



Horticulture Training for Arboretum Volunteers

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park • Ranch House • 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno
February 23 – March 15, 2016 • Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays

Learn everything you need to know – and more – to become a volunteer at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden! This series of classes will expand your gardening knowledge with invaluable information specific to our high elevation Great Basin environment. Garden tours, demonstration, and opportunities to practice what you've learned are included. Please notice that topics and speakers are subject to change without notice. Space is limited to 30 participants, so reserve your seat today!

WEEK #1

Tues. 2/23, 9:00am-12:00pm: Introduction & Arboretum History/Tour

Washoe County Parks Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Evans, will give an overview of available volunteer positions and the most common Arboretum volunteer tasks. Bill Carlos, Washoe County Horticulturist, will give a presentation on how the Arboretum was established, followed by a one hour tour of the gardens. (Weather permitting)

Wed. 2/24, 9:00am-11:30am: Botany for Gardeners

Nathan Daniel, M.S., Executive Director, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, will give an introduction to plant taxonomy and botany. Key concepts such as classification, floral anatomy, tree anatomy, plant key and a discussion on native plants will be included.

Thurs. 2/25, 9:00am-11:30am: Nevada Soils

Bill Carlos, Washoe County Horticulturist, will present an overview of soil, water and plant relationships. Learn about local soil problems such as high salts, high soil pH and how to correct them. A presentation will also be given on improving the soil using organic material.

WEEK #2

Tues. 3/1, 9:00am-11:30am: Planting & Maintaining Plants in the Arboretum

Bill Carlos, Washoe County Horticulturist, will review details of deadheading, watering, weeding and general tasks of the Arboretum. Additional topics include choosing the right plant for the right place, hardiness zones, proper planting techniques, and plant collection and accession policy procedures.

Wed. 3/2, 9:00am-11:30am: Plant Disease Identification & Disorders

Leslie Lyles, M.S., Horticultural Consultant and ISA Certified Arborist, will discuss local plant diseases including identification and controls.

Thurs. 3/3, 9:00am-11:30am: Plant Insect Identification and Control

Jeff Knight, State Entomologist, Nevada Department of Agriculture will discuss insects that feed on ornamental trees, shrubs and vines and their controls.

WEEK #3

Tues. 3/8, 9:00am-11:30am: Plant Nutrition & Fertilizers

Heidi A. Kratsch, PhD, CH Horticulture Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, will focus on plant nutrients for our local climate and soil conditions. Mineral and nutrient deficiencies will be discussed as well as the correct use of organic and inorganic fertilizers.

Optional Pruning Modules

Learn when to prune, proper pruning techniques, use of proper tools, safety, and proper pruning cuts. Demonstration and group practice included.

- Wed. 3/9, 9:00am-12:00pm – **Proper Tree Pruning Techniques** with Phil Brazier, Horticulture Assistant and ISA Certified Arborist
- Wed. 3/9, 1:00pm-3:00pm – **Proper Rose Care & Pruning Techniques** with an industry professional
- Thurs. 3/10, 9:00am-12:00pm – **Proper Perennial Pruning Techniques** with Arboretum staff

Optional Docent and Docent Assistant/Usher Module

- Thurs. 3/10, 1:00pm-3:00pm – **Becoming the Best Tour Guide** with Bill Carlos, Washoe County Horticulturist. Learn various presentation techniques for conducting tours to children and adults.

WEEK #4

Tues. 3/15, 10:00am-1:00pm – End of Class Celebration & Group Project Day!

Receive a certificate of completion, participate in a volunteer project as a group, and celebrate with a potluck luncheon.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

1. \$25 for the series and a 25 hour volunteer requirement to be fulfilled in 2016
2. \$75 for the series with no volunteer requirement
3. A la cart - \$15 per class, subject to availability

Fees include class materials and light refreshments. Checks can be made payable to the "May Arboretum", and sent to Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Evans at 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503. We are unable to accept payment by credit card.

**Contact Volunteer Coordinator Denise Evans at
devans@washoecounty.us or (775) 785-4512 x107 to register!**