

Bee Family Centennial Farm Museum

2017 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.

2017 Board Members

Officers for this year were, President: David Harrison, Vice President: Ginger Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer: Liz Harrison. Erin Barkey joined the board in January.

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 1,083 total visitors. There were 284 Friday and Saturday visitors, 491 visitors from 15 children's groups, and 198 from 8 adult groups. Special Events were attended by 110. We did do a Groupon deal this year, but not until July. We started taking credit cards with a square reader.

Groups

The ISI group at CSU brought a group of international students for a tour and dinner in October. The CSU Ag Education class came again this year, and Adam Thomas, who is now teaching in the History Dept at CSU, brought one of his classes. Another fun group was the Fort Collins New Comers Club.

Five different children's group had 50 or more children, and we are getting several repeat groups. The farm was used by 'Love of 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 again this year.

We shared advertising with a web site called Forgotten Fort Collins.

The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture dinner for the teachers and host families was held in June.

Northern Colorado Heritage Connection group had a meeting here in June also.

Special Events

We did an event called 'Spring on the Farm' the first weekend of May. The baby animals were the main attraction and we had the kids plant seeds and talked about the garden. Two 4-H clubs helped. The Vintage Base Ball Game was not held this year.

Pioneer Living Day was held September 23 and the theme was 'Travel Pioneer Style'. David showed videos of early travel by cars and trains, and we made little wagons and things to put in them so people could pack their wagons. Bob Bee was a mountain man and Mike and Sharon Matsuda brought their sheep herder's wagon. There were eight different pioneer skills presented. The weather was cool and we had rain in the afternoon. The 4-H club also had to cancel so there wasn't any ice cream and lemonade. We also had trolley rides around the farm. Nine CSU students volunteered and helped with the children's activities. David made a brochure again and a sack lunch was served to the presenters and volunteers.

Volunteers

Over 1,800 volunteer hours were again given by 10 people to operate the farm museum.

Debbie Reed was a new volunteer this year that helped with children's groups.

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

Education

A travel board was added to the transportation exhibit in the 1918 garage to tell about the 1919 trip to California. We also added interactive information to the crop exhibits.

Animals

Four calves were born, and we started milking Daisy, the Jersey cow. She quite eating and lost weight so we had to quite milking for a while. She also got mastitis so gave her medication for that. She still had problems with her appetite so quite milking after 5 mo and dried her up early so she could gain weight. We also milked Hot Chocolate the Jersey Angus cross for a while. We bought 4 baby chicks and 3 turkeys. The turkeys all died one night so bought 3 more. We also got two lambs, and a pink pig. Three calves and two cows were sold this fall along with the sheep and pig.

Collection

There were no donations this year.

Maintenance

Touch up painting was done on the milk barn, chicken house, and 42 garage. New shingles were put on the old wood granary this fall.

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 little animals.

Donors for 2017-2018

Township \$1000 and up

Bill and Sylvia Dean

Section \$500-\$1000

Quarter Section \$250-\$500

Adam Thomas and Cheri Yost

Judy Bowlby

North Forty \$100-\$249

Richard and Joan Bowen

Carol Gregston

Bob and Janet Winter

Jennifer Lowry

Loren Maxey

Marvin and Cindy Becker
Ralph and Mary Bender
Robert Sievers
Patrick and Tami Miller

Acre \$50-\$99

Ginger Montgomery
Kate Stieben
George and Nancy Wallace
Eric and Janice Wilkinson
Gordon Hazard

Half Acre \$0-\$49

Michael Welsh
Dennis and Jean Lamm
Jim and Ruth DeMartini
David and Carol Budge
Rick and Diana Freeman
John Stencil
David and Lily Weber
Joan Day, Wayne Sundberg

'Friends' of the Bee Farm 2018

Individual

Barbara Wilson
Doug Ernest

Senior Family

George and Nancy Wallace
Richard and Debbie Brock
Gordon Hazard
Ralph and Mary Bender
John Stencil
Joan Day, Wayne Sundberg
Eric and Janice Wilkinson
Kate Stieben
Jim and Ruth DeMartini
Norm and Donna Brown

Family

Roger and Sharon Chilson
Ginger Montgomery
Michael Welsh

Business

Northern Colorado Water
Gilsdorf Automotive