



May Center Report – November 2019

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The arboretum is interning UNR student Chad Morris from the School of Anthropology.
- ◆ Danielle Ornelas, Colorado State University Graduate Student and graduate intern at the arboretum presented her May Arboretum Cap Stone project at the National Association for Interpretation conference (NAI) in Fort Collins Colorado. Her focus was on senior and older adult populations in the arboretum. Below are her results summarized on a poster board for the NAI conference. For additional information please contact Bill Carlos, Washoe County horticulturist at bcarlos@washoecounty.us.

Wilbur D. May
ARBORETUM

Plants are Relevant Too!

Danielle Ornelas, M.S., Conservation Leadership
Colorado State University

Introduction: The Power of Plants

- Three part environmental interpretation program that aims to teach senior audiences about the benefits plants bring to our everyday lives
- Theoretical foundations for program development include the Elaboration Likelihood Model and the Ecosystem Services (ES) framework
- Mixed methods evaluation utilizing surveys and homework assignments inspired by the photovoice method
- Systems thinking approach to environmental interpretation
- Aims to address the conservation issue of direct threats towards plant species richness in Northern Nevada

Project Goals

- Inspire older adults to become advocates for plant biodiversity
- Contribute to the physical, social, and intellectual well-being of older adults in the Reno region

Content Development

- Participatory mapping workshop with senior volunteers
- NAI program outline, theme, and sub themes
 - Inspired by ES categories
 - Program review with docent team
- Pilot with 5 senior participants

*I hope the Arboretum stays on track in focusing on providing educational programs for all ages! - Workshop participant

Results

After attending the Power of Plants, participants were more aware of the May Arboretum by agreeing that:

- The arboretum takes care of plants so people can enjoy them
- I benefit from the arboretum
- Having different plants in my community keeps me healthy.

Participants were also more interested in learning about how nature inspires people to create, conservation efforts of the May Arboretum, and the cultural history of the May Arboretum.

Target Audience: Seniors

Implementation

- 79 participants
- Wednesday & Friday series (last three weeks of August)
- 1.5 hour sessions
- Each session included activity and group discussion
- 6 drawings, 21 written descriptions, and 65 photos submitted as homework assignments between sessions
- 5 docents teaching program

Samples from Codebook

Theme	Sub theme	#
Trees	Fruit trees	20
Mental Well-being	Joy	24
Learning	Garden Maintenance	19
Habitat & Wildlife	Psychological experiences	20
Tangible Benefits	Food	20

Participants agreed that climate change can harm the May Arboretum
Participants thought more often about how plants contribute to their overall well-being

Mixed Methods Evaluation

- Pre and post program surveys [2, 3]
 - Independent Samples T-test utilizing SPSS
- Performed a Thematic Analysis on submitted homework assignments; photos, drawings, and written descriptions
 - Created codebook with themes, sub-themes, and frequency

*Every week when I see this flower, I'm filled with a rush of happiness and there is a feeling that my heart opens (and if my heart had arms they would open out as wide as possible to take in the exquisiteness of the beauty of the blossoms on the plant). I'm reminded of my own inner beauty, softness, and connection to this earth when I see this flower; I am transported away to a spiritual place of peace and happiness, if only for a moment, until my monkey-mind distracts me again. The flowers on these Hibiscus plants I see each week feed my soul! - Homework submission

Discussion

- NEED for environmental programming for seniors
- Supported by data, the Power of Plants raised awareness of the May Arboretum and ~ 80% of participants were first time visitors or rarely visit
- Partner with stakeholders in the senior community to ensure program relevancy, accessibility, and broaden outreach
- Use the results of mixed methods to inform future senior programming
- Recommend a Senior Summer programming series beginning with the Power of Plants
- Recommend longitudinal studies on program impact

Water frequency prior to the Power of Plants

Participant Age



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- ◆ The Horticulturist continue so search for a new AmeriCorps member to manage and coordinate the arboretum educational programs. The horticulturist was awarded \$9,500.00 from the May Arboretum Society for this position.

Tours

- ◆ The horticulturist provided a tour to over 30 students from UNR's School of Anthropology.

Arboretum Upgrades and Projects

- ◆ Plaza Garden paver project and repairs were completed this month thanks to a generous donation from the May Foundation (\$2,000.00) and an in-kind donation from Haines Enterprises (\$4,500). Additionally 3 concrete pads were replaced in Plaza Garden thanks to a generous donation from the May Foundation (\$9,070.00).
- ◆ Pruning continues in the Arboretum thanks again to the May Foundation support of \$10,000.00.
- ◆ The horticulturist proposal of \$11,581.00 for the Nevada Bell irrigation project was accepted and the upgrade and completed this month thanks to May Arboretum Society generous support.
- ◆ The horticulturist proposal of \$14,586.00 for Honey's Garden irrigation project was also accepted and upgrades completed thanks to May Arboretum Society generous support.
- ◆ The horticulturist proposal for operation and maintenance from the May Arboretum Society was also accepted (\$29,400.00)
- ◆ Total donation for project the month of November is \$76,657.00. In-kind from Haines Enterprises \$4,500.00. Total donations including In-kind **\$81,137.00**.
- ◆ The Kleiner Grover asphalt walkway (4,400 sqft) was replaced this past month. Washoe County Infrastructure Preservations funds were used for the upgrade (\$29,172.00).
- ◆ Total arboretum improvements including Washoe County, May Foundation, May Arboretum Society and other in-kind \$110,309 of that, 73% came from arboretum donations and In-kind service.

Arboretum Operations

- ◆ The horticulturist continues to maintain the plant data base/records and record new accessions and plant data and details. Twenty six new trees were accessioned along with two new introductions and two new taxon, *Zizphus jujube*, Indian jujube and *Magnolia acuminata*, "yellowbird". Since 2018, 178 replacement trees, shrubs (roses), perennials and new introductions have been planted, accessioned, and mapped using the arboretum plant record software IRIS BG, plant record data base.
- ◆ Phil Brazier, Horticulture Assistant and Bradon Franklin, Maintenance worker II and seasonal staff planted an additional 16 trees in the arboretum which included removing dead and dying trees in the arboretum. Some were replacement donor trees while others were new introductions. Total new tree planting this year is 27 trees. Both Phil and Bradon continue to assist, with limited time, to help maintain the Nevada Family Farms (NFF) by repairing irrigating breaks, spraying for weeds, fertilizing, mowing and edging. The seasonal crew is busy with routine maintenance in the Arboretum, leaf vacuuming and shredding for recycling, mowing, edging, trimming, watering, pruning, planting and grooming trails. The horticulturist is provided limited staff to adequately maintain the Basque Monument and the NFF.



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Visitor Data

The two set of bars represent south entrance (blue) and east entrance (black).

Master Summary

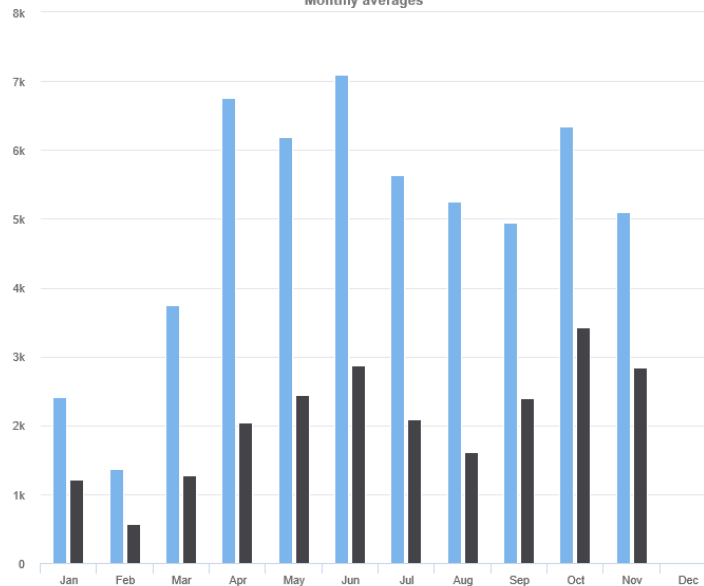
Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT [†]	ADT [†] x365	Days with data
2019	So.Arbo Entrance ^D	2,409	1,360	3,743*	6,749	6,194	7,090	5,630	5,247	4,942	6,341	5,093*		163.969	59,849	320
	West Arbo Entrance ^D	1,209	572	1,274*	2,044	2,436	2,871	2,083	1,612	2,403	3,417	2,843*		67.159	24,513	320

ADT[†] = Average Daily Traffic
 * = based upon that month's ADT
^D = divide by 2 applied

Months of the year

2019-01-01 to 2019-11-18

Monthly averages



Memorials

- ◆ The horticulturist manages and oversees the memorial tree, bench and brick program. One memorial/donor bench sold, 12 memorial bricks were sold and processed along with 1 Adopt-A-Tree's and 2 new trees. Many thanks to Robbie Short, INMATE WORK PROGRAM LEADER and his crew and Arboretum staff for assisting with the installation of the memorial bench, bricks and new trees.



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May Museum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The museum kicked off a holiday sock drive. It will be collecting new socks for the homeless through December 15. The response has so far been excellent with collection bins filling up. Several news stations have done stories as well.
- ◆ A new art exhibition from Sierra Watercolor Society opened in the museum gallery. “Something Old, Something New” features dozens of new paintings on a variety of traditional themes. The exhibition is on display through December 14.
- ◆ The museum hosted the annual Steampunk Expo from High Desert Steam. The two-day event featured vendors, performances, food and drink, music, and costumes. It was well attended.

UPCOMING

- ◆ Tuba Christmas returns on December 7. This free holiday musical performance has become a community tradition.
- ◆ Sierra Watercolor Society volunteers will hold their annual Art Angels workshop on December 14. This popular free art class for kids fills up every year.
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society will hold their Gingerbread Festival in the museum on December 14.