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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### THE URBAN ORCHARD

BY: MARK TALARICO

When I was a child, one of my household responsibilities included gardening. Our family's vegetable patch and fruit trees were the essence of our home. Fresh veggies were consumed during the summer and during the fall we prepared preserves which fed us throughout the winter. Nowadays, you rarely hear young crowds discussing gardening, let alone the escalating price of fruit. The truth about gardens is; they don't require much time or maintenance. Gardening requires knowledge, some dirt, water and a few flower pots. Anyone can grow a tomato vine and fresh herbs. That said; let me introduce an extraordinary program designed to demonstrate organic fruit production techniques suitable for a Southern Nevada backyard.

Known as The Orchard, this experimental farm is maintained by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The Orchard is administered by Robert Morris, Horticulture Specialist, who is testing and demonstrating many varieties of tree fruits, table grapes, wine grapes, blackberries, strawberries, and nopales. The Orchard is managed by Master Gardener volunteers, whose mission is, "To create an environmentally sensitive demonstration fruit orchard to provide the greater Las Vegas community with educational information."

Research and educational activities are conducted under Robert's direction, with assistance from volunteers. Community volunteers with no experience are invited to help and manage the Orchard. Anyone can do it. In fact the Orchard has been declared ladder-less. Seasonal pruning at the Orchard lowers the height of fruit trees so that all of their picking is done from the ground. Robert's pedagogical approach teaches volunteers about planting, the calendar of caring for fruit trees, pruning, composting, fertilizing, protecting from wind, preventing tree diseases, eliminating insect and micro climates.

To learn more about the Orchard and how to volunteer or about Robert's Urban Orchard concept contact him at 702-257-5509 or email [morrissr@unce.unr.edu](mailto:morrisr@unce.unr.edu).

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. Frank Lloyd Wright

We would like to introduce you to Dave Busch. Having moved here in January, Las Vegas' cooler time of year suited Dave's arrival just fine. Born and raised in Minnesota, he learned to appreciate breaths of cold air and cool winter mornings. Not being one to stay indoors when the dawn breaks, Dave has already found smooth trails for rollerblading when he is not able to be on the ice playing in the Las Vegas men's hockey leagues.



Since moving here he has already enjoyed hiking the trails to the highest points of the Red Rock Canyon as well as visiting the Hoover Dam. Dave says the Grand Canyon is next on his list.

A winning entry in a high school design contest for a city park set in motion Dave's interest in landscape architecture. Not straying far from the land of 10,000 Lakes, he received his Bachelor's of Environmental Design as well as his Bachelor's of Landscape Architecture from North Dakota State University. Dave has spent the last 23 years in the Landscape Architecture industry and looks forward to the new challenges of the Mojave Desert.

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



FERNS  
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND  
TAKEN BY: BILL RUSSO

### GREEN ROOF FOR HEALTHY CITIES

BY: SAMANTHA FULLER

Green Roof for Healthy Cities (GRHC) is a non-profit organization that strives to increase the awareness of green roof infrastructure across North America. It all started in 1999 from a research project called "Greenback from Green Roofs" which focused on the benefits and barriers of green roofs to industry development. Since then GRHC has grown into a nationwide formal industry association and is managed by a series of Board Members. In order to promote awareness and involvement GRHC holds symposiums in select cities and offers training courses which walk you through the; cost benefits, products, design principals, and the professions involved. Green Roofs provide numerous benefits to us and the environment such as; the mitigation of storm water runoff, reduction of energy costs, absorption of air pollution, protection of roof materials, opportunity for bird habitats, reduction of noise, and of course aesthetics.

There isn't just one type of green roof; there are actually three types with three different uses and abilities. First, there are extensive green roofs, which usually aren't for public access as they consist mostly of groundcovers and are very low maintenance. Second there are semi-intensive green roofs which could be enjoyed on a small level such as offices or residences. It consists of groundcovers and shrubs and is about 6"-12" deep.



MILLENNIUM PARK, CHICAGO  
[WWW.GREENROOFS.ORG](http://WWW.GREENROOFS.ORG)

And last but certainly not least is intensive green roofs which are substantially greater than the other two because of the amount of functions it provides. They can withstand public access having both trees and shrubs and a very complex irrigation system. Their soil is about 1' deep and has maintained gardens. An example of this intensive system is Millennium Park in Chicago which is a full functioning public park with many amenities.

So what about Las Vegas? What can we do to incorporate these ideas and principals into our infrastructure? Our city produces many Urban Heat Islands, which are areas in the city that absorb heat and retain it. Green roofs could substantially reduce that problem and create cooler areas. Yes, Las Vegas has dry arid climate with high winds and extreme weather conditions that greatly affect a lot of materials, but that doesn't mean we should avoid any opportunities and solutions to that problem.