



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

ARBORETUM CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

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Thank You Volunteers and Staff!

With the Holidays fast approaching, the feeling of celebration is in the air. Our activities are geared toward sharing time with families and friends. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness and memories.

We are sending out our heartfelt thanks to you, the staff and volunteers of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Without you and all of your efforts, the Arboretum would not be the very special place it is today. Each of you make a difference. Thank you!

In this expanded issue we'll cover upcoming celebrations and fun happenings at both the Arboretum and May Museum. There is a Steampunk Expo and Ball, a Fairy Garden Workshop, Christmas Tuba Music, and the May Society's 11th Annual Gingerbread Festival. We'll also talk about some of the joint volunteering efforts at the park.

Lastly, and sadly, we take the time to say goodbye to Sharon Larson. She was a long standing Arboretum volunteer who touched the hearts of many with her love of the gardens and her quirky sense of humor. Join us in remembering her.



Thank you;
Bev Treadway, Editor

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Volunteer's Corner

By Denise Evans

SO VERY THANKFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

In the spirit of thanksgiving, I am unbelievably grateful for each and every person who is a part of our Arboretum family. That includes YOU! Yes, if you are reading this newsletter, you are helping to foster a community that cares about the Wilbur D. May Arboretum – and we appreciate you for it.

I'd like to extend an extra special THANK YOU, to the following volunteers who have already graciously given over 20 hours of their time this year to the Arboretum through an education, gardening, or May Arboretum Society capacity:

Natalie Allen, Susan Campau, Lynn Bethel, Danny Carrasco, Becky Conrad, Rod Dimmitt, Jana Dunn, Linda Good, Mary Gonzales, Forest Goggin, Kass Kirkham, Darla Lee, Pat Leedy, Susan Lester, Nancy Miller, Katie Mitchell, Susan Moreno, Susan Mullen, Victoria Nilson, Lenita Powers, Laura Robertson, Alora Stickley, Bev Treadway, Angela Turner, Chris Veach, Kim Zuch

If you have some hours you haven't yet reported, it's not too late, please just shoot me an email and I'll add them to your spreadsheet. Thank you!



THERE'S A GOOD REASON THEY CALL IT "FALL"!

Autumn has definitely made an appearance, and unfortunately those gorgeous leaves are already beginning to fall. So volunteers, start warming up your raking arms because that promises to be a standing item on the project list for the next few months! Please feel free to tackle any pathways, ditches, or small turf areas such as Plaza, Honey's and Burke Garden. You can leave the bags of leaves anywhere that is accessible by cart. Our staff will handle the rest. We appreciate the help!



One of the Arboretum's park benches in it's autumn glory, courtesy of Mother Nature.

Volunteer's Corner

Recent Events

By Bev Treadway

Art from the Earth

Wow! We had so many great volunteer events this year! Some of my favorite times were when we joined with other groups to make something special happen.

Our most recent joint event was Art from the Earth on September 28th, which had not only our own Arboretum volunteers, but also May Arboretum Society members, and college students from the Sanford Center for the Aging. We had a good turn out of visitors on a very blustery day. We created sun photos, made floral crowns, and dyed bandanas with crushed flowers. There were also guided tours and some great sharing times over coffee and tea. We look forward to getting together again!



A few of the Art from the Earth volunteer group



Flower Print Samples

Art & Nature

The May Arboretum Society's 5th Annual Art & Nature event happened on September 22. Artists, vendors, crafters and performers gathered with volunteers at Kleiner Grove to create a magical experience for visitors to the park. There were beautiful scarves, wood turned bowls, one of a kind jewelry and a silent auction. Honey's Garden hosted folk, jazz, and pop music. What a beautiful way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



Some of the amazingly creative artisans at this year's Art in the Garden Event

Volunteer's Corner

Remembering Sharon Larson



By Bill Carlos

It is with a heavy heart to announce that a long term volunteer Arboretum gardener has passed away. Sharon Larson, who began volunteering here in May of 2011, lost her battle to cancer last month. This is truly sad and we will all miss her. I always enjoyed my visits and conversations with Sharon, they were always enjoyable and as many of you know, would take us by surprise! Sharon had a distinctive dry sense of humor that would always make us think first, then laugh. To honor her, the May Arboretum will be holding a special memorial in the Labyrinth Garden in November. Sharon spent many volunteer hours there. After a brief observance we will serve refreshments in the arboretum office. Denise will keep everyone posted on the exact date and time and everyone is invited.

Meet the Staff: The Seasonal Crew

It's the end of the regular gardening season at the May Arboretum. Thanks to MAS, the Arboretum is able to keep on two of their seasonal crew through the winter to get a jump start on spring chores. But while the whole staff is here, we thought we would take a moment to recognize them and say "Thank you so much for your hard work!"



Susan Moreno -

Susan is originally from Mexico. Her family moved to Reno when she was younger looking for new opportunities. Susan is trained as a Medical Assistant and always has a bright smile on her face. She can usually be found in the native and conifer garden area making things beautiful.



Rod Dimmett

Rod lives in Carson City with his wife. He retired 5 years ago. And after a year of working at home on his "honey do" list, Rod made his way over to the Arboretum. He has been a part-time seasonal worker for the last 4 years. Rod is also Treasurer of the May Arboretum Society and is passionate about succulents and cactus gardens. He has a goal to help the Arboretum develop a Native Nevada Succulent area in the coming years.



Volunteer's Corner

Meet the Staff: The Seasonal Crew (cont.)



Paula Starkey-

Paula is from Lake County, Ca. and is widely experienced in the green industry. She is a former groundskeeper for USF and loves working outdoors. Paula is passionate about the care and upkeep of the Arboretum, and enjoys learning new skills. She, along with Terry will continue working through the winter months.



Terry Martin -

Terry is a graduate of UNLV and worked in the carpet laying business for 37 years. 5 years ago he was a seasonal at the Arboretum but went back to the carpet business when his tour ended. He retired earlier this year and gladly returned to the park as a seasonal crew member.

Terry says he loves the people at the Arboretum and finds it a relaxing place to work. He's learned a lot and the staff has been patient with helping him learn new things. He enjoys making things more beautiful, especially the mulched tree well project going on throughout the gardens.



Connie Osburn -

We did an in depth interview with Connie in our Sept / Oct newsletter. But we can't talk about the seasonal workers without mentioning her name and saying thanks!



Arboretum Project Updates



New Retaining wall at Evans Creek Bridge

As you all know, there is a lot of work that goes into maintaining the Arboretum. And with a very small full-time staff, it can be a challenge just to handle the day to day irrigation, lawn cutting, and raking. This is where our gardening volunteers help to make a huge impact.

But along with the regular landscaping come the need to make repairs and do upgrades to the park. Keeping up with them is a challenge and comes at a cost.

I'm sure you've noticed a lot of reworking of the gardens. There has been new hardscape, repaired steps, new planters and the like. Thanks to the support from the May Arboretum Society, the May Foundation, gifts, donations, and special events, the staff and various contractors have been making repairs and upgrades to the Arboretum. In the coming issues, we'll take some time to talk about all of changes that have been going on in the gardens and about what future plans are in store.



New Bridge in the Nevada Farms and Families Area Built by Boy Scout Troop 616

We have volunteers from all over the county. And although the Nevada Farms and Families Area (formerly the Great Basin Adventure Park), is just outside the Arboretum perimeter, I thought I'd highlight a project that inspired me. Josh is a young man who wanted to earn his Eagle Scout status before his 14th birthday. He knew about a project a fellow scout had worked on (the fenced in tractor display) the year before. He picked a project (the covered bridge just north of the tractor display) that the park wanted done and organized his troop into a work crew to get it completed. When I came by, Josh and his family were painting and putting the finishing touches on the bridge. Josh will have his Eagle Scout status when he is 13, a year earlier than he planned!



Josh and his family painting the newly built covered bridge in the Nevada Farms and Families Area.



Holiday Happenings At the May Museum

A Tuba Christmas May Museum December 7, 2019 3pm-4pm



Immerse yourself in the sounds of the season at the Wilbur D. May Museum's annual Tuba Christmas Concert! This free, family-friendly event features holiday carols arranged in four-part harmony and performed by local tuba, baritone, and euphonium players. The Wilbur May Museum will have festive decorations on display and offer free admission all day long. Hot cocoa, cider, and cookies will also be available for purchase. There are more than 250 Tuba Christmas performances scheduled this year around the world, but this is the only event in Northern Nevada!

All area tuba, baritone, and euphonium players are invited to participate in the Tuba Christmas Concert. Musician registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and musician rehearsal begins at 1:00 p.m. The participant registration fee is \$10.00.



Winter in Wonderland Steampunk Ball and Expo

Come Join the Fun!

November 16th and 17th 2019 High Desert Steam Presents the Steampunk Expo and Ball — Winter in Wonderland at the Wilbur D. May Center Museum and Ranch House in Reno, Nevada!

Whether you make a fetching Alice, a mischievous Cheshire Cat or a very late Rabbit, you will fit right in at the Winter in Wonderland Expo and Ball. Saturday and Sunday Expo full of workshops, panels, music, dancing, authors, actors, art, vendors and more.

Some of the highlighted events:

Wonderland: An Epic Experience

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party (separate ticket required)

Tea Dueling with Vivian Dare in the March Hare's Tea House

Board Game Room sponsored by the Glass Die

Sacramento Steampunk Society Bobbies

Featured Artist and winner of 2019 Reno Art Fest Judges Choice Andrea Kitchen

See their website for more details

<http://highdesertsteam.com/>



Seasonal Fairy Garden Workshop



Spread your fairy wings and create your own enchanting miniature garden to attract the elusive wee folk.

During this introductory workshops you will learn how to make a container fairy garden including design, proper placement and the planting of plants, and using alternative materials to create water and pathways. Learn how to add items to make your garden fit the season.

This hands-on workshop is ideal for adults, youth, and children with an adult helper.

Date: Wednesday, Nov 13, 2019

Location: Ranch House

Time: 6:00pm to 7:30pm ** Doors will open at 5:30pm

Fee: \$35 May Arboretum Society Members
\$45 General Public

Space is limited. Preregistration is required
<https://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/presentations--workshops.html>



11th Annual Gingerbread Competition and Festival - Saturday, December 14th



The entry deadline is Dec. 9th and the entry fee is \$10.00

Check the MAS website for detail and entry rules

<https://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/events.html>

Don't miss this Holiday Tradition!

This is a holly, jolly fun event for those young and old. Listen and sing along with local choral groups and musicians to get into the holiday spirit.

Enjoy a unique display of gingerbread houses and other creations and vote for your favorite as "People's Choice."

Visit with Santa Claus and share your holiday wishes!

Children may create their own gingerbread house to take home (\$5.00 fee). Unique holiday gifts and holiday fairy garden accessories will be available on Wilbur's Garden Cart.

Location: May Museum

Time: 12:00pm to 4:00pm



Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

November 2019

- ◆ **November 13** - MAS Fairy Garden Workshop 6-7:30pm. Ranch house.
- ◆ **November 16 / 17**- Steampunk Winter in Wonderland Expo and Ball at the May Museum and Ranch House
- ◆ **November 28** - Thanksgiving



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December 2019

- ◆ **December 7**- A Tuba Christmas 3p-4p at the May Museum Free to the public
- ◆ **December 9** - Deadline for entries for Gingerbread Festival. See the MAS website for details.
- ◆ **December 14** - 11th Annual Gingerbread Festival 12-4pm at the May Museum.
- ◆ **December 25** - Christmas



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Bobcats, Cottontails, and Coyotes, Oh My!

By Bev Treadway



Large Bobcat (Photo By CHSP Interpretive Assn)

One of the wonderful things about our amazing Arboretum is the variety of wildlife it attracts. Recently, everything from bobcats and coyotes to our usual mallards, Canada geese, coots, and cottontails have been spotted in the park. Our microecosystem is bulging with life.

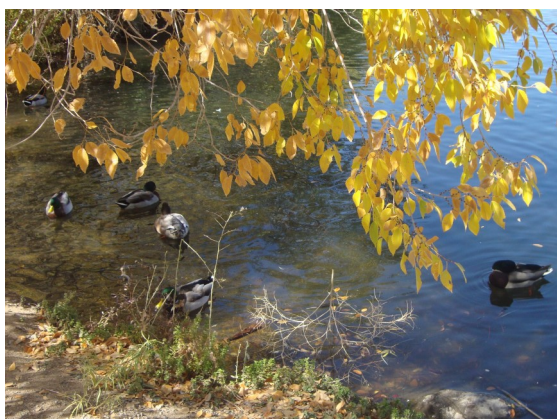
But what should we do when we cross paths with our wild friends? How do we keep ourselves safe, while enjoying the experience of seeing nature in action?

Most often the animal will know you are there, before you see them. They will tend to avoid humans, so it's best to just quietly watch at a distance, enjoy the interaction and then walk away. Never closely approach a wild animal, they can be unpredictable when they feel threatened. Even the most docile creatures will defend themselves if they feel unsafe.

Likewise, if you find baby birds on the ground, an injured animal in the bushes, or baby bunnies in the grass, please leave them where they are. Chances are the parents are around watching at a distance and nature will take its course. While it's instinctive for us to want to "rescue" them, especially the babies, they are better off on their own.

If you do see an animal in obvious danger or have a concern, the best way to help is to notify the park rangers for assistance and they will handle the situation from there.

The Arboretum is a great place to safely watch Nature unfold. Pick a spot, bring your camera and your binoculars and enjoy the show.



Mallards, relaxing at Herman's Pond

Calling All 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 January / February 2020 Issue:

Idea Submission Date: **November 29, 2019**

Article / Event / Photo Submission to Print Date: **December 9, 2019**

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

Interesting Spots to Check Out

By Bev Treadway

The Slope

The slope is the north end of the Arboretum that stretches along the hill from Lear Garden on the west end to the May Grove on the east. It's a beautiful area, with several gardens tucked into the hillside. It's a bit of a hike, though, which means there is a lot less foot traffic than you would find in the main Arboretum gardens.

The views from the slope are spectacular and the fall mornings are crisp and quiet. The lack of heavy foot traffic means less noise, less people, and more animal activity.

According to staff member Bradon Franklin, one of the best places to watch the wildlife in the Arboretum is early morning on the slope. He has seen a large male bobcat, a female bobcat and her kits, and a few coyotes, as well. They keep well hidden most of the time, but if you look hard enough you may find them.

So, if you are feeling adventurous, grab your binoculars, a thermos of coffee, and head for the slope to watch nature in action



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!

