

each month from 4 to 5. This month's fun is on Thursday, **Nov. 15**. Duplos are provided for younger builders.

November's *Family Fun* event is at 10:30 on Saturday, **Nov. 17**. Take a Trip to Mexico!

Come to the library to play games, make art, and try a new treat from a different culture.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 21 and will remain closed on Thursday, Nov. 22 in observance of Thanksgiving.

vance of Thanksgiving.

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

*Palmer Lake Historical Society, October 18*

## Film honors local WWII hero

*By Sigi Walker*

The Palmer Lake Historical Society's "Third Thursday Monthly History Series" program in October featured a showing of local filmmaker Jim Sawatzki's *Above and Beyond: A Hero's Story*. The film is an interview with U.S. Air Force Academy janitor and Medal of Honor winner Sgt. William J. "Bill" Crawford.

Crawford was raised in Pueblo by relatives after the death of his mother, became a Golden Gloves champion in high school, and then enlisted in World War II. In the film, he recounts his World War II experiences. When his platoon was pinned down by intense enemy machine-gun fire, he single-handedly destroyed the machine gun and killed three of the crew. His actions saved the lives of his platoon. Shortly thereafter he was captured by the Germans and endured a 500-mile march to Germany from Italy. He was a POW until being liberated by American forces.

After the war, Crawford was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. But he made his home in Palmer Lake, where on nine acres he could raise chickens, have a cow or a horse, and a garden. Active in the community, he served at various times as director of the Lucretia Vaile Museum, president of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, a Yule Log lighter, an

election judge, superintendent of Sunday School at the Little Log Church, and a member of the Kiwanis Club. The municipalities of Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Palmer Lake have all honored Crawford with memorials or by naming a veterans' support center in his honor.

The film was followed by the opening of the special World War I Exhibit in the Society's Lucretia Vaile Museum. WWI was known as The War to End All Wars. The exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day—the end of fighting—on Nov. 11, 1918; it showcases artwork, postcards, circa 1918 posters, photographs, and a complete uniform. Meet 2nd Lt. Rogers M. McDonough on his way to France in early 1918. Did you know? Eight million horses, burros, and donkeys were killed in WWI.

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Mark your calendars for Thursday, Nov. 15, for the next monthly history series program. Continuing the WWI theme, Dr. Charles D. Dusch Jr., acting command historian of the U.S. Air Force Academy, will tell the story of WWI flying ace Jerry Cox Vasconcells of Denver and the significant contributions he made to commercial aviation in Denver. Venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent St. The event is



**Above:** The Crawford memorial is located at the north end of the lake (Palmer Lake). It underwent extensive renovation and was rededicated on Armistice Day on Nov. 11, 2017. The American Legion Post in Palmer Lake coordinated the renovation. *Photo by Su Ketchmark.*

free and open to all. ■



*Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide*

## Great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

*By Elizabeth Hacker*

Recently, Beth Courrau sent me two photos and a video of a great horned owl she took in her backyard. She wondered if it could be the same one that was there last year, and since owls establish a territory, it very well may be.

Here are a few interesting facts about this fascinating bird. Those horns are really just feathers that help the owl to precisely locate its prey. The owl can move them in the location of the faintest sound and funnel the sound to its ears that are asymmetrically located on the side of its head.

If you were to look into an owl's ear, you could see

**Left:** Great horned owl expressing its annoyance. *Photo by Beth Courrau.*

the back of its eyeball. Owls eyes are fixed into sockets and can't move so they must rotate their heads, up to 180 degrees, to see in different directions.

It's too bad that Beth's video can't accompany these photos because this owl was being harassed by a jay and hooting loudly in annoyance, but the expression on its face says it all.

The great horned owl is the most common owl found on the Palmer Divide, but there are other owls here including the barn owl, barred owl, Western screech owl, and occasionally a flammulated owl.

Readers are invited to send their bird stories and photos.

*Elizabeth Hacker can be reached at elizabethhacker@ocn.me.*

*High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)*

## Leafy mulch, early potting, and indoor blooms

*By Janet Sellers*

I have a confession to make. I was such a lazy gardener, I didn't put the garden to bed. That sounds horrible, but the good news is the garden soil is fine. I was trying to maximize seeds from the plants in the beds, aging as long as possible, but I was saddened by the freeze-dried plants left after the frosty weather. This made swift work of the bed clearing, the compost pile is the richer for it, and we did get some kale and spinach for a few more suppers.

To add fallen leaves from our yards help aerate the soil, just mow over them into the lawn or rake into garden beds and till them in. Last year the soil was not as fluffy as previous years with leaf donations to mix in. I've still got to go out to the alpaca farm and get the "llama beans," which are pure black gold for the

garden, and free!

I harvested the last of the cherry tomatoes from their pots, and it's already time to plant tomatoes again—they can take four to six months to begin making fruit, so November is not unreasonable to start them. I plant a slice or whole tomato of a variety that I like a half inch into the soil in a pot indoors and in a month or two, some shoots poke out their heads. The plants start easily indoors and will need a sunny window. If they get leggy, gently wind the plant in a circle at soil level and cover with soil. Tomatoes root any place they touch soil, and this will strengthen the plant foundation.

Indoor windowsill plants that overwinter well include geraniums (I need to prune mine to get them bushy and not leggy, then root cut stems for new

plants), cherry tomatoes (yes, they are perennials), and greens such as chard, kale, spinach, and lettuces.

It's also time to pop the amaryllis bulbs into pots and soil, as well as jonquil family plants such as narcissus. Orchids rebloom using windowsill tricks—a change of temperature of about 15-20 degrees at night stimulates blooms on the stems; put them near window panes for cold night air. Add a teaspoon of each of these: crushed/powdered dried banana peels and eggshells and water as usual. These provide nutrients to all the indoor plants mentioned here and support blooms.

*Janet Sellers is an avid gardener and ethnoecologist, finding ways of nature for gardening the fun, lazy, natural way. janetsellers@ocn.me.*

*Art Matters*

## An artist's small business turns into big business

*By Janet Sellers*

*"I grew up an artist, an athlete, and a musician; studying piano, playing basketball, and pursuing art.... I wouldn't be where I am today if not for that."*—

*Airbnb co-founder Joe Gebbia*

Joe Gebbia is co-founder of Airbnb. It might come as a surprise that he believes that his ability to visualize

his success for his endeavors goes all the way back to making things and making things happen as a kid, and he credits his training in art and design since middle and high school days to his being prepared to be an entrepreneur. His childhood art classes also paved the way for his college scholarships.

Perhaps it is the dauntless vision, enthusiasm,

and creativity that artists hold in their heart, but it's very likely the artist's ability to imagine, create, and see a project through that allows an entrepreneur such as Gebbia to push through the hard times and thrive. An artist must see their project through from a blank canvas or a blank business spreadsheet to the fulfilled creation. Gebbia holds fast to that ideal and

