



Park County Historical Society honors volunteers

Gave volunteers a party at McGraw Memorial Park in Bailey

Christie Wright - Special to The Flume

May 12, 2017



Park County Historical Society members and prospective volunteers gather in front of the Glen-Isle Way Station in McGraw Memorial Park. (Photo by Jim Sapp)

The Park County Historical Society hosted a volunteer appreciation picnic at McGraw Memorial Park in Bailey, Saturday, May 6, from noon to 2 p.m. The historical society owns and maintains the park year round.

The warm weather saw 30 people in attendance, including past and current volunteers, newcomers interested in helping with the park this year and board members, who are also all-volunteer.

Grilled hamburgers, potato salad, vegetable platters, chips, ice cream and brownies were served, compliments of the society to acknowledge everyone who has contributed to the park and to the historical society in general.

Attendees also signed up for a variety of tasks to keep the park in shape including cabin maintenance, painting, landscaping and tour leaders for hikes and park tours.

The society acquired the land for McGraw Memorial Park in 1969 from Helen McGraw Tatum, a long-time Bailey resident whose grandparents purchased the land from William Bailey, the town's namesake, in the late 1870s.

Helen married Thomas Tatum in 1949 while both were serving in the military and she eventually moved back to Bailey.

The park hosts a number of historic structures, including the Entriken and Wren cabins, Shawnee Schoolhouse, Glen-Isle Way Station, a vintage Colorado and Southern railroad cabooses, and shed containing a boat from Maddox Ice Company.

One of the outstanding features of the park is the Keystone Bridge, a remnant of the days the narrow gauge railroad went from Denver to Como in the 1800s and early 1900s.

The bridge was moved from its original location and installed across the North Fork of the South Platte River in 1985.

PCHS is a preservation organization engaged in promoting the history and prehistory of Park County through awareness and education for the residents.

It is dedicated to preservation, collection and stewardship through cooperation and communication.

Board members include Linda Watson, interim president, Jim Sapp, secretary and interim treasurer, Pat Mauro, field trip organizer, Jim and Sue Glenn and Christie Wright.

PCHS is always interested in volunteers to help with the park and with the monthly fund-raiser dinners.

Membership is only \$15 per year, \$10 for seniors, and entitles members to a quarterly newsletter and a \$2 discount on fund-raiser dinner admissions.

The dinners are held the second Saturday of each month (except the winter months), at the Shepherd of the Rockies Lutheran Church, 106 Rosalie Road in Bailey.

Cost of the dinner is \$8 for member and \$10 for non-members.

Contact Jim Glenn at jimglenncolorado@gmail.com to help out in the park itself and Jim Sapp at Jimsapp7@msn.com to sign up for assisting at the dinners.

Come meet new friends and help the community in preserving one of Park County's significant local landmarks.