



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

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Hi Everyone!

It's late fall and the change in the weather has brought some spectacular color to the Arboretum! Here's hoping that all this rain and snow that we are getting will continue for a bit. We sure need it!

In this issue we will introduce Rachel Dunn, our new AmeriCorps Arboretum Educator in our Meet the Staff article on page 4. Rachel has some great ideas for restarting and also creating new programs at the Arboretum.

Denise and Bill have volunteer and staff thank yous to share on page 2. And on page 3, there is a special article from Susan Mullen highlighting a local awards ceremony involving two of our volunteers.

With the Holidays fast approaching, we have some upcoming event announcements on page 5 including Art Angels and Toys for Tots at the Museum. Then we wrap up on page 8 with a visit to Hallo-Week, a brand new event at the Arboretum.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and keep checking the calendar on the website, as some events and programs get finalized in between issues.

Bev Treadway, Editor

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Volunteer's Corner

Recent Volunteer Accomplishments

By Bill Carlos and Denise Evans

We just can't reiterate enough how much our loyal volunteer force contributes to the overall upkeep and general beauty of the Arboretum. As a thank you, we'd like to highlight some of the accomplishments over the past few months:

- Magnificent displays of roses grace many gardens of the Arboretum, including Rose, Plaza and Honey's Garden, and tedious and meticulous work goes in to keeping the roses healthy and blooming. Dead heading old blooms, sealing cuts with wood glue, seasonal feeding, and keeping the bugs and disease away is the handy work of our seasoned rose pruners.
- Volunteers have spent countless hours in Native, Rose and Kristen's garden over the years, spot watering every Tuesday and Thursday. Pruning, weeding and grooming trails has also kept these garden looking their best all season. The Arboretum wouldn't otherwise have the manpower to care for this one acre of plants that need constant care and attention without the help of volunteers.
- The Arboretum Seasonal staff is always grateful for volunteer help. Volunteers assisted Connie Osborn, lead gardener in Burke, Plaza and at the Museum entrance planting annuals, watering, pruning, and mulching beds. They also assisted Paula Starkey, lead gardener in the Labyrinth dead heading, weeding, and grooming trails. Others would assist Rod Dimmitt, seasonal worker and Bradon Franklin, Maintenance Worker I, removing suckers from trees and pruning trees at Lear Garden and along the paths of the slope
- In addition, there has been the ongoing effort of our volunteer, Jim, in removing noxious Siberian elms throughout the Arboretum and bordering areas.
- Volunteers also transplanted several hundred shade plants for the Arboretum and over 400 lavender plants for the May Arboretum Society plant sale.

Volunteers logging hours in September and October included Jim Alsup, Pat Leedy, Danny Carrasco, Becky Conrad, Rod Dimmitt, Darla Lee, Tonia Meyers, Chad Morris, Susan Mullen, Bev Treadway and Chris Veach for a total of almost 200 hours! That's like having an entire extra full time employee! We thank you all!



The Arboretum in full fall splendor. Thank you staff and volunteers!

Volunteer's Corner

Nevada Press Association Inducts Two Arboretum Volunteers into Their Hall of Fame!



By Susan Mullen

May Arboretum volunteer Lenita Powers, and Frank Mullen, husband of Arboretum volunteer Susan Mullen, were honored at the 2021 Nevada Press Association convention as two of the newest members of the NPA's Newspaper Hall of Fame. The convention was held in Reno on Sept. 17.

Lenita was honored for her 43 years as a reporter and editor at the Reno Gazette-Journal, and Frank for his 25 years at the RGJ.

Lenita began her career on the "women's page," but soon moved on to "hard" news, covering the courts, higher education, the state Legislature and K-12 education. She also worked as an assistant city editor and mentored numerous students from the University of Nevada, Reno Reynolds School of Journalism. During the 1990s, she wrote a popular weekly column.

Lenita became an arboretum volunteer in 2016, after her retirement from the newspaper.

Frank went to work for the RGJ in 1988, serving as an assistant city editor. After a few years, he returned to his first love of writing and reporting. As the paper's investigative reporter, he broke stories on the Fallon childhood cancer cluster, the abuse of research animals and dangerous doctors, among other topics.

He retired from the RGJ in 2013, but came out of retirement in 2020 to take over as editor of Reno News and Review on-line. His wife, Susan, became an arboretum volunteer in 2016.

Lenita and Susan both served on the board of directors of the May Arboretum Society from 2017 to 2019.

Note from Bev: Thank you Susan! I just wanted to add that Frank Mullen also presented an awesome **M.A.S. Virtual Learning Series Workshop** earlier this year, *In the Footsteps of the Donner Party*.

Meet the Staff: Rachel Dunn AmeriCorps Arboretum Educator

By Bev Treadway

Rachel Dunn comes to Reno from St. Louis, Mo. Where her family: mom, dad, and brother, resides. She went to the university in Carbondale, Illinois, where she earned a double major in Plant Biology and Horticulture.

Before becoming the AmeriCorps Arboretum Educator at the May Arboretum, Rachel worked on community programs with the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation as a nature educator, where she gained a great deal of experience with our local community programs and collaborating with various volunteer groups.

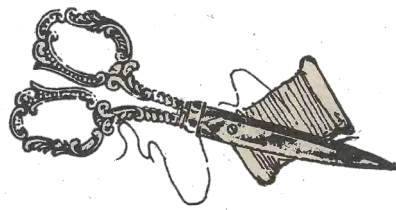
Rachel is currently working on restarting/ expanding the Little Sprouts toddler program, restarting the Cabin Fever program, and just did a Hallo-Week pumpkin hunt in the gardens. She would also like to round out our programs list with some events directed toward the teenagers in our community.

Rachel's favorite place in the Arboretum is up on the slope, in Lear Garden. She loves the view and the comforting feeling of being high up. She also loves balloon races, working with the community, and knowing that she is doing things that make a difference. She is also a whiz at quilting! Check out the quilted Plague Doctor mask she created in the picture below!

Please join me in welcoming Rachel Dunn to our Arboretum. If you wish to support or become involved with some of the above-mentioned programs, give Rachel a call at the Arboretum Office at 775-785-4153 or you can email her at rdunn@washoecounty.gov.



Above,; Rachel at the Arboretum office.



Right: Rachel, outfitted for Halloween in the multi-colored, quilted plague doctor mask and cape.





Upcoming Events

Toys For Tots at the May Museum!

The holiday season is upon us! Let's make sure every child has a gift to open this year. Through Sunday, December 12 the May Museum will collect NEW & UNWRAPPED toys for kids of all ages. The Reno chapter of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots will distribute them to children in need in our community.

*We cannot accept realistic-looking weapons or gifts with food.



Art Angels Holiday Workshop

Nov 27th, 9:30am-11:30am

This workshop is open to 50 children, ages 6-12. Students will be instructed on watercolor techniques and will complete 1-2 paintings, one of which will be matted and ready to frame. Plan to have fun and make a great holiday gift! **Reservations are required.**

Please call Nancy Podewils-Baba at 775-343-8100.

A Celebration of Color Art Show & Sale

Wed. Nov 3rd - Sun. Dec 5th

The Sierra Watercolor Society presents their winter show and sale. "A Celebration of Color" features dozens of new watercolor paintings of landscapes, portraits, animals, and other subjects. All paintings in the exhibition will be available for purchase. Visitors are also invited to vote for their favorite painting to win the coveted "People's Choice Award."

Admission is Free.

The Sierra Watercolor Society is a non-profit organization made up of artists in Northern Nevada and Eastern California. The group sponsors the Art Angels Project, which brings instructors and art supplies into elementary school classes free of charge.

For more information, please visit www.sierrawatercolorsociety.com.



"Stainless II" by Ronnie Rector"

Upcoming Events

MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY[®]
BE A PATRON
5TH ANNIVERSARY 11.28.21

20% off, Storewide! A free tote bag and pin while supplies last, Sunday, 11/28/21!

Wilbur D May Arboretum & Botanical Garden
LITTLE SPROUTS
Fall Series Ages 2-5
Tuesday Mornings 10 - 11
Join us for **A Squirrel Story**
November 09
November 16
November 23
November 30
Reservations Required!
Contact the Arboretum Educator @ 775-785-4153
Wilbur D. May ARBORETUM
WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA 1861

M.A.S. Virtual Learning Series Workshop



This workshop is presented by Laura Robertson

Location: Zoom video conferencing
Date: Tuesday, December 7
Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm (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.

You need to register for this event by December 7 at 3pm.

See the MAS website for details,

www.mayarboretumsociety.org/lectures--workshops.html



- ◆ **Nov– All month. Toy For Tots Donations Drop-Off at the Museum, Wed-Sun.**
- ◆ **Nov 3– Dec 5-Celebration of Color Art Show and Sale at the Museum. Wed-Sun.**
- ◆ **Nov 9,16,23,30 - Little Sprouts “A Squirrel Story.” 10am-11am.**
- ◆ **Nov 25-Happy Thanksgiving!**
- ◆ **Nov 27 - Art Angels at the Museum 9:30am-11:30am**
- ◆ **Nov 28 Museum Store Day 20% off!**

Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

November 2021

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				

December 2021

- ◆ **Dec 5-Last Day of the Celebration of Color Art Show and Sale.**
- ◆ **December 7-M.A.S. Virtual Learning Series: Explorers and Seekers of Nevada 5pm-6pm**
- ◆ **Through Dec 12-Toys For Tots Donation Drop Off continues, at the Museum.**
- ◆ **December 25 Christmas Day**

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	



Hallo-Week at the Arboretum

By Bev Treadway

This was a great event and I wanted to make sure we captured it somewhere in the newsletter. The community had such a great response to Summer Gnome Scavenger Hunt organized by our last AmeriCorps Educator, Laura Frazer, that when Rachel Dunn arrived on scene, she thought doing a Pumpkin Hunt would be a natural follow up event.

A table was set up at the South Entrance and pumpkins were hidden in the gardens. The participants got a map and instructions at the table and off they went, looking for pumpkins and collecting their letters to find the secret word. It was an all-ages event. Costumes were encouraged, because it was, after all Hallo-Week. It is always great to have more than one day to show off your garb!

Thank you to the AmeriCorps volunteers who helped with the pumpkin painting and some of the tabling duties.



Clockwise from above left, Rachel in costume at the tables with the help of AmeriCorps, two of my favorite amazingly painted pumpkins, and a sample "pumpkin hunter clue" sign.

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

