

BACK STORY

GREEN VALLEY LIBRARY AND GREAT BASIN PERMACULTURE TO LAUNCH SEED LIBRARY

BY MICHAEL SAUNDERS, ESQ.



Green Valley Library will be the home of Nevada's first seed library.

Given the approach of Earth Day, April 22, and that this month's *Nevada Lawyer* focuses on agriculture, it's fitting to use this month's Back Story to announce that Henderson Libraries, in partnership with the organization Great Basin Permaculture (GBP), will launch a seed library at the Green Valley Library (GVL) location. According to Kevin Scanlon, Head of Reference at GVL, the GVL/GBP Seed Library will be the first in the state of Nevada.

It will be part of GVL's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming. It is estimated that there are currently more than 300 seed libraries/exchanges across the country.

The concept behind seed libraries is simple: they enable members of the community to lend or share seeds, much in the way traditional libraries loan out books, DVDs and other materials. As planned, the GVL/GBP Seed Library will begin with a starter-set of seeds, donated by Native Seeds/SEARCH, a nonprofit seed conservation organization based in Tucson, Arizona. Jessica Penrod, co-founder of GBP, indicated that the seed library starter set will feature regional, drought-adapted varieties of sunflower, artichoke, chard and corn seed.

Throughout 2015, GBP and GVL will be offering seed library educational workshops, introducing people

to the seed library process (i.e. growing from seed to plant, harvesting the seed and then returning it). The workshops will culminate in the official launch of the GVL/GBP Seed Library, set to take place sometime in January 2016. The dates and times of the workshops are available on GBP's website at <http://greatbasinpermaculture.org>.

Although the concept behind seed libraries is simple, the practical implementation of seed libraries, from a legal perspective, has been anything but. Seed libraries have faced legal controversy in some states, including Minnesota and Pennsylvania, for running afoul of seed licensing, labeling and testing laws.

In Nevada, there is no express legal prohibition against seed-lending libraries, such as the seed library envisioned for GVL. However, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) did indicate that it is currently developing a position with respect to seed libraries. Nevada's seed laws, enforced by the NDA, can be found at NRS Chapter 587 and NAC Chapter 587. Scanlon indicated that he would welcome the involvement of the NDA in the GVL/GBP Seed Library. Additionally, Scanlon said, "As we continue this process, we will keep [the NDA] informed as to what we are doing, how we are doing this, so that we make sure that our i's are dotted and t's are crossed."

More information about the GVL/GBP Seed Library can be found on GBP's website at <http://greatbasinpermaculture.org>. To learn more about Henderson Libraries' STEM programming and other offerings, visit www.mypubliclibrary.com. **NL**



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