



CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Mar-Apr 2021

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

Volume 4 Issue 2



It's Spring ... Well Almost!

March is here and despite the continuing mask wearing (I have seen some really creative ones while walking the park, BTW) and social distancing protocols, life at the Arboretum continues to surprise and delight.

On page 2 of our newsletter we share the COVID reminders and celebrate our Volunteer Superstars! As for new updates, Bill Carlos tells us about a wonderful Arboretum interpretive panel project that is in the works, on page 3. We have information on the next installments of our Virtual Education Program Series for kids, families and adults on page 4. And finally, on page 6, we'll do a winter walk through of the Arboretum.

Please keep checking the May Center and May Society websites. The dates and times for our programs may change or update as well due to Washoe County COVID mandates. Keep these links below handy. Stay safe and we'll see you soon!

<https://www.mayarboretumsociety.org>

[Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden \(washoecounty.us\)](http://washingtoncounty.us)

Bev Treadway, Editor

lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com

Inside this Issue:	
Welcome Letter	1
Volunteer's Corner: Volunteer Superstars!	2
Arboretum Upgrades Interpretive Panels	3
Arboretum Virtual Programs and Events	4
Calendar of Fun Dates	5
Interesting Spot: Winter Walk	6

Volunteer's Corner

By Denise Evans



COVID-19 Impacts on Washoe County Parks

Washoe County parks are asking park visitors to continue to practice the following:

- Maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing per person for non-household members at all times.
- A face covering must be worn when gathering with anyone outside of the household, entering the restroom, or entering any indoor park facility.

When there are updates, they will be posted as soon as possible to the [Washoe County Parks COVID page](#) and often posted on the [Washoe County Parks Facebook](#) page.

Washoe County Parks works closely with the City of Reno and City of Sparks so that our park operations are consistent across the county. For additional COVID-19 information affecting our region, visit the City of Reno/City of Sparks/Washoe County Regional Information Center: <https://covid19washoe.com/>

A moment to reflect back on Volunteer Hours in 2020

What a year, right!?! Nonetheless, we still finished 2020 with 1,260 volunteer hours! This is approximately half of what we would see in a “normal” year, but it is still incredibly impressive. If you are interested in knowing the breakdown by category: 69.5 hours were Education, 378.5 hours were May Arboretum Society, and 812 volunteer hours were spent on Gardening.

We cannot thank everyone enough for sticking with us and continuing to do an incredible job, often while working independently. I hope we can continue to build on new things that worked well such as logging volunteer hours online, and I so look forward to returning to favorite standbys such as our appreciation luncheons.

Volunteer Superstars!

Below are the top “*Dirty* Dozen” Arboretum volunteers for total hours in 2020:

- Rod Dimmitt, 228.5 hours
- Pat Behal-Leedy, 151.75 hours
- Becky Conrad, 142.5 hours
- Susan Campau, 117.75 hours
- Danny Carrasco, 94.5 hours
- Susan Mullen, 96.5 hours
- Chris Veach, 76 hours
- Bev Treadway, 68.5 hours
- Laura Robertson, 49.5 hours
- Victoria Nilson, 40 hours
- James Alsup, 38.25 hours
- Darla Lee, 37.25 hours



Every hour is appreciated, and we are extremely grateful for the other 11 volunteers who also contributed in 2020. We can't thank you all enough!

Forgot to log some hours? It's not too late! Visit the volunteer portal at: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex2/vicnet.dll/?from=480484>



Coming Arboretum Upgrades

Interpretive Panel Project

By Bill Carlos

By this time next year or sooner you will notice in many of the gardens attractive colored interpretive panels. As a matter of fact there will be 35 of them throughout the Arboretum. Some will 36" X 24" and others, larger. The goal is to tell the story of the trees and plants, and their significance locally, while engaging kids of all ages. Some of the topics and information will include: the May Family history, climate and water and how it relates to plants, the Great Basin, wildlife food webs, indigenous peoples, and the native and non-native plants that live here. There will be fun and interesting facts about trees and plants in the Arboretum and the importance of them. There will also be a childlike caricature dressed as an explorer for the kids asking "Did you know?" with fun trivia. The goal is to enhance the visitor experience, by engaging the young and young at heart in their natural world, while providing a learning opportunity. This project has been a goal of mine since coming to the Arboretum in 2005 and it is now coming to fruition. Many thanks to the May Foundation, May Arboretum Society, the May Arboretum, private donors and Washoe County for supporting this project.



This is an example of how the interpretive panel might look and the type of information on it.

Ongoing Volunteer Training March 10 Via Zoom!

By Bev Treadway

As most of you already know, the May Arboretum offers continuing training for volunteers. These have been "in person" classes in the past that often included hands on training in the garden. Since that still isn't possible, yet, Denise Evans has been working with Carrie Jensen with One Truckee River to provide virtual classes via Zoom. Carrie will be presenting a special morning workshop on March 10, 2021 at 10am on **Promoting Pollinators in your River Friendly Landscape**. Carrie is doing a repeat class for the MAS Virtual Learning Series as well, but the March 10 class is just for volunteers. You find information for the class on page 4. If you are interested in attending this volunteer class, please use the link below to register.

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYpduivrD4vH9Pjr3o_Rx2nDXlx7Vnl07p

Arboretum Virtual Learning Programs

By Bev Treadway



M.A.S. Virtual Learning Series

Wildlife Wakes Up March 15, 2021 5pm to 6pm

The springtime weather in Northern Nevada wakes up the wildlife: (mountain) lions and bobcats and bears. Oh, my! Join us for this session. We'll be discussing traits, behaviors, and fun facts about these and other wonderful animals that live in our region. Laura Robertson, Presenter

Promoting Pollinators in Your River-Friendly Landscape March 29, 2021 5pm-6pm

Have you been hearing a lot about pollinators lately? From monarchs to honey bees, these guys have been getting a lot of attention in the news. Come find out what all the "buzz" is about. In this presentation, you'll learn about the importance of pollinators, theories on why they're in decline, and how you can promote pollinators in your river-friendly landscape.

Carrie Jensen from One Truckee River presents.

Filmed in Reno: Movies Made in our Own Backyard, the Sequel April 12 5pm-6pm

Pass the popcorn! The Reno area has a rich background in entertainment, and the film industry is no exception. Let's gather once again to learn about EVEN MORE MOVIES that were filmed in our area—their locations, production, and the interesting people who made them. Laura Robertson and Lenny Supera, Presenters,

Non-Visual Contour Drawing: A Flower April 19 5pm –6pm

Non-visual Contour Drawing is a technique with both a mechanical and a spiritual component. It allows the artist to circumvent the nagging voice of the inner critic, while channeling the image directly from brain to hand. The drawings created using this process retain elements of the artist's personal style, but permit that style to break through into new territories. Martin A. David, Presenter

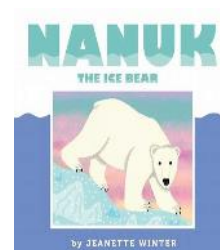
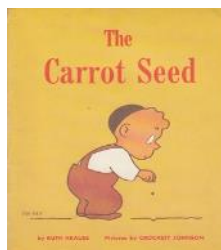
You need to register on the MAS website to get access to the free workshops:

[Lectures & Workshops - May Arboretum Society](#)

Virtual Story Time at the Arboretum

The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden is happy to announce one of our newest programs, Virtual Story Time! Story Time videos will be posted once a week and will have a craft kids can do at home to accompany each story. Our volunteers and Arboretum Educator will read a new story each week that reflects the season and time of year. Visit the arboretum after each Story Time video to explore in the gardens and see some of the things you learned about firsthand!

This video series is based on the Arboretum's Children's Education Programs and a new video comes out every Thursday. Some of the recent books include: *The Carrot Seed*; *Nanuk the Ice Bear*; and *Winter Trees*. All video and craft links are available at: [Story Time \(washoecounty.us\)](http://Story Time (washoecounty.us))



Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

March 2021

- ◆ **March 4, 11, 18, 25 - Virtual Story Time.** New videos are available online every Thursday at this link: [Story Time\(washoecounty.us\)](http://StoryTime(washoecounty.us))
- ◆ **March 10 - Volunteer Class on Zoom Promoting Pollinators in your River Friendly Landscape 10AM**
- ◆ **March 15 -Virtual Learning Series on Zoom Wildlife Wakes Up. 5-6 pm.**
- ◆ **March 29 -Virtual Learning Series on Zoom Promoting Pollinators in your River Friendly Landscape. 5-6pm.**

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			

Please check out pages 3 and 4 for details and links to our virtual programs.

April 2021

- ◆ **April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 -Virtual Story Time.** New videos are available online every Thursday at this link: [Story Time \(washoecounty.us\)](http://StoryTime(washoecounty.us))
- ◆ **April 4 - Easter**
- ◆ **April 12 - Virtual Learning Series on Zoom Filmed in Reno, Movies in Our Own Backyard, the Sequel. 5-6pm.**
- ◆ **April 19 - Virtual Learning Series on Zoom. Non-Visual Contour Drawing: A Flower. 5-6pm.**

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	



Around the Arboretum

A Late Winter Stroll

By Bev Treadway

Visiting the Wilbur D. May Arboretum in late winter is a beautiful way to experience the gardens. The trees are not yet budding, and last year's leaves are all but gone. Without any snow on the ground, the trees rise up like living sculptures, allowing the visitor to see the bare bones of each garden. It is quiet and almost desolate to walk through the halls of our "Tree Museum," but there are still discoveries to be seen around each bend in the path. See if you can spot the last remaining fruit on the Wentworth Cranberry bushes near the Native plant area or find the normally hidden bits of Evans Creek between the trees at the bridge. Or maybe, you can spot the old Cooper's Hawk nest in the Riparian area.

There is plenty to see and experience in the last bits of winter before Mother Nature brings out Spring in all its bright glory.



Clockwise from the top: Cooper's Hawk Nest, The last few berries on a Wentworth Cranberry Bush; a new view of Evan's Creek; and the last of the Snowberries.

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!

