

**You Have a Match**By Emma Lord (*Wednesday Books*) \$10.99

This hilarious, heartfelt novel of romance, sisterhood, and friendship is a Reese Book Club winner. Through a DNA service, Abby discovers she has an older sister, and then tries to figure out why her parents gave Savvy up for adoption. There are complications, but part of life is showing up, leaning in, and learning to fit all your awkward pieces together, because sometimes the hardest things can also be the best ones.

**All My Rage**By Sabaa Tahir (*Razorbill*) \$19.99

From one of today's bestselling young adult authors comes a novel of young love, old regrets, family, forgiveness, immigration, and the American Dream. Heart-breaking and hopeful, this story about three main characters is told in two timelines, current day in California and past flashbacks to Pakistan.

**The Line Tender**By Kate Allen (*Puffin Books*) \$8.99

Wherever the sharks led, Lucy's marine-biologist mother was sure to follow. She was collecting shark data when she died suddenly. Five years later, there is another tragedy. To survive the fresh wave of grief, Lucy must grab the line that connects her depressed father, a stubborn fisherman, and a curious widower to her mother's unfinished research. It's a story of loss, grief, and the kindness of friends and community.

**Wink**By Rob Harell (*Puffin Books*) \$8.99

Ross just wants to be a normal seventh-grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to the cancer kid. Based on Rob Harrell's real-life experience, and packed with comic panels and spot art, this personal novel is an unforgettable, heartbreaking, hilarious, and uplifting story of survival and finding the music, magic, and laughter in life's weirdness.

**The Bridge Home**By Padma Venkatraman (*Puffin Books*) \$8.99

Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Padma Venkatraman's stirring middle-grade debut. Runaway sisters Viji and Rukku find shelter and friendship on an abandoned bridge. With two homeless boys, the group forms a family of sorts. When illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom.

**The Ogress and the Orphans**By Kelly Barnhill (*Algonquin Young Readers*) \$19.95

This instant-classic fantasy centers on the power of generosity and love, and how a community suffers when they disappear. Stone-in-the-Glen has fallen on hard times. When a child goes missing, the mayor points to Ogress. The orphans know this can't be. But how can the orphans relate Ogress's goodness to people who refuse

to listen, and how can they make their deluded neighbors see the real villain in their midst?

**Northwind**By Gary Paulsen (*Farrar Straus Giroux*) \$17.99

Set along a rugged coastline centuries ago, this bestseller tells the story of a young boy's battle to survive against the odds. Amid a deadly plague, Leif is forced to take to the water and flee northward, navigating from one danger to the next, unsure of his destination. With hints of Nordic mythology and an irresistible narrative pull, this is Gary Paulsen at his captivating, adventuresome best.

**Words on Fire**By Jennifer A. Nielson (*Scholastic*) \$8.99

Bestselling author Jennifer A. Nielsen transports readers to a corner of history in 1893 with this inspiring story. In Lithuania the occupying Russian Cossack soldiers have banned Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and language. Audra's parents insist that she flee, taking with her an important package and instructions for where to deliver it. Can joining the underground network of book smugglers give Audra a chance to rescue her parents?

Until next month, happy reading.

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

**April Library Events****Story Time and Toddler Time continue**

By Harriet Halbig

Regularly occurring programs at the Monument library are *Story Time* on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 and *Toddler Time* at 9:30 and 10 on Wednesdays, May 11 and 25. There is also a *Story Time* offered at Reynolds House on the grounds of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:45. Also, the district's Bookmobile will visit the site.

Free math tutoring continues to be available each Monday from 3:30 to 6:30.

Please note, however, that the library will be closed on Monday, May 23 for staff training and Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day. Math tutoring and the *Story Time* at Reynolds House will be unavailable on those two days.

The library's summer reading program, *Summer Adventure*, will kick off on June 1. Teen volunteers are needed to help with registration, programs, and various other library duties. To register as a volunteer, please go to the library website, [ppld.org](http://ppld.org). Select services, [ppld](http://ppld.org) teens, volunteer, and fill out the application online. Thanks in ad-

vance for your interest!

The official ribbon cutting for the reopening of the Palmer Lake Library and Lucretia Vail Museum was held on **May 7**. The Palmer Lake Library is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 to 6. *Family Story Time* for ages 3 and up is on Fridays at 10:30.

We look forward to seeing you at the library and hope you will plan to join us for Summer Adventure. Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

**High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)****Native plants make beautiful landscapes while protecting our ecosystem**

By Janet Sellers

Not all plants are native these days and not all non-native plants are invasive species, yet many plants we can buy at a big box store or consider for our landscaping are actually invasive. "Invasive plant species are non-native to particular ecosystems, and the introduction of them is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health," according to the National Invasive Species Information Center.

In the National Audubon Society's Plants for Birds program, native is "any plant that was here before European colonization," says Partnerships Manager for Plants for Birds, Marlene Pantin. "And then, of course, native plants are those that are adaptable to the climate and the soil conditions in that area."

Even native plants brought into our area from the coasts or other ecosystems can have a devastating effect on our birds, wildlife, and high forest climate. People buy plants they think look pretty, but their roots and seeds can aggressively travel and create problems far and wide, shading out and robbing living space for native plants and pollinators, too.

We have excellent resources via our Colorado Native Plant Society, with a free online brochure here: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>. Native plants offer beautiful colors and textures for our gardens that are perfectly designed for where we live. We can plan our landscaping for berms, low areas, inclines, and water features. Instead of water-guzzling turf, we can plant grasses and groundcovers, and support our pollinators and favorite critters like butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

**Is it still safe to feed hummingbirds?**

People have been asking about the avian flu and if there is a danger to hummingbirds and having a hummingbird feeder up. Audubon says that hummingbird feeders are at minimal risk simply because there are fewer numbers of these birds at the feeders; hummingbirds rely on nature and flowers. The issue is with a larger community of birds and feeders with a wide variety of birds using them; greater numbers and varieties of visiting birds may shed the virus and infect others.

Dangers are mainly red dye in the syrup and not cleaning the feeders promptly/daily from contaminants, and being careful and clean is key. Where hummingbird feeders are an issue in our area is with regard to bears and other wildlife getting attracted to the feeders, and it

is recommended to offer water (flowing water attracts hummers) instead and for sure to take down feeders every evening.

Janet Sellers is an ethnoecology researcher, writer, speaker, and chronicler of life and landscapes and lives in Woodmoor, Colo. Contact her with your success tips for local nature and garden ideas at [JanetSellers@ocn.me](mailto:JanetSellers@ocn.me).



Left: Non-native and aggressive plants choke out native plants. Try to use the blue columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*) shown here, native bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa menthaefolia*), or woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata Chattahoochee*). Other good choices include native harebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and showy locoweed (*Oxytropis lambertii*). Planting alternatives to oxeye daisies would be native daisies (*Erigeron spp*), shasta daisy, black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*), and native yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*). Columbine photo by Janet Sellers.

**On the Trail (in memory of Tim Watkins)****Cleanup is more than a twice-a-year event**

By Steve Pate

For those of us who enjoy getting out in the woods in our local mountains, finding trash littered along trails is more than annoying. For local hikers and mountain bikers, trailside trash is a growing problem. April 29 marked one of several "annual cleanup days" in our area. While these group efforts are usually focused on roadside cleanup or possibly vacant lots, on Monday, April 18, Randy Phillips and several local folks who love hiking our local mountains pitched in and cleaned up trash on "Flow Dog," a hiking trail that traverses the east flank of Mount Herman.

Tim Watkins, who started this column 15 years ago, was a strong advocate and personally worked to establish and maintain trails here. He had a reputation for helping mountain bikers and others along trails and for challenging them to not abuse the trails. Responsibility is ours to accept. Why not take along a bag and take out more than you bring into the woods?

Phillips and Wendy Patterson, Julie Shimon, Matt Hornung, and Cougar Patterson, did more than their share by picking up cans, bottles, and broken glass and hauling them out for proper disposal. Each of us could help even if not on that scale and by encouraging others to do the same.

If you've read this far, I suspect you respect our forests and trails, so please encourage your friends and ac-

quaintances to do the same.

**Notes**

- We've been touting the Santa Fe Open Space for nearly a year, and now it's open. Please see the photo of the grand opening ceremony on page 1.
- We've had the driest April on record. Please be alert for smoke or fire and call 911 with the location immediately.

Steve Pate can be contacted at [stevepate@ocn.me](mailto:stevepate@ocn.me).



Above: The Flow Dog cleanup crew are, from left, Matt Hornung, Cougar Patterson, Julie Shimon, Randy Phillips, and Wendy Patterson. Ellie Patterson is not in the photo. Photo by Randy Phillips.