



# May Center Report – May 2016

## Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



### Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The May Arboretum received the Gold Leaf Award by the International Society of Arboriculture through the Western Chapter at the 83rd WCISA annual conference that was held on May 2-5th 2016 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. This national award is designed to recognize local agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood groups and individuals who conduct outstanding Arbor Day activities and landscape beautification projects as well as urban forestry projects that have significant social, economic and or environmental benefits to the local community. The horticulturist accepted the Award on behalf of Washoe County.
- ◆ Phase III & IV of the fencing project will begin by the middle of June of 2016. Funding was provided by private donations from the May Foundation (\$44,650.00) and another donation of \$40,000.00 from Tim and Julie Gregory. This will complete the enclosure of the arboretum, but the Arboretum will remain open during regular park hours.
- ◆ Brandon Franklin, Park Maintenance Worker II, joined the Arboretum team in May. Bradon transferred from the South Region to fill the vacancy from Kelly Latham's retirement. Bradon brings years of park maintenance experience to the team, and through this transition, we were successful in increasing the arboretum positions from ¾ time to full-time.
- ◆ Arboretum staff attended a Drought and Tree workshop hosted by UNR Cooperative Extension. It was free and open to the public. Presenters included Bill Haulk, Hydrologist, TMWA; Dr. Kopp, Turfgrass Specialist, Utah State University; Dr. Rupp, Horticulture Specialist, Utah State University and Dr. Heidi Kratch, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE). The workshop focused on the drought and long term effects on trees.
- ◆ The Horticulturist was invited to sit on a panel during the workshop to discuss launching a new water conservation program for the local municipalities and green industry professionals. The program is called Qualified Water Efficient Landscapers (QUEL). This program addresses, plant, soil and water relationships, irrigation auditing and evaluation and horticulture best management practices. Participants to attend the program and pass the test will be QUEL certified. The Arboretum will be partnering with UNCE to launch this program and offer to all park staff.

#### Wilbur D. May Arboretum Volunteers

- ◆ May Arboretum Society (MAS) and Arboretum volunteers recorded 254.00 hrs. in May, which has a service value of \$5,782.66. There were no hours reported for the Sierra Nevada Job Corps or community volunteers. This fiscal year the Arboretum has recorded 4,788 hours which as a service value of \$110,301.00. Total MAS hours for this month have not been turned in and will be reported in June's volunteer service.
- ◆ All Sierra Nevada Job Corps interns and Children's Cabinet interns are managed and trained by the horticulture assistant, Phil Brazier. A new intern will be interviewed and start in June.



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### Wilbur D. May Arboretum Visitors

- ◆ The May Arboretum subscribes to the Pedestrian TRAFX Counter software. The software is used to collect, view, analyze and manage pedestrian data flow from two entrances of the Arboretum, south entrance and west entrance. The data is collected monthly using a portable data logger (G3 Dock). Adjustments are made to accommodate visitors entering and exiting the Arboretum. The system averages the number of visitors based on historical data and the days that were recorded.

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT <sup>†</sup>	ADT <sup>†</sup> x365	Days with data
2016	So.Arbo Entrance <sup>D</sup>	1,521	2,359	2,353	3,333	2,915*								81.623	29,874	146
	West Arbo Entrance <sup>D</sup>	846	1,199	893	2,140	2,187*								46.863	17,152	146

ADT<sup>†</sup> = Average Daily Traffic

\* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

<sup>A</sup> = adjustment applied, <sup>D</sup> = divide by 2 applied, <sup>F</sup> = filtering applied

- ◆ In May the Arboretum had 5,102 visitors. Total visitors from the south entrance was 2,915 and from the west entrance, 2,187. Total visitor count for calendar year to date is 47,026. Average daily visitors from the south entrance was 90 and from the west entrance 70. Average daily visitors are 164 per day.

### Arboretum Tours

- ◆ The arboretum provided their environmental station tour to Spanish Springs Elementary school (126, 3rd graders) and from and Ester Bennet Elementary school (67 1<sup>st</sup> graders) this past month. The Arboretum staff and volunteer docents provide a hands-on interactive educational program through their 4 stations tour to teach children about the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges, the Great Basin native flora and fauna, wetland ecosystem and ancient living tree fossils. This is a hands-on learning experience that has gained popularity in Washoe County School District. This season, Krista Calloway, a seasonal, assisted the horticulturist and was funded using salary savings. Krista will term out July 1, 2016.

### Wilbur D. May Arboretum Memorials

- ◆ Phase III of the Labyrinth Garden memorial is complete. Nearly 50 new plants were added to the Arboretum plant collection, most are herbaceous woody flowering perennials. Two memorial stones will be placed in the garden in June, 2016.



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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Plant sale preview, evening of June 3<sup>rd</sup> . Society members only.
- ◆ Plant sale June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- ◆ Kitchen Container Gardening (workshop) - Wednesday, May 11th (6:15pm to 8:00pm) at the Ranch House.
- ◆ Children's Book Writer (workshop) - Sunday, July 10th (10:00am - 12:00pm) Ranch House

### Wilbur D. May Museum

### Highlights

- ◆ Asst. Curator Samantha Szesciorcka gave a presentation to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on May 5, entitled “Wilbur D. May: The Life and Legacy of Reno’s Renaissance Man.” The lecture was well attended and received.
- ◆ The University District Museums’ second annual “Day at the Museum” event on May 7 featured 12 museums on and around the university campus with free admission, activities, and giveaways. The May Museum saw more than 100 visitors during the day.
- ◆ The Sierra Watercolor Society exhibition “Make Way for Spring” closed on April 15, with three paintings sold.
- ◆ The ARTful Women: Small Works in Fiber and Mixed Media exhibition opened on May 21, featuring dozens of vibrant fabric art pieces. This is the Nevada debut of the artists group from California. The exhibit opened with a well-attended reception to mingle and meet the artists. The exhibition has received good publicity and reviews and sales have been brisk.
- ◆ Asst. Curator Samantha Szesciorcka gave a presentation on Wilbur May and the Museum to the Reno Hadassah group at Temple Sinai for Jewish American Heritage Month. The lecture was well-attended and led to the scheduling of several future lectures with other local organizations

### Future Museum Events

- ◆ The Museum will be a polling place for the primary elections.
- ◆ Asst. Curator Samantha Szesciorcka will give a presentation on Wilbur May and the Museum to the Reno Rotary Club at the Atlantis Casino on June 30.