



May Center Report – February 2020

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ UNR intern, Chad Morris from the School of Anthropology completed his term this past month by applying his computer skills to arboretum data bases.
- ◆ The Horticulturist continues to work closely with the May Foundation and Fallon media on the interpretive panel project was approved by the May Foundation (\$149,600.00) in December. Thirty five panels will be placed throughout the gardens. Each panel provide the history of each garden and highlight the dominate plant species.

May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs

- ◆ Nichole Tracey, AmeriCorps member and the Arboretum Educational Program Coordinator launched “Little Sprouts” series this past month. The series is being offered twice a month instead of once and will continue through spring. Little Sprouts was developed to assist young children practice motor skills, socializing, and decision making through activities and garden explorations. Workshops are designed for families with children ages 2-5 and, includes STEAM and STEM components. The series is FREE and open to the public. Space is limited to 20 children. For details visit the May Arboretum webpage and click on the calendar or contact Nichole Tracy at Ntracy@washoecounty.us .

Greenhouse Program

- ◆ The arboretum is propagating two species of milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa*, Showy milkweed and *Asclepias fascicularis* narrow leaf milkweed to serve as a food source for the Monarch butterfly. Monarch is not an endangered species but the annual migration is considered a threatened phenomenon by IUCN. With the help of Natural Resource Planner Joanne Lowden, the milk week will be planted in spring in the arboretum to establish a colony of milk weed.
- ◆ Arboretum staff and horticulturist will begin planting seedlings for their school seedling program, Washoe County employee garden, the plant sale and seasonal annuals for the arboretum.
- ◆ Currently 512 annuals were started and have been transplanted into 4” containers for the Arboretum.
- ◆ The arboretum also received label/tag printer (\$1000.00) as a gift from the May Arboretum Society for the greenhouse. The printer is capable of making different size labels for the greenhouse plants. The information of the labels/tag will be planting date, genus, species and common name.

Arboretum Upgrades and Projects

- ◆ Bids are being requested to replace the vandalized water feature in Burke Garden.
- ◆ Staff is identified trees in the collection for pruning and removal and will be going out to bid. Funding for the pruning and removal is provided by the May Arboretum Society (\$15,000).
- ◆ The Burke Garden (\$3,817.00) paving project was completed and funded by the May Arboretum Society. Many thanks for their continue support.



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Arboretum Operations

- ◆ Bradon Franklin and seasonal staff have attending the University of Nevada Cooperative Green Industry and Nursery Training.
- ◆ The May Arboretum webpage is being updated by the horticulturist.
- ◆ The horticulturist and Washoe County's Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Evans have made a decision to implement Volgistics, a software program for tracking Arboretum volunteers. This will stream line volunteer digital records and volunteer hours. It will also be used communicate directly to volunteers.

May Arboretum Volunteer Program

- ◆ In February 2020 316 hours were recorded. Total volunteer hours service value for the Arboretum for 2020 is \$7,168.73.

Memorials

- ◆ One memorial bench, two memorial trees and two memorial bricks were purchased

May Museum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Animation Academy exhibit opened on February 16. It will be on display through May 10.
- ◆ The Museum had a booth at the annual Bridal & Beauty Expo at Grand Sierra Resort to promote building rentals at the May Center.
- ◆ Assistant Curator Samantha Szesciorka gave a lecture on the history of Wilbur May for the Historic Reno Preservation Society. There were 50 people in attendance for the lecture.

UPCOMING

- ◆ PBS Reno Kids Club members will be at the museum on March 1. PBS Reno will also have a Curious George costumed actor roaming the museum.
- ◆ The museum will host a County night on March 5, offering free admission for County employees.
- ◆ The museum will have a booth at the Staff Employees' Council open house at the University of Nevada, Reno on March 18 to promote the Animation Academy exhibit.