



CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

July –Aug 2021 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153 Volume 4 Issue 4



Hi All!

July is looking to be busy, busy, busy!

The Gnomes in the picture above were all painted by Laura Fraser and 9 crafty Arboretum volunteers. Seven of these colorful folks are hidden throughout the Arboretum this month and next, for the Summer Gnome Scavenger Hunt. We have already had over 250 players from the community getting in on the fun in June! We do need some help manning the tables to keep this event going! The details are on page 6.

Artown is back! And both the Arboretum and the Museum are participating in big ways! There are activities for all ages. See pages 4 and 5 for details!

With the relaxing of COVID restrictions volunteers and staff got together for an appreciation lunch. We have pictures on page 2. Denise shares a great story about the volunteer work going on at the wetlands area reclamation project. That's on page 3. Our Interesting spot takes us back to the museum for a truly unique exhibit.

Have a great summer, Everyone!

Bev Treadway, Editor

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Inside this Issue:	
Welcome Letter	1
Volunteer's Corner: Volunteer Lunch	2
Volunteer's Corner: Wetlands Project	3
Artown: Lavender Day	4
Artown: Museum Events	5
Scavenger Hunt Info	6
Calendar of Fun	7
Interesting Spot: Museum Great Basin Murders	8



Volunteer's Corner

All Washoe County Parks facilities are now open and operating at full capacity!

By Bev Treadway

This is such great news! After a year of the newsletter issues talking about COVID restrictions, it is really nice to share this bit of information with you and to feel like we can relax and enjoy the volunteer experience again. Everyone did a really wonderful job of social distancing and masking up when volunteering in close quarters, so thank you all!

And to celebrate the restriction roll back, Washoe County's Denise Evans, Bill Carlos, and the Arboretum hosted a lovely volunteer lunch in Honey's Garden on June 10th. The weather was nice, the food was delicious, and the company was the best! It was good to catch up with old friends and to meet some of the newer volunteers and staff! Denise and Laura also had some water bottles and hats on hand for those wanting a take home souvenir. Below are a couple of pictures, courtesy of Bill Carlos.

Thanks for a great time!



Sharing a wonderful lunch with Volunteers and Arboretum Staff under the pergola at Honey's Garden.

Volunteer's Corner

Volunteers Making a Difference in the Arboretum Wetlands

By Denise Evans

Back in 2019, our Washoe County Natural Resource Planner, Joanne Lowden, came to Bill Carlos and I with a plan to rehabilitate the portion of the Evans Creek wetlands within the Arboretum that had become overgrown with invasive Teasel and other nuisance weeds. The area was not only unattractive but contributed to the spread of weeds downstream and didn't really embody the example we try to provide as an Arboretum. Joanne's plan was to start by mowing the existing chest-high mass of weeds to make digging up the Teasel more accessible, and then filling in the prepped area with a mix of native vegetation. The project began in October of 2019 with a group of sorority sisters that weren't afraid to get in the dirt and dig for hours in the hot sun! Our Arboretum volunteers then followed up with additional pulling and digging, returning on Halloween of 2019 for a chilly morning of planting. The Covid pandemic slowed us down a bit in spring of 2020, but volunteers were more than happy to return in June and September of 2020 for additional weeding and planting. Most recently, volunteers braved some unseasonably hot conditions in early June to dig up more Teasel and left us with the impressive photo below of a healthy, thriving native habitat! While the area looks amazing, we aren't done yet! We will continue to keep the weeds at bay and may have some additional plantings now that we know what will grow well. When time permits, we would also like to spread the scope of the project east towards the Evans Creek Bridge.

We are so thankful to all of the volunteers that have helped along the way, braving temps in the 30s and 90s and everything in between. We also are very grateful to Rod Dimmit and other Arboretum staff for supplying us with tools so we don't have to lug them so far, and for dutifully hauling the piles of weeds to the park dumpsters. It has been an exciting group effort, and we hope you look forward to joining us in future restoration efforts!



Photo Above: Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority digging up invasive Teasel in October 2019.



Photo Above Right: Arboretum Volunteers doing second year weeding and replanting in September 2020.

Photo Lower Right: Wetlands area in June 2021.



May Arboretum Society Artown Event!

7th Annual Lavender Day Festival, Saturday, July 10, 2021 9:00am to 2:00pm

Join us outside the Labyrinth Garden and in Saint Patrick's Grove as we host our 7th annual Lavender Day.

The scent of lavender will be in the air, come and celebrate!

There will be demonstrations on harvesting, infusing, and cooking with lavender and other mini-presentations.

Ten varieties of lavender plants will be available to purchase. All are chosen because they grow well in Northern Nevada. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to provide growing tips for our area.

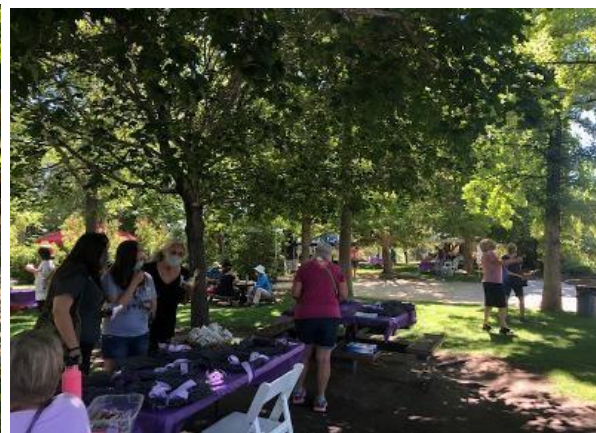
Purchase fresh lavender wreaths and DIY kits to make lavender wands. Enjoy shopping with local artists and other exhibitors. You can purchase natural bath and body products as well as essential oils, candles, and edible products made or infused with lavender, jewelry, garden art and stakes, fairy garden accessories, and more.

Beat the heat with our thirst quenching, homemade lavender lemonade and iced tea.

Enjoy the vocal talents of the Retro Radio Girls; a local all female harmony trio performing a delightful mix of classical hits from bygone years to popular modern songs with a unique twist.

~ CASH AND CREDIT ACCEPTED ~

We will be following the latest guidelines to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.



Scenes from last year's Lavender Day Festival.

Artown Events this July at the May Museum

Artown Art Angels Workshop July 9, 2021

This workshop is free as part of Artown 2021! Open to 50 children ages 6 - 12.

Students will be instructed in small groups on watercolor technique, and each child will complete 1 to 2 paintings, one of which will be matted, ready to frame. Come prepared to have fun and learn more about watercolor!

Two sessions to choose from:

9:30 am - 11:30 am

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

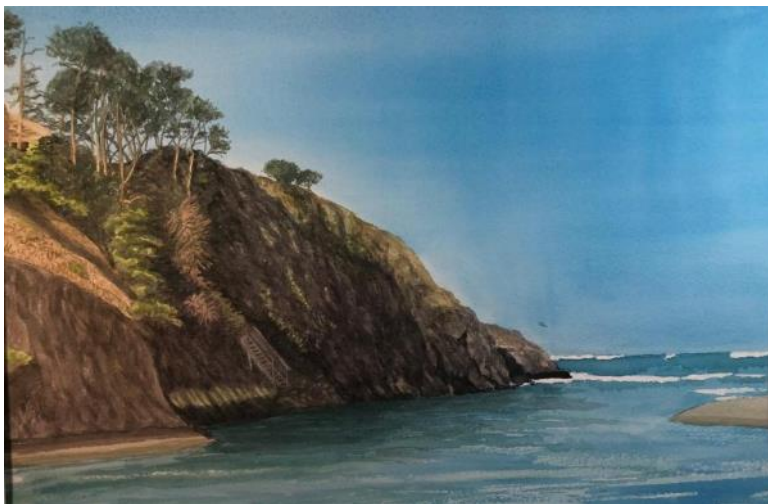
*Parents need to remain on-site but outside the room. Masks encouraged, but not required.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Call Nancy Podewils-Baba at 775-343-8100 to reserve a space.



The Power and Beauty of Water Art Show and Sale

Thursday, July 15th through Sunday, July 18th



The Latimer Art Club is celebrating its 100th year! Member artists are presenting a multi-media show in the museum. It brings life to the landscape of water - from mountain streams to rivers, waterfalls to oceans. All paintings are available for purchase.

Admission: Free

Regular Museum Hours:

Thurs-Sat 10am-4pm; Sun Noon-4pm

Other Arboretum Events

Volunteers! Here are the details:

During the months of June, July, and August the May Arboretum will have garden gnomes hidden throughout the arboretum. The gnomes will be out all summer long, with new ones added each month. Players can do the scavenger hunt anytime throughout the summer, they just need pick up a map or print one off! Maps are available outside of the arboretum office or online. Then they stop by on one of our tabling days to turn in their completed map to receive a small prize! Contact Laura Fraser Arboretum Educator, LFraser@washoecounty.us or call 775-785-4153 for more information.

Here is how you can help:

Go to the Volunteer Portal and sign up to help at the table at the South Entrance. You will give out maps, redeem prizes and just have fun.

www.volgistics.com/ex2/vicnet.dll/?from=480484

As you can see by the flyer, there are community sponsors for this event, so we want to really make this project a successful one.

Even signing up for a day or two would help. If you can't help on the listed days, call the office and let them know what days you could be available. Thanks!

www.washoecounty.us/parks/maycenterhome/arboretum/learn_explore/



Laura Is Leaving Us!

It's that sad time of year again, when we have to say goodbye to our AmeriCorps Arboretum Educator. Laura Fraser has been an asset to the Arboretum this year. Managing educational programs through a pandemic is not an easy task! Laura brought some truly creative ideas to the gardens along with her sunny disposition and willingness to plunge into the unknown.

Laura, you will be missed! Enjoy your visit with your family and whatever new adventures life brings to you.

Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

July 2021

- ◆ **Now through July 11th— Great Basin Murder Exhibit at the May Museum (see page 8 for details)**
- ◆ **July 9—Artown Art Angels at the Museum 9:30am-3pm. (see page 5 for details)**
- ◆ **Gnome Scavenger Hunt Current Tabling Days Tues., Fri., and Sat. (see page 6 for times and details)**
- ◆ **July 4th— Independence Day**
- ◆ **July 10— Lavender Day 9am -2pm near the Labyrinth Garden**
- ◆ **July 15—18 The Power and Beauty of Water Show and Sale at the May Museum**

SUN	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021

- ◆ **Gnome Scavenger Hunt Current Tabling Days are Tues., Fri., and Sat. (see page 6 for times a details) These may change**



SUN	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	30			

Interesting Spot: Wilbur D. May Museum



The Great Basin Murders Exhibit

By Bev Treadway

It's been too hot stay outside for long these days. The Museum at the May Center is a natural place to go, if you are anywhere in the park and want to cool down. There is always something interesting to see, whether it's an exhibit, or just something new in the gift shop.

For the last few months they have had a truly unique exhibit on display: The Great Basin Murders!

I wasn't sure what to expect, but I do love a good mystery, and crime shows are my thing. I also love crafts and photography. This event combines them all.

It's collaborative exhibition of fiber weavings by Lily Martina Lee and photography by Carrie Quinney, creating a remembrance of the mostly unsolved homicides of women, that occurred along our Great Basin's highways. It spans an amazing 20 year time period.

Ms. Lee weaves individual, shroud like tapestries using details she has learned about each crime. Ms. Quinney photographs each weaving in the location where the body was found.

They take what is a very sad and dark story, and turn it into something hauntingly beautiful. At the same time they remind us not to forget these women and give them a voice.

This event will be at the museum until Sunday, July 11th. They have scheduled a special lecture by the artist on July 9th in the evening from 6-9pm. She will explain the history behind the weavings and how the project came to be.

The exhibit is open regular Museum hours: 10am-4pm Wednesdays-Saturdays; Noon-4pm, Sundays.

The admission price is \$6.00 for Adult; \$4.00 for Seniors and Children.

The special lecture event on Friday July 9th is \$10.00.

For more details:

www.washoecounty.us/parks/maycenterhome/museum/eventcalendar.php

Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!

