinklers should be installed level and at grade.
Why should you embrace SLM?

- Conservation of water resources.
- Reduce generation of waste.
- Healthier, more resilient and mature plant materials.
- Longer and more abundant blooming periods.
- Create a natural landscape environment.
How can you become certified in SLM?

- Call the ALCA office to register for the workshop – you must be an ALCA member.
- Four hour class followed by an exam.
- Certified SLM professionals will be listed on ALCA website.
- Property managers, homeowner associations and any prospective client may check the ALCA website to hire SLM Certified professionals.
Sustainable Landscape Management

- Use the official guide for proper landscape maintenance.
- Spread the word to associations, property managers, friends and neighbors.
- Landscape Specifications based on SLM.
- Hire only ALCA certified contractors.
Thank You