

Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum

2013 Annual Report

The Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization established in 2005 to preserve the architecture and artifacts of the Bee Farm while educating the public on farming life and methods past and present. The farming history of Northern Colorado will be shared with others in a traditional, engaging and authentic way.

2013 Board Members

President: Gail Meisner, Secretary: Liz Harrison, Treasurer: David Harrison, Ginger Montgomery, and Joan Day. Joan was absent for most of the meetings due to health concerns.

Visitors

The farm museum is open from May through October on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 to 4:00, and for groups of 10 or more by appointment. This year we had total visitors of 1062. There were 595 Friday and Saturday visitors, a major increase over previous years. We had 177 visitors from 9 children's groups, and 120 from 4 adult groups. Special Events were attended by 170. There were visitors from 15 states and 2 foreign countries.

Groups

We hosted 9 children's groups which are always fun. The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia held their international conference in Fort Collins and brought a group to the farm. We shared much of the practical history of the sugar beet industry with them. Two other adult groups were the Fort Collins New Comers and the Poudre Valley Antique Car Club. Peloton Cycles used the farm parking lot to host two bike races in June.

Events participated in

Rich and Liz had a booth at the Avery House 4th of July Celebration. They took the egg gathering, and calf roping activities for the children to enjoy. We did not participate in the Wellington Parade due to lack of help.

Special Events

The Pioneer Living Day was held June 22. There were three presenters: spinning and quilting, draft horse model, and miniature hay stacking. The Rocky Ridge 4-H Club sold ice cream and lemonade. We had 4 vendors and a photo booth.

The Vintage Base Ball Game was Sept 21. The Northern Colorado Model A Car Club brought 6 cars and the North Forty 4-H Club sold baked goods for our concessions.

Volunteers

Over 1800 volunteer hours were again given by 14 people to operate the farm museum. A group of 12 CSU students through the Slice program came the end of April and put in some edging along the bushes in the picnic area and oiled the harness. Nine CSU international students came for Make a Difference Day in October and took out the old solar panel supports and scraped paint on the chicken house and 1942 garage.

A junior high girl volunteered on a few Saturdays and a lady from Greeley helped some. Rich helped on Fridays and Saturdays and Lee Ann, Jack and Karen helped with groups.

Education

The 3 large posters that were donated by the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture were put up in the main entrance building.

We worked with Samantha, an intern from the CSU History Dept. She worked on an agricultural history timeline, children's tour guide, and grant for the restrooms.

Two teacher open houses were held in April, but were not well attended.

Animals

We had one little beef calf named Blackie and the Angus bull was sold. We purchased a jersey heifer that we plan to keep and have for a milk cow. Two lambs and a little pig were bought, but the pig died after two weeks. We got 3 turkeys and 4 buff orpington chicks, and another 6 mottled java chickens were given to us.

Collection

A manure spreader and big iron pot were donated this year. Liz and Eva have been doing an inventory of the household items.

Maintenance

The chicken house, 1942 garage, and doors of the brick shed were painted. The paths that were put in have created some drainage problems around the green shed and garage, so we put in some drainage pipe.

Gift Shop

A Colorado cookbook, and Legendary Local book were added to the gift shop this year. The Pioneer Association had their books in the shop again, along with the children's items, promotional items, and crafts.

List of Donors for 2013-2014

Township \$1000 and up
Bill and Sylvia Dean
Rich and Liz Harrison

Section \$500-\$1000

Quarter Section \$250-\$500

Adam Thomas and Cheri Yost
Bette Blinde
Larimer County Farm Bureau

North Forty \$100-\$250

Gordan Hazzard
Richard and Joan Bowen
Jj Farrell
Bob and Janet Winter
Bill and Carol West
Marvin and Cindy Becker
John Steininger and Jennifer Lowry
Dean and Eva Wallace

Acre \$50-\$100

Ralph and Mary Bender
Laren Maxey
Chuck Mayhugh
Poudre Valley Co-op
Tom and Eileen Boardman

Half Acre \$0-\$50

Lew Grant
Mark Fiege and Janet Ore
Walt and Liv Lyons
Rick Fritzler
John Stencil
Kate Stieben
Joan Day
Berte Baker
Norm and Donna Brown
Jerry Alldredge
Roger and Sharon Chilson
George and Nancy Wallace
Doug Ernest
David and Carol Budge
Paula Morehouse
John Boxberger
Maynard and Calista Beitz

Walt and Liv Lyons
William Molini
Larimer County Natural Resources

'Friends' of the Bee Farm 2013

Individual

Barbara Wilson
Gail Meisner
Joyce Bennett
Kate Steiben
Doug Ernest

Senior Family

Joan Day
David and Carol Budge
Ralph and Mary Bender
Norm and Donna Brown
Roger and Sharon Chilson

Family

Richard and Maxine Tamlin
David and Lily Weber
Sarah Kalert Family
Eric and Diane Umbreit

Business

Finish Line Awards
Larimer County Natural Resources
Donath Lake Farm and Greenhouse