



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

# CONNECTIONS

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Mar-Apr 2022

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

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Bill retirement party attendees. Standing from left to right: Becky Conrad, Kass Kirkham, Lenita Powers, Christie Gescheider, Rachel Dunn, Susan Mullen, Chris Veach, Bill Carlos, Anna Hoss, Connie Osburn, Rod Dimmitt. Kneeling: Angela Turner, Pat Leedy, Danny Carasco, and Denise Evans.

### There is a lot to look Forward to!

Things have gotten pretty quiet around the Arboretum these days. The weather has turned cold again and with Bill Carlos' retirement I think we are all feeling at loose ends. And speaking of Bill, he shares a heartfelt letter on page 2.

Spring is almost here and the usual yearly events are finally making their way back to us. All of these programs can use the aid of a few volunteers, both educational and gardening, so check them out (page 3). Rod Dimmitt gives us a heads up about the preparations for the return of the plant sale (page 4). Upcoming events include MAS Virtual Learning Series, Lavender Day, and the return of the Dragon Lights Festival. (pages 5 and 6).

We are also starting a new series on the back page about some very special trees we have growing in the Arboretum. This is a new season at the Arboretum. Who knows what adventures are around the corner!

Bev Treadway, Editor  
[lingonberryilacs@gmail.com](mailto:lingonberryilacs@gmail.com)

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**Volunteer's Corner**

*Dear Volunteers, Denise, Rachel, and Staff,*

*As I enter my second week of retirement, I didn't want another one to pass without expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for your well wishes, sentiments, the wonderful generous gifts and retirement card at my retirement open house. I am certain and look forward to showing up with my new tools and new tote bucket in hand. What an ideal gift for me! I really can't wait to use them and above all, work side by side with all of you in the garden. I also want to thank my staff and Denise who organized the open house. It was very thoughtful and sincerely appreciated. My farewell is only short term as I am having arboretum withdrawals! Have a good week and I will see you in the gardens soon!*

*Sincerely,  
Bill*



Scenes from Bill Carlos' going away party at the Ranch House in January 2022.

Above: Bill gets a surprise visit from his brother Daniel (who also graciously took the group photo of the party goers on page one)

Top Right: Volunteers Susan Mullen and Danny Carasco present Bill with his own set of gardening tools to use on his next volunteer visit to the Arboretum.

Bottom Right: Denise Evans and Bill share a smile for the camera.

**Update From Denise Evans:**

The search has officially begun to hire a new Horticulturist! Because there are many steps in the hiring process, April would be the soonest we can expect to see the position filled. The first step in the lengthy hiring process was for our Human Resources department to review and update the job description with our Parks Superintendent, Colleen Wallace-Barnum. Then the position needed to be posted (which is where we are at now), applications will be reviewed, the Training and Experience Exam will be scored, and then lastly, interviews will take place. Depending on who is chosen, we may also need to allow time for that person to give notice at their current job and relocate.

If you know someone who would be a good fit, please send them this link to the job announcement:

<https://washoe.washoecounty.gov/human-resources/jobs/horticulturist/>.

All applications must be received by March 14, 2022.

## Volunteer's Corner

### Opportunities

By Bev Treadway

During the last couple of years, both the Arboretum and our educational programs have gone through a lot of changes. The pandemic caused so many of our activities to be massively scaled back, reinvented, and even canceled. Then, when it looked like we were able to go forward with some of our programs, the smoky summer skies affected our outdoor happenings, causing half of them to be canceled. And then just last month, our fearless leader, Bill Carlos, retired.

But some good things happened, too. In the middle of it all, we got creative. We couldn't have our preschool and school age programs, so the educators and volunteers did virtual story times, created sidewalk chalk obstacle courses, and did videos of inspiring short walks through the Arboretum to remind the community we were still here and a safe way to social distance while enjoying the fresh air. The staff and the May Arboretum Society used the downtime to spearhead several hardscape upgrades throughout the gardens including new retaining walls and irrigation repair. The gardening volunteers were just as busy, tending to the regular gardening maintenance and doing restoration projects in the riparian areas by removing invasive teasel and replacing them with native plant species. Also, planning went forward with the designing of the new Cactus and Succulent gardens.

But, with Spring on the horizon and COVID cases declining, our programs and events will be returning to the Arboretum schedule with renewed vigor.

Also returning is the need for volunteer help.

On the following pages you will find volunteer opportunities. Including those for greenhouse tasks to support the return of the Spring Plant Sale and Lavender Day. Little Sprouts is building up steam and the programs are now running several days during the month due to community interest. Rachel has also done "pop up" activities such as the edible bird house contest and the February bird count. Later in the year, Dragon Lights will be returning and garden help will be needed for that. All of these programs need volunteer support and assistance.

You can sign up for projects through Volgistics . If you need help accessing the portal please contact Denise Evans and she will help you navigate your way through the system. [devans@washoecounty.gov](mailto:devans@washoecounty.gov)

Our Arboretum Educator, Rachel Dunn will also be happy to talk to you about up coming educational events and programs. You can contact her at the Arboretum Office 775-785-4153 or email her at: [rdunn@washoecounty.gov](mailto:rdunn@washoecounty.gov)

Both Rachel and Denise send frequent updates on specific volunteer needs, so watch for those emails, too.



A recent tabling event for the February 2022 Bird Count. Just one of the many opportunities to volunteer at the Arboretum and share your love of nature with the Reno community.

### A message from Denise Evans regarding gardening volunteering:

Although this is normally a fairly quiet time in the gardens anyhow, I'm concerned that some volunteers may be feeling a little lost on what to do. I just wanted you all to know that I will continue to email everyone as projects come up, and I encourage you to please reach out to me anytime if you'd like to check in. I still have every intention of engaging our volunteers in group activities and appreciation events like we use to do in the good ol' days pre-pandemic, but I expect there still may be an awkward (yet exciting!) phase ahead of us as we settle in to new leadership. I look forward to spring/summer and seeing all of you again more often soon!

## Volunteer's Corner

### May Arboretum Society 2022 Annual Plant Sale

By Rod Dimmitt

After two years of the Pandemic we know that everyone is looking forward to the arrival of spring and getting in the Garden! We will be building on the success of the 2019 Plant Sale results. Here's what you need to know about this year's sale:

#### Dates:

Member's Preview Sale – Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

Saturday/Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> – 8am to 2pm each day.

May Arboretum Society Members get a 10% discount!

#### Plant Delivery and Up-potting Volunteers:

Plant delivery is scheduled for Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

We will need help to check-in the order on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

We will need help the week of March 21<sup>st</sup> to sterilize pots/trays.

We will need volunteers to help us with the up-potting process on Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> at the greenhouse 9am –Noon, Noon-3pm.

The set-up in the greenhouse will allow for social distancing.

No experience is necessary! We will teach you the up-potting process!

#### Donating Plants for the Sale:

Donated plants can be brought in the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All plants must be in a pot and have the common name, along with the botanical name if you have it.

We can make pots and plant name stakes available upon request.

Plants must be well rooted.

No plants will be accepted the day of the sale.

Our plant sale provides a fun opportunity to work together, get a hands-on preview of the plants that will be available for the sale, not to mention being a part of raising money to fund new Arboretum garden projects. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded garden enthusiasts and develop new friendships!

**To volunteer, please contact: Rod Dimmitt at his e-mail, [roddimmitt@hotmail.com](mailto:roddimmitt@hotmail.com).**



Upcoming Events

8th Annual Lavender Day  
Saturday, July 9, 2022  
9:00am to 2:00pm



The flyer features a white background with a decorative border of colorful feathers in shades of green, blue, and purple. At the top left is the Wilbur D. May Arboretum logo, and at the top right is the Washoe County Nevada seal. The text reads: "Little Sprouts Spring Series Ages 2-5 Tuesday Mornings 10-11" and "Feathered Friends March 15, March 22, March 29". A purple box at the bottom contains registration information.


Wilbur D. May  
ARBORETUM

WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA  
1861

**Little Sprouts**  
Spring Series Ages 2-5  
Tuesday Mornings 10-11

**Feathered Friends**  
March 15  
March 22  
March 29

Registration Required!  
Contact the Arboretum Educator to register at  
RDunn@washoecounty.gov or 775-785-4153



The flyer features a background image of hands using a green pencil to draw on a landscape design plan. The text includes the "one truckee river" logo, the title "WATERWISE DESIGN 101", and details about a family-friendly landscaping workshop. Logos for Wilbur D. May Arboretum and KTMB are at the bottom.

one truckee river

**WATERWISE  
DESIGN 101**

A Family-Friendly Landscaping Workshop

Free  
Saturday, April 9  
10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
May Arboretum - Ranch House  
Registration limited to 20 adults

Wilbur D. May  
ARBORETUM

KTMB  
KEEP TRUCKEE MEADOWS BEAUTIFUL

Check the link below for more details.

[www.eventbrite.com/e/waterwise-design-101-a-family-friendly-landscaping-workshop-tickets-261353253617](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/waterwise-design-101-a-family-friendly-landscaping-workshop-tickets-261353253617)

**Upcoming Events**

**M.A.S. Virtual Learning Series Workshops**



**Location:** Zoom video conferencing  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022  
**Time:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Pacific Time)  
**Cost:** No charge, and open to the public

**Explorers & Seekers of Nevada**  
 Nevada is a hotbed of ancient findings, but who are the people who sought, found, and brought such findings to light? Their efforts and hard work resulted in our gain, allowing us to learn much about the rich culture and history of our area and state. Join us to learn more about these explorers and seekers-- their discoveries, their interests, and the people themselves.

**Location:** Zoom video conferencing  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3  
**Time:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Pacific Time)  
**Cost:** No charge, open to the public, and all ages

**Prehistoric Creatures of Nevada**  
 Lions and mammoths and ground sloths...oh, my! Many creatures of old had their stomping grounds in Nevada (literally and figuratively). Let's gather online and share facts, findings and stories about these magnificent beings: where they lived, what they did, and how we can still "see" some of them today in their modern descendants.



See the MAS website for details, [www.mayarboretumsociety.org/lectures--workshops.html](http://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/lectures--workshops.html)

Presented by Laura Robertson

**Dragon Lights Returns To the Arboretum July 1 - August 12, 2022**

Visit this link for details! [www.mayarboretumsociety.org/dragon-lights.html](http://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/dragon-lights.html)



## Activity Dates To Look Forward To!



- ◆ **March 15, 22, and 29-Little Sprouts Feathered Friends 10am-11am. Ranch House. Registration is required**
- ◆ **March 17-St Patrick's Day**
- ◆ **March 29- MAS Virtual Learning Series Workshop on Zoom**

### March 2022

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		



- ◆ **April 9—Water Wise Landscaping 10am - 12pm Registration is required.**
- ◆ **April 17 Easter Sunday**

### April 2022

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

## Unique Trees Around the Arboretum

### The Dawn Redwood (*metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

By Bev Treadway

One of the most unusual trees in the Wilbur D. May Arboretum is the dawn redwood. (*metasequoia glyptostroboides*).

To the Chinese people, the dawn redwood is second only to the panda as a conservation icon. Thought to have been extinct for millions of years, a *Save the Redwoods League* group discovered that this unusual member of the redwood family still exists in China, shedding its leaves in the fall.

The dawn redwood's colorful leaves are one trait that separates this species from its family members. The only living species in its genus, the dawn redwood is a deciduous tree rather than an evergreen. This means that it sheds its leaves in the fall, is bare in winter and grows new leaves in the spring. It is also the smallest of the three redwoods. Dawn redwoods are typically between 50 and 60 feet tall, but can grow taller than 160 feet with a trunk about 7 feet in diameter. It is a fast growing tree with a driftwood-like trunk.

Because of its deciduous nature, scientists considered the possibility that the dawn redwood could live in regions colder than its current range. They collected cuttings and seeds and sent them to Asia, Europe and North America to be grown in public and private gardens. Their experiments, in which seedlings survived harsh winters in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, found that the dawn redwood is suited to live in environments much colder than China; their range likely once included such frigid climates.

The dawn redwoods are located at the southeast side of Kleiner's Oak grove, along the walking path.



Left: The uniquely sculptural trunk of the dawn redwood. Center: Close-up of the autumn foliage. Right: the metasequoia in all of its fall glory.



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!

