A Bi–Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

ARBORETUM CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

May – June 2019 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153 **Volume 2 Issue 3**

Hello, May Flowers!

Finally! Spring is here! It's time to gear up for school tours, gardening, fresh air, and just enjoying the wonders of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden!

If you haven't made the plunge into volunteering at the Arboretum yet, we have a special article on page two about unique ways to support the gardens.

On a special note, Danielle Ornelas will be back this summer to do a fun eco-series for our Good Nature Tours during July and August. The three part tour program will repeat twice over the season. Danielle is looking for some input from our volunteers for this project. You'll find more information on page four. She will offer teaching opportunities for volunteers to learn this new educational tour.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our programs, give Katie a call at 775-785-4153.

Thanks, Bev Treadway, Editor

Email: Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com

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Volunteer's Corner

What's Stopping You From Volunteering?

The only limit to the ways you can volunteer at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum is your imagination.

Sometimes, when we think about volunteering at the Arboretum, we look at just two categories, either working in the gardens, or giving tours as a docent. But, when you add a back ache, a fear of pruning, or stage fright, we're stuck. We have volunteer paralysis; we want to do something, but we can't see how any of our skills are valuable.

Let's step outside of the box and look at all of the new educational programs created for the Arboretum over the last few years.

For years, we only had school tours and few other educational events. Now we have programs for older adults, preschool programs, winter break programs, tree talks, nature journaling programs, and more. Every one of those programs, and even this newsletter, started because of an idea that someone put into motion. Someone saw a need to fill or had an interest they wanted to share with others. After a little planning, some time commitment and approval from Bill and Denise, things got off and running.

It's that simple.

So what things do you like to do? How does your passion for the Arboretum express itself in your life?

Do you like photography? We are always looking for pictures for the newsletter, and for our Instagram and Facebook pages. Do you like to draw or paint? Maybe you could teach others to express their vision of the park through color? Do you walk Herman's Pond and check out the waterfowl? Maybe you can share your knowledge with others.

Last year, we had so many ideas to try, but we didn't have the manpower implement them. Here are just a few more:

Mindfulness in the Garden; Yoga in the Garden; Weekend Information Handouts; Knitting in the Garden; and Storytelling.

Do you have an idea you want to try? Share it! It's that easy.

Bev Treadway

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Volunteer's Corner

Sharpening our Pruning Skills!

The first class in our monthly gardening series "Introduction to Tree Pruning" took place on Wednesday, April 10th. During the first hour of the class, Bill Carlos gave a presentation which included topics such as when to prune, best practices, safety, and the use of proper tools. We then headed out into the gardens for some hands on practice rejuvenating and heading back a very large cranberry bush. Some volunteers (and myself!) chose just to observe, while others really got in there and got to work! All and all, it was a fun time and I think even our most seasoned volunteers learned a thing or two.

We look forward to the next class in the series "Fundamentals of Rose Care and Pruning" on Wednesday, May 8th. I will be sending out a reminder email, but feel free to RSVP to me anytime. Just as a friendly reminder – these classes are not a requirement for volunteering, but we encourage everyone to attend! Classes will be offered monthly through October.

New Volunteers in the Gardens

Spring is always a great time of year to start volunteering – whether you are new to the Arboretum or just haven't been actively volunteering in a while. There is a lot of spring cleaning to do, and it just feels great to finally get outdoors again. We are always looking for new volunteers to join the team, and we can provide individualized training any time of year. If you know of someone who might be interested, or are wondering how to go about getting involved again, please contact me anytime. In addition, we are fortunate to have several new faces volunteering around the gardens, so please say hello next time you see someone new!

Denise Evans devans@washoecounty.us

Introduction to Tree Pruning class on April 10, 2019.

Volunteer's Corner

From AmeriCorps to Conservation Social Scientist

By Danielle Ornelas

Hello friends! Since leaving the May Arboretum nine months ago I have had a lot of firsts here in Colorado: seeing the great plains, being in a blizzard that evolved into a "bomb cyclone" and experiencing the spectacle that is a college football game (go Rams!).

Though I have enjoyed all these new experiences while pursuing a Masters of Science in Conservation Leadership at Colorado State University, the May Arboretum has been in the back of my mind as well as in my heart. That's why I am elated to venture back to the gardens we all know and love to pursue my Capstone Project *The Power of Plants: Interpreting Plant Biodiversity for an Older Adult Audience.*

The Power of Plants is an educational program for older adults that will utilize the joys of art, storytelling, and history to teach about the benefits that humans get from plants. Implemented under the existing education program Good Nature! this three part series will be held during the last three weeks of July, and again during the last three weeks of August.

As some of you may know, I am not an older adult, so in order to make this program relevant I will be hosting workshops for docents and garden volunteers to help develop the content of the program through map making, historical perspectives, and sharing local expertise of the gardens and the wildlife that passes through it.

In returning to work with the arboretum, my over arching goals are to inspire older adults to become advocates for plant biodiversity and to contribute to the physical, social, and intellectual well-being of older adults in the Reno region. Beyond my project goals, my hopes are that this program will lay the foundation for a new way to develop educational programming that is relative, collaborative, and empowers audiences to become more active and engaged in conservation action.

If you have any questions or would like to know more information feel free to email me at Danielleo547@gmail.com

A photo of Danielle when she served here during her service year!

Danielle pursuing her master's degree!

Meet the Staff: Denise Evans

Say hi to Denise, our Washoe County volunteer coordinator!

She has been working with the parks since 2007 and with volunteers since 2012. Her responsibilities include coordinating volunteers and clean-ups for all Washoe County managed parks, and maintaining the parks website.

While working with Arboretum volunteers, Denise enjoys watching them gain confidence in the gardens and planning appreciation events for them. Her favorite spot in the gardens is Streshley's Grove.

Before moving to Reno, Denise grew up in the Bay Area and studied at San Jose State University.

Denise's family includes her husband Brad, their two daughters (Layla and Audrey), and two cats. They enjoy hiking, camping, and cooking together — as well as their annual trip to Disneyland! (see photo.)

Spotlight On: Tuesday Tree Talks

On May 28,2019 join us for a Tree Talk, led by local tree hunter Rod Haulenbeek. Rod has designed tree tours for UNR and Idlewild Park, as well as published books on the trees of Tahoe, Yosemite Valley, and the whole of Northern Nevada. You are almost guaranteed to learn something new about your trees!

The walk is FREE and open to the public. This program is intended for adults, but older teenagers with an interest in science or botany would also enjoy this talk. Meet by the south Arboretum entrance (first parking lot off of N. Sierra St/ Putnam.)

Looking up through the tree canopy gives one a unique perspective on life.

Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

May 2019

- **May 3, 10, and 31** Friday Bird Walks 4-5pm.
- **May 4** Weekend Nature Walks 10-11am Families w/ children 10 and under.
- **May 7 & 21** Nature Explorers 2:30-4pm
- **May 8** 10am-noon "Fundamentals of Rose Care & Pruning" workshop
- **May 13-19** National Public Gardens Week! Check out the tours on our website!
- **May 18** Splash into Your Watershed walking lecture
- **May 21** Little Sprouts 10am "The Wonderful World of Worms"
- **May 28** Tuesday Tree Talk 1-2:30pm W/ Rod Haulenbeek

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June 2019

- **June 3** Danielle Ornelas is back!
- **June 7,14,21,& 28** Friday Bird Walks 4-5pm.
- **June 12** 10am-noon "Care of Flowering Perennials"
- **June 13, 20, 27** Storytime 10am-11, ages 6 and under.
- **June 18, 19** Discovery Station 1-3pm
- **June 18** Little Sprouts 10am-11am
- **June 25** Tuesday Tree Talk with Lynda Nelson 1-2:30pm

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Words on Birds

By Katie Bird

Spring migration is starting to peak at the Arboretum! Soon as you walk through the gardens, you'll hear the twirling notes of a vireo's song, the "Sweet, sweet, sweeter than sweet!" of a yellow warbler, and the bubbly chattering of tree swallows catching insects.

May Arboretum Migration Forecast

Birds departing: Ring-necked Duck, Northern Shoveler, Hooded Merganser, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler

Birds arriving: Swallows, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, House Wren, Bullock's Oriole, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Wester Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting

A male yellow-rumped warbler seen at the Arboretum.

Migration Tips

Migration is the most dangerous time in a bird's lifecycle. You can help make their lives easier by removing their biggest threats: outdoor cats and shiny windows. Cats and window collisions kill nearly 3 billion birds in the U.S. every year. To help, consider keeping your cats inside this spring and treating your windows with bird-safe stickers, hanging ropes, or temporary paint.

If you have questions about window treatments, feel free to ask Katie for advice and resources!

Happy birding!

Friday Bird Walks Are Back!

May Arboretum Bird Walks returned in April! Kick off your weekends the right way -- looking high and low for beautiful birds! The walks are led by Arboretum Educator Katie Bird.

Katie studied wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, and she focused on ornithology. She has years of experience leading bird walks for kids and adults! Friday walks start @ 4pm. We meet at the Arboretum Office

We have a limited supply of binoculars to share, so be sure to bring your own if you have them!

Interesting Spots to Check Out

By Bev Treadway

It's springtime in the Sierra Nevada. While our high desert community can seem to be either snow covered or dry and dormant, in actuality, life below the surface is teaming with native plants waiting to burst forth.

This time of year our native plants put on an amazing display of colors and textures. If you take a walk through the Native Garden, you might be able to catch our **desert peach** (*Prunus andersonii*) on display with its tiny pink blooms. The bees love the fragrance and its one of the first plants they visit in the spring. The **Mormon tea** plant (*Ephedra veridis*), with its tiny yellow flowers, produce small cones later in the summer.

In the MacDonald Rock Garden just around the corner, you'll be treated to a constant and unfolding display from **sedums**, and **mountain mahogany** (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), to **donkey tail spurge** (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) and **apache plume** (*Fallugia*). Each week is a different, subtle show of the beauty of our area.

It's a wonderful spot to wander and get ideas about what plants will work in your garden at home, as well as being a gentle reminder of the quiet beauty in our area.

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!

Wilbur D. May
ARBORETUM

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno Nevada 89503 775-785-4153