



May Center Report –September 2015

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



HIGHLIGHTS

May Arboretum

- ◆ Horticulturist, Bill Carlos gave a presentation, “Dealing with the Drought” to a group of 30 garden club members.
- ◆ Flood damage repairs of the trails, culverts and landscaping on the north side of the Arboretum is nearly complete. Approximately \$25,000 of damage occurred as a result of July’s flood event.
- ◆ Several new trees, drip irrigation and decorative bark mulch were installed in the May Museum parking lot. The trees replaced several that had died.
- ◆ The annual meeting with the Wilbur May Foundation Board of Directors was held on September 21. During the meeting, the Wilbur May Foundation agreed to fund several projects including completing the security fencing (\$40,000), new software (\$10,000), pruning (\$8,000), and professional development (\$5,000).
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society hosted their annual fund raising event “Party in the Garden” this past month in support of the Arboretum. Over 100 people attended.
- ◆ The Arboretum has a new Sierra Nevada Job Corps intern who will join the Arboretum intern corps from the Children’s Cabinet and Face Forward Program, “Nevada Youth Empowerment Project” (non-profit that works women out of foster care between the ages of 18-21).
- ◆ In September the Arboretum had 4,696 visitors. The south entrance logged 3,349 visitors while the west entrance logged 1,347. Daily average is 156 visitors per day. The total visitation for the period of January 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015 is 63,689.

Wilbur D. May Arboretum Volunteers

- ◆ Denise Evans, Volunteer Coordinator, held an end of the season appreciation gathering at Lear Garden for all the Arboretum volunteers during balloon race week. Over 25 volunteers attended.
- ◆ May Arboretum Society (MAS) and Arboretum volunteers logged 345 hours this past month which has a service value of \$7,869. Job Corps intern logged 80 hours, Children’s Cabinet 100 hours and Community Service crews logged 42 hours, for a total of 222 hours. This fiscal year the Arboretum has recorded 1,737 hours which as a service value of \$39,171.00.

May Museum

- ◆ More than 1,200 people visited the Museum during the three-day Great Reno Balloon Races. Attendance was up 29% from the previous year.
- ◆ The Museum welcomed an art class from UNR to live sketch in the collection. It was a huge hit and the art dept. would like to make the visit a regular event.
- ◆ The Museum participated in #AskACurator Day on Twitter, which featured 1,079 museums from 51 countries. May Museum staff fielded and answered questions online throughout the day.
- ◆ The Museum hosted about 50 students from the Museum Studies program at UNR for a tour of the collection.
- ◆ The Museum participated in a Resource Fair at UNR with the University District Museums consortium. The event was designed to let students know how museums can be a research, study, intern, or volunteer resource. Plans are in place for this to be a semesterly event.
- ◆ Fritz Richards of Old Wolf Taxidermy, began a nine-month on-site project to restore the Museum’s taxidermy collection. So far the project has been featured on three television stations and in the local newspaper. The \$24,000 project was generously funded by the May Foundation.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

May Arboretum

- ◆ The annual May Center pumpkin walk will be held Friday October 9th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Arboretum staff will be managing set-up and parking. Moana Nursery donated 200 pumpkins, Rail City Garden Center donated 50 Pumpkins and the May Arboretum Society donated 50 pumpkins. An additional 200 pumpkins are being purchased for a total of 500 pumpkins for the event. Park volunteer coordinator Denise Evans is enlisting 80 volunteers to help carve and assist with setup.
- ◆ The Arboretum, in conjunction with the Nevada Shade Tree Council will be hosting the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) prep training course from October 13th through the 15th at the Ranch House. The training is available to those seeking ISA accreditation and Continuing Education Units (CEU's).
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society is holding a dyeing workshop “Dyeing with Deadheads” on Thursday, October 8th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm in the Ranch House. This workshop will teach how to extract color from the plants and how to use them to dye fibers. Each participant will create a unique scarf using these dyeing techniques. All materials will be provided. For more information visit www.mayarboretumsociety.org.
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society is hosting “THE SWAN LECTURES©”, —a 20-hour somatic, writing, and performance workshop offered over two weekends. THE SWAN LECTURES is the collaborative and community outreach component of dance artist/scholar L. Martina Young's life project, “SWAN: a poetical inquiry in dance, text & memoir.” Through her ongoing and extensive research of the swan image in myth, music, literature, poetry, philosophy, alchemy, dance, and art, participants explore universal themes suggested by the swan image using movement, lecture, discourse, and writing. Themes include dignity, beauty, finding voice, solitude, aging, limitation, power, and grace. At the heart of this unique and timely workshop is Martina’s deep perception of the neuro-biological relationship between ‘image,’ ‘body,’ and ‘empathy.’ Grounding her work in what she calls “corporeal compassion,” Martina is a teacher and facilitator of rare and gifted skill, and creates a learning environment that is rich in real-life and generative insight. The workshop concludes with a public presentation of both facilitator and participant experiences. Also, Ms. Young will create a new dance informed by the participants as well as new writings on ‘image,’ ‘body,’ and ‘empathy.’ As part of their registration, each participant will receive a newly published text authored by Ms. Young. For more information visit www.mayarboretumsociety.org.

May Museum

- ◆ Asst. Curator Samantha Szesciorcka will attend the Nevada Museums Association conference in Tonopah, where she will present two sessions. (One on museum ethics and the other on museum marketing)
- ◆ The Museum and the Arboretum will host the 4th annual Great May Center Pumpkin Walk on Friday, October 9. The event is expected to draw upwards of 3,000 visitors.
- ◆ The Museum will have a booth at the Bridal & Beauty Expo on Sunday, October 18, to promote the May Center as a wedding venue.