

from the edge of extinction. Hammitt's presentation led to a lively question-and-answer period where audience members contributed to the overall understanding of how politics, the expansion of the West, and military strategy contributed to the deliberate extermination of the bison.

Join us on Sunday, June 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. on the Village Green at Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake, for our annual salute to fathers. Each year

the Historical Society provides free ice cream, fruit pie, and music to bring families together in a celebration of dads on Father's Day. Come join us and don't forget to bring Dad!

Also join us on June 18, 2015, at 7:00 PM at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake, CO, 80133, for a presentation on trains that travelled Ute Pass. Mel McFarland, local railroad historian, will discuss some of the well-known and not so known trains that travelled

the Pass from the late 1800s to the 1970s. The event is free and light refreshments will be served. This free program is part of the History Series sponsored by the Historical Society on the third Thursday of each month that brings local researchers and historians to Palmer Lake to discuss topics involving regional, Colorado, and National history.

For membership and program information, visit www.palmerdividehistory.org.

HANG: High Altitude Natural Gardening Help save the bees

By Janet Sellers

Bees save the world, and we can save the bees. A huge factor for saving bees will be in the form of home gardeners planting organic (pesticides kill bees and us) flowering plants and trees for a long flowering season, and encouraging full-season flowering crops nationwide. Every flower counts—even dandelions will feed bees. I've read reports that 40 percent of bees have died off due to toxic farming and gardening practices (along with the sterile GMO crops). We don't need the military troops to fight Earth invaders, we need gardeners!

I would like to encourage everyone to plant organically something that blooms for the butterflies, ladybugs

and bees to thrive. They really do make our planet alive and safe to live on. With all our rain, we'll see a lot of outdoor wildflowers showing up, but planting annuals and perennials will be your friend, too.

The Tri-Lakes Business Accelerators' volunteers Lynae Thompson and Newlene Laib helped prepare and plant the Monument Community Garden May 16 with Leah Squires and Janet Sellers. All in all, 36 square foot garden plots were planted in beans, greens, and cool weather crops, and the garden perimeter was planted in sunflowers for a fun fence surround. Volunteer helpers are always welcome.

As a reminder for happy crops, the success for

HANG gardens is good, happy soil microbes attracted by natural, organic compositions you can put together yourself. Details in Monument Community Garden (MCG) Facebook pages for MCG: www.facebook.com/monumentcommunitygarden or Tri-Lakes Garden Community.

Next MCG event:

June 14, 7 to 9 p.m. Tri-Lakes Gardening Community (TLGC) will hold a HANG Tomato Talk at Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., Bring a friend and a dessert to share.

Janet Sellers is a newbie HANG gardener. She can be contacted at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Art Matters

June art: For plein air, let's get out and walk!

By Janet Sellers

Summer is here and it's time to get outside and draw and paint in our town! I have a secret, professional grade and cheap plein air artist kit I will tell you about that takes up little room and is filled with magic when you open it. It's perfect for kids of all ages. I've used it with great success for decades for myself, my visiting artist friends, and with my students and our plein air outings.

I start with a three-ring binder, 1.5-inches thick, and fill it with paper. I cut to size and use a variety of: newsprint, plain white/printer paper, brown paper (even old paper bags or lunch bags) colored artist paper, and tracing paper. Add a pencil case with: two or three sharpened No. 2 pencils or two automatic pencils, a black ballpoint pen, a red/brown sanguine chalk color, a kneaded eraser, white chalk, a piece of art charcoal in a zip bag (keep things tidy) and cheapo colored pencils (crayons are great but they could melt).

The brown paper is great for simple studies with pencil, ink and white chalk. I show my students the age-old

technique from Renaissance times of using charcoal with the middle tone brown paper to make the middle tone of their sketch look rich, and white highlights. The white papers are good for sketches with the color notes in color pencils, of course. And the newsprint is perfect for charcoal. I've even tried a used burnt match stick to draw for charcoal and it works! So, no excuses, let's get out at make some art in the sunshine!

In other news, the Art Hop started up again, and from now until September we get to enjoy Art Hop on the third Thursday of each month, breezing through town from 5 to 8 p.m. Lots of art to see on the Art Hop nights; some artists are only available on that one night, so it's vital to go then.

Even with an exuberant thundershower, the first Art Hop was a big success and well attended.

I met Jo Gaston, artist, at Bella Casa, showing some of the many works in her watercolor show. We talked about one that depicts a cactus in bloom that she had enjoyed seeing on a vacation trip to Arizona. The show included

Western-themed still life, landscapes, and more. I look forward to eventually seeing all the venues this season.

June art events

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) Palmer Lake Art Group "Color Splash Fine Arts Show" June 2-27. Proceeds benefit art scholarships for School District 38 high school seniors. TLCA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake, CO. Call for more information: 719-481-0475.

Tri Lakes Views will install outdoor public art on June 18, and maps will be available soon. Take a walk or ride around town and catch the new ones, enjoy the permanent ones. They tell me there are about 50 outdoor sculptures in the exhibit this year. Our 'hood is quite an amazing art destination now!

Art Hop is June 18, 5-8 p.m. in Historic Downtown Monument.

Janet Sellers is a local artist and art teacher. Her art and sculptures are on exhibit locally and all over Colorado.

Sellers can be reached at netsellers@ocn.me.



Snapshots of Our Community

1,500 attend Pine Forest Show, May 2-3

By Harriet Halbig

The 39th Annual Pine Forest Antiques, Home Décor and Garden Show was held at Lewis-Palmer High School on May 2 and 3. This event is one of two major fundraisers for the Tri-Lakes Women's Club. Proceeds fund projects and equipment for nonprofits within the Lewis-Palmer school district. Among the beneficiaries have been the school district and the fire protection district.

This year's show featured 22 vendors in the home and garden categories and 33 antiques dealers. A popular

feature of the show is the bakery, stocked with various goodies baked by members of the club, including gluten-free and pet items. A bistro also offered lunch and pie.

An estimated 1,500 individuals attended the show this year.

Those interested in membership may contact the group at tlwc.net.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.



Above: The second vice presidents for Charitable Events for the Tri-Lakes Women's Club are Gail Wittman, left, and Susan Wiese. Photo by Harriet Halbig.



Above: The bakery committee members were, from left, Cindy Monahan, Joyce Wohlfert, Lily Golondzinier, Andrea Keough, and Diana Heckethorn. Not present (she was baking more merchandise!) was Myrna Kruckeberg. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

FireWise Daze, May 2



Above: From right to left, David Farr, a Palmer Lake volunteer firefighter, Jeff Tienken, Coalition for the Upper South Platte field crew boss, and Ric Smith, Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department assistant chief, prepare a tree for chipping after cutting it down during the Town of Palmer Lake FireWise Daze event May 2. Trees that show a hazard to potential evacuation efforts were removed as part of Palmer Lake's pre-determined road easements. Photo by Jennifer Green-Lanchoney