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Where We've Been...

Building Tomorrow's Leaders



4-Hers visit the Senate Gallery at the state Capitol in Denver during LDC

On January 23, 2016, a group of 26 Pueblo County 4-H members and three chaperones departed for Denver to attend the annual Colorado 4-H Leadership Development Conference (LDC). All 4-Hers ages 14 to 18 are invited to attend this three day, two night event held at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver. For two years in a row now, Pueblo County has had the largest delegation by far at this event – in part because of generous sponsorship by the Pueblo County 4-H Foundation and because of the wonderful enthusiasm of our membership!

During the conference, themed “Passing on the Torch,” members learned how to be inclusive and how to draw others into the positive youth development world of 4-H. On Monday morning of the conference, members donned their business attire and attended 4-H Day at the Capitol, where they watched as both the senate and the house proclaimed it Colorado 4-H Day. Seeing leadership and parliamentary procedure in action as used by legislators was a real treat for the youth! After visiting the Capitol, the delegation took a step back in time and toured the historic Byers-Evans house. Fascinated by both the history and the antiques, the youth were engaged in the tour from start to finish. Wrapping up the three-day trip with a bus ride back to Pueblo, the delegation discussed ways to invite even more members to participate next year!



Youth attending the LDC banquet.



Fun times during LDC in Denver.

Where We're Going...

Calling All Pueblo County Beekeepers



The plight of the bee is a much discussed topic throughout the world. World food production and efficiency depends greatly on the pollination of crops by bees and other insects. Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent, Tom Laca, has hosted a beginning beekeeping class the last two years titled "The A-Z of Bees." Over 60 Beekeepers and Beekeeping hopefuls have attended this class in hopes of doing their part to benefit the environment.

As a result of this class and an overwhelming interest by the participants, we are currently in the midst of establishing a local organization of beekeepers. One meeting has already been held to begin the process of becoming a functioning group. This effort has enlisted the assistance of Beth Conrey, President of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association, to aid in the development of goals and missions as well as provide guidance on what needs to be done.

Moving forward the initial group has decided to continue with the development of a club and will be meeting again in May. To date we have 27 "members" who have expressed an interest in this endeavor. The Beekeeping club will be a place to provide education about bees and bee management as well as promote the proper care of bees to limit their decline or even increase the population. This club will help to provide the forum to discuss common issues as well as solutions; it will bring together everyone from the experienced to the novice to all learn from each other.

The purpose of this group will be to not only assist those with a desire to start beekeeping, but also to provide support to those already raising bees and help them continue into the future. This will be a great organization as it continues to grow and produce better beekeepers with better beekeeping methods.



Members of the newly formed organization of Beekeepers discuss the purpose and mission of the group.

Where We're Going...

“Check Out” All Pueblo Grows

Sherie Caffey, CSU Extension-Pueblo County, Horticulture Coordinator reports that things are "growing" great at the All Pueblo Grows Seed Lending Library, located at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library. This project was started, and is maintained, by a group of Colorado Master Gardener volunteers. “Not only does this great group of volunteers handle the behind the scenes work that is necessary to keep the seed library up and running, but they also host monthly community seed swaps, and soon they will begin the All Pueblo Grows educational seminar series.”, says Caffey. The seminar series features a month-appropriate gardening topic, such as transplanting seedlings to the garden in early summer, and extending your harvest in late summer.



Volunteers—regulars and newcomers—pack seeds for the seed lending library on a recent Saturday.

The community seed swaps give the team a chance to see firsthand how such a great project affects people in the community. The last Saturday of every month, the APG team meets at the library with seeds ready to be packed and labeled. Caffey says, “We have at least 6 regulars, folks from the community who are there every month helping the team package seeds to go into the seed catalog. There are also a number of newcomers each month. Most of these people are not at the library for the seed swap, but they get drawn in by the sounds of seed packing and fun times. There is at least one person every month that pops their head into the room and asks "what's going on in here?"". The volunteers invite the passersby to join, and they usually respond with something like, "Sure! That sounds more fun than working on (insert dull task here)". They never regret joining us.” Most people who don't know about the seed library are amazed by this unique project, and the sense of community that is felt at the monthly seed swaps.

At one of the recent seed swaps, a young couple from the Boulder area and their adorable baby girl wandered in to join. They said that they have been to libraries all around Colorado and they had never encountered such a neat project. They were also thrilled to meet new people, as they had just moved to the area. Caffey extolled, “My favorite story from a seed swap happened in March. A mother and her young son were at the event helping us package seeds. We always encourage people to take some seeds home with them. They were working on packaging broccoli seeds when the son asked his mother if they could take some home. Mom responded by saying, "You don't eat broccoli!", to which the son replied "Well, I will eat broccoli if I grow it". That was a really cool thing to hear, I am glad that this project is bringing people together, and encouraging youth to make healthy life choices.” ***Great job All Pueblo Grows team!***

Upcoming Events

Call 583-6566 or visit <http://pueblo.colostate.edu> for details.

Family and Consumer Programs

- The search is underway for a new Family and Consumer Agent. Interviews are scheduled for May.

Horticulture Programs

- Hydroponics Class, May 21, 1-4 p.m., Rawlings Library
- Advanced Diagnostics Class: Trees, June 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., morning at CSU Extension/Pueblo County and afternoon at City Park.
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds, last Saturday of every month, Rawlings Library, Idea Factory - 2nd Floor.

4-H/Youth Development

Ongoing Club and County Programs Including:

- Contest Day
- AgFest
- Spring and Summer Horse Shows
- Spring and Summer Dog Shows
- State 4-H Conference

EFNEP/SNAP-ed

- Nutrition classes– Ongoing-call for schedule

Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- Shaded Fuel Breaks, Date, time and cost TBD Beulah Mountain Park
- Range Walk, various locations, June 10, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., will cost \$10, lunch and bus included.
- Site visits and consultations– Ongoing, upon request

Pueblo Youth Naturally

Program under review.

Congratulations!

New Staff at CSU Extension-Pueblo

Welcome, Jane Crayton -- New 4-H Agent, School Enrichment/STEAM

We are happy to introduce you to Jane Crayton, our new 4-H Agent for School Enrichment and STEAM. She is a native Coloradoan, loves the outdoors and is a new media artist. Prior to joining the Extension Office, she worked on several National Science Foundation, National Historical Society and Private Foundation Grants as a Documentary Artist for Rio Verde Archaeology Project, and as an Instructor for Science Discovery at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She also curated the Dorkbot303 group from 2006-2012 for Denver and Boulder. She received her Associate of Arts in Graphic Design from Arapahoe Community College in 2002, her Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies in 2010 and her Master of Art Education from the University of New Mexico in 2015.

She is an avid fly-fisher, rock climber, kayaker and beekeeper.



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