



Canyon Lake Senior Center

October 2011 Online Newsletter

CLSC Writers Fare Well At Fair

By Lynn Fuerst

The 2011 Central States Fair is now history, and five members of the CLSC Writers' Group added their names and contributions to the role of the winners. Our distinguished group took 25 out of 60 prizes awarded in the Literary Division of exhibitors.

Craig Schaffer, a retired fireman and an outstanding writer, won four blue ribbons (first place) for his poetry. He also won "Best of Class" in the Adult class for a poem called "Open the Box." Great job, Craig!

Marcia Hill won two blue ribbons and one red (second place) for her prose entries. Marcia usually writes about life experiences and highlights her work with a bit of tangy wit. Her writings always bring a smile.

Linda M. Hiltner, one of our newer members, won two blue ribbons, one for her poetry and one for a short story. Linda, who works in Wall at the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Center, loves to write historical and regional pieces. She does an excellent job researching her work and delivering her tales.

Ann Fauvell, one of the founders of CLSC Writer's group, won two blue ribbons for her poetry (Haiku and couplets), two red ribbons for one formal and one humorous essay, three red ribbons for poetry (Cinquains) and a special award for being the oldest exhibitor in the Literary division. Ann is currently writing a book of Cinquains.

Lynn Fuerst won four blue ribbons for her poetry and three blues and one red ribbon for her prose. She also won a "Best Of Class," Senior Class, for her narrative poem, "The Little Lady Shepherder." She also won a blue ribbon for a pencil sketch of three horses and a white (third place) for Charley Horse, which she does for the Senior Citizens News. She has been with the CLSC Writers since 2003.

We would like to congratulate all of our Senior Writers and encourage others who would like to try a hand at writing to join them on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Annex building.

CLSC Float

By Float Committee

It's that time of the year – float time and we need help preparing for the annual Parade of Lights. Help to choose a theme for the Canyon Lake Center float, help decorate it and join us on the float. The parade will take place November 26.

Last year, if you remember, our float was a big hit. We got the “Jinx” award. Yep, we distinguished ourselves from all the other floats because our lights went out just as the parade started. Did we quit? No. We stayed and had so much fun and laughed so hard that it will be remembered for a long time.

Do not miss helping us – that is – if you like to have a good time, laugh and enjoy helping good fun. Call Carol Hamann at 341-4897 as soon as you can and leave a message. Tell her you do not want to miss helping out and having fun.

Fall Rummage Sale

By the Rummage Committee

Thanks to all the donations by Canyon Lake members and friends, there will be a big fall rummage sale.

The whole Center will be in use, including Viking Hall, Main Room, Library Lounge and Card Room. Even the hall way is used for furniture and popcorn.

It takes a big crew to get ready for this event and, thanks to our dedicated members, we have a good one. All kinds of donations are accepted. If we come across soiled or badly torn clothing, it goes to the humane society. Sometimes knick-knacks can be used in the Center. Surprisingly, small TV's sell. Our computer guru looks at donated computers to see if they are saleable or parts can be used.

There will be a bake sale (which never has any leftovers) and a delicious lunch served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Check out these departments: house wares, clothing-adult and children's-toys, knick-knacks, pictures, baskets, tins, puzzles and games, shoes, belts, hats, purses, jewelry, antique items, boutique with beautiful clothing including some fur coats, books, tapes, videos, lots of holiday items, craft items, appliances, lawn care items and small furniture.

On Thursday, Oct. 6, there will be a \$5 early bird sale from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, the Center will be open for business from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, sale hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. A \$2 bag sale and \$5 cart sale will be from 10:30 a.m. till noon.

Rummage sales are great places to eat, shop and visit. See you there!

Black Hills Explorers Study Bear Butte

By Lee Alley

Most of us know about Bear Butte, a stand-alone monolith towering 1,200 feet above the prairie just east of Sturgis. But did you know it was originally formed 2,000 feet underground? On September 10 the Black Hills Explorers climbed high to get to the bottom of this mystery.

The butte, called Mato Paha (“Bear Mountain”) by the Sioux Indians, is so named for its resemblance to a reclining bear in eternal sleep resulting from combat injuries. The Explorers were joined by geology professor Alvis Lissenbee, who has studied area geology extensively.



Lissenbee explained that around 50 million years ago this entire area was covered by a lakebed 2,000 feet above the current prairie. Then molten magma (quartz monzonite) from far below was thrust upward into higher underground cavities. That is the same extra-hard material of the boulders and needles around Mount Rushmore. However, the magma that formed what is now Bear Butte chilled more quickly, resulting in its highly fragmented small pieces. Eventually the softer sandstone and shale over and around this mass has eroded, swept toward the Gulf of Mexico, leaving the butte to stand 1,200 feet above its surroundings.

We were joined by a ranger who helped us appreciate the long-held deeply spiritual place of Bear Butte in Lacota culture. There was an impressive display of items used in Lacota spiritual practices.

The Explorers were made uncomfortably aware of the small talus rocks that formed the butte, as they rolled and slid underfoot. The trip to the top was long, steep, hot, and sometimes precarious. Some of the stairs are difficult to manage, and some in need of repair. However, the reward for reaching the summit was a delightful 360-degree panorama of the entire Black Hills skyline, from Crow Peak.

On October 8 the Explorers will celebrate its first annual Fall Foliage Foto Tour, this year along the Horse Thief Lake Trail. The purpose of the Black Hills Explorers is to explore new knowledge, activities and places in the Black Hills in order to better appreciate where we live. The group normally meets the second Saturday of each month by 8:15 a.m. at the Canyon Senior Lake Center (but check each time, for occasional re-scheduling). Sign up at least two days prior in the CLSC Office. Van seating is first-come/first-served for pre-signups. For questionable weather, check the web site.

More information about the Black Hills Explorers can be found at www.BlackHillsExplorers.org or by calling Lee Alley at (605) 863-0806. Anyone of any age is invited to accompany the Black Hills Explorers and encouraged to join the Canyon Lake Senior Center. Be sure to read the special Participation Guidelines for each trip when you sign up.

Safeway Gift Cards

By Joyce Williamson

Attention all shoppers: You may now purchase Safeway gift cards at the Canyon Lake Senior Center Office. Use them as cash at Safeway to buy whatever you select: food, fuel, health care or stamps. Five per cent will come back to pay bills at the Center. The more you use these cards, the more the Center benefits.

The balance of the purchase is credited on the gift card for the next purchase. No cash refund is available.

Pat Wright has graciously volunteered to chair this project. Thanks, Pat.

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