



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Jan-Feb 2020

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

Volume 3 Issue 1



Welcome 2020!

Brrrr, Winter has definitely settled into the Arboretum. We've had lots of snow covered days and it's still early in the season. The colder weather means things are slowing down in the gardens but still, there is a lot going on.

December was busy. Between the Tuba Christmas and the Gingerbread Festival, there was plenty of fun to be had. We have some highlights to share on pages 4 and 5. As well, we'll introduce you to Bradon Franklin in our "Meet the Staff" on page 6.

This issue also brings the beginning in a series of articles on all of the upgrades going on at the Arboretum. We saw a lot of construction in 2019 and there's more projects planned for this year. We're starting with a story about the new retaining wall on the trail to Herman's pond (pages 2 and 3). Then we get out of the cold for a trip inside the May Museum as our Interesting Spot (page 8).

Lastly, the Events Calendar looks a little lean right now. That's because we're in the planning stages for things to come in the Spring. So keep looking for updates.

Join me as we welcome in 2020, a new year and a new decade.

Thanks!

Bev Treadway, Editor

Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com

Inside this Issue:

Welcome Letter	1
Arboretum Updates	2 3
Tuba Christmas	4
Gingerbread Festival	5
Meet The Staff: Bradon Franklin	6
Update on Educational Programs	6
Schedule Of Events	7
Interesting Spots	8



Arboretum Updates

By Bev Treadway

The Retaining Wall on the Trail to Herman's Pond

This is the first in a series of articles about the current upgrades going on in the Arboretum. This past year there has been a lot of building at the Arboretum. We've seen piles of stone and big equipment in the parking lot, as well as path areas being temporarily blocked off. In the coming issues we look at where these projects are located and why they are happening.

We'll start with a huge project that was funded by the May Arboretum Society Endowment Fund at the cost of approximately \$53,000. It's a 300' retaining wall that runs along the north side of the Arboretum along the path that leads to Herman's Pond. It was completed in 2019 and is designed to match the other retaining walls throughout the Arboretum. This has been done so seamlessly that the first time I saw it, I did a double take. The wall blended in so well with the surrounding area, that I wasn't sure if it was new, or if it had always been there and I was just now noticing it.

The retaining wall is designed to eliminate runoff from both the turf irrigation and storm water. It will also protect the trail to the pond from erosion and keep pollutants out of the wetland area. This will also end the costly annual repairs to fix the damage to the trail. Bill Carlos has seen a noticeable difference in trail maintenance just in the short time since the project was completed.

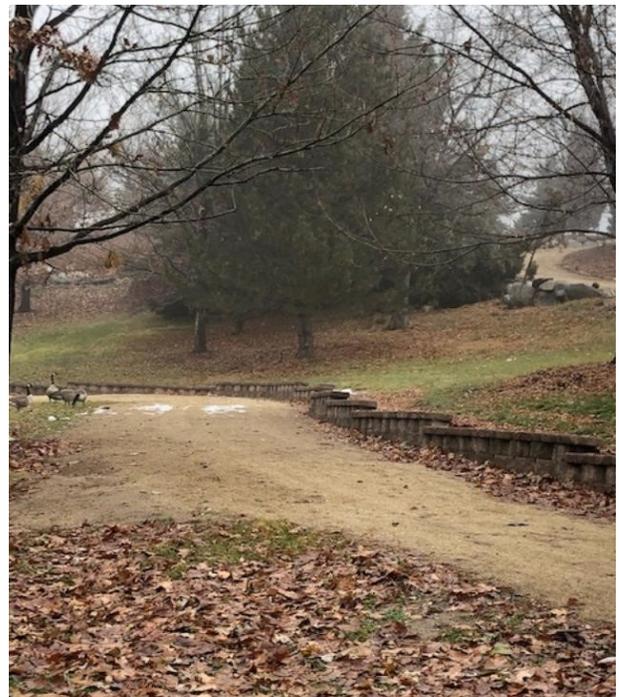
The retaining wall does all of this while looking beautiful at the same time. It's amazing how much of an impact one wall makes to so many areas: budget savings, man hours, and environment protection, to name just a few.

And remember, these projects come about through all of your help. Maybe you are a May Arboretum Society member and attend craft workshops, work the plant sale, or buy something at the auction. Maybe you volunteer in the garden each Tuesday or Thursday to prune and pull weeds, or plant seedlings in the greenhouse, freeing up staff man hours that can be used somewhere else. Or maybe you are a docent and help with the various education programs to inspire the public to learn more about the Arboretum. All of these efforts help to make these upgrades possible!



Trail retaining wall project during construction.

Arboretum Updates (photos cont.)



Views of the new retaining wall, looking both east and west along the trail to Herman's Pond.

(Photos taken by Bill Carlos)

A Tuba Christmas

The Big Brass Came Out to the May Museum for A Tuba Christmas.

One of the fun things that happens each holiday season is the Tuba Christmas at the May Museum. This year's event on December 7th was packed with entertainment. If you've never gone to a tuba concert, you've missed a real treat. Along with the tubas, comes a selection of bassoons, baritone horns, and euphoniums. The combination of instruments created a truly festive sound. The concert blended sing-along caroling with the holiday instrumentals. There were also song sheets available to help you navigate the often forgotten 2nd and 3rd verses of the old favorites.

Delicious treats were on hand to go along with the beautiful music: hot cocoa, coffee, cookies, and popcorn. It was a perfect start to the holiday season.



Sights and sounds from December 7th's Tuba Christmas at the May Museum

Calling All Artists, Writers, Photographers and Idea Makers!



Are there any stories, photos, poems, or events you would like to see mentioned in our newsletter?

If so, we would love to hear from you. We are always looking for input, or newsletter ideas, as well as stories about your experiences at the Arboretum.

If there is some thing you'd like to share; here are the deadlines for the March/ April 2020 Issue:

Idea Submission Date: **February 1, 2020.**

Article / Event / Photo Submission to Print Date: **February 15, 2020.**

Please Contact Bev Treadway at Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com for details.

5th Annual Gingerbread Festival

There is always so much to do at the Gingerbread Festival and this year was no exception. This year's event was held on December 14th in the May Museum complex adjacent to the Arboretum. Along with the beautiful and inspiring creations on display, crafters could create a mini gingerbread house to take home with them. There were fun gingerbread photo ops and Santa was there waiting to hear everyone's Christmas wish. Local choirs were on hand and performed for the visitors. And of course, there were holiday munchies galore for festival goers to snack on.

The event was sponsored by the May Arboretum Society and the proceeds help to fund projects in the Arboretum. This is one of their most popular events. And from the smiling faces you see below, you can see just why!



Gingerbread Festival Fun! (pictures courtesy of Denise Evans)

Meet the Staff: Bradon Franklin

Say Hello to Bradon Franklin!

Bradon grew up in the Lake Tahoe area and is a graduate from UNR, with a majors in both geology and information technology. He is also a certified arborist.

Bradon worked in the Washoe County park system for 16 years, serving at all of the various county parks located between the Truckee River to Bower's Mansion. He's been with the Arboretum now, as a permanent staff member, for 3 years.

While Bradon's specialty is irrigation, he loves the interesting variety of tasks at the Arboretum. "It's not just trees and turf."

Most days you'll find him in the Nevada Farms and Families area or out on the slope. His tasks take him to the less traveled areas of the park.

Bradon is the go to guy for animal sightings. If you are looking to spot unique wildlife, such as bobcats and coyotes in the park to photograph or quietly watch, Bradon can tell you some great places to start your search.



We have a new Arboretum Educator!

I'm sure you all have noticed that there have been a few less educational programs going on at the Arboretum recently and that our events calendar is looking a little sparse.

These important programs are supported through the efforts of the Arboretum volunteers and the AmeriCorps Educator. The educator internship is a 10 month position. This means there is a little bit of a lag time in between interns, usually a month or so. This year, it's taken a little longer to find just the right person to fill the bill. But she's been found—please welcome Nichole Tracey! We will interview her in the next issue.

The plan is get some of our programs back in operation as early as January 2020. Since the programs and their dates are not yet defined at this issue's printing, they aren't in our events calendar. The programs, their dates, and times will be listed on the Arboretum web pages at the Washoe County website, as soon as they become available.

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

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the programs you see on the website, you can call the Arboretum office at 775-785-4153.



Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

January 2020

- ◆ **January 1** - New Year's Day
- ◆ **January 20** - Martin Luther King 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	

February 2020

- ◆ **Feb 14** - Valentine's Day
- ◆ **February 15** - Animation Academy Exhibit at the May Museum through May 10
- ◆ **February 17** - Presidents' Day



SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SAT
						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

Interesting Spots to Check Out

By Bev Treadway

The May Museum

Looking for an indoor activity this winter? Visiting the May Museum is a fun trip to do. Even if you've been there before, it's a great way to reconnect and remember the man behind the Arboretum.

The museum has a fantastic permanent exhibit on the life of Wilbur D. May. While he was known as a big game hunter, it was only one of a vast array of interests. Wilbur was a world traveler, a horse breeder, a chef, an ambulance driver in World War 1, a pilot, a painter, a songwriter, a philanthropist and much more. He was constantly exploring new horizons; the world fascinated him.

Wilbur was one of the heirs to the May Department Store fortune, but he increased his wealth by his knack for finding a good investment and sheer luck. Just one example is how he sold all of his securities and bought government bonds for a trip to Africa just before the stock market crash of 1929, saving and then increasing his fortune in the coming years.

Wilbur loved this area and his home was the Double Diamond Ranch in South Reno. It's through his planning and foresight, that both the May Museum and Arboretum are a part of the educational legacy of our city.



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

