



CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

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Hello Everyone,

It's been a challenging summer, with all the fires and heavy smoke. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for Fall. A lot of plans had to be curtailed due to air quality in the valley. But, we soldiered on as best we could.

We have wrapped up our Gnome Scavenger Hunt Activities for the season; and so we have some pictures and thoughts on page 2. We celebrate the efforts of our hard-working gardeners – both Staff and Volunteers, with an Arboretum pictorial on pages 3-5.

On page 6 we have Arboretum updates and hints about more projects to come from Bill Carlos. Then highlight some fun events for September and October on pages 7-9. **Lastly, we will visit Kleiner's Oak Grove, for our Interesting Spot, on page 10.**

Take care, and enjoy the coming cooler days.

Bev Treadway, Editor

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Volunteer's Corner

COVID UPDATE: Please note that face coverings are required when inside any Washoe County facility. This includes the Arboretum Office, Ranger Station, Information Center, Ranch House, and all bathrooms.

Volunteering with the Gnomes!

By Bev Treadway

August was the last month for the Great Summer Gnome Scavenger Hunt. I think it was a great success. Jana Dunn, Kass Kirkham and I got to experience firsthand, the excitement of families on the hunt for the magic little creatures hiding throughout the Arboretum. Children would come running back with their paperwork and tell us of their adventures: which gnome was their favorite, where it was hiding, and what its name was. We also gave directions and chatted with passers-by as well as just enjoyed the mornings.

Those gnomes are a little tricky and would occasionally inspire someone to move a sign to make the kids look harder to find them. We also had to cancel some tabling days due to the smoky air.

When I asked Jana and Kass why they volunteered to distribute prizes and gnome maps, they both echoed similar thoughts. They have missed our education programs and they love inspiring people to see nature in different ways.

I am so glad I signed up to help with this, as it was so much fun! I can't wait to do it again next year.



These great photos were taken by Jana Dunn during the June Gnome painting party. The Volunteers were so creative and did a great job! Jana's painted gnome is wearing the red hat and holding the Wilbur D May Double Diamond sign.

Volunteer's Corner

Gardening Shout-Outs

By Bev Treadway

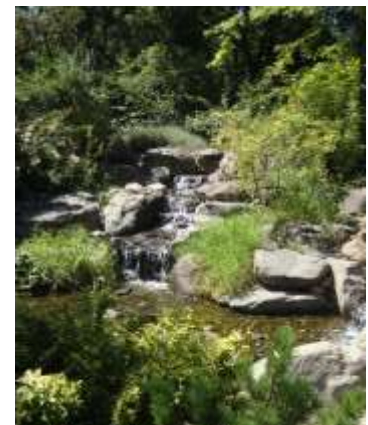
Thank you gardening Staff and Volunteers for all you do! The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden looks amazing! With the summer season winding down, we felt it was time to personally recognize all of you wonderful folks!

Staff: Summer Seasonal workers - Connie Osborn, Rod Dimmitt, Marcel Sarfati; full time seasonals throughout the summer and winter are Paula Starkey and Todd Kidder. Washoe County full time staff include Phil Brazier, Horticultural Assistant and Bradon Franklin.

Contributing May Arboretum Gardening Volunteers this summer: Pat Behal-Leedy, Susan Campau, Danny Carrasco, Becky Conrad, Rod Dimmitt, Darla Lee, Tonia Meyers, Susan Mullen, Tina Nappe, Chris Veach.

And to celebrate the hard work, let's take a trip through the gardens and enjoy this gem in the heart of Reno.

Honey's Garden



A visit to Honey's Garden takes us (clockwise from the top left) over the bridge, across the new pavers to the triple falls water feature. It's a truly spectacular sight, surrounded by white roses and the Arboretum's green house grown yellow marigolds. Rounding out the garden on the other side, is a stand of white butterfly bushes.

Volunteer's Corner

Gardening Shout Outs (cont.)

Evans Creek Bridge

The bridge across Evans Creek is even more hauntingly beautiful now that so much of that invasive teasel has been removed by our Volunteers.



Evans Creek Bridge view facing Northeast.



The bridge looking towards the Northwest.

Rose Garden

Lots of tending and deadheading, makes for beautiful blooms in the Rose Garden.



Just a few of the many examples of exquisitely colored roses to be found at the Rose Garden.

Volunteer's Corner

Volunteer Shout Outs (cont.)

Dixie's Plaza Garden

Dixie's Plaza Garden is a gentle welcome to visitors entering the Arboretum from the Southwest gate.



Above: Looking west into Dixie's Plaza Garden.

Right: This new low flow fountain which replaces the blossom fountain that was damaged last year.



Labyrinth Garden

Keeping the winding path of meditation stones in the Labyrinth weed free is no easy feat. It always looks lovely when I walk the path for some head clearing time. The well tended plantings that encircle the garden add to the quietness and privacy.



Above: A garden within a garden by the Labyrinth path, full of coneflower, marigolds, sweet allysum, and some caryopteris.



Left: Flourishing Joe Pye weed in the Labyrinth surround. Above: black-eyed Susan on east side of the Labyrinth walkway.

Thank You Staff and Volunteers!

May Arboretum Upgrades

Honey's Garden Paver Project

By Bill Carlos

Washoe County funded repairs to Honey's Garden pavers as tree roots were lifting them up and causing trip hazards. Now level, it makes it safer to walk around the water feature and around the garden. Many thanks go to our Park Operation Superintendent for approving this project. Along with this upgrade, more will come to this garden later in the fall. The May Arboretum Society accepted the horticulturist proposal to fund replacing the retaining walls that surround the rose garden and above it. The natural rock walls have been failing and need to be replaced. In addition, the May Arboretum Society approved another horticulturist proposal to restore the small stream and banks that run under the bridge as you enter the garden. There are also future plans to build another retaining wall, planter, steps and bench above the water feature. Stay tuned!



Above and right: The Honey's Garden paving projects in progress.

Newly Installed Tribute Bench Honoring Dr. and Mrs. Ed Kleiner

By Bev Treadway

There is a new addition to the Arboretum, just before you cross the Evans Creek Bridge. It is a new tribute bench honoring our Arboretum founder, former director, Plant Conservationist and Botanist, Dr. Ed Kleiner, and his wife Edna. The new bench is nearly complete and has a lovely view of Kleiner Oak Grove.

Dr. Kleiner is still very active in the community, is an engaging speaker, and has led some of our many nature walks.



Above: Awaiting a few finishing touches, the tribute bench for Dr. Ed and Mrs. Edna Kleiner stands near the Evans Creek Bridge entrance.

Upcoming Events

The Great Reno Balloon Race Sept 10-12, 2021

The mission of The Great Reno Balloon Race is to provide a premier, safe, family-oriented/tourist-attractive, visually dramatic event that celebrates the joy of flight while remaining free to the public.

The Great Reno Balloon Race is the world's largest free hot-air ballooning event. During four days in early September, you can look up into the Reno skies and see a rainbow of hot air balloons soaring about. From its humble beginnings in 1982 with just 20 balloons, The Great Reno Balloon Race has taken flight with up to 100 balloons each year. The idea was to create an event that would keep visitors in town the weekend between the State Fair and the Reno Air Races and 39 years later, it is known as world-renowned, and locally, a beloved community tradition.



Taking place just a few miles north of downtown Reno at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the event enchants both young and old with its vibrant colors and inspiring music. The Great Reno Balloon Race has won many awards over the years, including **'Best Special Event in Reno'** and **'Best Special Event in Northern Nevada.'** With an average of 120,000 spectators attending the event each year, the number of lives touched by the beautiful spectacle continues to rise just like the balloons themselves.

Museum Free Admission Day At the May Museum

Museum Day

Sat Sep 18th 10:00am - 4:00pm



Smithsonian magazine
museum day™

Museum Day is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide FREE entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. The Museum Day ticket provides FREE admission for two people on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

The May Museum is a participating institution. Tickets will be available to download starting August 18. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/search/>

Upcoming Arboretum Events

M.A.S. Presents Music in the Garden

The May Arboretum Society presents two separate evening music events **in Kleiner's Grove, during the month of September. These performances** are free to the public. You bring your picnic snack, and they supply the music.



Saturday, September 11, 2021 5:30-7:30pm

Listen to talented pianists Jeff DePaoli and Gordon and Nolan Hopkins, who will be playing classical pop selections and a few duets in between.

Friday, September 24, 2021 6:00-7:00pm

Reed Chamberlin brings the Wind Symphony to you for this very special appearance. A Wind Symphony is a musical performance group made up of instruments from the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of musical instruments. They will be playing classical and pop selections and maybe a few show tunes.



Fall Bulb Festival, Saturday, Oct. 9th & Sunday, Oct. 10th

Enjoy autumn at the Arboretum, while planning for a blooming spring garden!

Join us in Saint Patrick's Grove for the Fall Bulb Festival!
More than 10,000 spring bulbs — 380 different varieties for sale!

TULIPS, DAFFODILS, CROCUS, HYACINTH, ONION, GARLIC, PEONY BULBS, AND MORE...
ONLINE PRESALE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1st

Whether you want to add a few spring bulbs to your current landscape or you want to plant an entire blooming spring garden, this event will have everything you need. Garden professionals will be on hand to answer questions and offer bulb planting demos.



Visit with Local Artisans!
Shop for seasonal fairy garden supplies and fall décor, including mini succulent pumpkins from Wilbur's Garden Cart.

At the Fall Bulb Festival, we will be following the latest guidelines to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

September 2021

- ◆ Sept 10-12 Great Reno Balloon Race
- ◆ Sept 11 Music in the Garden 5:30-7:30
- ◆ Sept 18 Museum Free Day at the May Museum 10am-4pm
- ◆ Sept 24 Music in the Garden 6-7pm



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October 2021

- ◆ October 9-10 MAS Fall Bulb Sale 9am-4pm
- ◆ Oct 29 Nevada Day (Observed)
- ◆ Oct 31 Halloween



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| 31 | | | | | | |

Interesting Spot: Keiner's Oak Grove

By Bev Treadway

Kleiner's Oak Grove is a truly special place. I think sometimes we rush through it, on our way to the Evans Creek bridge or Honey's Garden, and in doing so, miss its subtle serenity and welcoming branches.

Stop for a moment and take a slower, more mindful step into Kleiner's Oak Grove. Look up. The tree canopy stretches the length of the whole grove. The branches reach up to touch each other and in doing so, protect us from at least some of that harsh smoke. Take a breath and enjoy the tree filtered air. Now listen. What do you hear? I hear peacefulness. The sounds of the world outside the Arboretum are muffled, so you can hear the birds and you own breath. Look down. The grass at your feet is cool and damp and radiates its moisture back up to you. It's nature's air conditioning on a hot summer's day.

We really need that now: the peacefulness, fresh air, and coolness.

Our skies have been filled with thick smoke, sometimes so thick that you can't see a block down the street. A short walk in Kleiner's will spirit you away from all of that, at least for a short while, anyway.



Above: View of Kleiner's Oak Grove as you enter the Arboretum by the South Entrance

Below: Looking back and Kleiner's Oak Grove from the Evans Creek Bridge



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!

