

The communities of Lake George and Florissant are rich in history and played significant roles in the development of our nation and the state of Colorado. To celebrate, they are holding Flo-Geo Heritage Day in conjunction with the state's 250/150 Commission and everyone is invited to join the fun.

Florissant Fossil Beds holds traces of life from billions of years ago, when the land was formed. The area later became home to Native Americans, primarily the Utes, who hunted and roamed this area. Then came the Spanish, the Europeans, and the Mountain Men who came to trap the Beaver. Soon miners followed and then the homesteaders; ranchers and farmers.

Judge James Costello came to the area, naming it Florissant, and set up a trading post catering to the Indians, Mountain Men, miners, and settlers. During the years of the Midland Railroad, Florissant was a booming community.

George Frost built a dam on the South Platte River to create the reservoir that supplied ice to Denver and surrounding mining camps. When the Midland Railroad came through, the ice was utilized by the railroad. George's Lake was renamed Lake George and is a quaint little town that caters to tourists, campers, hunters, and fishermen.

Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS) operates a museum that displays many remnants of the past as well as displays of gems and minerals found in the area. PPHS is also the caretaker of the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery where people from the past and present and even Civil War Veterans claim their final resting place.

These two communities have come together to showcase the history and culture of the area as well as good ole mountain hospitality. Flo-Geo Heritage Day offers plenty of activities scheduled for visitors of all ages and it is jam-packed into one exciting day, Saturday, July 25, and better yet, it won't cost an arm and leg, because most of the activities are free.

Start off the day with a hearty breakfast at the Florissant Fire Station by donation from 7 – 11 a.m. The Cripple Creek Donkeys will be on hand to welcome everyone to Flo-Geo Heritage Day. And you can take part in an on-line auction of assorted items. The auction proceeds will benefit Florissant Fire Protection District.

Passports will be available and you can get a stamp from each activity you attend. Passports will be available at Florissant Fire Station, Pikes Peak Historical Museum, and High Country Realty. The first 10 to turn in their passport will receive a prize. The top two with the most stamps collected will receive a special prize. Winners will be announced following the event. Passports can be turned in at High Country Realty.

Visit the Florissant Fossil Beds (Fossil Deposits and Petrified Redwood Stumps) and see the 1878 Homestead of Adeline Hornbek. Visit the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, the Teacherage (former residence of teachers at Florissant School), the Grange (former Florissant School), Granite Canyon General Store in Lake George (one of the original buildings of Lake George) and see where the stately home of George Frost once stood.

Across the highway is Lake George Community Park where you can watch a Gymkhana and check out the Snare Cabin and Lake George Ice business display. To get a list of all locations and activities, visit the web site flo-geo.com or see the passport.

For lunch or dinner, there are four restaurants offering casual dining at Gold Water Café, award-winning BBQ at Fat Shack in Lake George, Serranos offers authentic Mexican and The Thunderbird bar and grill has been a staple of Florissant for many years.

Be on the watch for two wanted desperadoes; Colorado Pete and Cherokee Jack. The sheriff will be on hand as well and the showdown will be at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Grange.

Local businesses have sponsored this event: Ace Hardware, Apex Waste Solutions, Crippen's Processing, Florissant Family Medicine, Florissant Mercantile, High Country Realty, Hitchin' Post, Lake George Cabins & RV Park, Outpost Feed & Ranch Supply, Sparks Automotive, and Tumbling Trout Fly Shop. Plus, technical assistance from Paul del Toro and Scott Miller.

Come join the fun, learn about the history, spend the day, and enjoy the hospitality of the Florissant and Lake George communities.