



# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

## Fall, Glorious Fall!

Nearing the End of Another Peculiar Year



And we have gotten through the past year fairly well . . . all things considered. We were able to open the Museum for the season with reduced hours, we have plans underway for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, and we will have our annual auction (online) on October 22-25.

We did close the Museum a few weeks early and we did have to cancel our one scheduled Chautauqua due to increasing Covid-19 cases in our area and the vulnerability of our members and volunteers. But we had a pretty good year overall. Highlights on page 4.

The Auction is coming! It will be online again; that seemed to work fairly well last year. Read all about it on page 3.

Kathy Perry has provided another update on geocaching . . . so many have still been able to enjoy that. See page 2 for the latest updates.

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# Pikes Peak Historical Society

## Geocaching Update

By Kathy Perry

Here is the latest update on PPHS Geocaches with comments by geocachers who enjoyed our caches all summer. Since the end of May, the caches were found 93 times with four more favorite points awarded. The total times PPHS caches have been found since being placed in June of 2015 is 1,357. Sadly, travel bug Kaelin has still not made an appearance.

### Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

Grabbing a mystery cache today. Decided to drive here and soak up some history. Nicely done. I signed the log and am adding a favorite point.

Thanks, Pikes Peak Historical Society, for placing and maintaining the cache.

Thanks for the fun! Awesome history and neat resting place.

Very peaceful up here today. Thanks for the cache and for keeping the history alive.

This is a very nice peaceful cemetery and a fun puzzle. We enjoy looking at old Grave markers and imagining the lives they represent, not much different from our own.

### Museum

Stopped by to check out the museum. Worth a visit!

Thank you PPHS for placing and maintaining this cache and helping us make some memories!

Greetings from Kernville Ca. I am on an adventure across the county to attend Geofest in Ohio. Love history. Seems like there is so much to explore here.

Said hi to the elk, nice easy find.

This place was closed today, but we had a chance to glance at some of the stuff outside. The teepee was cool and the wooden pipes were interesting. Found cache right away.

Thank you for taking the time to put this one

here. Beautiful place and we learned a lot about the antique machinery including the potato picker!!

Kool history. Enroute to a 14er nearby.

Museum isn't open today (Tuesday) but some neat things on the outside as well.

Easy find, but it made my 8 year old's day. Thanks!

Big THANKS to "PPHS" for placing this nice traditional cache "PPHS Museum" that we had so much fun visiting today and of course for the awesome new smiley on the map.

### 2021 PPHS Board of Directors

John Rakowski, *President*  
Scott Adams, *Vice President*  
Carolynne Forster, *Treasurer*  
Barbara Hickok, *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*  
Marianne Mogon, *Chautauqua Chair*  
Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*  
Kathy Perry, *Geocache Chair*

#### Advisory Board:

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

#### Newsletter Committee:

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

# What's Happening?

## 2021 PPHS Auction

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Each fall, the Pikes Peak Historical Society holds an auction as our major fundraising event of the year. This year, again, due to Covid restrictions, the auction is being conducted online. The auction will go live off the PPHS website:

<http://www.pikespeakmuseum.org> just look for the **auction icon** that will take you to the auction site. Once there, everything is self explanatory. You will be able to start bidding on items at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 22, and the bidding will close at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25. We will make arrangements for all items to be picked up at the Museum. Watch your email for further details of the Auction.

Donations of items for the auction can be made by emailing:

[rakgeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:rakgeologist@yahoo.com)

We are looking for services, gift certificates, trips, guided tours, handmade quilts, craft items, artwork, and cash donations are always welcome. We are also contacting local businesses for donations for the auction.

Please help support PPHS by supporting our Annual Auction. We already have many fun, valuable, and interesting items and gift certificates ready to auction. Look for gift certificates and merchandise from local restaurants and businesses and help support them as they help support us.

A big thanks goes out to Marianne Magon, Jeff McCammon, and John Rakowski for organizing our auction this year. A lot of hard work goes into this: chasing down donations, gathering and photographing the items and describing them on the auction site, preparing everything for final pick-up. THANKS!!

And take a look at this fun weekend get-away from M Lazy C Ranch - A relaxing weekend (two-night) stay for two at the M Lazy C Ranch



in Lake George. Nestled in the Pike National Forest with beautiful and serene scenery. You will be staying in The Wrangler Cabin, which is one of the original buildings of the homestead. Modernized of course, but full of Western charm. Also included is Dinner Friday night, Breakfast Saturday morning, Dinner Saturday night, and Breakfast on Sunday morning. And you never know what activities the staff will have in store. Included in this package is a relaxing two hour ride on horseback through the beautiful and somewhat breathtaking beauty of Colorado's mountains. Good from May 1, 2022, to September 5, 2022, and subject to availability.



# Hits and Misses

It has been a year of hits and misses. Missing all the things we weren't able to do while enjoying and celebrating those we were able to do.

## Hits! What Did We Do?

Florissant Heritage Days has to count as one of the Hits. It was very successful this year and well attended with 191 people stopping by the Museum and 50 visited the Teacherage. The Cemetery talk and the Lapidary Presentation were also very well received.

Another Hit was the Museum. Even though we were not open as many hours as usual, we had many respectful and appreciative visitors. Our Gift Shop donations and general donations this year were down from prior years but were averaging greater on an "hours open" basis. We are grateful for a core group of Docents who kept the museum open for those days.

A group of volunteers did finally get the chuckwagon and buckboard painted. The bright green chuckwagon with its bright red wheels reminds us of a Holiday Season that will soon be here! See the buckboard in progress on this page, and the final result of both the buckboard and chuckwagon on the front page.



Here's another big Hit: PPHS received newly reprinted copies of the 1980 history of the Florissant area "FLORISSANT, COLORADO" originally published in 1980 by Leo Kimmett, great grandson of Judge James Castello. Leo Kimmett's daughter, who holds the copyright, arranged for the printing and donation to the PPHS Gift Shop. This is a great and informative book for only \$15; we will have it for sale at the Museum Gift Shop and by special arrangement (contact John Rakowski). Check it out.

While we have closed the Museum for the year, we want to be sure everybody is aware that we will gladly open with a couple days' notice to visitors who are vaccinated and masked. Please call 719-748-8259 to make arrangements at least a day or more in advance.

Despite the chaos and confusion of the past--wow! almost two years now--your Pikes Peak Historical Society remains in solid financial condition. We appreciate your loyal membership.



## And the Misses

Hey! You all missed a fantastic Chautauqua. Well, I missed it, too. We all missed it. We had to cancel our Chautauqua Presentation "The Granite Attraction – Stories of the Pikes Peak Highway and Summit" which was scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2021 at the Lake George Charter school. The cancellation was because of the recent increasing surge of Covid-19 cases in this local area, in the State, and in the US overall. We did not feel that a gathering of people sponsored by PPHS was prudent at this time. We hope to reschedule the presentation by author Eric Swab in the future and to resume with additional Chautauqua presentations as soon as we safely can.

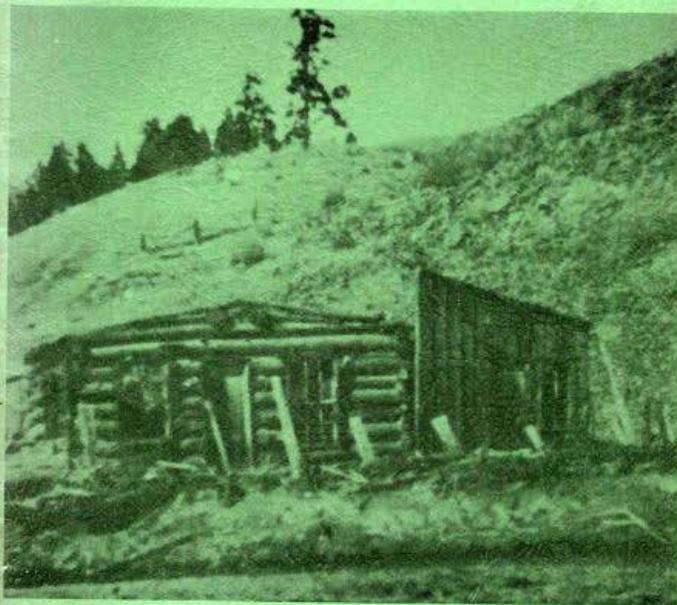
We have all missed so much of what we are all about: our community and our friendships. That hasn't gone away. We will be back, stronger than ever, ready to enjoy ourselves and our friendships and our lives. We may have had to tone things down, but we haven't turned them off. We'll be back.



## Wonderful Opportunity

We need a new editor for our newsletter. This can be a fun job and you will have the opportunity to meet people and learn more about our community and PPHS. Plus you get to see your name in lights! Well, OK, maybe not actually in lights . . . but in print. Contact Darice Zimmermann or John Rakowski for more information about this truly exceptional opportunity.

## FLORISSANT, COLORADO



BY LEO KIMMETT

## 2021 Calendar of Events

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### Pikes Peak Historical Society

#### PPHS Annual Auction

Will be held October 22-25. This will again be an on-line event. Please consider helping out and donating items this year.

#### Veterans Day Ceremony

Thursday, November 11, 10:30 am Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

## 2022 Calendar of Events

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I think we are all eager to see what 2022 will bring for PPHS Chautauquas? Get-togethers? Events? Whatever comes, we look forward to seeing YOU!!!

## 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!

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Thanks to Kathy and Rudy Perry for keeping our geocaches going. They have brought joy to many during these peculiar times.

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Thanks to Sheila Naviasky for continuing to organize volunteers to keep the Museum open and going.

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Thanks to Marianne Magon and Jeff McCammon (and, as always, John Rakowski) for managing our auction.

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A big thanks to all the volunteers (Beth Ezaki and her friend Molly, John Kurth, Elaine Godsoe, Belinda & Leroy Trusty, Debra Henderson, John Rakowski, and Lois Voeltz) who worked hard getting our Buckboard and Chuck Wagon all scraped and painted and spruced up and ready for visitors

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And a big THANKS to all our volunteers who continue to support PPHS and our Museum through these difficult times.

## 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](http://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](mailto:PPHSMembers@gmail.com); or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website:

[www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org](http://www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org)

Memberships may be renewed either online through the PPHS website using PayPal or via the U.S. mail (PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816).

Remember you have the option of receiving your Newsletter by email or regular mail.

ATTENTION! The Editor is always looking for articles, old clippings, old photos, and story ideas for upcoming newsletters. Email the Editor with your submission. [daricezimmermann@gmail.com](mailto:daricezimmermann@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  Beautification  Cemetery

Geocaching  Hwy 24 Cleanup  Museum

Refreshments for Chautauqua

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:  
[www.pikespeakmuseum.org](http://www.pikespeakmuseum.org)

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

( Updated 02/14/2020 )



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

BULK RATE
US Postage
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*Addressee or Current Resident*