

Palmer Lake Historical Society, June 19

# 200 take part in Ice Cream Social

By Sigi Walker

On June 19 the Palmer Lake Historical Society treated fathers and families to free pie, ice cream, and musical entertainment at the annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social, continuing the society's long-standing tradition of honoring fathers in the Tri-Lakes community. The event was free to the public and was supported by donations from the Rock House (ice cream) and the Monument Village Inn (five pies). Despite the heat, more than 200 people enjoyed themselves munching 20 pies and three tubs of ice cream while enjoying singer/guitarist Nick Davey on both electric and acoustic guitars.

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One upcoming program and one upcoming event are of special note. The July 21 Monthly History Series program features Larry Schlupp, vice president of Historic Douglas County Inc., who will present "The Goodnight Legacies." Charles Goodnight was primarily a self-educated man, possessing a strong entrepreneurial mind and superb innovating attributes to become successful. He was a key contributor to the growth of the cattle industry in the mid-

19th century West. Goodnight's strong moral character, far-ranging insight, inventiveness, and his ability to attract and establish beneficial relationships forged what today is the oldest ranch in the Texas Panhandle, the JA Ranch, which has operations in Colorado. If you ever read Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove, you likely have dipped into the essence of Charles Goodnight and his friend and partner, Oliver Loving.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 6, the Palmer Lake Historical Society presents "The Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua." Chautauquas began in New York state in 1874 as an adult education movement and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. They brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers, and specialists of the day. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America." A full day of vintage arts, crafts, portrayals of historic men and women, wildlife displays, and bluegrass music is planned. For more information, visit our website at [\[videohistory.org\]\(http://videohistory.org\) or call \(719\) 559-0837.](http://www.palmerdi-</a></p>
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Above: The Father's Day Ice Cream Social serving table. Photo by Mike Walker.

## High Altitude Natural Gardening

# HANG in the 'hood

By Janet Sellers

Well, it is high season for gardening now. So many have their crops in and going up—some things are even ready. My garden is smaller this year, and I plan on making more of it work for late summer. With a lot of seedlings indoors that I started, it looks to be a good year for tomato sprouts and the ever-present zuke and cuke spreading out in the garden.

A number of gardeners this year have told me they will try out arching, overhead squashes on a trellis or strings for the vines to climb. I have done that for several years at the Monument Community Garden along the fence, to great results. It is so easy to pick squash and cucumber from along the fence line or a raised area.

I usually write about food gardening, but I have had such success with propagating flower plants such as geraniums and others that I thought I'd mention that many plants give us easy propagation in a glass of water. I can take some side stems from geraniums, or herbs such as rosemary or basil stems, which I pinch off to inspire the plant to get bushy and not leggy, then put the stems in spring or filtered water (tap water filled with chlorine retards the rooting) and in about a week to 10 days I have a new basil plant ready for soil. Chlorinated water kills bacteria, but bacteria are the awesome life forms that support plant growth and garden success.

Garden walks this summer will be at the usual ad hoc times, and likely in late July or August when there are

crops to view and of course, lots of questions answered.

We can keep on the lookout for fliers around town and notices on [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) for upcoming garden walks in our area. I've enjoyed the informal walks around our community for several years now, and they are often in Palmer Lake or Monument town areas. Enjoy!

Did anybody plant watermelon or strawberries this year? I'd love to know what's in your garden!

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).

## Art Matters

# Plein air—an outdoor art hike for artists



By Janet Sellers

Possibly the most satisfying yet difficult paintings to make are plein air paintings. The artist is outdoors, and there are many distractions—not the least of which are heat, bugs, wind, drifting pollen, and all the usual outdoor things we run into on a hike. On top of that, all these things can get onto the painting, brush and palette of colors, which is challenging for watercolorists but quite a predicament for the oil painter.

In spite of that, the beauty and immediacy of impulse to brush, and thereby paint to canvas, are unmatched with plein air painting compared to any other genre, and that is likely why artists—and art collectors—are so compelled to enjoy these works of art. The most immediate expres-

sion is in the lightning speed of watercolor painting to put the paint down and be dry, finished, and ready to go home at any time, while oils are slower to apply and use on a canvas, and often cannot be completed alla prima, or in one sitting. Oils must go home in a wet canvas carrier to dry quite slowly, taking weeks or a year or more.

I recently brought together a small and talented group of artists to a plein air paint out in Fox Run Park. Our goal was to paint the stunning ponderosa Ute Indian Prayer Trees there. While interesting and amazing, these trees pose a visual problem to solve that I had never before experienced. The trees themselves are culturally modified into extraordinary shapes, usually at the lower quarter of the tree, yet the trees' natural full expression at the crown of the tree is visible in its entirety in the dense forest of ponderosa pine.

The artists were able to choose to paint only the striking modified part, or include the whole tree, often many stories high, and the composition of this is quite complex to pull off, given that the modified sculptural section and the natural tree itself are at once integrated, harmonious, and yet convey supernatural forms.

For me, the best part of plein air painting is being outdoors in harmony with nature and the other artists. The forest offers us her healing airs and atmospheres, supporting us artists to delve deep into our imaginations to bring out our best in our painting. In a plein air paint out, each person paints on his or her own, but still feels connected to the group, so the energy to keep on going is strong and supportive. And while each artist can personally solve his or her paintings, it is comforting that all the while, knowing that if needed or asked, another artist can offer a kind suggestion here and there throughout the day.

Janet Sellers is a Colorado artist and art teacher; her paintings and public art sculptures are in exhibitions in city and museum outdoor venues in Colorado, and of course, the Tri-Lakes area. Sellers can be reached at



Above: JArtist Ermi Knoth stands with her sculpture He Loves Me Not that was recently installed at Monument Sculpture Park for the 2016-17 Tri-Lakes Views outdoor art exhibition. The nonprofit group supports the annual exhibition, and most of the artworks are for sale by the artists through the group. Photo by Janet Sellers.

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