

of Wesley Owens Coffee to learn about coffee from plant to cup.

Teen and tween programs

Come to the library for free AfterMath math tutoring on Mondays beginning Sept. 14 from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Experienced math tutors will help students of all ages and grade levels. Drop in for help with your math questions.

Patrons aged 9 to 12 are invited to Tween Time on Friday, Sept. 18 from 4 to 5 p.m. This month's project is designing a Dale Chihuly-inspired chandelier made out of melted plastic cups. Results are quite stunning. Registration is required at 488-2370.

Teens are invited to a Hand-Stitched Bookbinding for Teens program on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. Create your own art book or journal with Kim Hetherington. All materials are provided. Registration is required at 488-2370.

Adult programs

Discuss climate developments in the Climate Reality Project on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 10:30. Susan Permut will lead a presentation and discussion about climate change, the Sixth Great Extinction, and what we can do to mitigate the effects of carbon pollution on our planet. No registration required.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Sept. 18 to discuss *In the Kingdom of Ice* by Hampton Sides. This is one of the titles in the 2015 All Pikes Peak Reads program. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

As the growing season reaches a close, learn about *Fermenting Basics for Food Preservation* on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 until noon. No registration required.

On Saturday, Oct. 3 from 1:30 to 3:30, Sheriff John Anderson will give a one-hour presentation on the cultural

and historical significance of the Ute Prayer Tree, followed by a signing of his recently published book on the topic. Several of these trees can be found in the Pikes Peak Region. No registration required.

Palmer Lake Library events

Palmer Lake's September Family Fun program will be Zumba Kids! It's easy, it's fun, it's a fitness party with certified Zumba Kids instructors from My Gym of Colorado Springs. Participants should wear sneakers and comfortable, stretchy clothes. Best for ages 4 and up.

Story Time and Crafts for ages 3 and older are offered on Wednesdays at 10:30.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed Sept. 7 for Labor Day.

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

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Chautauqua returns; new events coming up

By Al Walter

On Aug. 1, the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District joined to host the 2015 Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua to Palmer Lake. President Theodore Roosevelt (ably portrayed by Don Moon) provided an overview of the Chautauqua Movement that spread across the country in the late 1800s, and officially opened the 2015 Palmer Lake Chautauqua Assembly by reading the Chautauqua Proclamation.

Over 200 people enjoyed ice cream served by the Friends and listened (and danced to) bluegrass music by Wild Wood Station on the Village Green. Following the music, about 75 people moved into the Town Hall to hear rousing portrayals by Colorado's Legendary Ladies of famous women who influenced Western history and events.

Film depicts mysterious trees

On Aug. 10, the Historical Society hosted a special screening of the film *Mystery of the Trees* attended by over 175 people from the local community. About 10 years ago, while clearing old trails in northern Georgia, the Mountain Stewards noticed a number of oddly shaped trees. Further investigation found that the trees most likely had been shaped by ancestors of the local Cherokee Tribe and used for spiritual ceremonies as well as trail markers, burial trees, directional trees, and other purposes. Subsequently, similarly shaped trees have been identified in over 40 states and linked to many Native American Indian tribes.

When visiting the area last year, Don Wells, the president of the Mountain Stewards, was introduced to a number of local "Prayer Trees," which had been shaped by the ancestors of the local Ute Tribes. In an effort to educate people about the significance of these trees as living artifacts and their importance to the culture of local Native tribes, Wells produced a film to document the

various types of trees found across the country. During the question-and-answer period following the film, it was clear that a number of local residents have "Prayer Trees" on their property.

Monument Nursery

On Aug. 20, local historian Eric Swab shared the results of his research into the history of the Monument Nursery with over 75 people from the local community. Several folks in the audience either had family members who worked at the nursery or knew someone who had worked there. Swab described the steady growth and expansion of the nursery from a few acres to a facility that produced millions of pine seeds each year. He also discussed the role played by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was housed on the site. Some of the seeds were planted at the nursery to grow seedlings for use in reforestation efforts on Pikes Peak and other sites in Colorado and surrounding states, while other seeds were shipped to other Forest Service nurseries to be grown into seedlings. Swab took the audience through the steps followed by the nurserymen to gather the seeds, prepare the planting beds, protect the seedlings from weather, pests, and other hazards, and harvest, package, and ship the seeds and seedlings.

Throughout his presentation, Swab provided humorous stories concerning the workers and events at the nursery, which evoked more than a few chuckles from the audience. Swab ended his presentation with the sobering statistic that in its 58-year history, the Monument Nursery produced over 37 million pine seeds for use in reforestation activities throughout the West.

Upcoming events

On Saturday, Sept. 12, the Historical Society will offer tours of Estemere Mansion, the fully restored Victorian Mansion built by Dr. William Findlay Thompson, the

founder of Palmer Lake, in the 1880s. This is one of the rare times the mansion and grounds will be open to the public.

Step back in time as you stroll the grounds of the estate and visit the many outbuildings that have also been restored. Enjoy art exhibitions, purchase fresh-baked goods, treat yourself to hot dogs and snacks sold by the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, take in presentations by local historians on the history of Estemere, the Town of Palmer Lake, the Palmer Lake Star, and local Ute Indian "Prayer Trees." The current owners will be available to answer questions about the mansion, their restoration efforts, and future plans for the estate.

Admission to the grounds and outbuildings is free. Tours require a ticket. Tours will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No advanced ticket sales. General admission is \$10. Tickets for members of the Historical Society are \$7. Children 12 and under are free. Tours will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Last tickets sold at 3:30 p.m. The estate is located at 380 Glenway St. in Palmer Lake. The mansion is not handicapped accessible. For information on tours, call 719-559-0837. For more information, visit our website at www.palmerdividehistory.org.

At 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, storyteller and author John Stansfield will recount the life of Enos Mills, the individual who played a major role in the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park. Mills had a special bond with the mountains and wilderness, especially the area surrounding Estes Park. He became a successful speaker, writer, naturalist, and businessman, and the driving force behind establishing the park. Stansfield will give us a brief glimpse of Enos Mills as he reenacts key moments in Mills' remarkable life. □

High Altitude Natural Gardening

End of season: sun, soil, and green zombies

By Janet Sellers

Fall is near, and soon most HANG gardeners will hang up the hoe and prep their garden beds for winter. We'll turn in leaves, grasses, llama beans, eggshells, and more to aerate and remineralize the garden soil, and pot up herbs for indoor sunny windows.

Windowed favorites from my garden that thrive for months, and sometimes all winter, are: basil, cherry tomatoes, and leafy greens. Greens also grow from seed in a few inches of good soil. Just add sun and water, and they'll

grow—even in a lasagne pan.

Another idea to grow indoor veggies is to make a "zombie" garden from kitchen scraps. Start water rooting ends of: scallions, romaine, celery, cabbage, lettuce, bok choy, ginger, onions, garlic and potatoes (both white and sweet). I googled "zombie gardens" for ideas.

The easiest to harvest? Scallions and potatoes, but the lettuces, garlic and others do grow, just keep them going by harvesting from the tops or outside leaves (scallions and greens).

Remember, share your garden bounty with Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St. #B, Monument, and for local garden events and tips visit: www.facebook.com/monumentcommunitygarden—do look for the Facebook page for our big group: Tri-Lakes gardening community.

Janet Sellers is an avid HANG newbie, and welcomes your garden tips and handy hints to share with others here at our high altitude. She can be reached at:

JanetSellers@OCN.me.

Art Matters

The success of true grit: art masters vs. young genius



By Janet Sellers

What would you rather be, a young art genius or sage art master? Is there still time to become the artist you long to be and be appreciated for your love of art? Well, I am here to tell you that mastery starts at any age, because "Creativity follows mastery." That is a quote attributed to educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom, but I found written in old European guild quotes. In any case, I subscribe to

that idea in my art and when I teach art to others, and it's not just to make everybody feel good. It's time tested.

I believe we have to have a good level of skills mastered to use them truly freely and creatively. By looking into the history of art and artists, it seems that the older the artist got, the greater their art became, with the exception of the young art genius. To my surprise, the genius is over the hill way before the master has just gotten started.

Caravaggio's best work was in his youth, and he frittered away the rest of his life. In contrast, Rembrandt was good at art most of his life, but his greatest works came in his later years.

The lifespan of a young genius' output is, remarkably, only five years. The output for a master takes a lifetime, but the master has to grow into the work. Picasso, considered genius to this day, was out of genius work in a