

## HELLO FRIENDS OF ROCK LEDGE RANCH!

Cherries are ripening, sunflowers are reaching toward the sky, and historical interpreters are hard at work making time travel possible here at Rock Ledge Ranch! We've been relishing the cooler weather the last several weeks have brought, and have been working, as always, to make the Ranch an engaging place for visitors of all ages. Have you come recently? You still have five weeks to come soak up history through our interpretive program, Wednesday-Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 1-5.

The Ranch is beautiful on days we aren't doing living history programs, too! Enjoy a picnic in the shade by the Orchard House, watch wildlife by the pond, and explore the trails that connect us with the rest of Garden of the Gods.

### IN RECENT HISTORY...

Mark Gardner, Rex Rideout, and friends engaged guests with their music and stories at a lively benefit concert to help bring back Fiddles, Vittles, and Vino. A great time was had by all, and attendees enjoyed abundant snacks and ginger ale. We are excited to bring back the Fiddles, Vittles, and Vino event in September!



*Our new operations administrator, Anna Cross*

The Family Fourth event brought over 4300 visitors to the Ranch to celebrate our nation's independence! Our historic guests included General Palmer, Abraham Lincoln, Katherine Lee Bates, and Patrick Henry's daughter Patsy, and through speeches and songs they helped our visitors recall important moments in America's history. Live music, games, wagon rides, historic home tours, food, and more continued all day through the beautiful weather, and made for a great event. We are thankful for all the visitors who joined us, and incredibly grateful for all our amazing volunteers who made it happen!

Our educators at the American Indian Area have this to share about the site: "Every house has their own new offering for this summer's program, including the American Indian Area. You may notice the tipi is no longer posted near the north side shade shelter; in fact, the entire unit has been moved indoors to the Carriage House. There are multiple boons to this change; now that we have taken the unit out of the 'living history' setting, we find ourselves much more equipped to educate visitors about the inhabitants of this area, particularly the Ute tribe. A kit was provided by the Ute to assist us in teaching various elements of their traditional practices as they seasonally encamped here (Garden of the Gods, Rock Ledge Ranch, and many other areas along our front range) for



Our new Park Operations Administrator, Anna Cross, wanted to introduce herself in her own beautiful words:

*Greetings! I am so thrilled to have joined the team at Rock Ledge Ranch and wanted to take a moment to say hello. I started here just in time to be part of the excitement for our wonderfully successful Family Fourth. How great it was to see so many folks of all ages enjoying the many activities and learning about our history at the same time! The day couldn't have been more perfect as we welcomed old and new friends alike.*

*I'll share a little about myself here, but I welcome in-person conversations if you'd like to learn more! I was born in England, moved to the US at age 7, and have had a 25+ year career in Cultural Administration. My educational background is in ethnomusicology, and I began my career at UCLA Center for Performing Arts before going on to lead municipal cultural centers. I have been honored to have had opportunities to steward historic venues and manage programs for youth and adults in the cultural, performing arts, and visual arts fields in organizations that range from the university setting to the municipal, as well as non-profits. I have also had a life-long love of farms, ranches, animals, and in particular horses!*

*I am so grateful for the opportunity to bring all my interests and experience together here at Rock Ledge Ranch and I look forward to serving the City of Colorado Springs community through efforts to support the funding of historic preservation projects and programs here.*

*I'm new to town and as I get settled in, I look forward to meeting many new friends. Find me at the Ranch and say hello!*

*Anna Cross,  
Parks Operations Administrator*

thousands of years. We have been focusing on particulars of food, water, and shelter as all these elements can be witnessed at every house on the Ranch. We have clear plastic toys to help us explain basketry, as well as maps, printed pictures and tactile (yet modern) examples of hide. In years prior, we would not have been able to utilize these excellent resources due to the 'period-appropriate' site requirements. We are so excited by the changes and new approach as we teach critical history to our region. We aspire to bring as much honor and respect to the peoples and cultures of this region as

possible; thank you for supporting us as we endeavor something new at the Ranch.”

Our resident sweetheart, Martha the cow, spends her days at the Galloway Homestead Cabin during our summer living history program. This is fitting as Walter Galloway, the property's first homesteader, owned a cow and calf. One of our Junior Docents further researched these barnyard residents and compiled his findings in a short film. Be sure to check it out on the Ranch's social media! We hope you find this information as captivating as we did!



Staff in the garden were recently surprised to find that one of the ranch's chickens has started laying green eggs. The color of egg that a hen lays is determined by its DNA, and it is not unheard of for certain crossbreeds to lay green, pink, or blue eggs. These chickens are often called 'Easter Eggers,' and while the eggs they lay are an unusual color, they are otherwise no different from any other egg.

Historical Interpreter and Clothing Librarian Donna Tomaselli and her staff in the Rock Ledge House put together a 19th century picnic lunch on the Fourth of July, based on Donna's research into what people in the 1880s would be eating as part of their Independence Day celebrations! Rock Ledge House staff and volunteers followed period recipes to make an old-fashioned German potato salad, ham and cheese sandwiches on homemade rolls, and personal fruit juice custards. The result was a delicious picnic lunch for volunteers around the Ranch during our Family Fourth—as well as more historic food to interpret for visitors!

A weekly highlight at the Orchard House is our summer tea luncheons! Attendees enjoy our own Orchard House tea blend served by interpreters dressed as Edwardian servants. Get a taste of leisurely life at a country estate in the early 20th century with high society treats! Orchard House Tea Luncheons continue throughout the summer and are a hit with all who attend. Enjoy a leisurely lunch behind the 1907 Orchard House in Edwardian comfort and style. Teas occur every Friday until August 2. Summer teas start at 11:30 and include sandwiches, scones, and sweets served with hot tea and cold lemonade. The cost is \$29 per person, and you can purchase tickets online through our website: <https://rockledgeranch.com/event/summer-tea-luncheon-8/2024-06-07/>

During May and June, Rock Ledge Ranch has seen a replanting of the Orchard House garden, thanks to Phelan Gardens and the City of Colorado Springs' Horticulture Department. The new garden includes more native species and plants that will attract unique pollinators. Come visit to see this beautiful living development!

The Living History Association hosted their annual members event on Saturday, May 11, treating LHA members with snacks, games, prizes, and more. To learn more and join the LHA for this exclusive event next year, become a member online at <https://rockledgeranch.com/membership-and-support/> or in person at the Admissions Hut.



*The garden shed*

Our School at the RANCH students ended the year with family celebrations that included student recitations, skits, and even student-created scavenger hunts, then wrapped up with a cold ice cream treat. We are so thankful for our School at the RANCH families and the love they have for Rock Ledge Ranch! School at the RANCH will resume at the end of August.

The new ADA kiosk that will make living history at the Ranch more accessible to all visitors is now up and running in the Carriage House! Education Specialist and Interim Park Operations Manager Melissa Keown attended a testing of the kiosk at the Colorado Springs School for the Deaf and Blind in May, and enjoyed learning from the students as they tried out the kiosk.

The inaugural Garden of the Gods Art Festival at Rock Ledge Ranch brought over 7,000 visitors to the Ranch on May 18 and 19, and 250 people purchased new memberships! We are very thankful to Liz King and her team at Dash events for putting on such a fantastic event.

121 Junior Docent volunteers and 15 seasonal staff members attended training for the summer living history season at the Ranch the week after Memorial Day, and enjoyed getting to know each other, the site, local history, and their jobs this summer. It's a stellar team and we know you will love learning from them when you visit!

We don't want to pull the wool over your eyes—opening day, Sheep Shearing and Fiber Arts Day, was a wonderful success! Approximately 870 visitors joined us, and the weather held so they could enjoy the whole day of sheep shearing, sheepdog demonstrations, and many different fiber arts demonstrations around the Ranch. Thank you to everyone who attended the event!



*One of our Junior Docents on the way to his site*

As usual, two pink piglets joined the Ranch's animal crew in early June, and are busy eating and rooting in the pigpen. They are happily munching away on delicious food scraps from the historic houses and are growing quickly, so come see them soon! A friend of the Ranch donates two pigs every summer to add to our interpretive program in the barnyard area. Why do we consider these piglets an important part of our living history farm? Tax records from 1878 tell us that Robert and Elsie W. Chambers owned two pigs in addition to all their other farming endeavors, and we like to keep with this tradition.

## AROUND THE BEND...

We have five more weeks of our summer living history program, and there is always something new going on at the Ranch! The pigs and the garden are growing fast, and our junior docents and staff are hard at work making the program hands on and informative for everyone.

This Friday, July 19th is our Family Dance outside behind the Orchard House! This will be a fun evening of traditional English and American country dances for all ages, including square and circle dances. No partner or previous experience necessary, as all the dances are taught and called throughout the evening! Get tickets here: <https://rockledgeranch.ticketspice.com/family-country-dance>



*Two of our many fantastic re-enactors at Family Fourth*

Friday August 9th is Book Lovers Day, and we will be celebrating with a special book lovers tea and book talk featuring our own author, Elizabeth Borders, who wrote *The Stories the Stones Might Tell*, a history of Rock Ledge Ranch during the Chambers family years. Sign up for a spot here: <https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/5080E49A5AF23A5F94-50314245-2024#/>

Barnyard Buddies (First Thursday of each month: <https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/5080E49A5AF23A5F94-46536507-rock#/>) and Barnyard Buddies Storytime (all other Thursdays) continue throughout the summer on Thursday mornings at 10:30! Come to the barn and enjoy a few wonderful books read by Ranch staff!

Fiddles, Vittles, and Vino is returning to Rock Ledge Ranch this year on Sunday, September 8th! We are thrilled that this event featuring live music and food and wine tasting is coming back. Tickets are available for purchase now at the TB hut or online at <https://fiddlesvittlesandvino.com> Members can receive a \$10 discount on tickets, if they purchase in-person at the TB hut.

## JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday July 18  
Barnyard Buddies Storytime, 10:30am

Friday July 19  
Orchard House Tea Luncheon, 11:30am  
Family Dance, 5:30pm

Saturday July 20  
First Responder Day: \$4 admission for fire, police,  
paramedic personnel

Thursday July 25  
Barnyard Buddies Storytime, 10:30am

Thursday August 1  
Colorado Day: \$4 admission for all Colorado  
Residents  
Barnyard Buddies First Thursday program,  
10:30am

Friday August 2  
Orchard House Tea Luncheon, 11:30am

Saturday August 3  
Watermelon Day: Watermelon for sale at the Ranch  
during Living History Program on August 3!

Thursday August 8  
Barnyard Buddies Storytime, 10:30am

Friday August 9  
Book Lovers Tea Luncheon and book talk, 11:30am

Thursday August 15  
Barnyard Buddies Storytime, 10:30am

Saturday August 17  
Last Day of Summer Living History Program 2024

Thursday August 22  
Barnyard Buddies Storytime, 10:30am

Thursday August 29  
Barnyard Buddies Storytime, 10:30am

Monday September 2 Labor Day Vintage Baseball at  
the Ranch, 10am-3pm

Sunday September 8  
Fiddles, Vittles, and Vino, 3pm-7pm



*We love our Summer Teas here at the Ranch*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Rock Ledge Ranch is partnering with many other organizations and city departments to improve and increase our programs and community impact! Some of our community partners in May and June include:

**City of Colorado Springs Information  
Technology Department**

**Pikes Peak Brass Band**

**Strings and Things Dulcimer Band**

**Seven Falls Indian Dancers**

**At least twelve different children's  
educational programs throughout the city**

**Wishing Star Farms**

**FestiviTea  
(who provides our unique Ranch teas)**

**City of Colorado Springs Office of  
Accessibility**