



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

Editorially Speaking:

Wow! Are We Busy?

The Museum is going into full swing, and we need docents! If you or anyone you know has any interest in volunteering one shift a month, now is the time to join us. Contact Sheila Naviasky at 719-748-0102. It is fun spending a day at the Museum and meeting and greeting all the interesting people who come to visit.

Ralph and Doris Palmer, summer residents of Florissant, will be at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on the morning of Florissant Heritage Day to discuss our Civil War Veterans buried here. Stop by and learn something.

This summer marks the 50th Anniversary of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument; watch for many events and activities celebrating this momentous occasion (www.fossilbeds.org), and be sure to read Robyn's great article on the Fossil Beds on page 4.

Florissant Heritage Day is Saturday, July 27, and as a special treat this year, Bob Cox, the third great grandson of Judge James Costello, will give a persona-presentation of the Costello family history.

The Auction is coming faster than you think: October 19! We still need someone (or several people) to ramrod that important event. Contact John Rakowski or Scott Adams for more information, and read Scott's article on the Auction on page 5.

Ute Prayer Trees

In the late 1990s, the Pikes Peak Historical Society was informed about prayer trees by authorized cultural and educational representatives of the Northern Ute tribe. They asked that PPHS help to preserve these historical items. After that initial contact, we tried to document and assist in preserving the trees, never charging any fees to do that work. We also provided financial assistance to Utes who came to this area to perform ceremony at those trees.

Recently representatives of the entire Ute nation have disavowed prayer trees. Therefore, we have terminated our Tree Committee and its efforts to work with the public to preserve the trees. We are removing the prayer tree items from our displays, except for items that explain why we performed the activity on trees in the past.

Calendar of Events

Chautauqua 4, Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum
Scotti McCarthy. Voices from the Past: Quilts and Soddies

Sunday, June 23, 2:00 pm

Florissant Heritage Day

Bob Cox, Castello Family History (various locations throughout the day)

Saturday, July 27, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Chautauqua 5, Liz Duckworth

"Poker Alice" Tubbs presentation

Sunday, August 18, 2:00 pm

PPHS Annual Volunteer Brunch

Saturday, September 14, 12:00 noon

PPHS Annual Auction

Saturday, October 19, 2:00 pm; preview begins at noon

Veterans Day Ceremony

Monday, November 11, 10:30 am

Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

Chautauqua 6, Greg Liverman, Genealogy

Sunday, November 17, 2:00 pm

PPHS Christmas/Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14, 12:00 noon

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Flo-Geo Days!

Before our town celebrated Florissant Heritage Day, the much anticipated summer event in our area was Flo-Geo Days. From 1984 to 1994, the festivities' location alternated yearly between Florissant and Lake George.

And what festivities they were! Pie throwing . . . a tug-of-war between the Lake George and Florissant Fire Departments with spectators loudly cheering on their "Home Team" . . . Magic Shows . . . a Dunk Tank with local merchants "volunteering" to be dunked . . . Horse-shoe Pitching Competitions with cash prizes for the winners . . . and, best of all, the PARADE!

Twenty to twenty-five floats were decorated by merchants, the Help-U-Club, and Lake George Library, to name a few, plus classic cars. The Flo-Geo King and Queen (elected by residents at 5 cents a vote) rode in the lead car. Fort Carson supplied a mounted patrol and marching band to the procession. Kids lined the parade route to grab all the candy thrown by occupants of the cars and floats. In Florissant, the parade assembled behind the fire department's building (now Mountain Key Pharmacy and The Rock Shop), turned south on Teller 1, then traveled east to the Florissant Mercantile.

Highway 24 was blocked for the parade, but fewer cars were on the highway then, and I doubt the drivers minded the brief 10-minute wait.

Although Florissant and Lake George now host individual summer celebrations (Florissant Heritage Day and the Lake George Extravaganza), our communities remain connected just as they were 30 years ago when we gathered for Flo-Geo Days FUN.

By Donna Knudten

Florissant Rocks

Jeff McCammon has opened a fabulous rock shop that is located at 18172 Teller 1 in the Park State Bank and Trust building in Florissant. In his Second Nature Colorado shop, you will find minerals, fossils, gemstones, antique documents, photos, Native American artifacts, stamps, coins, and jewelry. It is an amazing place that also houses the Rocky Mountain Faceting Academy run by Dwayne Hall of the TV show Prospectors.

Jeff's love of collecting started when he was about 7 years old. He has been G.I.A. (Gemological Institute of America) certified since 1999, and he offers free gem and mineral identification as well as general appraisal advice. Not only can Jeff give you advice about your items, but he can also help you turn them into a beautiful piece of jewelry. According to Jeff, "We're here to play with rocks and teach people."

Jeff has recently joined the board for the Pikes Peak Historical Society, and he has been a docent in our museum since last summer. It is wonderful to watch him working with the children that enter the museum. He gets right down to the child's level and describes the wonders

(continued on 3)

2018 PPHS Board of Directors

John Rakowski, *President*
Scott Adams, *Vice President*
Carolynne Forster, *Treasurer*
(Vacant), *Secretary*

Members at Large

Lois Voeltz, *Membership Chair*
Diane Burton, *Board Member at Large*
Robyn Proper, *Board Member at Large*
Jeff McCammon, *Board Member at Large*

Other Chairs

Wayne Johnston, *Facebook & Website Chair*
Toni Ratzlaff, *Chautauqua Chair*
Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*
Kathy Perry, *Geocache Chair, Museum Gift Shop*

Advisory Board:

AJ Hotchkiss	Lenore Hotchkiss
Celinda Kaelin	Brian Stewart
Sally Maertens	Susan Weinzapfel
Andy Weinzapfel	

Newsletter Committee:

Darice Zimmermann	pphsnews@gmail.com
Robyn Proper	robynproper@gmail.com
Donna Knudten	



Jeff McCammon inspecting some of the merchandise in his new rock shop in Florissant, Colorado. Come visit him.

of the item in which the child is interested. Jeff has included books from our museum at his shop. He sells the books when the museum is not open and gives all profits to PPHS. He has also donated specimens to museum collections. Look for his items the next time you visit the museum.

Jeff and his lovely wife, Heather, can be found at the shop Friday and Saturday from 10:00 until 5:00. On Sundays, the shop is open from 10:00 until 2:00. Mondays and Wednesdays, the shop is open from 10:00 to 4:00, and he is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Jeff's shop is a terrific addition to the geology heaven that is Florissant. Please consider stopping by to say hello and see what his shop has to offer. It is great to have business owners with such a desire to give back to the community. Thank you, Jeff and Heather!

By Robyn Proper

PPHS Annual Dues
are DUE in March.
Have you paid
your dues yet?

Travel Bug Kaelin's Amazing Adventures



On March 27, Geocacher Jasper Dakota, who had traveled with Kaelin to 324 caches (most of them puzzle caches in the US), left him in Bayern, Germany. He had a nice rest there until May 5, when another geocacher, lokijota, who lives in Germany, retrieved him and took him by train to Lombardia, Italy, where they found four caches. They

were last seen caching back in Bayern. One of the caches they visited in Munich was a cemetery dating from 1563-1944. It was the first burial ground in Munich and placed outside the city gates for victims of the plague. So far Kaelin has visited 15 states and 6 different countries. He is more traveled than I am, and has logged 32,750.8 miles while visiting 440 caches.

Last December, Kaelin visited a cache near Fort Collins that looked so interesting Rudy and I decided to go check it out. Bill Swets, who used to be a farmer,



started creating metal creatures using car parts, farm machinery, and other scrap metal in 1985 as a hobby. After a couple of years he had 43 in his "zoo," and now there are approximately 160.

There are bread-machine-sized imps, cartoon train engines, towering dinosaurs, and futuristic spaceship vehicles. We found humor in the metal golfer aided by a dinosaur caddy, and a hitchhiking creature holding a boombox to his ear with a prisoner's ball and chain on his ankle. It was a fun walk through the property, which you can visit with just a donation.

We would have never known about this roadside treasure had Kaelin not visited it, which is one of the reasons we love geocaching. I will be catching you up on some of his adventures in Germany when my translator is back in Colorado.



Kathy Perry

Geoheritage

By Robyn Proper

Do you know what goes on behind the scenes at your closest National Park? The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument celebrates its 50th anniversary this August. Our monument supports a permanent paleontologist, a part-time museum technician, and as many as nine geology/paleontology interns each year. Since 1997, the monument has helped to launch the careers of over 60 young scientists.

How did this success story begin? In the 1870s, our government sponsored a scientific survey of our area. A local homesteader named Charlotte Hill shared her amazing fossil collection and set off work done by more than 150 scientists during the century that followed. Way to go, Charlotte!!

In 1969, legislation was enacted to protect our fossil rich area. Today, scientists at Florissant work to inventory and monitor the extensive fossil collection. There are more than 70 different fossil sites in the park, and changes can occur due to everything from freezing and thawing cycles to man-made causes. About 1,800 species have been identified over time, which makes our fossil collection one of the richest in the world!

The monument's paleontology activities are led by our park paleobotanist, Dr. Herb Meyer. Projects involve conservation efforts, resource management, scientific research, and education/interpretation opportunities. Students of all ages visit our monument to learn about our evidence of a 34-million-year-old environment that cannot be duplicated on our planet today. Collections of Florissant fossils exist in at least 17 different museums.

One of the main purposes of our monument is scientific exploration. Qualified scientists can submit research proposals to the National Park Service to acquire research permits. Examples of recent studies include expanding our knowledge of fossil mammals, fossil leaf

studies to reveal paleoclimate, remote sensing to locate buried stumps, comparisons with other fossil sites to understand how ecosystems evolve over time, as well as many other topics. All the while, the staff members at the monument work to provide meaningful learning experiences, foster stewardship, and connect visitors with the geologic heritage of our area. Who knows what the future may teach us!

Close to 80,000 people each year visit the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. On August 20, 2019 we celebrate 50 years of science and history. Our summer celebrations include an evening fundraiser hosted by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, a hiking contest, a science open house day, a history day, and a huge celebration on August 17th involving guest speakers, panel discussions, and, of course, cake. Some of the original people who fought for the monument in 1969 will be returning to celebrate. Please go to the park website, www.nps.gov/flfo, to learn more. Come celebrate our geoheritage and the fabulous science and history of our area!



This is a weather station monitoring conditions next to one of our petrified stumps. Extinct species of sequoia.

Pikes Peak Historical Society Annual Auction



The Annual Pikes Peak Historical Society Auction is just around the corner! The auction is our main source of funding, targeted to the museum mortgage and insurance expenses. It has been the key to our success in keeping our museum and other programs free to the public. Thank you for your support.

Bidding begins at 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 19, at the Lake George Charter School. Items to be auctioned will be available for viewing starting at 12:00 noon. Other than bidding often and bidding generously, it is for charity after all, how can you help make the auction a fun and successful community event?

It takes many people, with many different talents, to put on the auction. Availability is actually the key ability or talent needed, and we guarantee we can find you a rewarding place to help! In fact, we're looking for a motivated organizer to Chair the auction.

Another key need is for people willing to talk to local businesses who have donated to the PPHS Auction previously. Just stop by and request their support again this year. This isn't a "cold call." We will have sent a reminder letter to every business that has helped in the past; we just need you to follow up.

There are many other opportunities to help. We need people to help with administration before and during the auction (yes, you can still bid!). The "lot-ing" party is always a fun evening and we've got it down to a reasonably short evening. One group we really missed last year was the publicity group, who took flyers to businesses in the weeks before the auction.

And you can donate! Maybe you have a talent

or skill, or some special thing you just don't need anymore. Gifts utilizing your special talents are a superb donation and often create lasting friendships. Your custom baked goods, automobile detailing, mineral collecting trips, guided local history tours, quilting instruction, or special dinners in your home all make great auction items. We would love to see more personal gift ideas like these. Do you have a special place to go or a unique relationship with a businessman? Gift certificates from local or out-of-town stores, merchants, guides, or other specialty businesses are also a great idea.

We try to keep the auction classy, offering items people want or need: we're not a rummage or garage sale. Donations must be clean, in good condition, and complete. All used electronic items must have a user's manual, all cables, and be totally functional. Please, NO appliances, mattresses, bedding, pillows, or blankets; however, a hand-made quilt would be welcome. Furniture that is in very good condition and antique or otherwise unique could be considered. PPHS reserves the right to otherwise use donations that are not suitable for the auction.

Finally, cash donations are always welcome, and anyone making a cash contribution to the auction will have their name in the front of the auction booklet.

Contact John Rakowski or Scott Adams at 719-748-8259 for more information.

Scott Adams



Gee, Thanks!

We always have people and businesses to thank for their contributions to PPHS in the form of money, time, energy, materials; so:

Thanks!

Our thanks to the Florissant Cemetery cleanup crew on May 17: Scott Adams, Fred Hatch, Bill Heine, Bob Hirschfeld, Wayne Orłowski, Rudy Perry, and John Rakowski. Following the cleanup, Wayne and John installed the new flower barrels at the Museum, which had been obtained from Tractor Supply at a reduced price owing to the help of Jeff Proper and TSC generosity.

Thank you to Scott and Pam Adams, Wayne and Deb Orłowski, Lee Hummer, John Rakowski, and David Wyckoff for the US Highway 24 Cleanup on May 18!
They picked up 43 bags of trash.

Thanks to Scott Adams for purchasing and installing the new toilet at the Museum..

Thanks to Kay Bishop for helping Kathy Perry in making orders for the Gift Shop.

Amazon Smile Program

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that you can benefit the Pikes Peak Historical Society every time you shop? Amazon has a program to support your favorite charity: Amazon will donate 0.5% of most purchases to your chosen charity, and PPHS is now registered as participating charity. Just go to smile.amazon.com to get started, and select Pikes Peak Historical Society from the list of charities.

Membership Information

If you have questions or need to make changes to your contact information, members may call 719-748-8259 and leave a message for a call back; or call President John Rakowski at 719-748-3861; or contact Lois Voeltz, Membership Chairman, at PPHSMembers@gmail.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website:

www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org

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).

ATTENTION! The Editor is always looking for articles, old clippings, old photos, and story ideas for upcoming newsletters. Email the Editor with your submission. pphsnews@gmail.com
Please send us your memories of our area "back in the day."

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 \$400 are requested for a full burial, and only \$200 for cremains.

Call Pikes Peak Historical Society at 719-748-8259 to secure your future at this historic site.

MEMBERSHIP



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. 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

Auction

Cemetery

Chautauqua

Geocaching

Heritage Day

Hwy 24 Cleanup

Kiosk

Museum

Trails

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ DATE: _____

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:
www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org

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

(Updated 05/30/2019)



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

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