



May Center Report – December 2020

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS.

- ◆ The May Arboretum office is closed to the public due to COVID-19. The horticulturist will be working from home.
- ◆ A three day Cactus & Succulent Garden workshop was hosted by the May Arboretum Society with Didier Design Studio, Boulder Colorado. May Arboretum Society Rod Dimmitt, arboretum volunteer and the May Arboretum Society treasurer, organized the event with Arboretum staff at the Ranch House. **(\$41,760.00).**
- ◆ Phil Brazier, Horticulture Assistant, and Bradon Franklin, Park Maintenance Worker, attended a virtual Western Chapter ISA conference on November 9 through November 11, 2020. The conference was originally to be held at Squaw Valley in August. The conference platform was set up to allow tracking of attendance and classes and acquire up to 16 CEU's toward their Arborist certification. The \$600.00 registration fee for both attendees was paid for by the Wilbur May Foundation. The conference covered a number of topics. Below is an example of the workshops:
 - TRPA guidelines for environmentalism at Lake Tahoe
 - Working with wildfire
 - Pest management
 - Visual Tree assessment and identification
 - Tree species selection
 - Urban forest planning
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society funded two full time maintenance workers through Man Power (\$86,000). This will be third year the Arboretum will have 2 additional fulltime employees working the entire year.

May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs

- ◆ During October Laura Fraser, May Arboretum Educational Coordinator, continued with the Sidewalk Chalk "Obstacle Course" program which was well received by our visitors. She held 2 outdoor early childhood programs, 'Little Sprouts'. Observing COVID guidelines she restricted the class size to 25 or less and held the same program twice to accommodate the public. The theme was "Why Leaves Change Color". The educator also planned a virtual "Story Time" which is popular and usually held in the summer in the Arboretum. It was developed so children and parents can safely participate from home. The educator developed a craft/activity for each story for kids to do after watching the weekly video.
- ◆ In addition she also received help form a UNR intern to produce a virtual tour of featured gardens.
- ◆ The educator planned online activities for various ages. She created a "Sensory Leaf Paint" activity for early childhood, a "Phenology Wheel" (study of seasonal change) for middle school age, and multiple "DIY Bird Feeders" activities for all ages. The goal is to encourage families to visit the arboretum after completing the activity.



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- ◆ The educator was able to create a few online activities that have transitioned from fall to winter themed. These activities include a “Snowflake Salt Painting”, a “Winter Scenery Garland”, and a” Snowflake Symmetry” activity which will also be uploaded to the May Center website in the month of December and January.
- ◆ Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society for funding this position (\$9,500).

Tours

- ◆ Four tours were offered this past fall following all COVID-19 guidelines:
 - UNR students by the horticulturist
 - Ranger Walks with Park Rangers and Phil Brazier, Horticulture assistant
 - Two fall tree tours were presented by the horticulturist to members of the University of Nevada, Osher Lifelong Institute (OLLI)

Arboretum Upgrades and Projects

- ◆ May Arboretum will be requesting bids to install two new kiosks. Kiosks were funded by the May Arboretum Society (**\$8,740.00**).
- ◆ Tree pruning was completed around the May museum and will continue into the arboretum. Many thanks to the May Foundation (\$10,000) and the May Arboretum Society (\$15,000).
- ◆ Two replacement water features will be installed this year.

Arboretum Operations

- ◆ The arboretum purchased another larger leaf vacuum to assist with fall leaf litter. Seasonal use the two vacuums to pick up the leaves which are finely chopped by the vacuums. The recycled leaves are then applied to the tree wells, which serves as mulch. Mulch eliminates green waste from going to the landfill (60 yards annually), inhibit weed growth around the trees, reduce soil erosion, enhance the soil conditions, reduce pesticide use, recycles nutrients and saves water by reducing evaporation.
- ◆ Phil Brazier, horticulture assistant continues to manage the Arboretum seasonal maintenance staff and projects while the horticulturist works from home.
- ◆ The horticulturist was awarded approximately \$800.00 (May Foundation) for new donor software, Donor Snap, which will be implemented this winter.

May Arboretum Volunteer Program

- ◆ Volunteers continued to work at the arboretum and instructed to work alone or wear a mask and maintain social distance if working together.
- ◆ Volunteers continue play a major role in our operation of the Arboretum. They provide additional support to our staff and gardens.



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May Museum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Museum partnered with Raise the Future for a “Comfort a Kid” holiday collection drive. Through the end of the year, the museum will collect blankets, stuffed animals, slippers, and towels for foster children in Nevada.
- ◆ The museum wrapped up its Comfort A Kid collection drive. We collected a huge amount of stuffed animals, blankets, and other items for foster children in Nevada. The organization Raise the Future will pick everything up and distribute it.
- ◆ The Sierra Watercolor Society winter art show and sale was extended through the end of the year. The exhibit was well received and sales were very brisk.
- ◆ The Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America exhibit continued to draw attendees and receive good reviews.

UPCOMING

- ◆ The Hmong textile exhibit will close on January 7.