



CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

May-June

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

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Rancho San Rafael Park is celebrating it's 40 year anniversary on July 3, 2022. Above is a picture of the original caretaker's cottage. Does it look familiar? It's current role is the park ranger's office.

40 Years!

Hi Everyone,

From the looks of the upcoming events calendar, we are going to be busy, busy, busy at the Arboretum.

On July 3, Rancho San Rafael Park will celebrate it's 40-year anniversary. Denise Evans shares some highlights on the preparations on page 2 and gives us a staff update for the Arboretum on page 3.

Preparations are also underway for Dragon Lights in July and there is a list of paid, temporary staffing positions available for the festival on page 4. There is also still time to donate plants and volunteer for the annual May plant sale (info on page 5). And there are still more upcoming events for June and July listed on page 6.

Lastly, and sadly, we say goodbye to Phil Brazier (page 8) who retired at the end of April. Phil has been an integral part of the Arboretum for many years, and will be missed, greatly.

Bev Treadway, Editor
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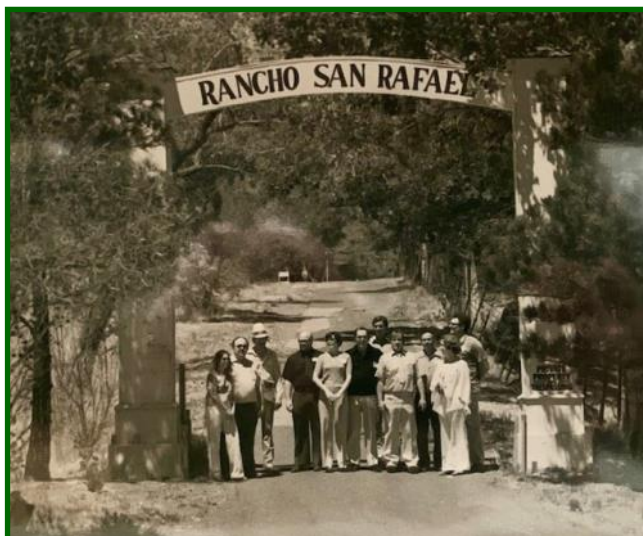
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Volunteer's Corner

Rancho San Rafael Celebrates 40 Years!

By Denise Evans

Rancho San Rafael turns 40 this year, and the Washoe County parks staff has all kinds of fun activities planned to celebrate throughout the month of June. And if you aren't already following Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on Facebook, (www.facebook.com/ranchosanrafaelregionalpark) scroll back through the page to check out the weekly posts Ranger Celia and Ranger Bob have been putting together with interesting history and pictures. They have 40 weeks of posts pre-planned out to celebrate 40 years! And while there will be an exhibit at the May Museum all month long, a video in production that will run in the Visitor's Center, and additional activities in the works, the largest celebration will take place on Saturday, June 25. This special day will begin with a hot-air balloon launch and will include music, booths, tours throughout the park, storytelling, and much more! The park rangers have been hard at work meeting and talking with everyone they can find who has played a role in the park's history and inception, and are excited to give this beloved park the attention it deserves. If you have information or would like to be involved, please reach out to me, Denise Evans at devans@washoecounty.gov.



Here is just a small sample of the wonderfully curated photo display that Ranger Celia and Ranger Bob have created for the 40 year celebration. More information and pictures about the park will be posted each week on the park's Facebook page.

Top Left: Mariana Herman on a snowy day in front of the Ranch House. Top right: The Herman's Ranch House living room as it was decorated when they owned the property. Bottom Left: Opening Day at Rancho San Rafael Park, July 3, 1982.

Volunteer's Corner

Update on Arboretum Positions

By Denise Evans

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the process for filling a full-time vacancy in Washoe County can take some time, especially when the position being vacated was held for many years and needs the job specifications reevaluated. The extremely dynamic Horticulture position is no exception and requires even extra care and time in selecting the right candidate. However, we are getting closer, and the first round of interviews took place on Thursday, April 21st. At the time of printing this newsletter, we do not have an announcement yet, but I'll be sure to send an email as soon as we do!

As you are probably aware, the Assistant Horticulturist Phil Brazier has also retired after 20 years in the position. Washoe County Human Resources will begin the process of reevaluating that position and posting the job. I will keep you updated on that as well!

While we are on the topic, there are several positions open with Washoe County right now, including many seasonal positions such as lifeguards for Bowers Pool (tell all the teenagers you know!). All openings can be found here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washoecounty>

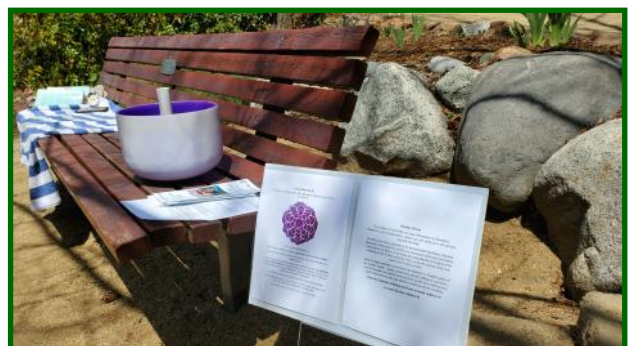
The Singing Bowl Hike—A New Way to Experience the Arboretum

By Bev Treadway

I hope you had the chance to go on the Singing Bowl Hike at the Arboretum on April 24th. Organized by AmeriCorps Educator, Rachel Dunn, and with the aid of volunteers, visitors to the park were treated to the melodious sounds of crystal singing bowls. Each bowl is tuned to a different musical note, which in turn resonates with a different chakra point in the body.

Bowls were staged throughout the Arboretum from the David's Conifer Grove to Lear Garden. There was a detailed handout with a map leading you the various singing bowl stations. At each station there was both the history of that bowl's sound and related chakra, as well as information on the plants of the garden you were visiting.

It was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday. Rachel hopes to continue the hikes and is looking for volunteers to help keep the project going after her tenure.



Photos by Rachel Dunn. Clockwise, Lear Garden; Rowley Grove, and David's Conifer Grove.

Volunteer's Corner
The Return of Dragon Lights



By Bev Treadway

The hugely popular festival, Dragon Lights is returning to the Wilbur D. May Arboretum from July 1 to Aug 12, 2022.

Dragon Lights is a uniquely special event, highlighting the history, customs, and artistry of ancient China. Along with the all-new light displays, are cultural performances including dance, singing, cooking, acrobatics, and art. A different genre is highlighted each night.

As was done with the festival in 2018, volunteers are needed to help staff the event. These are paying positions, so if you are looking for a temporary summer job, you might want to check out the postings listed below. More details and information are available through the May Arboretum Society website.

mayarboretumsociety.org/

Each night of the event following staff are needed:

Ticket Taker 1 (1) 5:30 to 10:00 Check and Scan Tickets
 Ticket Taker 2 (1) 5:30 to 10:00 Check and Scan Tickets
 Ticket Taker 3 (1) 5:30 to 10:00 Sell tickets at night

Security Event Entrance (1) 5:30 to 11:00
 Security Event Exit (1) 5:30 to 11:00
 Security Merchandise Area (1) 5:30-11:00
 Security Inside Arboretum (1) 5:30-11:00

Cleaning Rancho San Rafael Park pathways (1) 6:00-11:00
 Cleaning Dining Area (1) 6:00 - 11:00

Volunteer 1 Photo Frame (1) take photos for visitors 5:30-9:30
 Volunteer 2 Entrance (1) help with purchase of tickets 5:30-9:30:30
 Volunteer 3 Shuttle Bus (1) help arrange lines at bus stop 5:30-9:30

Parking 1 (1) Parking Lot 1 traffic flow control 5:30 - 10:30
 Parking 2 (1) Parking Lot 2 traffic flow control 5:30 - 10:30
 Parking 3 (1) Parking Lot 3 traffic flow control 5:30 - 10:30
 Parking 4 (1) UNR Parking Lot 5:30 - 10:30
 Parking 5 (1) Wilbur D May Center 5:30-10:30

Cashier (1) Merchandise Tent 5:30 - 10:30

A Quick Note: Volunteer gardener help will also definitely be needed through out the event timeline.



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 13th 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

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

May Arboretum Society Members get a 10% discount!



Donating Plants for the Sale:

Donated plants can be brought in the week of May 2nd.

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 also 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.

There are more ways to volunteer at the Arboretum!

We are entering our active event season at the park. Whether you like to help as a tour guide, assist in event preplanning, or work with kids, there are so many things to do at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum. This issue of the newsletter will give you an inkling of some of the upcoming events where we surely can use some much needed help.

Contact Rachel Dunn, our AmeriCorps Educator, and she can fill you in on what volunteer spots are available at rdunn@washoecounty.gov or call Rachel at the Arboretum Office at 775-785-4153.

Also, keep an eye out for emails from Denise on group gardening activities over the next month or so to spruce up in preparation for Dragon Lights and also to work on planting in the new Pollinator Garden located in the Nevada Farms and Families area of Rancho San Rafael Park.



More News from M.A.S.!

Check out their bold, new, updated, and fun website! It has a user friendly feel which easily highlights both the many upcoming events and future plans for the gardens. Take a moment to check out all of the new features.

mayarboretumsociety.org

More Upcoming Events

Plein Air Paint Out

See artists capture the natural light of the landscape. Stroll through the gardens while the region's artists set up their easels as they paint en plein air, capturing their favorite landscapes throughout the gardens and groves, showcasing the essence of the fauna and flora that calls the Arboretum home!



Last Chance! Sweet, A Tasty Journey!



8th Annual Lavender Day Sale!
July 9, 2022, 9:00am-2:00pm at the Arboretum South Entrance!

Wilbur D. May
ARBORETUM

Little Sprouts
The Wonderful World
of Worms

For Ages 2-5
Tuesday Mornings 10-11

May 3
May 10
May 24
May 31

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

Special Artown Event!

It's Natural: Grow Your Writing Skill

Join novelist Susan Morgan Williams for an 8 session writer's workshop at the Arboretum. Hone your writing skills while exploring the Arboretum.

Classes are free, but you must preregister through the M.A.S website. The workshop starts July 5 and runs twice a week for 4 weeks. 10:30am to Noon.

www.mayarboretumsociety.org/events/its-natural-grow-your-writing-skills-at-may-arboretum/

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

www.mayarboretumsociety.org and

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



- ◆ **May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Little Sprouts Wonderful World of Worms. 10am-11am. Ranch House. Registration is required**
- ◆ **May 14– 15 M.A.S Plant Sale 8:00am—2:00pm.**
- ◆ **May 15– Last day to see “Sweets” - A Tasty Journey at the May Museum.**

Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

May 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 | | | | |



- ◆ **June 4 Plein Air Paint Out at the Arboretum, starting at 9:00am.**
- ◆ **June 7, 14, 21, and 28, Little Sprouts Topic TBD. 10:00 am –11:00am. Registration required.**
- ◆ **June 30– 5:00-10:00pm Dragon Lights MAS Special Members Night**

June 2002

| 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 | | |

We Say Goodbye and Best Wishes to Phil Brazier

By Bev Treadway

Phil Brazier, the Assistant Horticulturist at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum retired at the end of April. His quiet, calm, knowledgeable presence will be missed. We are sad to see him leave.

I had the privilege of interviewing Phil in December of 2018 for the newsletter. Here is an excerpt of the interview.

“Phil is a familiar face around the Arboretum. A native of Illinois, Phil has been a passionate member of the Green Industry for 38 years. Married to his sweetheart, Laurie for 31 years, the pair lived in Arizona and New Mexico before settling in the Reno area in 1996. They have an 18 year old daughter, Emily, who is a senior at Reed High. Phil spent 5 years in landscape maintenance at UNR, before joining the Arboretum Staff nearly 18 years ago. As a Certified Arborist, and Irrigation Specialist, Phil has tended to many gardens over the years and the Arboretum has truly been fortunate to have the benefit of his personal touch and expertise. He is passionate about the topic and is happy to share his knowledge with others. Phil loves his job and feels he has the best of both worlds: working outdoors, and tending to just one very special place, the May Arboretum.” (December 2018)

Thank you, Phil, for your love and dedication to the Arboretum, and to us. Enjoy your new adventures, wherever they take you.



Left: Phil Brazier in front of the Arboretum Office in December 2018. Above, Phil, along with Bill Carlos and Ed Kleiner hold the original Arboretum sign that hung from a wood structure at the west entrance (the only entrance to the Arboretum at the time).

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!

