

Academy District 20 leases 400-plus acres.

The almost-forgotten story of Cooperation, Multiple Uses, Long-Term Vision, and Management Goals for this square mile of state land in Black Forest was initiated about 27 years ago by citizens of Black Forest who were members of the Slash and Mulch Committee (SAM-COM) and the Black Forest Trails Association (BFTA).

This effort was compatible with "enhancement of beauty, natural values, open space and wildlife habitat" statutory direction for Stewardship Trust Lands.

In November 1996, Colorado Constitutional Amendment 16 reorganized the State Land Board (SLB), created the Stewardship Trust, and provided new rev-

enue stream guidelines.

By 1996 both SAMCOM and BFTA were incorporated nonprofits. In 2022 both organizations are still proudly providing public service.

Early in 1997, BFTA members approached Academy D-20 Administrator Steve Morrison (Founder of School in the Woods) about working together for long-term land uses on BF Section 16. BFTA members and Morrison approached Kurt Schroeder (EPC Parks) and the Partnership for Section 16 began.

The Partnership for Section 16 soon included SAMCOM (per EPC Solid Waste Management Administrator), Jon Fisher, and Forester Dave Root (Colorado State

Forest Service). Key Partnership citizens were Irv Perelstein and Judy von Ahlefeldt (BFTA), and Ruth Ann Steele (SAMCOM).

During 1997 and early 1998, The Partnership for Section 16 held public meetings and discussions with EPC Planning Commissioners and the El Paso Board of County Commissioners.

Together they cooperatively developed the BF Section 16 long-term Land Use Vision and Management Goals, forming the basis for the two leases which can be renewed in December 2022.

**Judith von Ahlefeldt**

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Explore the outdoors

By the staff at Covered Treasures

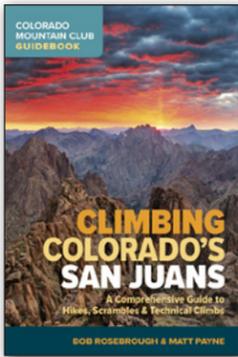
"Still, round the corner, there may wait, a new road or a secret gate."—J.R.R. Tolkien

Now is an opportune time to explore the outdoors through hiking, climbing, road trips, and more. Here are some guidebooks to help you plan your adventures:

#### **Climbing Colorado's San Juans: A Comprehensive Guide to Hikes, Scrambles, and Technical Climbs**

By Bob Rosebrough and Matt Payne (Colorado Mountain Club) \$26.95

Covering 200 peaks and 300 routes, this is the most comprehensive climbing guidebook to the San Juans. It features stunning photos and a deep dive into San Juan's colorful climbing history. Bob Rosebrough, avid outdoorsman and mountaineer, has climbed the San Juans for more than 50 years. Matt Payne, mountaineer and nature/landscape photographer, has climbed all of Colorado's Fourteeners and the highest 100 peaks in Colorado.



#### **Hiking Colorado's Hidden Gems: 40 Undiscovered Trails**

By Stewart M. Green (Falcon Press) \$24.95

From the Front Range to Summit County and the Western Slope, this guide reveals 40 of the best hidden and little-known trails around Colorado. Most of the hikes have not appeared in previous guidebooks. Hikes range in difficulty from handicap-accessible and easy hikes to strenuous outings. Local author Stewart Green is a lifelong climber and professional photographer.

#### **Hiking Waterfalls: Colorado**

By Susan Joy Paul and Stewart M. Green (Falcon Press), \$24.95

Colorado boasts beautiful waterfalls. This guidebook includes detailed hike descriptions, maps, and color photos for more than 125 of the most scenic waterfall hikes in the state. Hike descriptions include history, local trivia, and GPS coordinates. Local author Susan Joy Paul has hiked, camped, and climbed around the U.S. and beyond, reaching the summits of more than 700 mountains.

#### **4,284 Miles: A novel based on the 1916 journey of Joe Bruce and Lester Atkinson**

By R.L. Greene (Divergent Mind) \$14.95

America was on the edge of greatness. The world was on the edge of war. In the summer of 1916 two young men, Joe Bruce and Lester Atkinson, journeyed on their bicycles from Colorado Springs to New York City. The Lincoln Highway was little more than a muddy path across the nation. Automobiles were in their infancy. Few had ever heard a radio. This historical fiction brings this time to life through their journey and the people they meet.

#### **The Open Road: 50 Best Road Trips in the USA**

By Jessica Dunham (Hachette) \$27.99

Organized by region, covering 50 different road trips, this guidebook will gear you up for any adventure from a weekend getaway to a cross-country trip. You can drive iconic routes, see the country, explore the landscape, and more.

#### **National Parks: The American Experience**

By Alfred Runte (Lyons Press) \$21.95

This revised fifth edition continues the story of how Americans invented and expanded the concept of national parks. Further supported with period photographs and 12 pages of color paintings, this examines the lands

that define America, from Yosemite and Yellowstone to wilderness Alaska.

#### **Great American Road Trips: Hidden Gems**

Edited By Reader's Digest (Trusted Media Brands) \$19.99 Discover insider tips, must-see stops, nearby attractions, and first-person accounts to help you make the most of your journeys through 39 hidden gems found across the country. Some spots offer activities for the more adventurous, such as rafting or mountain biking; others include suggestions for the more leisurely traveler.

#### **Colorado Bucket List Adventure Guide**

By Don Harris (Bridge Press) \$14.89

As you travel the distance through the canyons and plains, you'll have the time of your life in the Centennial State's immersive beauty. This unique adventure guide features more than 100 must-see destinations, comprehensive driving instructions, GPS coordinates, the best time to visit certain destinations, weather conditions, average expenses, and much more.

#### **Backroads & Byways of Colorado: Drives, Day Trips & Weekend Excursions**

By Drea Knufken and John Daters (Countryman Press) \$22.95

In this updated and revised edition, local writers and travelers Drea Knufken and John Daters are your guides to the pinnacles of the Rockies, the sandstone valleys of the Western Slope, and the windswept prairies of the eastern state. This is the shortest route you can take to explore like a native and delve deeper into the history and magic of Colorado. Areas include: Trail of the Ancients, Grand Mesa, Gold Belt Tour, and Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway.

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).

### July Library Events

## Summer Adventure continues; library will have booth at July 4 fair

By Harriet Halbig

The Summer Adventure reading program will continue through mid-August at the Monument Library. Join over 800 patrons to participate through reading, imagining, and moving to win prizes! Upon registration, each child up to age 18 will receive a free book.

Special programs will be offered each Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 at Monument Library, and *Toddler Time* will be offered each Wednesday at 9:30 and 10. The *Mon-*

*umental Readers Book Club* will meet on July 15 at 10:30 and the *Monumental Bookworms* will meet at 6:30 p.m. on July 12.

The Palmer Lake Library is open from 10 to 6 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. *Family Story Time* is on Fridays from 10:30 to 11:15. The *Palmer Lake Book Club* meets on the first Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

For detailed information on special programs,

please see the district website, [ppld.org](http://ppld.org), and look under programs by location.

Representatives of the library will have a booth during the July 4 Street Fair with activities for children and the ability to sign up for a library card.

All Pikes Peak Library District locations will be closed on July 4 in celebration of Independence Day.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

### Palmer Lake Historical Society, June 16

## The Night of a Thousand Heroes

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Palmer Lake Historical Society meeting on June 16, Cañon City author Tracy Beach described in great detail the events and heroic feats that took place during the catastrophic Pueblo flood of June 1921. In a unique and quirky style, Beach delivered the details of her book titled *The Night of a Thousand Heroes*, to an engaged and lively, interactive audience.

Beach highlighted the unusual events that took place before, during, and after the flood, showing historic photographs of the flooded downtown streets of Pueblo. Beach described how a torrential rainstorm in June that began in Salida and came through Cañon City to Pueblo caused the disaster. Unfortunately, the city had been built on an angle with sloping bluffs like a bathtub, and the fast-moving water had nowhere to go. After the levies broke, a large area of downtown Pueblo was under 21 feet of water.

Beach shared surprising, humorous stories of the

exceptional heroic residents of Pueblo, such as the story of the 21-year-old, 6-foot-7-inch telegraph manager who stayed on the first floor to send telegrams and sent the female telegraphers to the first and second floor where the windows were blacked out to avoid sun glare. As the water level rose higher, he sent the women to the third floor, and that's when they discovered the true extent of the flooding.

When the telegraph poles needed reconnecting at the old mineral palace, allowing just enough wire to send a couple of telegraphs, the men reconnected the wires while naked to avoid being weighed down by wet clothing.

Another hero never told his granddaughter about the hundreds of people he saved that night from a flooding train car, and how the scar on his arm remained as an ever-present reminder.

The Pueblo Water Works used to help sound the alarm for the Pueblo Fire Department by opening the

steam whistle once every 15 minutes, but when the flood came the whistle was sounded three times every 15 minutes. The alert caused many spectators to get caught out in the flood by watching too closely when the levies burst.

The Army Rangers rebuilt bridges and ensured security to prevent looting. The Elks Lodge opened to shelter flood refugees and provide soup kitchens.

Members of the Boy Scouts of America helped by forming a chain of light up to the Pueblo Court House and the boys, ages 11-18, were able to deliver two babies during the evacuation at the Court House. The Red Cross arrived the following morning and in total five babies were born during the flood in the Court House. The Scouts also delivered 10,000 telegrams and connected lines, running wire down two miles of road to connect service to their camp.

It is estimated that 600 people died due to the flood, with one building losing 40 children including their