



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

July-Aug 2022

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153

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M.A.S. Photo

Hellos and Goodbyes

Hi Everyone,

From the looks of the upcoming events calendar, we are going to be busy, busy, busy at the Arboretum. Along with all of that, we have some hellos and goodbyes to attend to.

Hello to Luke Sorenson, our new Arboretum Horticulturist. We give a warm welcome to him on page 2. We also say hello to the returning events of Dragon Lights (page 6) and Lavender Day, Storytime in the Garden, and a new hello to the Writer's Workshop, (pages 7-8) and Bill Carlos' Dedication Plaque (page 10).

We say thank you and best wishes to departing AmeriCorps Educator, Rachel Dunn (page 2), it's been fun!

But lastly, and sadly, we say a tearful goodbye to Volunteer Susan Campau, who recently passed away. Lynn Bethel remembers her in a letter on page 4-5. It's a little bittersweet this summer, but it's an exciting one, too.

Thank you all,
Bev Treadway, Editor
lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com



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Volunteer's Corner

Welcome Luke Sorenson, Our New Arboretum Horticulturist!



By Denise Evans

We are pleased to announce that Luke Sorenson is the new Horticulturist for the Wilbur D. May Arboretum as of June 6!

Luke has a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from BYU Idaho and has been working in the landscaping industry since 2010. He has been a certified Arborist since 2016 and has a current Nevada Department of Agriculture Pest Control License. Most recently Luke worked locally for Brightview Landscape, the nation's largest landscaping firm and was previously employed by Reed Landscape. He has been a business developer/tree care manager and an operations manager/head arborist at his previous jobs, leading crews and managing budgets.

Luke also has a great sense of humor, is very eager to get hands-on in the garden, and his strong computer skills will enable him to create efficiencies in the administrative part of the job. If you haven't already met him, we will plan a meet-and-greet in late summer.

Rachel Dunn, Arboretum Educator's Last Day is August 12th

By Bev Treadway

Rachel's AmeriCorps assignment as Arboretum Educator is up August 12. She has been a fun and creative addition to our world. This past year, Rachel successfully restarted Little Sprouts and also managed to keep family oriented, fun hikes. Personally, I think the Singing Bowl and Halloween Hikes were my favorites.



Remembering Longtime Volunteer Susan Campau



Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they're always there." Christy Evans

Dear Fellow Volunteers,

Sometimes people come into our lives, touch our hearts, and then in a blink of an eye, move on. Sadly, on May 28th, we lost one of those dear souls, in the personage of Susan Campau.

In putting this tribute together, Denise Evans tried to determine how long Susan had volunteered at the Arboretum. The closest date she could come up with was January 18, 2012. But she thinks she was working before that in the gardens. As well, she logged in 1,695.75 volunteer hours, but given the work she would frequently do for M.A.S., Denise feels it was well over 2,000. Susan Campau served on the Board of Directors for the May Arboretum Society and was an avid Arboretum gardening volunteer.

On the next two pages is a lovely tribute letter to Susan from her friend Lynn Bethel, as well as photos from Lynn's collection. There are also details on the upcoming memorial gathering.

Thanks,

Bev, Denise, and Lynn

Remembering Susan Campau



Dear Susan,

There are certain events that happen to each of us, which are indelible – some global experiences and others very personal ones; and no matter which it is, you wish you could erase it, as if it never happened. Yet you cannot - and the day, and the time, and what you were doing is there, in your memory - permanently.

For me, Saturday, May 28th, is one of those events. I was outside on the front porch chatting with Jim - he was watering the rhododendrons, and I glanced down at my cell phone and could see just part of a text message, “We have lost a wonderful woman from our lives.”

It’s been several weeks since that afternoon, and yet, it still seems hard to believe that you, that wonderful woman, aren’t “here” any longer. As I am writing this, the loss is just as fresh in my mind and heart as it was when I first read that text message.

When we first met in 2014, I had recently moved to Reno, and I had just started serving on the Society’s Board of Directors. We connected right away and since then, I thought of you as a best friend in the truest sense. You introduced me to the many people you knew from the years you lived and worked in Reno as well as from your years dedicated to volunteering in the gardens. You were always so kind and you actively listened to everyone you conversed with – even strangers walking through the gardens.

During the six years you served on the Society’s Board, you were not only dedicated to our mission, but you were instrumental in supporting its resurrection and instituting events that have become traditions in Northern Nevada. It’s hard to believe that it was eight years ago that we held our first Lavender Day. I’ve been looking through old photos and came across some of the “Lavender Ladies” in the Ranch House kitchen, spending hours squeezing lemons, with you at the stove making fresh lavender syrup. In one of the photos, your hair is up in a red kerchief just like “Rosie the Riveter,” which seems so apropos now – you were always there with a kind word, nudge, and smile that meant, “We can do this!”

At every Lavender Day, you and your daughter, Molly, could be found selling “Susan’s Lavender Lemonade,” as it was fondly coined, and no matter how much of it you made, the lemonade always sold out, and far quicker than you expected. Last year, when Edward stepped in for you at Lavender Day – I texted you a photo of the father-daughter duo – your response, “Look at those two! So grateful for family, right, Lynn?”

You truly did value your family and they you – you were a dedicated wife, a loving mother, and most especially a wonderful grandmother.

(continued on the next page)



Remembering Susan Campau

(continued from the previous page)

Not a visit went by that you didn't share news about your family and what they were doing, and how proud you were of them, and most especially your grandchildren.

Last night, I walked through the arboretum as the lanterns for Dragon Lights were being tested. I remembered four years ago, FaceTiming you on my cell phone from the Kleiner Oak Grove, to share the experience of those same lights going on for the first time. Because of you, I am appreciating what "the good old days" really means.

In your last note to me, you wrote about the "shared human condition," and I know that everyone who met you, felt that shared connection.

As Membership Chair for the Society, something you were until just last year, you not only increased the Society's membership at each public event, but you insisted on sending handwritten notes to the members, connecting with each and thanking them for their support.

Susan, you assumed the best of everyone, and you stood up for what was right – you had integrity. You were funny and fearless, and you displayed a kindness to everyone that we should all strive to exemplify.

While each of us will miss you in a different way and be reminded of you in other ways, we each have been changed for the better by knowing you.

You are loved and So missed...

-L-



MEMORIAL GATHERING OPEN HOUSE

Please join Susan's family and friends for a Memorial Gathering Open House on Saturday, July 16th from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

Wear "happy colors" – no black, please.

Food and drinks will be served.

415 Hunken Circle

Verdi, NV



Upcoming Events



Dragon Lights: Chinese Lantern Festival 2022

Incredible fun for the whole family!

Forty-two larger-than-life lantern sculptures, made of steel, fabric and thousands of LED lights, will transform the arboretum into an illuminous wonderland during mid-summer nights. This immersive walk-through experience will entertain and thrill people of all ages. New at Dragon Lights Reno this year is an interactive playground with lantern displays that visitor can touch, play with, and even sit on! Inside the arboretum, visitors can also find our new Lantern Food Court that offers a wide selection of food and drinks from both local and traveling food vendors.

May Arboretum Society Members will receive special discounts on ticket purchases. To become a member, go to www.mayarboretumsociety.org.

Visit dragonlightsreno.org for info and tickets purchases.

Would you like to help?

By Bev Treadway

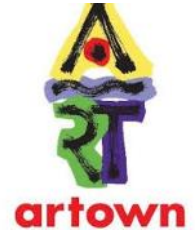
Aside from buying a ticket and coming to the show, there are a couple of ways you can participate in supporting the Dragon Lights Event. There are still paid positions available in various areas. The shifts run about 5-1/2 hours a night and also give you free admission into the event. You can contact Shuying at 773-807-4836 if you are interested and would like more information.

We also can use gardening help at the Arboretum during the day. Luke Sorenson put together this list of the following key areas that will need tending:

- Raking the paths, removing bark or anything else in the way.
- Experienced pruners can continue to address head knocker branches along the paths.
- Water any dry spots in the flower beds/and or lawn as lanterns will block sprinkler heads.
- Trim grass around the lanterns in the lawn, especially in Kleiner's Grove.
- Trim overgrown and dead shrubs and trees around the backside of the museum.
- Experienced rose garden volunteers can continually deadhead.

M.A.S. Upcoming Events

More ARTown Events From the May Arboretum Society



It's Natural: Grow Your Writing Skills at the May Arboretum **An eight-session writing workshop in July, designed for adults 55+**

What better way to focus on the essentials of engaging story telling – significant details, changes, and growth – than in a garden? And the Wilbur May Arboretum is a Reno treasure. Join Nevada Arts Council Roster's Literary Artist, Suzanne Morgan Williams, at the Ranch House in Rancho San Rafael Park for this eight-session, cumulative class. You'll explore the Arboretum and access your experience and memories to create your unique stories whether fiction or non-fiction. You'll participate in interactive lessons, utilize the gardens for related activities, and have time to write. The last session will celebrate your accomplishments.

Classes are FREE and will be held on July 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, and 28 from 10:30 to noon. It is recommended you attend all classes but not essential. Registration is required. The class is designed for adults, 55 and older, at all levels – beginners to well-seasoned writers. The activities will build your skills, encourage community, and just be fun. It's sponsored by the May Arboretum Society and presented with the support of a Creative Aging Grant from Nevada Arts Council. Registration, limited to 20 participants, is open until class is full or July 14, whichever is first.

For questions and/or to register, contact suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com

8th Annual Lavender Day

July 9, 2022, 9:00am-2:00pm

Join us at St. Patrick's Grove for this outdoor Artown event.

Enjoy the scent of lavender, demonstrations on plantings, harvesting, and infusing with lavender and other mini-presentations.

Chosen for Northern Nevada

Ten varieties of lavender plants will be available to purchase – all chosen to grow in Northern Nevada. Experienced gardeners will also be on hand to provide growing tips for our area.

Fresh Lavender Products

Bath products, essential oils, candles, and more!

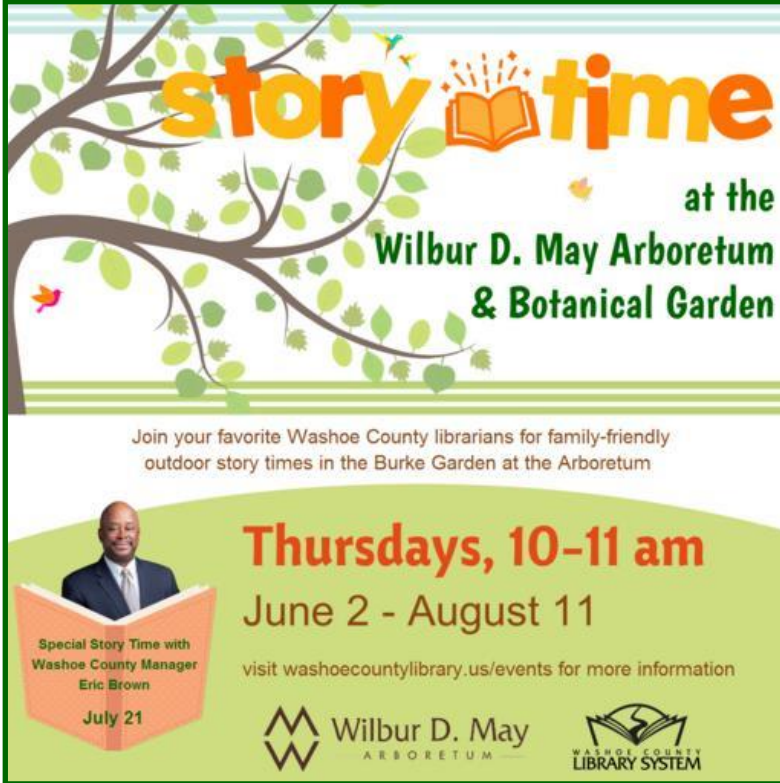
Purchase fresh lavender products and enjoy shopping with local artists – purchase natural bath and body products as well as essential oils, candles, and edible products made or infused with lavender, jewelry, garden art and stakes, fairy garden accessories, and more.

Entertainment and Refreshments

Live music, cold drinks & homemade snacks!

Listen to live music throughout the event, featuring local musical groups including the High Desert Harmony Chorus. Beat the heat with cold drinks & homemade lavender lemon bars.

Upcoming Arboretum Educational Events



story time
at the
Wilbur D. May Arboretum
& Botanical Garden

Join your favorite Washoe County librarians for family-friendly outdoor story times in the Burke Garden at the Arboretum

Thursdays, 10-11 am
June 2 - August 11

visit washoecountylibrary.us/events for more information

Special Story Time with Washoe County Manager Eric Brown
July 21

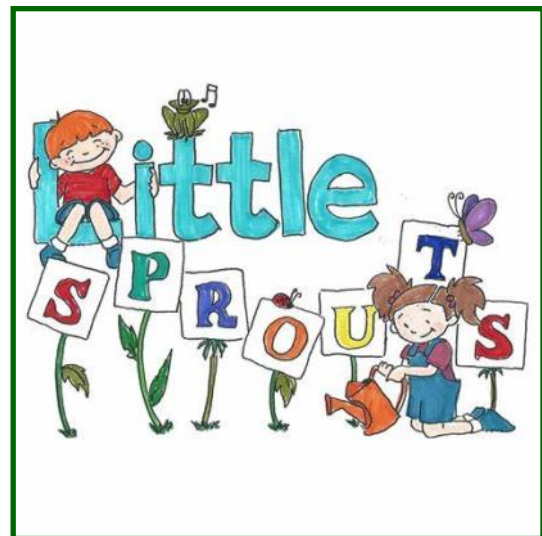
Wilbur D. May ARBORETUM
WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



Little Sprouts Update!

By Bev Treadway

In July, the reoccurring Little Sprouts Workshop Classes, “The Magic of Wind,” will meet at Burke Garden instead of the Ranch House on the following dates: July 5, 12, 19, and 26. After that, the classes will be on a hiatus, until they are restarted in the fall, back at the Ranch House.



A QUICK NOTE: Check out **both** the M.A.S. website and the Washoe County Parks website frequently for all our Arboretum event updates.

www.mayarboretumsociety.org and

www.washoecounty.gov/parks/maycenterhome/arboretum/index.php



- ◆ July 1 –August 12 Dragon Lights 5-10pm Nightly
- ◆ July 5, 12, 19, 26 - Little Sprouts “The Magic of Wind” 10-11am at Burke Garden
- ◆ July 5,7,12,14,19,21,26,28 — Writer’s Workshop 10:30-12pm at the Ranch House
- ◆ July 7, 15, 22, 29 – Storytime in the Garden 10-11am in Honey’s Garden
- ◆ July 9 - Lavender Day 9am-2pm at the Arboretum South Entrance

Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

July 2022

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SAT
					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 2022

- ◆ August 1-12 Dragon Lights Ends. Continues Nightly.
- ◆ August 4, 11 Storytime in the Garden 10am-11am

SUN	MON	TU	WE	TH	FR	SAT
	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			



Bill Carlos' Dedication Plaque and Ceremony

By Denise Evans

Next time you pass through the west entrance of the Arboretum (from the May Museum parking lot), be sure to glance to the right to spot this touching plaque honoring Bill Carlos' legacy. The plaque reads: "***In Honor of Bill Carlos, Wilbur D. May Arboretum Horticulturist, November 7, 2005-January 31, 2022. In honor and appreciation of the 17 years of love and dedication to the Wilbur D. May Arboretum. Thank you from the Wilbur May Foundation and the May family.***"

The plaque was presented this past Arbor Day and was a complete surprise to Bill, who thought he was coming to the Arboretum to give an Arbor Day tour. Washoe County employees, volunteers, friends, and May Arboretum Society board members were there to wish Bill well, who was extremely honored and touched by the kind gesture.



Left: Pictured from left to right: Brian Rosenstein with the May Foundation, Dixie May (Wilbur May's adopted daughter), Ed Kleiner and Bill Carlos.

Above: Bill's installed commemorative plaque.

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!

