

out an application during spring break and no later than May 1.

Beginning Aug. 1, all programming will return to its regular schedule, with story times on Tuesdays at 10:30 and 11:15 and no programs on Thursday afternoons.

**Family programs**

August’s Family Fun program from 2:30 to 4 on Aug. 8 is a birthday party for our fabulous fish, Dewey. There will be fish stories, activities and treats for all ages.

On Aug. 10 from 1:30 to 2:30 there will be a home school program, All About Bees. A representative from Pikes Peak Beekeepers will bring some live bees (weather permitting) and teach interesting facts about bees and bee-keeping. There will also be a bee craft.

The Lego Club will meet on Aug. 15 from 10 to 11:30. You bring your imagination and we’ll provide the Legos.

**Adult programs**

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 until noon on Friday, Aug. 21 to discuss The Chaperone by Laura Mori-

arty. New members are always welcome in this monthly book group.

In the display case during August will be crafts created by library staff.

**Palmer Lake Library activities**

The annual Ice Cream Social will take place from 1 to 2:30 on Saturday, Aug. 1 on the Palmer Lake Village Green. This event, sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library and the Palmer lake Historical Society, offers free Rock House ice cream and toppings, live bluegrass music, and dramatizations of the lives of prominent historical women from the area. Bring the whole family to enjoy some simple pleasures.

The Palmer Lake Book Group will meet at 9 on Friday, Aug. 7. New members are welcome to this monthly book club. Please call 481-2587 for the latest selection.

Story time and crafts are offered each Wednesday at 10:30.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).



**Above:** Hayley Tubbs, second from left, won first prize in the teen photo contest about personal heroes. Her hero, at left, is Maya Nott. Chanice and Michelle from Peoples Bank presented Hayley with a gift card. *Photo by Harriet Halbig*

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Society presents summer events

*By Al Walter*

On July 16, retired U.S. Navy Officer Dick Cooper spoke to an enthusiastic Palmer Lake Historical Society audience made up of retired U.S. Navy personnel and Coloradans who find something fascinating about Navy ships, especially those named for the state of Colorado. Cooper identified the three ships named for the state: a Civil War-era schooner, a WWI armored cruiser, and a decorated WWII battleship, and provided a brief history of their service. He ended his presentation with a description of the advanced nuclear submarine USS Colorado, which will be commissioned in 2016.

On July 18, the Historical Society co-sponsored the seventh Annual Colorado Springs Native American Powwow. Over 2,000 folks enjoyed Native drums, dancers, arts and crafts, and Indian tacos and fry bread. The Grand Entry was led by a bald eagle, the Native American Women Warriors Color Guard and princesses representing three other Colorado Powwows. The brief intermission, which gave the Native drums/singers a well needed rest, featured demonstrations of birds of prey, a live wolf, and Aztec Dancers. The purpose of this cultural event was to expose non-Natives to the rich history and traditions of the first inhabitants of this area.

The “Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua” will begin at 1 p.m. Aug. 1 at Palmer Lake Town Hall. President Teddy Roosevelt officially opens the 2015 Chautauqua Assembly, followed by free ice cream and music sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District and the Historical Society. Immediately after the music, travel back with Colorado’s popular Legendary Ladies as they tell the stories of real women who made a significant impact on the West. Meet these historical figures and hear their tales of how they influenced Western history.

The film *Mystery of the Trees* will be

shown at 7 p.m. Aug. 10 at Palmer Ridge High School Auditorium. Chances are the oddly shaped trees seen in this area and around the country were shaped by the ancestors of the Native Americans that inhabited the land hundreds of years ago. Locally, these trees are known as “Ute Prayer Trees” and were shaped by various Indian tribes for use in spiritual ceremonies, or as burial or story trees, guideposts, or directional markers.

The film is narrated by Native American actor Wes Studi (*Dances with Wolves*, *Last of the Mohicans*). In the film, tribal elders from around the country, including Dr. James Jefferson of the local Southern Ute Tribe, provide a glimpse into understanding a part of their culture derived from living close to nature. The story of these trees is a compelling reason to preserve them for future generations as living artifacts of the past.

Local author John Anderson (Ute

Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region) will introduce producer Robert Wells, who will present the film. Both will be available after the film for a book signing and to answer questions. General admission is \$5. Children 12 and under admitted free. For more information, call 719-559-0525.

At 7 p.m. Aug. 20, Eric Swab will talk about “The Monument Tree Nursery” at Palmer Lake Town Hall. Swab will discuss the history of the nursery, which, in 1907, was created to produce seedlings for national forests in the five-state Rocky Mountain Region. Its mission was to conduct reforestation efforts in areas that had been heavily logged or destroyed by large wildfires. This was one of the first such nurseries in the newly created National Forest system. Monument Nursery served in that capacity for 58 years, providing millions of seedlings locally and nationally. □

HANG: High Altitude Natural Gardening

Rocket fuel for soil

*By Janet Sellers*

I have learned the biggest hidden secret in gardening. Only it is not a secret, it’s just below the garden—it’s the soil! And the compost courtesy of the worms—free, powerful garden helpers. Recently, I got a big infusion of enthusiasm for soil, carbon and the Earth at an information class at our local Natural Grocers where the theme was soil and how soil can affect our climate and our rainwater. Wow. I picked up five (of many books referenced) at Monument Public Library. Things like 100 percent pastured cows and how they help restore the soil-carbon relationship. It’s not just a sky thing, it’s also a ground thing! The livestock help restore the soil and restore the carbon cycle levels. This year’s USDA effort aims to achieve a net reduction of 2 percent of greenhouse emissions by 2025, or the equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road just by increasing carbon sequestration via soil carbon mitigation as a climate change strategy—mostly by cows on green fields pooping and stomping that into the ground and us folks also growing urban greens. Let’s get to planting our gardens!

The 2015 theme for the Tri-Lakes Gardening Community (TLGC) is “Plant a row for Tri Lakes Cares” (TLC) and share the harvest. Donate it to TLC on a Monday or Thursday morning from 8 a.m. until noon or so—it will be greatly appreciated by the families TLC cares for each week. TLC intake is at the alley behind it at 235 N. Jefferson St., Monument.

For years, I’ve been working with the soil amendments at home and at Monument Community Garden (MCG) for rich, moist soil to get seeds to sprout; happily, my square-foot garden layout makes for a thick leafy canopy and moisture stays in the soil to support the mi-

crobes to make awesome plants using mindful companion planting that benefits the soil. I’ll have plenty to share with TLC again this year. How about you?

Stay tuned for more local garden-themed walks and events. Go to these Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/MonumentCommunityGarden>, also, click the link there for the Tri-Lakes Gardening Community.

*Janet Sellers is an avid HANG newbie, and welcomes your tips and handy hints to share with others here at our high altitude. She can be reached at: [JanetSellers@OCN.me](mailto:JanetSellers@OCN.me).*



**Above:** The TLGC group held a walk through gardens of the Palmer Lake Glen area on July 20, in deep forest area, minimal sun. Keeping soil rich with organic compost is key to their massive success in HANG gardening the impossible: tomatoes, squashes, corn, cabbage, kale, ower, and others.

**Left:** On July 27, the TLGC invited local beekeepers Rick Squires, left, and Claudia Whitney for a “Beekeeping 101” evening, complete with honey-themed dessert potluck: When we protect our soil and pollinators, we protect our food sources. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*