

Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum

2016 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.

2016 Board Members

Officers for this year were, President: David Harrison, Vice President: Ginger Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer: Liz Harrison. Ryan Dreitz resigned from the board at the beginning of the year and Gail Meisner resigned in October.

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 1,267 total visitors. There were 443 Friday and Saturday visitors, 446 visitors from 14 children's groups, and 148 from 7 adult groups. Special Events were attended by 230. We did do a Groupon deal this year which helped the attendance.

Groups

The ISI group at CSU brought a group of international students for a tour and dinner this fall, and the CSU Ag Education class came again this year. Another adult group that came through the CSU Extension was a disabled farmers group, and two car clubs came.

One children's group dressed up in pioneer clothing and was a fun group. Two children's groups from one school oiled the horse harness as part of their tour.

We also had three night photography classes use the farm this year. Two of them used the 1947 Chevrolet car as a prop. They shared some pictures with us that we have been able to use.

The farm was also used by The Interweave Crochet Magazine this spring for a photo shoot.

Events participated in

Rich and Liz had a booth at the Avery House 4th of July Celebration, but we did not have a float in the Wellington Parade.

David designed and printed a brochure for the local history group called Northern Colorado Heritage Connect. They will be distributed by the 12 groups that are represented and the Visitor Center.

The article that Liz wrote for the on-line Colorado Encyclopedia that Colorado Humanities is doing was accepted and is now on line at Colorado Encyclopedia.org under events-farming and ranching.

We were also very honored to be one of three centennial farms that was featured in a program that Rocky Mountain PBS did on Centennial Farms. It was aired on December 15th.

The Loveland Reporter Harold did an article on the farm which brought some new visitors and interest.

We started sharing advertising with a web site called Forgotten Fort Collins.

Special Events

The Vintage Base Ball Game was held June 25 this year. The Poudre Valley Antique Car Club brought a few cars, and Rocky Mountain High School's Civil War Club came and presented woman's fashions and use of weapons for the soldiers during the Civil War. We also invited veterans to the game again. The Buckeye Buck'n Ears 4-H club did concessions.

On September 24 for the Pioneer Living Day we had a theme of 'Building Pioneer Style'. David made a tee pee

and examples of log, brick, sod, and adobe construction. There were ten different pioneer skills presented. Ice cream and lemonade were sold by the Rocky Ridge 4-H Club. We also had trolley rides around the farm. Eight CSU students volunteered to help with the children's activities. David made a very nice brochure again and a sack lunch was served to our presenters and volunteers.

Volunteers

Over 1,750 volunteer hours were again given by 10 people to operate the farm museum.

CSU Unity provided 5 students that helped clean up to get ready to open.

Liz and Rich did tours for our Friday and Saturday visitors and Lee Ann, Gail, Jack, and Jane helped with groups.

Education

We completed a topographical exhibit showing how water gets from the mountains to the plains. New identification signs were added to each of the buildings. We moved the big banners in the green shed to make some more storage room, and added one exhibit board.

Animals

We had one Angus calf this year. The older cow never had a calf so she was sold. We bought a bull and named him Cusco. The calf is Lima. We had a setting hen that hatched 5 chicks of her own, but we weren't sure if they were going to hatch so we bought 4 New Hampshire Reds and put with her. We had also ordered 6 chicks so had lots of chickens this year. We also got two turkeys, two lambs, and a Duroc pig.

Collection

A corn sheller and hand push garden cultivator were donated this year.

Maintenance

We did get some touch up painting done, and planted three new fruit trees: an apple, cherry, and plumb.

Gift Shop

The Pioneer Association had their books in the shop again, along with the children's items, promotional items, and crafts. Liz got some new knitting and weaving kits.

Donors for 2016-2017

Township \$1000 and up

Bill and Sylvia Dean
VerStraeten – Farrell
Rich and Liz Harrison

Section \$500-\$1000

Quarter Section \$250-\$500

Adam Thomas and Cheri Yost
Judy Bowlby

North Forty \$100-\$249

Gordan Hazzard
Richard and Joan Bowen
Carol Gregston
Bob and Janet Winter
Jennifer Lowry
Loren Maxey
Bette blinde

Acre \$50-\$99

Ralph and Mary Bender
Kate Stieben
Acherman Farms
Maryanne Martell, Edward Harris
William Molini
Amy Rasplicka

Half Acre \$0-\$49

George and Nancy Wallace
Michael Welsh
Doug Ernest
David and Lily Weber
Dennis and Jean Lamm
Norm and Donna Brown
Jamie Burt
Roger and Sharon Chilson
David and carol Budge
John and Mary Stencil III
Rick and Diana Freeman
Mardi Denny

‘Friends’ of the Bee Farm 2017

Individual

Barbara Wilson
Joyce Bennett
Paula Morehouse

Senior Family

John and Marion Stencil
Richard and Debbie Brock
Gail Meisner
Ralph and Mary Bender

Family

Roger and Sharon Chilson
Jack and Jan Pelnar
Jim and Ruth Demartini

Business

Masonville Mercantile

Dean and Eva Wallace

Larimer County Natural Resources