

the library and its activities. Some of their activities are maintaining bookstores in each library, sponsoring a bi-annual book sale, supporting the *Mountain of Authors* event each spring, which brings a prominent author to speak and local authors together, literary awards, support of the *Regional History Symposium, All Pikes Peak*

Reads, children's summer reading, and professional development for Pikes Peak Library District staff.

Members of the *Friends* will be at the library during the week to answer any questions. The exact date is to be determined.

Please refer to the website, PPLD.ORG, look under

About Us and *Friends* for further information, or call 719-531-6333 extension 1461. Please join us!

We hope to see you at the library during October! Refer to the website for news of seasonal programs and *Take and Make* projects.

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Palmer Lake Historical Society, Sept. 15

Capt. Jepp and the Little Black Book

By Natalie Barszcz

The Palmer Lake Historical Society met on Sept. 15 to hear a presentation from Flint Whitlock and Terry Barnhart on their co-authored biography titled *Capt. Jepp and the Little Black Book: How Barnstormer and Aviation Pioneer Elrey B. Jeppesen Made the Skies Safer for Everyone*.

Elrey Jeppesen learned to fly during the "Golden Age" of aviation and took his first solo flight after 2.5 hours of instruction. In the 1920s and '30s, aviation was a hazardous business, especially for the pilots. Pilots were exposed to the elements and the cockpit was unheated. Planes were often unreliable and used primitive instrumentation, and navigational equipment was almost non-existent. Many early pilots lost their lives simply because they became lost or did not know the obstacles in their flight path.

Jeppesen, the son of Danish immigrants, was determined to improve the situation, but not to make money, just to stay alive. During the process, his simple, hand-drawn aerial navigation charts grew from a small, part-time business into a multi-million-dollar international operation, with its world headquarters based in Englewood.

Capt. Jepp, as he was known, led a remarkable life, with Orville Wright signing Jepp's pilot's license, misspelling his name and noting his birthdate incorrectly. Jepp was an early air-mail pilot, barnstormer, daredevil, wing walker, instructor, and aerial-photography pilot.

He also survived many crashes and became one of United Airlines' first pilots, but most importantly he invented a system of aerial navigation that almost every pilot and airline company in the world uses today.

Jepp was an innovative, successful businessman, winning over 20 national aviation honors, including induction into the U.S. Aviation Hall of Fame. So influential was Jepp to the field of aviation that the terminal at Denver International Airport is named in his honor.

Jepp suffered from Parkinson's disease and the effects were evident, as was his joy in life, when he told audiences, "As soon as I get over this Parkinson's, I'm going to do some more wing walking."

For the first time, Jepp's life has been captured in a book-length biography, co-authored by Whitlock and Barnhart. Whitlock is the author of 16 books, including three biographies and a novel. He is a WWII battlefield tour guide for the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and other organizations, and has appeared in numerous documentaries and lectures on Viking Sea Cruises. Barnhart is a licensed private pilot and is chairman emeritus of Barnhart Advertising and Public Relations in Denver, one of the most successful public relations firms for more than 35 years.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society usually meets on the third Thursday of every month. The next event at Palmer Lake Town Hall is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 20. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation at 7 p.m. by

Steve Antonuccio on The History of the Alexander Film Company. For additional details, visit www.palmerdivi-dehistory.org.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.



Above: from left, Flint Whitlock and Terry Barnhart, display a copy of their co-authored biography *Capt. Jepp and the Little Black Book: How Barnstormer and Aviation Pioneer Elrey B. Jeppesen Made the Skies Safer for Everyone* at the Palmer Lake Historical Society presentation in the Palmer Lake Town Hall on Sept. 15. Photo by Su Osgerby Ketchmark.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

High altitude garden success in any season

By Janet Sellers

October brings us a wide range of gardening weather. We get warm days, cold days, rainy days, and even snow and ice! One way that we can protect our landscapes against this fluctuation is to use Mother Nature's time-tested ways of mulching to protect our living soil with its many microbes and beneficial critters. We must protect these for any hope of garden success. Many people cover their roses, perennials, and garden beds prepped for spring with a thick layer of field straw or pine straw 3 to 4 inches deep or more.

This is true of organic landscaping, but unnatural chemicals such as glyphosate kills weeds and actually undermines the plants and beneficial microorganisms our soil relies on. The EPA has also stated that many endangered plants may be at risk from glyphosate use in conservation areas. Glyphosate in soil takes 140 days to break down to half its toxicity and will continue to be taken up by plants from the soil for two years and longer.

Most plants are endangered by glyphosate. It is made to destroy the growth process of plants. Our ecosystem is dependent on the interactivity of plants in the soil and soil with the plants, so while squirting this poison on plants has an immediate appearance of effect above ground, it has a long-term effect on our ecosystem. We are a part of this ecosystem.

Monument Community Garden (MCG) is organically grown, and we had a successful harvest even after two late spring snowfalls, which destroyed the March and May seed plantings and sprouts. Our MCG soil is natural and healthy, our microorganisms remained strong, and we planted a third time in June. With the high school helpers weeding each month, we had our seedlings thrive into abundant tasty crops.

The garden's circumference of marigolds did its job beautifully, safely keeping out insects, rabbits, mice, and deer. These varmints catch the scent of the plants and think the whole garden is just marigolds. Our lush strawberry starter plants gave us (and some pesky birds) sweet red berries. We look to have a full strawberry garden bed next year.

We can bring our potted plants indoors for weather protection and they'll bloom long into the season. I put my petunias and others in at night and out in the day for sun, and if it's too cold, they go near my windows—all year we have plenty of good light for plants in sunny windows. In fact, my geraniums bloom year-round with trotting them indoors and outdoors.

Janet Sellers is an avid lazy—aka nature-focused—gardener, using Mother Nature's methods for the local "high desert forest" climate. Share your wisdom and local gardening tips to JanetSellers@ocn.me.



Above: On Sept. 17, students from the Palmer Ridge High School Key Club and Honor Society helped in the Monument Community Garden. From left are Aalia Renteria, Hanna Miller, Nate Sapp, and Todd Osborn. After pulling weeds and overgrown spearmint from the garden beds and turning the compost pile greens so that it would become soil in a few months, the students helped harvest the seed pods of various plants for next year. They sampled the garden's fresh, sun-kissed ripe strawberries and the tasty seed pods of the radish plants and nasturtium flowers. Immature radish pods and nasturtium flowers both have a delicate, peppery flavor and add zest to salads, frittatas, and omelets. Photo by Janet Sellers.

On the Trail (in memory of Tim Watkins)

Ways to handle local wildlife encounters

By Steve Pate

On Aug. 31, Corey Adler, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) district wildlife manager for our area, explained how best to handle increasing encounters with local wildlife. He discussed how people should handle run-ins with a variety of critters, from a huge moose to the tiny Preble's meadow jumping mouse. The presentation at Wesley Owens Coffee and Café in Monument drew about 30 people.

Wildlife encounters on trails are our responsibility to prepare for and react properly. Most wildlife try to avoid human contact and will leave if given an opportunity. Exceptions may occur when bears, for example, are either startled or a sow bear has cubs nearby. In that case, try not to get between cubs and their momma and back away slowly—don't turn your back on wildlife, try to make yourself appear bigger (raise your arms, etc.), and make some noise. Adler handed out "bear cans" with rocks inside for that purpose.

The same applies to mountain lions. Don't turn your back or run. People are not in a mountain lion's normal diet like deer and small animals. They usually want to get away from people, are nocturnal, and are seldom seen by humans. I know of local hikers, however, who have seen lion tracks following hikers.

Moose are a different story. The moose population is increasing in our wildland interface areas around Palmer Lake, Mount Herman, the reservoirs, etc. If you come upon a moose, look for cover, a large tree or boulder you can put between you and the moose, especially if you notice its ears turning back as it gets ready to charge. Moose are not intimidated by much and have been known to charge, especially during rutting season. So, if all else fails, run.

Adler also talked about bear encounters in our local neighborhoods. A CPW bumper sticker says, "Garbage Kills Bears." That is because humans leave garbage where it is accessible to bears, bears learn where and when the



Above: On Aug. 31, Corey Adler, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) district wildlife manager for our area, explained how best to handle increasing encounters with local wildlife. Photo by Steve Pate.

"food" is out, and the humans who left it out call CPW. The usual protocol is for CPW to sedate, tag, and chip the bear and release it once. If the same bear is caught again