



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

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Rail City Garden Center Hosts Garden Tour to Support Local Volunteer Program

Enjoy fascinating area gardens for a good cause, August 22-23, 2015.

RENO, Nev. – Rail City Garden Center, an organizer of the Water & Rails Pond and Garden Tour, is bringing a new tour event to the Reno area this year in support of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Washoe County Master Gardener Volunteer program.

The all-ages self-paced tour allows participants to visit as many of the featured gardens as they like. Tour goers will be astounded at what fellow high desert gardeners have created and will walk away with inspiration and ideas from the area's most successful battle born gardeners and do-it-yourselfers. The tour, held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 22 and August 23, will raise much-needed funds for a good cause.

"The Master Gardener Volunteer program is essential to our local communities and our area's green industry," says Pawl Hollis, owner of Rail City Garden Center, "and that is why we are holding this event. We have seen Extension struggle through budget cuts year after year, and we can relate to that. Master Gardeners help our community grow healthy and affordable food at home, respond to homeowner and industry requests for water-efficient landscaping information and more. They never stop."

Washoe County Master Gardener Volunteer program coordinator Wendy Hanson Mazet agrees that the program and its volunteers are an important part of making northern Nevada a good place to live.

In 2014, Master Gardeners answered nearly 5,000 emails, responded to more than 6,000 phone calls and handed out almost 9,000 information sheets related to horticulture. They also offered more than 100 educational presentations. These efforts provided horticultural help to more than 15,000 northern Nevadans.

"Rail City Garden Center's fundraising tour will help us continue to provide horticulture information to the community," says Mazet. "Funds raised will stay here in Washoe County to help our Master Gardener Volunteers offer low- and no-cost classes, purchase program supplies and update our equipment. We would like a new microscope for use in identifying plants, insects and diseases."

Randy Robison, a local gardening expert and Master Gardener Volunteer is excited for this event. "Even though times are tight, it is important to give back. I will be there, showing off my own garden."

Tickets for this charitable tour are \$20 for one person, \$30 for two people and children under age 12 are free. Purchase tickets at Rail City Garden Center, 1720 Brierley Way in Sparks. Visit www.waterandrails.org/mastergardenersreno for more information, to purchase tickets or make donations online.

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Photo Cutline: See what fellow high desert gardeners have created, walk away with inspiration and ideas and support a worthwhile cause. Photo courtesy of Wendy Hanson Mazet, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is the College of the University of Nevada, Reno that is engaged in every Nevada county, presenting research-based knowledge to address critical community needs. It is a county-state-federal partnership providing practical education to people, businesses and communities. For more information on its programs, visit www.unce.unr.edu.

Founded in 1874 as Nevada's land-grant university, the University of Nevada, Reno ranks in the top tier of best national universities. With nearly 19,000 students, the University is driven to contribute a culture of student success, world-improving research and outreach that enhances communities and business. Part of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University has the system's largest research program and is home to the state's medical school. With outreach and education programs in all Nevada counties and home to one of the largest study-abroad consortiums, the University extends across the state and around the world. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.

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