



NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

An assessment of *Eriogonum beatleyae* Reveal (*E. rosense* var. *beatleyae* (Reveal) Reveal).

by Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm

Beatley's wild buckwheat, *Eriogonum beatleyae*, was described by Reveal in 1972. The type collection, Reveal 2498, and one of the two paratypes, Holmgren 5241, were from Nye County, Nevada at the south end of the Monitor Range north of Highway 6. The other paratype was from Mono County, California along the dirt road south of the road to Bodie from U.S. Highway 395 toward Bridgeport Canyon. This Reveal collection was not found in a search of SEINet, the US Herbarium database, and the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH2). It was collected late in the season and was well past prime flowering. In the type publication Reveal (1972) states: "From *E. rosense*, *E. beatleyae* may be distinguished by its broad, elliptical leaves, non-glandular leaf tomentum, longer involucres and achenes, and lower

elevational gradient."

In Reveal's (1985) account of *Eriogonum* in Nevada, he further separates the two as follows:

- *E. rosense* - Leaves oblanceolate, 4-15 mm long, 2.5-5(6)mm wide; involucres more or less turbinate, 2.5-3mm wide with (5)6-8 teeth; achenes 1.5-2mm long; montane forests and alpine areas in the Sierra Nevada and adjacent ranges of Esmeralda Co. northward to Washoe Co., mostly 2440-3300m elev
- *E. beatleyae* - Leaves elliptic, 10-25mm long, 5-16mm wide; involucres campanulate, 3-4mm wide with 5 teeth; achenes (2.5) 3-3.5mm long; clay hills and slopes in Lander, Eureka, Mineral, Nye, and Churchill cos., 1700-2750 m elev



Beatley's buckwheat in bloom. ©Jan Nachlinger

Further, under *E. beatleyae*, he says: "Since this species was described, *E. beatleyae* has been found in a variety of sites in Nevada. For the most part, the species is found at elevations lower than that of *E. rosense*, but a recent collection (Ertter & Strachan 2804 – MARY) from the north end of the Monitor Range at 2750 m [8432 ft] elevation is probably best referred to *E. beatleyae* rather than *E. rosense* as I originally annotated the collection. Cream-colored specimens of *E. beatleyae* occur in Nye, Churchill, Lander, and Eureka Co.s" By this time, Reveal had done extensive herbarium work and annotated the earliest collections of *E. beatleyae* which dated from 1937 and 1944.

E. beatleyae is listed in California in The Jepson Manual (Hickman, 1993) which separates *E. beatleyae* and *rosense* as follows:

- *E. beatleyae* - Lf blade 10-25mm; involucre teeth 5; n SNE, 1500-2500m
- *E. rosense* - Lf blade 4-15mm; involucre teeth 5-8; s CaRH, n&c SNH, n SNE, 2300-4000m

In 2004, Reveal reduced *E. beatleyae* to a variety under *E. rosense*, rosy wild buckwheat. Here he states: "The reduction of Beatley's wild buckwheat to the rank of variety is the result of continued fieldwork. The plant is restricted to the desert ranges of central Nevada, well removed from *E. rosense* of the Sierra Nevada, yet only distinguished with some difficulties in the mountains of west-central Nevada, as on the eastern foothills of the White Mountains in Esmeralda Co., Nevada". Note that Reveal no longer considered *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae* as occurring in California.

In 2005, Reveal wrote the following in Flora of North America with more overlapping characters used to separate varieties:

- *E. rosense* var. *rosense* - Leaf blades oblanceolate to elliptic, (0.15-)0.25-0.6(1) cm wide; involucre (2.5-)3-4(-4.5)x2.5-3.5 mm; flowers 2-3mm; tepals obovate; achenes 1.5-2.5mm; Sierra Nevada of California and adjacent desert ranges of wc Nevada

- *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae* - Leaf blades broadly elliptic to oval, 0.5-1.6cm wide; involucre (2.5-)3-5(-6)x3-5(-6)mm; flowers (2.5-)3-4mm; tepals oblong; achenes (2.5-)3-3.5mm; desert ranges, Nevada

Reveal (2012a) in Intermountain Flora uses the following key:

- var. *rosense* - Leaf blades oblanceolate to elliptic, 4-15(17)mm long, (1.5)2.5-6(10)mm wide; involucre (2.5)3-4(4.5)mm long, 2.5-3.5mm wide; perianth yellow to reddish yellow, 2.3 mm long, the tepals obovate; achenes 1.5-2.5mm long; (2300)2500-4000m; high elev. ridges, Sierra Nevada (Mt. Rose and Peavine areas of w. Washoe Co.), Sweetwater, White Mts. and on Glass Mtn. in Mono Co., Calif., and on the Silver Peak Range of Esmeralda Co., Nev., and desert ranges of sw. Washoe Co. e. to the Pine Nut Mts. of Douglas Co.
- var. *beatleyae* - Leaf blades broadly elliptic to oval, (7) 10-25 mm long, 5-16 mm wide; involucre (2.5) 3-5 (6) mm long, 3-5 (6) mm wide; perianth yellow or infrequently cream, (2.5) 3-3.5 mm long; 1700-2600 (2800) m; endemic, desert foothills and ranges in Churchill, Eureka, Lander, Mineral and Nye Cos., Nev.



Beatley's buckwheat in bloom. ©Jan Nachlinger

Reveal in The Jepson Manual 2nd ed. (2012b) only lists *E. rosense* var. *rosense* for California. He notes “[*E. beatleyae* Reveal, misappl.]. Other var. in NV.”

In general, *E. beatleyae* occurs on specialized soils at lower elevations and has larger leaves and flower parts than *E. rosense*. As can be seen from the characters used in the keys above, there is a great deal of overlap in the two taxa. The RENO herbarium has 27 collections of *E. rosense* var. *rosense* and of these, I collected eight. It also contains 19 collections of *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae* of which, again, I have collected eight. In examining these specimens, I was struck by the continuum of overall size, aspect, and details from the more diminutive higher-elevation plants to the taller low-elevation plants. There are several examples of plants collected in the same general area by different collectors identified as different varieties.

For instance, Morefield 3978 from the north end of the White Mountains, collected at 8820 feet [2690m] in elevation, is identified as *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae*. My collection 17824 from the Huntoon Mountains north of Highway 6 just north of the White Mountains, collected at 7200 feet [2195m], is identified as *E. rosense* var. *rosense*. These two collections are four miles apart as the crow flies. I named my number 12579, from Mono Valley northeast of Mono Lake in Mono County, California, *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae*. This collection was later annotated by Reveal as var. *rosense*. This location is from Juniper barrens on the valley floor, a habitat more in tune with var. *beatleyae* than var. *rosense*.

Another example is from the images Ann Howald posted to iNaturalist ([inaturalist.org/observations/176811205](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/176811205)) taken from the California paratype area of *E. beatleyae*. The plants are short, erect, and have narrow leaves. If I saw these images and was told they were from the Sierra Nevada, I would have said *E. rosense* var. *rosense* without blinking an eye.

Above I mentioned the California collection, Reveal 2767, which is a paratype for *E. beatleyae*. Again, I have been unable to find this specimen. In the RENO herbarium, there is a collection from the same area, Williams 80-203-2, annotated by Reveal in 2004 as *E. rosense* var. *rosense*.

In the fall of 2011, I was working for the Intermountain Flora project at the New York Botanical Garden and Reveal was there finishing his account of Polygonaceae for Intermountain Flora. He also identified my

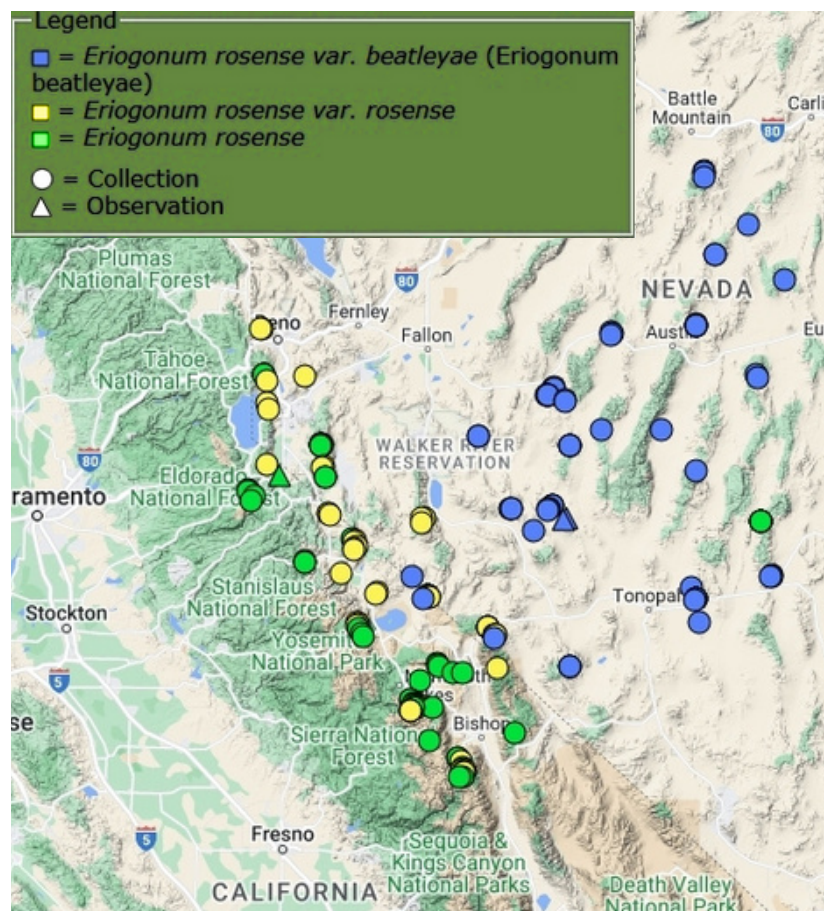


Figure 1. Range of *Eriogonum rosense* (Lassen Volcanic National Park locations not shown). Prepared by Jim Morefield; data courtesy of Google Maps and SEINet.

summer's gatherings of *Eriogonum* which included two collections of *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae*. He commented on how many of the recent collections blurred the lines between the varieties of *E. rosense*. There are other examples of Nevada plants occurring at high elevations on mostly windswept ridges that are also found at lower elevations on specialized soils. Another that comes to mind is *E. anemophilum*.

If *Eriogonum beatleyae* is put in synonymy with *E. rosense*, the resultant taxon has a broad, rather uninterrupted distribution. It occurs from Shasta County in California, south to Peavine Mountain in Nevada, hence south through the Sierra Nevada to the Coyote Ridge area in Inyo County, California, then north and east to the Monitor Range north of Warm Springs in Nye County, Nevada, and the Shoshone Mountains, south of Battle Mountain in Lander County, Nevada. The known county distributions in California are Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Lassen, Madera, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Sierra, and Tuolumne. In Nevada, *E. rosense* is known from Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Eureka, Lander, Mineral, Nye, and Washoe counties.

A large study of the group of *Eriogonum* which contains *E. rosense* was conducted as part of a dissertation by Grady (2012). In it, he lists *E. rosense* but not *E. beatleyae*. He lists five accessions of *E. rosense* used for collecting DNA material. Three of these are from the Sierra Nevada with one being from Mount Rose, Washoe County, Nevada which is the type locality for *E. rosense*. The other two were from *E. beatleyae* sites with one being an adequate topotype. There is not a taxonomic synthesis included in this work.

In our forthcoming Nevada Plants Checklist, Jan Nachlinger and I lump *E. beatleyae* into *E. rosense* and do not recognize any varieties. This view was previously expressed by Jim Morefield based on annotations from some of his specimens from the White Mountains.

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Beatley's buckwheat in bloom. Credit: Jan Nachlinger

Phenology corner:

Death Valley National Park wildflowers this season

by Rose Strickland

In mid-March, Death Valley National Park reported that, while not a superbloom, the wildflowers at the Park this year are blooming well, especially near the east entrance (Dantes View Road) and also Panamint Valley on the west side of the Park. The wildflower blooms also continue up-slope into higher elevations as the spring continues.

Follow this link to find more information about which wildflowers will be blooming at different elevations at the Park and to view some of the beautiful desert wildflowers from past years: nps.gov/deva/learn/nature/wildflowers.htm



Anulocaulis annulatus (valley ring stem), Death Valley NP, March 2016. ©Dennis Ghiglieri



Chylismia brevipes, (Yellow cups), Death Valley NP, March 2016 (formerly *Camissonia brevipes*). ©Dennis Ghiglieri



Gilia cana speciformis (Broad-flowered gilia), Death Valley NP, March 2016. ©Dennis Ghiglieri

Wildflower reports from Southern Nevada by Rose Strickland

Larry Lodwick reports that the flowering season at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge next to Death Valley typically starts in April. Only *Lepidium fremontii*, *Astragalus preussii*, *Lycium andersonii*, and *Oligomeris linifolia* are flowering at the end of March (these always flower first on the Refuge). *Oligomeris* is having a very good year, but the colonies are small and isolated, so only a few are visible to the casual visitor. However,

there is a superbloom of *Geraea canescens* along the highway (Belle Vista Road) just to the south of the Refuge, which actually started in December, but is at its peak currently. There are several areas as you drive west of Pahrump (about 15 miles west of town), but they seem to stop at the California border). I am expecting a good year for flowers in April, by the present conditions.

Additionally, *Arctomecon californica* is now starting to flower at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. *Enceliopsis argophylla* is also in full bloom right now at Lake Mead.



Beckwith's violet in Huffaker Hills in Reno, NV on March 13, 2024. ©Emma Wynn

Featured plant: *Viola beckwithii* by Emma Wynn

"Violets are such cheery flowers with their happy faces and bright colors, especially since so many bloom in the early spring when flower lovers are craving floral companionship. Beckwith's Violet is one of the showiest and most unusual of the *Viola* species in the Great Basin, for its 1-1½ inch blossoms are multicolored. The upper two petals are a velvety purple-maroon, while the lower three petals are blue-purple, maroon, pink, or white. The flower throat is white and yellow with conspicuous maroon stripes or splotches. The blossoms appear even larger because they rise only 2-8 inches above the basal, deeply divided, rather fan-shaped leaves" - Laird R. Blackwell, Great Basin Wildflowers.

I know spring is on its way when I find *Viola beckwithii* in bloom in Reno. I was introduced to them my first spring here by NNPS member

John Weiser who suggested I visit Huffaker Hills in search of them. I found them blooming there on March 9, 2017 and fell in love with them. I start searching for them as soon as the snow starts to melt, I have seen them at Caughlin Ranch, Huffaker Hills, in the Virginia Foothills, and more. My favorite places to view them are along the Lower Thomas Trail and Arrowcreek Open Space area. I first walked this trail in 2018 and have visited multiple times a year since then. There is such a diversity in the color of the violets growing in the area that I wander slowly and fill my phone with photos!

Viola beckwithii can be found growing on dry slopes or in vernal moist areas in the sagebrush steppe of western or northern Nevada. Its bloom period is March to May, yet like most plants, there are always some

outliers. I found one or two flowers in bloom on February 4, 2022. I checked both iNaturalist and the Intermountain Regional Herbarium Network (IRHN) to find the earliest and latest date they had for observations of plants in bloom. The iNaturalist research-grade observations are earliest: January 30, 2022 (Arrowcreek area) and latest May 23, 2023 (hills above Arrowcreek). The dates of the Washoe County observations from IRHN are earliest February 14, 1979 and latest July 10, 1896! The July 1896 specimen is in the UNR Herbarium, there was no online photo but I pulled the specimen and found it was in flower!

The species is named for Edward Griffin Beckwith (1818-1881), a soldier who worked on the Pacific Railroad Survey after leaving the army from 1853 to 1857 with John Williams Gunnison. Notably, the first transcontinental railroad followed his recommended route. His report, which also included an extensive survey of the Great Salt Lake, contained 'much information on the

plants, animals, climate, and geographical features of the lands he had explored.' He succeeded Gunnison as leader of the survey after his death and personally recommended the route for the railroad (CalFlora.net).



Beckwith's violet in Arrowcreek in Reno, NV on February 9, 2020. ©Emma Wynn

Taxonomy classes available this summer

The Museum of Natural History at the University of Nevada, Reno is offering two separate courses this summer. Both are planning to cater to beginner through intermediate observers from various backgrounds:

Basic Sunflower Identification, July 8-10, 2024

- Instructor: Jerry Tiehm, UNR Herbarium
- Description: This three-day course focuses on the taxonomy of the Sunflower Family, Asteraceae, emphasizing basic terminology, dissection skills, and dichotomous keys. Participants will learn how to identify, collect, and press sunflowers, working with around 60 different genera during the course.
- Cost: \$240 non-student; \$120 student
- Sign up by emailing Jerry, atiehm@unr.edu

Nevada Butterfly Course, July 22-23, 2024

- Instructors: Matt Forister, UNR Biology Dept. & Cynthia Scholl, UNR Museum of Natural History
- Description: This course includes both classroom and field components. Participants will learn butterfly identification, focusing on the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada region, with a focus on identifying difficult species, basic butterfly ecology, surveying methods, conservation, and a museum tour featuring neotropical butterflies and moths.
- Cost: \$150 non-student; \$45 student
- Sign up by emailing Cynthia, cscholl@unr.edu

Featured research: Pollen nutrition structures bee and plant community interactions

by Alison Agneray

Pollen is not only vital for plant reproduction but also serves as the main source of protein and lipids for bees. In January 2024, researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno published findings from their study in the Great Basin and Eastern Sierra examining how visitation patterns across 75 subgenera of bees changed based on the nutritional content of pollen from 109 co-flowering plant species. They found that plants with similar nutrition in their pollen had similar bee visitation patterns, even after accounting for floral morphology and phylogeny. The study also revealed distinct groupings of bee and plant taxa that could be characterized by pollen macronutrients, suggesting the presence of nutritional niches within our region. Their work underscores the importance of considering nutritional diversity when selecting plants for habitat

restoration initiatives and for attracting more diverse pollinators to native plant gardens.

Citation: Vaudo, A. D., Dyer, L. A., & Leonard, A. S. (2024). Pollen nutrition structures bee and plant community interactions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(3). doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2317228120



©Aramee Diethelm

Conservation news:

Good news on Lake Tahoe by Rose Strickland

The California Tahoe Conservancy recently announced a purchase of private property in the Upper Truckee River watershed. Funding came from the Tahoe Conservancy, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as from the Tahoe Fund and the League to Save Lake Tahoe. 31 acres of private property in Tahoe's largest marsh ecosystem were acquired, including the Motel 6 in South Lake Tahoe, the adjacent vacant restaurant, and the parking lot. These developments will be removed and the lands are scheduled for ecological restoration. These restored

wetlands and native plants will naturally filter pollution and fine sediment, improving Lake Tahoe's water quality and clarity.

This property is adjacent to the Conservancy's 560-acre Upper Truckee Marsh to the north and Tahoe Resource Conservation District's 206-acre Johnson Meadow property lies across U.S. Highway 50 to the south. In November of 2022, the Conservancy completed construction on a 3-year restoration project in the Upper Truckee Marsh and continues to establish native plants and monitor the restoration progress.

Should we try to save rare species or let them go extinct?

by Rose Strickland

This existential question was discussed on Nevada Newsmakers by Sam Shad in an interview with James Settlemyer, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in February. During the interview, Director Settlemyer was asked whether the state's costs of protecting rare species were justified. He stated *"...there are certain species that over time just can't survive in certain areas... We can try to do our best to prevent that, but we can't stop it. We can't stop Mother Nature. We can't stop that from happening in certain instances."*

It is worth watching this 30-minute interview to understand the views on preserving rare plants of our current State Director of Nevada's natural resources. nevadanewsmakers.com/video/default.asp?showID=3963&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

According to the Nevada Division of Natural Resources website, Nevada has more than 2,800 native species of flowering plants, making our state the 10th most botanically diverse state in the nation. About 300 native Nevada plants, including most of our endemic species (found only in Nevada), are species of conservation concern. Nine of these are already federally listed as endangered or

threatened. Fifteen more plant species and subspecies are considered to be critically endangered and threatened with extinction (Nevada Administrative Code 527.010) by the Nevada State Forester Firewarden.

NNPS will continue to support the protection of rare plant species. Please let Rose Strickland, Chair of the NNPS Conservation Committee, know if you would like to be put on a conservation alert list for the protection of rare species in federal and state resource management agencies.

An opportunity to support the protection of Tiehm's Buckwheat, which will be impacted by Loneer's lithium mine at Rhyolite Ridge, may be coming soon. In the Nevada Independent on March 24, there was a report on the Bureau of Land Management's timeline saying the agency will issue a record of decision on the Environmental Impact Statement in October 2024, along with plans on how it will move forward with Loneer's proposal. This quote from the report *"Timelines have been cut and several review periods are concurrent that were once separated"* indicates that the public comment period on these decisions may be very short.

Margaret Williams Research Grant recipients

The Nevada Native Plant Society awarded two Margaret Williams Research Grants for Botanical Research in 2024 to Rachel Renne and Allison Autry.

- Rachel Renne is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of the Environment at Yale University. Her research proposal is entitled "Investigating perennial forb microsites in sagebrush ecosystems."
- Allison Autry is a Ph.D. candidate at Claremont Graduate University and California Botanic Garden. Her research proposal is entitled "Conserving Rare and Disjunct Orchids in a Changing American West".

Congratulations to both of you! Good luck with your research as it progresses, and we look forward to hearing more about the results.

Society news

by Suzanne Miladin

The March Nevada Native Plant Society meeting was held on March 8th in person at the University of Nevada, Reno with a virtual option. A group in Henderson also met in person and joined online. This was the first in-person meeting in Southern Nevada since early 2020! Over 50 people were able to enjoy the program with 14 people at UNR, 12 in Henderson, and another 28 people online.

President Emma Wynn presided over the meeting, with refreshments starting at 6:30pm. Emma brought delicious homemade cookies baked with currants (not our *Ribes*!). These cookies are called Easter Cakes and are from her mother's recipe. The meeting started at 7 pm with announcements.

- Alison Agneray is our new Newsletter Editor. Please send her your article submissions at aagneray@gmail.com
- Patrick Silbey has been NNPS webmaster since November.
- Douglas County Master Gardeners are holding a native plant sale at the River Fork Ranch Nature Conservancy in Genoa on May 18th from 9 am to 1 pm.

Dan McClure from the Walker Basin Conservancy gave a very informative program about the WBC native plant propagation, "Got Natives?" He discussed his experience in the nursery business and the trials and tribulations of growing native plants for the retail market, explaining why it is so hard to buy native plants at our local garden centers. The process of bringing native plants to market starts 3 years in advance and requires advanced planning that is fraught with risk. The ability to produce locally adapted native plants in the quantities needed for restoration projects is a huge challenge for the region, which Dan is working directly to address with his native plant nurseries. Dan also provided resources for local nurseries that carry native plants in the Northern Nevada region. Dan also generously

brought live plants to share with the attendees in Reno: *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (Apricot Mallow) and *Berlandiera lyrata* (Lyre-leaf Greeneyes). The next monthly meeting will be on April 4th where Marcus Hooker, the collection manager, will be talking about the new home for the Wesley E. Niles Herbarium in Henderson.

Here are sources for obtaining native plants in the Nevada region that were shared during the March meeting:

North

- Greenhouse Garden Center, Carson City
- Moana Nursery, Reno
- Native Plant Farm, Washoe Valley
- Tahoe Tree Company, Tahoe City CA
- The Greenhouse Project, Carson City
- Villager Nursery, Truckee CA
- Vital Bee Buds, Gardnerville
- Walker Basin Conservancy, Yerington
- Washoe State Tree Nursery, Washoe Valley

South

- Mojave Bloom, Las Vegas NV
- Special Projects Nursery, Las Vegas NV
- Springs Preserve, Las Vegas NV

Upcoming Northern NV Field trips

April

- 13 - Lower Thomas Creek hike
- 18 - TMCC Earth Day
- 20 - Idlewild Park for Earth Day
- 28 - Hoge Road on Peavine

May

- 4 - Washoe Tree Nursery tour
- 11 - May Arboretum for Spring Plant Sale
- 18 - Washoe Valley Day-4855 Eastlake Blvd
- 19 - Hike on the Tom Cooke Trail
- 25 - Hike on Red Hill

Reach out to events@nvnps.org if interested in attending or organizing a trip.

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