

Over the Fence...

Musings from the editor

A new year has begun and with it come all the plans and excitement for another successful year. 2016 was amazing and I know 2017 will hold even more fun and enjoyment for PPHS members. The organization is growing and there are a variety of areas where members are needed and can lend a hand. Even if you can only spare an hour or two a month! For a list of some of the ways you can help out, check out the [Announcements](#) on page 3.

I would like to start a new segment in the newsletter, an area where members can share photographs or stories about the history, geology, or way of life of this gorgeous and culturally rich region on the western slope of Pikes Peak. Have a story but not sure about its composition? No worries! I can assist with the editing. So if you have something you'd like to share, please email me!

I'd like to leave you with some of the wonderful comments left by folks at the PPHS geocaches...

From the Teacherage Geocache

* This one brings back memories of attending a two room school house in rural Maryland in the early '50s. The container is very cute and well done. This whole series has been so much fun as a learning tool of our favorite place in the summer time. We have been coming to the area for 14 years.

* Found it during 3 weeks of holidays in the USA visiting several states. We had a wonderful time looking for caches, this was one of them. Thank you very much for placing them. Greetings from Barcelona.

From the Museum Geocache

* Found it during 89-days big geotrip to USA, Canada, Mexico with Sindy, Marci. We logged as "Moravia Team" or "MT". Thanks for nice caches from Brno city in Czech republic EU.

* Make sure to go inside this free museum. They know about the Cache and are hoping more will come see their wonderful artifacts. The ladies that run this museum are very knowledgeable and very sweet and welcoming.



Thank you to members who contributed to the campaign at the end of 2016 for Mortgage Principal Reduction as we received donations of \$3915 that went to reduce the mortgage principal.

From the Ute War Trail Geocache

- * Thanks for all the cache owners for leading me to places I'd not otherwise have seen.
- * Thanks for a fun and educational series.

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Calendar of Events

Drilling, Fracking, Earthquakes & Our
Energy Bills

John Rakowski

Sunday, February 19, 2pm
Florissant Library

PPHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 19, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

The Life & Times of Henry Hoder and the
Wildhorn Dude Ranch

Steve Plutt

Sunday, April 23, 2pm
Florissant Library

Legendary Ladies, Historical Portrayals

Sunday, May 21, 2pm
Lake George Charter School Gym

Lost Ghost Towns of Teller County

Jan MacKell Collins

Sunday, June 11, 2pm
Florissant Library

Florissant Heritage Day

Saturday, July 29, 10am-2pm
Florissant

PPHS Annual Volunteer Brunch

Saturday, September 16, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

PPHS Annual Auction

Saturday, October 21, 12:00pm
Lake George Charter School Gym

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Friday, November 11
Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

Information Pending

Sunday, November 19, 2pm
Florissant Library

2016 Pikes Peak Historical Society

Board of Directors

John Rakowski, President

Scott Adams, Vice President

Rudy Perry, Secretary

Carolynne Forster, Treasurer

Linda Appelbaum, Board at Large

Allan Appelbaum, Board at Large

Jeanne Gripp, Board at Large

Wayne Johnston, Board at Large

Kathy Perry, Board at Large

Brian Stewart, Board at Large

Advisory Board:

AJ Hotchkiss

Lenore Hotchkiss

Celinda Kaelin

Sally Maertens

Andy Weinzapfel

Susan Weinzapfel

**Thank you to the following newsletter
contributors –**

Wayne Johnston

Kathy Perry

John Rakowski

Have an idea for a story?

Got a tidbit or two you'd like to share?

Or maybe you just want to say "Hello!"

Email the Editor at woodespryte@gmail.com

Calendar of Events (cont.)

PPHS Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16, 12:00pm
Florissant Library

**Chautauquas are a public service of the Pikes Peak
Historical Society. There is no charge for
admission and refreshments are served.
Chautauquas are normally held at the Florissant
Library unless otherwise noted.**

!! ANNOUNCEMENTS !!

- Want to have fun and meet new people? Sign up to become a Docent/Greeter at the museum! Knowledge of the area is not needed, just a warm, friendly smile.
Contact Sheila Naviasky:
sheila@mesanetworks.net
- Auction assistance is needed. The Annual Auction is a major, and very beneficial, PPHS event. Be a part of this dynamic committee!
Contact John Rakowski:
rakgeologist@hughes.net
- Chautauquas are fun, free presentations open to the public. These programs provide interesting talks on the history and culture of the area as well as introduces people to the PPHS organization. Greeters are needed to help out at these enjoyable community events.
Contact Jeanne Gripp:
woodespryte@gmail.com
- Florissant Heritage Day has grown! A Co-Chairman is needed! As well as anyone interested in giving a short (30 min.) talk or demonstration at the Museum. Or if you'd just like to lend a helping hand.
Contact Jeanne Gripp:
woodespryte@gmail.com
- A Chairman is needed to organize the annual Hwy 24 Clean-up. Help keep Florissant and its part of the Hwy 24 corridor looking beautiful.
Contact John Rakowski:
rakgeologist@hughes.net
- Do you like to take photos? Or write articles about local history or geology? Then submit your snapshots or stories to the newsletter editor!
Contact Jeanne Gripp:
woodespryte@gmail.com
- Help make a difference at a historic site! The Florissant Cemetery Committee needs you!
Contact John Rakowski:
rakgeologist@hughes.net

PPHS Funding

The Pikes Peak Historical Society is funded strictly from donations, membership fees, and grants. The organization receives no federal, state, or county funding. Last year there were a couple of PPHS members who contacted the company they had retired from some years ago. That company matched cash donations of those PPHS members and also contributed funds to PPHS in recognition of work done for PPHS from those retired individuals. Be sure to check whether your present or past employer might have a similar program. Also, don't forget that you may arrange for a donation directly to PPHS from the administrator of your IRA or Keogh. That way, those amounts would help to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (if over age 70 1/2) but not be included in your gross adjusted income.

Membership Information

The PPHS needs accurate contact information in order to notify you about new and exciting happenings.

If you have any questions or need to make changes to your contact information, members may call [719-748-8259](tel:719-748-8259) and leave a message for a call back; or call Pres. John Rakowski at 719-748-3861; or contact the Membership Chairman, Brian Stewart, at jbcstewart@msn.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org. Please notify the Membership Chairman also of how you wish to receive the newsletter – email, US mail, or both.

March 1st is now the expiration date for all dues paying members. **Your expiration date is shown on the address information of this newsletter.** Memberships may be renewed either online through the PPHS website using PayPal or via the U.S. mail (PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816.

<http://www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org>

A Look Back at 2016 & Anticipating 2017

The Officers and Board of PPHS would like to thank all the volunteers who make the museum and the overall organization work for the community. These volunteers helped PPHS to have a very successful year in 2016 with more visitors to our museum last year than we have seen recently. Those visitors were very pleased with the high quality of our museum in such a relatively small community. That satisfaction with our museum and our friendly volunteers in the museum resulted in record donations by the visiting public.

The Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums met at our museum in January 2017 for a business meeting followed by a discussion of Volunteerism at Coalition Museums. PPHS has a much broader degree of volunteerism than is experienced at many other museums and all the Coalition museums wanted to share hints of how to increase participation by members. Ideas exchanged at the discussion will help all of us to improve.

We had another successful Annual Fundraising Auction in 2016 with almost \$11,000 raised. The auction objective is primarily to ensure that our mortgage and insurance costs are covered with any excess amounts used to reduce mortgage principal or provide for needed building maintenance. Our members along with local businesses donated items and services which drew strong bidding interest from approximately 100 people present at the auction. The Lake George Charter School auditorium has worked well with the increased space and audio system available. The Student Council had delicious food available as their fundraiser during our Auction Preview. Generous donations from members at the end of 2015 and 2016 along with amounts from the auctions and regular loan payments have allowed us to reduce the Museum's mortgage principal by more than \$15,000 in the last two years.

We promoted a more extensive Florissant Heritage Day celebration last July and anticipate another fun and informative Heritage Day coming up on July 29 of this year. More than 500 members of the public

enjoyed activities at our main museum, the Teacherage, the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery and the Florissant Library. The Florissant Grange also had activities with food, vendors and re-enactments. Our presentation at the library allowed visiting kids to make homemade toys similar to toys enjoyed by children a hundred years ago. They also experienced what household chores were like in the late 1800's and early 1900's. We had presentations about Ute legends, local geology and other fun topics at the museum. Visitors learned about some of the notable people buried at the Pioneer Cemetery.

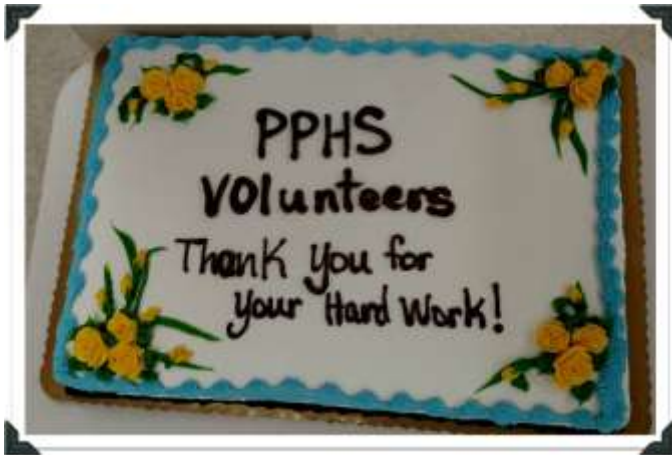
The Memorial Cairn honoring Loya Arrum at the museum was dedicated last summer during a ceremony with family plus other Ute representatives during their visit to the area. Our five free Chautauqua presentations attracted more than 300 people to the interesting stories of the past. We now have seven geocache spots set up at meaningful historic locations and many participants in that growing hobby of "Geocaching" visited and have provided compliments about our sites. Our volunteers again cleaned the sides of US 24 from Florissant west to the county line and arranged beautiful flowers in the central Florissant area.

We welcome more of you to participate in our activities. Come help at the museum where you'll have a chance to meet interesting visitors from spots around the world. You don't have to be an expert, just have a willingness to give a friendly welcome to folks.

Our museum will again be open for Saturday and Sunday afternoons from March through May but after Memorial Day we will open from 10 AM to 4 PM on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays with Sunday hours from 1 – 4 PM. We encourage visitors at other times by calling us at 719-748-8259 at least a day before your visit. Groups are always welcome, whether it be school, church or even a social organization. Come enjoy the museum with your family and friends!

John Rakowski, President

2016 Volunteer Brunch The annual Volunteer Brunch is a way of saying **Thank You** to all the volunteers who give tirelessly of themselves.



2016 “Xmas” Party The annual Christmas Party was postponed until January because of inclement weather. But the ‘Winter Party’ was just as enjoyable!



2016 PPHS Auction



The Annual Auction was the BEST one yet! Thank you to everyone who gave tirelessly of themselves to make it happen.



Tipis 101 – November Chautauqua

The Florissant Library Community Room saw a large crowd in attendance at the November Chautauqua. All those present were eagerly awaiting what Ed Held, a Native American and Pikes Peak Historical Society member, had to say about the Tipi, an iconic American structure. Ed and his wife own a 28ft Tipi and he is the caretaker of the Tipi which can be seen at the PPHS Museum. Ed is known as Tipi Man and also assists other organizations with their tipi set-ups. Ed spoke on the differences between the tipis used by various tribes, tipi etiquette as well as its construction.

Tipi. Teepee. Teepee. No matter how it is spelled, the Tipi is an icon of the Native American Indians. But not all Native Americans lived in Tipis. The Tipi was used by the nomadic tribes of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. It's simple yet sturdy construction kept the occupants warm in the winter and cool in the summer, it stood strong against strong winds, and was easy to put up and take down during a move. Ed showed how to set-up a Tipi, something which can be both confusing and frustrating to many who have never done it before. Through the use of both pictures and scale models, Ed showed the proper way to set-up the tripod poles and subsequent poles to form a strong infrastructure. He also spoke about the variety of designs seen on tipis past and present. Ed also stated that he does do tipi set-up for those who may wish to have a tipi but who do not wish to attempt setting one up.



Tipi Set-up Demonstration

Curious to see how a tipi is set-up?
When the weather warms, it will
be time to put up the tipi at the
PPHS Museum. Announcements of
date and time will be made on the
PPHS Facebook page and via
email. Stay tuned!

Chautauqua videos can now be seen online!

PPHS Chautauqua videos may be accessed via a link on the PPHS website or by searching YouTube for [Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum](#). Subscribe to the PPHS channel!

Don't forget to **Like** us on Facebook!



FLORISSANT PIONEER CEMETERY

Florissant's cemetery received its first permanent "guest" in 1874. This is not surprising, since the town of Florissant was established by Judge James Castello in 1870. What is surprising, however, is that Frank, James' son, waited until 1886 to incorporate a Florissant Cemetery Association. This was probably in anticipation of the boom that would come to the area with the arrival of the Midland Railroad. The Pikes Peak Historical Society maintains this tradition of stewardship with its management of the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. If you meet the residency requirements; you may also secure a final resting place in this historic cemetery. Donations of \$300 are requested for a full burial, and only \$150 for cremains.

Call the PPHS at 719-748-8259 or John Rakowski at 719-748-3861 to secure your future at this historic site.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS) is a non-profit corporation organized under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). The purpose of the Society is to encourage the preservation of the history of Florissant and the West Slope of Pikes Peak, and to educate the public regarding this historical legacy.

Pikes Peak Historical Society is funded solely through memberships and donations, and supports its mission through volunteers who serve on its numerous committees.

PPHS owns and operates two museums: The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, at 18033 Teller County Road CR1 (across from the Florissant Post Office) and the Schoolhouse Museum, located at Teller County Roads CR31 and CR3 (Wildhorn Rd.).

Our Cemetery Committee manages the 1874 Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. Our Beautification Committee sponsors an area-wide clean-up each spring and plants flowers throughout the town of Florissant. Our Chautauqua Committee sponsors free educational programs during the year, and our Culturally Modified Tree Committee researches and records Native American Culturally Modified Trees. In addition, we maintain a fund for returning the Ute Indians to the sacred mountain, Tava, each year. If you become a Docent (Museum Volunteer), you act as host at the Museum, and meet wonderful, exciting people from all over the world.

The volunteers and members of the Pikes Peak Historical Society make all of these community projects possible. Your membership entitles you to our tri-annual newsletter. Life Members receive a 10% discount on all items at the Museum Gift Shop.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print):

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ e-mail1: _____ e-mail2: _____

I prefer Newsletter by: Email _____, US Mail _____, both Email and US Mail _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

___ Sustaining \$20/year

___ Family \$30/year

___ Supporting \$50/year

___ Castello Life \$200

COMMITTEE INTERESTS

Museum Docent _____

Cemetery _____

Beautification _____

Chautauqua _____

Trees _____

Trails _____

Geocaching _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____

DATE: _____

MAIL TO: PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 823
FLORISSANT, CO 80816

For more information, call John at 719-748-3861. Thank you.

(Fees Updated as of 7/1/2015)



Pikes Peak Historical Society
P.O. Box 823
Florissant, CO 80816

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