

nurse to scarlet fever. Many people disappeared into the sewer and drowned running to safety when the sewers flooded and the manhole covers popped open.

The true death toll will never be fully known as many bodies were found unrecognizable, and many bodies may have been burned in the streets along with debris, after the waters subsided. River silt was everywhere, filling basements, and everything was sprayed with formaldehyde to help prevent disease, with scarlet fever and typhoid spreading rampant.

Whole families were washed away in the floods and buried in the silt of the riverbed. The last body was found miles downstream in the 1950s. It took a couple of weeks for the water to recede because it had nowhere to go, and the river was referred to as "death lake" due to the mass of floating bodies.

The Pueblo economy has never fully recovered due to the recovery cost of rebuilding the city.

Beach was born and raised in Salida and currently resides in Cañon City,

where she writes extensively about Colorado history. Beach is the author of five nonfiction books with two more in the works this year. Other works include *The Tunnels Under Our Feet: Colorado's Forgotten Hollow Sidewalks* and *Frozen to the Cabin Floor: The Biography of Baby Doe Tabor*.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society usually meets on the third Thursday every month. The next event, scheduled for Thursday, July 21 from 1-4 p.m., will be guided informative walking tours of Palmer Lake by local history experts. The group will also meet on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 1-4 p.m. on the Village Green to celebrate the Palmer Lake historic Chautauqua, with museum and walking tours, live entertainment, working artists, film presentations, and an ice cream social. For additional details, visit www.palmerdividehistory.org.

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Above: Above: Presenter and author Tracy Beach described the tragic events of the June 2, 1921 historic flooding of downtown Pueblo as they unfold in her book *The Night of a Thousand Heroes* at the Palmer Lake Historical Society monthly program. An extensive array of items discovered over time in the silt-filled basements were on display including items of clothing, toys, a wooden radio, various product tins, and silt blocks imprinted with tiny kitten paw prints and evidence of a Miller moth. Photos by Natalie Barszcz.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Colors and plants that repel mosquitos

By Janet Sellers

When I lived in Japan years ago, I noticed that the noren curtains at most doorways were indigo and white, and at a certain height. I thought maybe this traditional noren might repel the abundant bugs like mosquitos or flies.

I recently happened upon an article at Earth.com that concurs with this idea, stating, "a new study led by the University of Washington (UW) has found that, after using olfactory cues to detect potential hosts to bite, mosquitoes tend to fly toward specific colors, including red, orange, black, and cyan, while ignoring other colors such as blue, white, green, and purple. These findings help explain how mosquitoes find hosts, since human skin, regardless of its particular pigmentation, always emits a strong, red-orange 'signal' to their eyes."

Plants in pots or in the garden are known to repel mosquitos and other pesky critters. These include citronella (a scented geranium), lavender, basil, rosemary, marigold, catmint, bee balm, mint, sage, and others. Essential oils of these also repel the bugs but may be toxic if applied near or on pets.

Gunning down pests with soap and water

A squirt bottle with water and a mere teaspoon or so of dish soap will kill wasps and other unwanted insects around the house and garden. The soapy spray will clog their spiracles, the pores that they breathe through, and will kill them in a few minutes. These bugs have important jobs to fulfill like eating fly larvae, but they don't have to be in our living areas.

Hummingbird Festival Aug. 5-6

The rufous hummingbirds begin their migration back from Canada to Mexico through Colorado in late July, joining all-season broad-tailed hummingbirds in our area. A local tradition is the popular Hummingbird Festival every August, this year on the 5th and 6th at Happy Landing Ranch, on Roller Coaster Road near Jackson Ranch and the Higby Road area. Details to follow. The festival features hummingbird art, hummingbird lore, hourly hummingbird talks, a farmers market, and fair booths.

Janet Sellers is an ethnoecology researcher, writer, speaker, and chronicler of life



Above: Students from Palmer Ridge and Lewis-Palmer High Schools help out at Monument Community Garden. From left are Hayden Fields, Kaylei Fields, Lily Poteet, Braeden Turner, Todd Osborn, and Emmalyn Nono. The students helped to remove and flip garden weeds and the compost pile areas, creating aeration and mixing the green plants as nitrogen into the soil. Local late spring weather patterns had wreaked icy havoc on the seeded garden, allowing the perennial spearmint and weeds to dominate. But within a week after clearing those, many crop seeds that the clubs had planted back in March sprouted and began to thrive. New strawberry and tomato plants were set in to make up for lost time, while the midsummer seedings were put in on time in the various garden beds. Photo by Janet Sellers.

and landscapes. She lives in Woodmoor, Colo. Contact her with your success tips

for local nature and garden ideas at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Art Matters

Public art: a key for modern community development

By Janet Sellers

Public art, or art in public places

Art in public places denotes that artists have made art and it has been placed, usually through a jury process, into a public area. The moniker of public art generally connotes that the art has been commissioned by a public entity and fulfilled by an artist. Either way, art out in the public eye helps revitalize cities, towns, and suburban areas to the tune of improving community enjoyment and property values. Towns, cities, counties, and states are increasingly including 1% or more in a tax or in the development phase to set aside funds for this valuable addition to communities.

The public art becomes one of the top lures for tourists and locals alike. Journalist Kelly Pedro shares this trend in an article for developers and investors at Realtor.com and espouses the value of such art. Weaving art throughout an area to create interest and ambience, the art in public places can make something spectacular out of something that was once less than desirable. Art becomes a magnet for interest and draws people into the area. Builders are increasingly incorporating art into neighborhoods and emerging developments to bring dis-

cerning buyers and tenants willing to pay top dollar.

New Tri-Lakes Views 2022 sculpture map online

In June, Tri-Lakes Views installed 10 new sculptures for the 2022 rotating exhibit after a hiatus in the COVID-19 era. The new sculptures were installed on pedestals throughout Tri-Lakes, including two new pieces at Monument Town Hall, five new sculptures at the Big Red D38 administration building, and a new sculpture at Bella Art and Frame gallery.

Tri-Lakes Views has been supporting public art in our area since 2003, installing pedestals and infrastructure for a plethora of art in public places. This year, instead of a paper map brochure, the state-of-the-art cell phone app, Otocast, will guide visitors on our newest local public art walk and drive tour. The free app offers audio narratives by the artists as well as by the site owner, including artist interviews and artist statements about the art.

To use the system, which is basically a talking map of our local public art walk, download the Otocast app. Put in the ZIP code or town of choice, in our case 80132. The app will immediately bring the viewer to the appropriate page. Participants

can click on the image of the artwork and that art story begins.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, speaker, and educator. She exhibits her artworks in cities and museums in Colorado and other places around the globe. She can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Right: Installed in June, the steel sculpture *Spiky Shovelus*, by artist Michael Mladjan, is a play on words, since the sculpture in the shape of a flower with leaves on stem is actually made of shovel heads, painted brightly, and is installed facing Highway 105 from Monument Town Hall. **Below:** Near the entrance to Town Hall, Rain Cascade is a ceramic sculpture by artist Vicky Smith. Photos by Janet Sellers.

