



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Sept-Oct 2022

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KRRV News 4 Photo

Autumn Changes / Our Last Connections Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

Yes, you read that right. This is my last Connections Newsletter. It's has been so much fun these past 4 years to publish this newsletter, but it's time for changes and new beginnings. I'll explain a little bit more about that on page 2.

This newsletter is a little shorter this month due to our summer events winding down. On page 3, Denise shares about the return of Volunteer Classes with us. Suzanne Morgan Williams, who graciously led the Writer's Workshop in July at the Ranch House, shares some thoughts and insights about the project on page 4.

The 2 month calendar is on page 5, but this time the upcoming Fall Events are highlighted on our back page, page 6.

Thank so much for your amazing support of the newsletter project! You are all awesome! It has been a real pleasure sharing all of the "doings" at our beloved Arboretum with you and being a part of it all.

Love, Bev Treadway, Editor
lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com

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Volunteer's Corner

Dear Volunteers,

In 2018, Denise Evans and Bill Carlos enthusiastically supported and said “okay!” to my request to compile a regular newsletter for the Arboretum volunteers. We were doing a lot of Good Nature walks and other programs at the time, and there were lots of volunteer opportunities, but the word wasn't quite getting around. There were two different websites and a few social pages that listed some Arboretum activities, but not everything was in one spot. I thought that a newsletter might be a fun way to gather it all together and share all of what was going on.

During these past years, we have celebrated new events like Dragon Lights, said goodbye to some dear friends, tried out more fun new programs, experimented with video walks and story times, and shared our life stories. And for me personally, the newsletter gave me some stability and focus during my cancer recovery. I feel like I have come to know so many of you as friends.

It has been a lot of fun and a great experience! I have learned so much and have developed some great relationships in the process. Bill and Denise's support was incredible.

But, as is the nature of all things, seasons change. There are so many new and exciting things in the works at the Arboretum: new leadership, new projects, new classes, new ideas, and a renewed enthusiasm. After some challenging times, it seems like the sun has finally come out and brought a beautiful breath of fresh air to our lives.

Things are changing for me, too. I'm feeling a strong need to spread my wings a little more and do something different. This just feels like the right time to make a change. While I will still be volunteering on various projects at the Arboretum, I need to make some room for the newer things that are coming my way. Letting go of the newsletter is one of those space making things.

Thank you all. Thank you for your friendship, kindness, laughter, and for each of you showing your special love of nature. You all see the Arboretum in you own unique and personal way. It has been a pleasure seeing things through your eyes.

Fondly, Bev



Volunteer's Corner

Arboretum Volunteer Training is Coming Back!

By Denise Evans

Luke Sorenson, the Arboretum's new horticulturist, will begin offering a training class for Arboretum volunteers each month. This will be an opportunity to welcome new volunteers, reconnect as a group, learn (or review) best practices, and do some hands on training. The first class will be offered on **Tuesday, October 11** starting at 8:30am in the Ranch House. This training will cover tree care, biology and identification, and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a few of their own small pruning tools such as shears and hand saws for practice together outside in the gardens. Denise will send out a reminder email and ask for RSVPs as it gets closer. We hope to see you there!



A note from Bev: Above are some picture snippets from past hands on horticultural classes. I love these classes! Not only do you get to brush up on your pruning skills, but they are great confidence boosters if you are a little shy about your gardening abilities. If you get a chance to attend, do it! You'll have a great time!

Check out the following links for Arboretum events and program updates!

[Rancho San Rafael Regional Park | Facebook](#)

[Wilbur D. May Center | Facebook](#)

[May Arboretum Society | Facebook](#)

www.mayarboretumsociety.org

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

M.A.S. and Nevada Arts Council Collaborate in a New ARTown

**Creativity in the Arboretum – It Comes Naturally
Our July Class for Older Writers in the Ranch House**

By Suzanne Morgan Williams

Gardening and writing both start with a seed that must be nurtured until it blooms. Both take faith and patience. It’s not surprising that a lot of writers are gardeners. So it was wonderful when the May Arboretum Society teamed up with Nevada Arts Council and Artown to host *It’s Natural, Grow Your Writing Skills in the May Arboretum*. The class, part of Nevada Arts Council’s Creative Aging initiative, met eight times in the Ranch House during July. Twenty-four older adults attended. I was lucky enough to be the instructor.

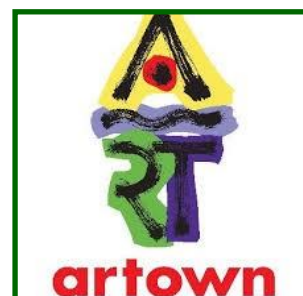
The Ranch House was a lovely place to meet but the Arboretum was the real inspiration. Each session included an assignment in the garden – What do you see, hear, smell? or Listen to visitors’ conversations – write some dialogue. Perhaps the most moving activity was silently walking the labyrinth as part of a plotting exercise. Class member Carol Cooke writes, “The arboretum, with its quiet nourishing atmosphere, was just what I needed to get those creative juices flowing.” I knew the Ranch House would be the perfect venue, but I had no idea how much the arboretum, which volunteers so lovingly nurture, would add to our experience.

Fran Muñoz, Rod Dimmitt, and the park staff were wonderful. They helped with whatever we needed. During our final celebration we held activities that were open to the public with an emphasis on art and writing for children. The Washoe County Library passed out fliers at their story time and about 30 children participated with their parents. Meanwhile, the writers held a reading for their families and guests in the Ranch House.

Many thanks to May Arboretum Society for all you did in July to make the class possible, and for what you do *everyday* to support the arboretum – a real Washoe County treasure.



A student writing with a little help from a friend!
Photo shared by Suzanne Morgan Williams



Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

September 2022



- ◆ September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Music in the Park A different performance each week on Friday from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- ◆ Sept 9 thru 11 Great Reno Balloon Race

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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October 2022

- ◆ October 8- 3rd Annual Fall Bulb Sale 10am-4pm
- ◆ October 11 Volunteer Training Class 8:30-10:30am
- ◆ October 31- Halloween



SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Upcoming Events



Music in the Park Series
5 Fridays in September
5:30pm-7:30pm
Each week, a new performance!



3rd Annual Fall Bulb Festival!
Oct 8, 2022 10:00am-4pm
47 Varieties of Dutch grown bulbs!
Amazing Artists and Craft Vendors!
Expert Gardening Advice!
Live Music and Food Trucks!

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!

