

# Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition

June 2009 Newsletter



**T.H.E. Coalition**  
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## Summer Goings-On!

T.H.E. Coalition members are busy planning a host of community events that will make sure you, your family and your summer visitors enjoy the best of Teller County. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss any of these fun happenings!

### **June 27-28: Donkey Derby Days, Cripple Creek**

Donkeys have been permanent residents of the Cripple Creek District for well over 100 years. This year donkey lovers from all over the world will once again gather in Cripple Creek for the 78th annual Donkey Derby Days sponsored by the *Two Mile High Club*.



The Cripple Creek Fire Department kicks off the weekend with the annual Pancake Breakfast at 7 am Saturday. The Bennett Avenue parade begins at high noon, followed by fun events like the watermelon seed spitting and tobacco spitting competitions, Donkey Derby Race, and the ever popular Mountain Mama contest throughout the afternoon. The Wildwood Casino hosts the second annual steak dinner Saturday at 5 pm. The activities continue on Sunday with the Best Beard Contest, The Mountain Couple Competition, the Businessman's Race, another exciting Donkey Derby Race and the always popular Dog Contest.

For more information about the 78th Annual Donkey Derby Days, see the Website [www.VisitCrippleCreek.com](http://www.VisitCrippleCreek.com). (Contributed by Melissa Trenary)

### **July 4: 4th of July Celebration, Woodland Park**



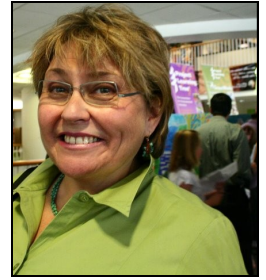
The *City of Woodland Park*, Community Partnership Family Resource Center and North Teller Build A Generation co-host the annual Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Memorial Park in downtown Woodland Park, 9 am-3 pm. Family fun includes three stages of entertainment, food, crafters, activities, kid games on the lawn, basketball & volleyball tournaments, horse & buggy rides, tractor/wagon rides, and fire engine rides. Wagons & Wheels Parade featuring bicycles, wagons, and other wheels decorated by event attendees starts at 11:30 am, ending at the gazebo for the Woodland Park Wind Symphony and raising of the flag. For more information, call 686-0705.

### **July 18-19: The Marigreen Pines Tour, Cascade**

This summer Marigreen Pines in Cascade opens its doors for public tours of the 50 acre estate. The twenty-room mansion, designed and built in the 1920's for Chicago millionaire Thomas Cusack, was his family's residence until 1978. When Cusack's last living daughter donated the property to the Holy Cross Novitiate, she insisted it be available for public tours every three years. (Continued on Page 3)

## From T.H.E. Coalition Chair

Many of you identify T.H.E. Coalition with the Midland Depot at Divide project, our largest and most complex undertaking to date. But did you know that we are also involved with many other projects and initiatives in the area? With *Rampart Library District*, we co-sponsor the Nonprofit Resource Center in the Colorado Room of the Woodland Park Public Library and nonprofit workshops also held at WPPL. We serve our members by providing use of our 501(c)(3) status and assistance with grant research and writing.



Helen Dyer, Chair of  
T.H.E. Coalition

In the coming weeks T.H.E. Coalition will craft our five year strategic operating plan with particular attention to our goals and plans for 2010. Input from our members and the public is most welcome, so send comments and suggestions to [Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org](mailto:Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org).

Not to forget the Depot, much is going on with the project, but most of the activity is “behind the scenes.” We are tackling the byzantine issues of site ownership, sewer and water, occupation of the 1987 east addition (remodeled for use as administrative space) and, of course, funding. A Depot work day is planned for Saturday, July 25 to perform ground maintenance on the site exterior and remove debris from the interior ... volunteers needed!!

## Volunteer Recognized

We often hear that volunteers are the lifeblood of Teller County. On April 30, one of Teller’s own was honored at the nationwide level by the National Park Service for Outstanding Volunteer Service by an Individual. At a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., the National Park Service recognized Sally McCracken-Maertens for her exceptional service on behalf of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. While Sally has been a tireless volunteer at the Monument for 13 years, the award highlighted her role in the “No Child Left Inside” weekend in October, 2008 that drew record crowds and national attention. Sally spearheaded the campaign to attract keynote speaker Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*. To secure funding for Louv’s talk at the Pikes Peak Center and organize exhibits showcasing outdoor opportunities for youth and families, Sally coordinated the talents and resources of 22 regional organizations. She was accompanied at the awards ceremony by her husband Hank and her son and daughter, as well as lifelong friends Carol and John Stansfield, and Jeff Wollin, lead interpreter for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



Sally McCracken-Maertens

## Teller Tales



Dave Martinek (l) and Mel McFarland

Dave Martinek, T.H.E. Coalition board member, and local favorite Mel McFarland host a radio show on the history of Ute Pass, Teller County and, of course, the railroads. “Teller Tales” is a program of TellerNetCast.com, an Internet radio service based in Woodland Park. The 12-minute pre-recorded spots air four times per week: 8 am Tuesday; 10 am and 6 pm Thursday; and 8 am Saturday. Topics include *Dr. William Bell’s Manitou Park*, *the Midland Depot at Divide*, *Wildflower Excursions* and more. Segments are also available in the TellerNetCast.com archives. Send your questions or suggestions for discussion topics to

[TellerTales@TellerNetCast.com](mailto:TellerTales@TellerNetCast.com).

*“In wilderness is the preservation of the world.”* ≈ Henry David Thoreau

## Summer Goings-On!

(Continued from Page 1)

Thomas Cusack became known as the "Billboard King" because he was among the first to recognize the potential of outdoor advertising. Most of the paint in the house is original, thanks to Cusack's advertising experience. He covered the walls in canvas and engaged Italian artisans to paint the ceilings and doorways. The marble floors came from his bank in Chicago which was destroyed in a zeppelin crash. Cusack named the house for his wife, Mary Greene, who died before it was completed. Cusack and his five children lived in the house year-round, collecting antiques and furniture to fill the halls.



Marigreen Pine tours are sponsored by the *Ute Pass Historical Society* and all proceeds benefit the organization. Tickets are limited and advance registration is required; tickets are not available on tour days. This event is always a sell-out, so be sure to reserve your tickets now. Call 686-7512 or email [uphs@questoffice.net](mailto:uphs@questoffice.net) to purchase tickets.

### July 17-19: Gold Rush Days, Victor

Victor, one of the last authentic mining towns in Colorado, offers an interesting selection of eateries, saloons, hotels and antiques. On Saturday, July 18, the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club hosts a program that includes a one-hour presentation and two-hour guided tour of the Victor area to benefit the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, one of the many projects supported in part by the *Victor Heritage Society*. Other activities include mining games that give visitors a close-up look at mining skills of yesterday and today. There are also *Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company* tours on Friday, July 17, at 10 am and 1 pm. For more information, call 689-5509.

### July 25: Heritage Day, Florissant

One hundred and thirty-nine years ago, Judge James Castello established a Ute Trading Post in Teller County. Later, when he petitioned for a post office, he named it Florissant for his hometown in Missouri. *Pikes Peak Historical Society* celebrates this event on Saturday, July 25 in partnership with the Florissant Grange, the Florissant Volunteer Fire Department and the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



Festivities begin at 7 am with a benefit (donations requested) pancake breakfast at the Florissant Fire House on the west side of town. At 10 am, the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum located at 18033 Teller County Road #1 (across from the Post Office) opens its doors. Guests may tour the museum, or they may cross Highway 24 to the Florissant Schoolhouse Museum. Author Laura Moncrief will sign her new book, ***Florissant, Colorado, Cemetery: The Stories Behind the Tombstones***. The Florissant Grange presents a full day of special activities for children at the 1886 Florissant school. For more information, call Harold Kaelin at 748-3562 or the Museum at 748-8259.

A mile further down the road, volunteers for the National Park Service will present living history at the Hornbek Homestead for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. For more information call the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument at 748-3253.

### Ongoing: Orienteering at Catamount Institute Teller County Campus

The education staff at *Catamount Institute* has developed an orienteering course that covers: Basic compass navigation (finding and following a bearing); Natural history of the area (everything from the medicinal properties of kanickanick to the role that quartz rock played in early mine prospecting); How the principles of "Leave No Trace" apply to the area; and How multiple users have impacted the land in different ways. The program is lead by CI staff and can be adapted for different user groups. Email Tracy Jackson at [Jackson@catamountinsitute.org](mailto:Jackson@catamountinsitute.org) for details.

To include your special event in our newsletter and online calendar, send information to [Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org](mailto:Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org).



T.H.E. Coalition

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**Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Members of T.H.E. Coalition include nonprofit organizations, governments, local businesses and individuals that share a common mission: *to facilitate preservation of the historic, cultural, environmental, recreational, and scenic resources in and around Teller County, and to broaden public understanding regarding the significance of those resources.*

## Meetings With Our Members

A 2009 priority of T.H.E. Coalition is to improve and expand the support offered to our members. Key to that objective is maintaining or renewing contact with the membership to learn of current needs and interests. Representatives of the Coalition recently met with three of our nonprofit members.

In May Coalition board members and staff met with the new officers of the *Two Mile High Club*. TMHC has the distinction of being one of the oldest civic organizations in the state, but (like many non-profits) faces the problem of records that become scattered over the years. As a result of the meeting, T.H.E. Coalition is helping TMHC to recover its institutional history and clarify its legal status.

Coalition representatives met with two of our members in June, *Woodland Park Hockey Association* and *Victor Heritage Society*. WPHA was formally established in March and is dedicated to promotion and encouragement of amateur hockey for Woodland Park and the greater Teller area. T.H.E. Coalition serves as fiscal authority for WPHA and will help with grant research and writing. For more information, visit [WoodlandParkHockey.com](http://WoodlandParkHockey.com). Victor Heritage Society, a long time member of T.H.E. Coalition, is involved with many of the preservation activities in Victor. T.H.E. Coalition will help VHS research other historic mining towns and identify potential funders.

If you are contemplating forming a nonprofit organization, or if you are a member, we'd like to meet with you too! Contact [Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org](mailto:Coordinator@TheCoalitionCO.org) or phone 651-5339.

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**Nonprofit Workshop at Woodland Park Public Library • 10 am–Noon, Tuesday, July 21**  
***Put the "Fund" back in Fundraising* facilitated by Ben & Jamie Caperton.** Don't miss it! Call Lynn Harrison at 687-9281, x3, for reservations. Also check out other Library events at <http://rampart.colibraries.org/>.

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