

May and June 2024

Estes Park, Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor and Surrounding Areas

President's Notes

Time keeps marching on and we are still getting huge swings in our temperatures, snow one day and 70 degree temps the next! Such is life.



We have our FFI Journey assignment for 2025!!
The long awaited information has finally arrived.

Inbound: Domestic- Baton Rouge to FFNC. August
Outbound Domestic- Northern Colorado to Austin, TX. May
Outbound Domestic/International -Northern Colorado to Sherbrooke, Canada (Quebec Province) and New Hampshire Seacoast. September

Tucson and Phoenix AZ Journey was a big success. We made some new friends and had fun touring around the, somewhat warmer area. Thank you Pam Morrison on your introduction to being an Ambassador Coordinator. You did a great job!

Change of Venue for our May 10th Meeting: Poudre Valley REA Bldg. 7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, CO at 7 PM.

The program for this evening will be presented by LaDonna Palm on National Park Camp Hosting. We will be back at 1st Christian Church for the remaining meetings for this year.

Our June 14th meeting will be for election of Officers for 2025 and a short business meeting. The nominating committee has presented a full roster: President- Suzi Gossard, VP- Susanna Garner, Treasurer- Carol McGrath, Secretary, Sylvia Miller. Following our elections and meeting, we will continue with a social evening of games and activities.If you have a favorite game or cards you like, please bring them to share.

CLEO on May 16, 11:30 at Nordy's,4360 St. Cloud Dr. Loveland. At 1 pm, following lunch we will be going to Barnyard Buddies to see the newly born baby goats...and getting to hold them.3650 N CR 3, Loveland. RSVP to Rocky, 970 308-5478.

Outbound Journey to Pecs, Hungary and Cornwall, UK, May 22- June 10, 2024, is coming up rapidly.

Inbound Journey from SW Florida, scheduled for June 25-30, is well underway. Contact Marcia Ross or Suzi Gossard with questions.

Inbound Journey from Austin, TX, scheduled for Sept. 13-18. Carol McGrath and Cathie McCallum will be the Journey Host Co-Coordinator.

Just a reminder, there have been a few erroneous emails being sent under FFNC's name including Susan Mathre as sender. Please look carefully at email addresses by hovering the cursor over the address to be sure it is a valid name you recognize.

**-In Friendship,
Susan Mathre**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
May & June Meetings & CLEO	2
World Friendship Day	3
April Meeting	4
March & April CLEO pics	5
Phoenix Journey	6
Tucson Journey	7
Future Events & Officers & Committees	8

Hosting in a National Park

Friday, May 10th



Our next monthly meeting will be on May 10th at the Poudre Valley REA Bldg. 7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, CO at 7 PM.

LaDonna will talk about her experiences volunteering in the Apostle Island National Lakeshore in Lake Superior and also in Big Bend National Park in Texas.

We will be back at 1st Christian Church for the June meeting.



June Election of Officers

Friday, June 14th

Our June meeting will be election of officers for 2025 followed by playing board games. Candidates are Suzi Gossard, president; Susanna Garner, vice-president; Carol McGrath, Treasurer; Sylvia Miller, secretary

After the election, we will have a social time and play games. Please bring your favorite game to share.

CLEO for May

Thursday, May 16th



CLEO on May 16, 11:30 at Nordy's, 4360 St. Cloud Dr. Loveland.

At 1 pm, following lunch we will be going to Barnyard Buddies to see the newly born baby goats...and getting to hold them.

3650 N CR 3, Loveland. RSVP to Rocky, 970 308-5478.

Fun Activities at Global Village Museum

Saturday, May 4, 1-2:30 pm--With over 60 years of adventures collecting artifacts, Gary and Carol Ann Hixon will present Pack Rats at Heart: The Joys of Collecting. From gumball trinkets to wonderful art and sculpture, the Hixons have background stories for each.

Thursday, May 9, 5-7 pm--Connect with the Collectors of Unique Collections is an informational meet-and-greet with the contributors to the Museum's Main Gallery exhibit, Collections: Unexpected Treasures.

Both these events require pre-registration and a \$5 fee. Daily admission is \$3 and First Fridays 5-8pm is FREE! Globalvillagemuseum.org (970-221-4600).

World Friendship Day

Friday, March 8th

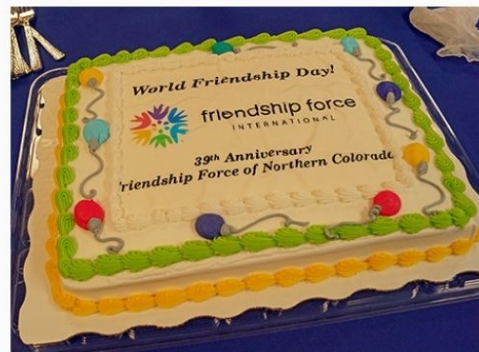
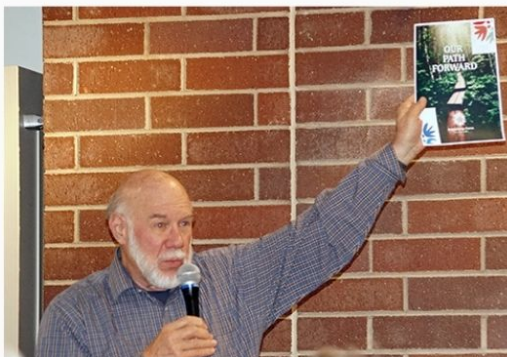
SUBMITTED BY: LARRY CLARK

The March 8th meeting was a joint celebration of World Friendship Day and the 39th Anniversary of the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado. In addition to a wonderful pot luck dinner with dozens of international dishes, we also heard a report from Ken Weaver, our member who serves on the International Board of Directors of the Friendship Force. Ken handed out Our Path Forward the new flyer that covers our Mission, Vision and Values as well as a summary of the organization's Strategic Plan and Priorities.

We then watched an excellent video presentation about The Friendship Force, made in 2018 (pre-pandemic.)

After the food and "business" we were treated to a sing-along with performers from LoveUke, a Loveland based ukulele band which includes our own members, Dennis and Barbara Miller. We were given lyric sheets and sang 13 songs, including: I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing; Margaritaville; Sloop John B; On The Road Again, Happy Trails to You; and several more. We were also treated to an interpretative hula dance by LoveUke member, Terry Wallace, during our sing along to Pearly Shells.

LoveUke is directed by Robin Stein and meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at First Christian Church, 2000 North Lincoln in Loveland, the same church where we have our monthly meetings. Anyone is welcome to join and learn how to play. For more information, contact Robin Stein at: 512-567-6250.



Cave Experts

Friday, April 12th

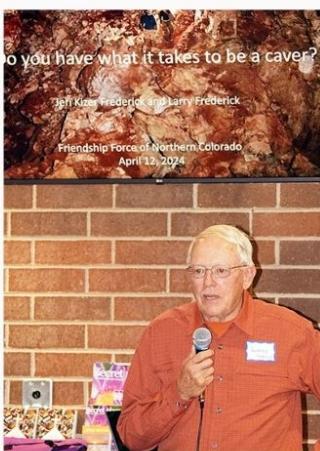
April 2024 Meeting – Program Overview --Nancy Brigden

Retired National Park Service Rangers, Larry Frederick and Jeri Kizer Frederick, treated FFNC members to a special April program on Caving in National Parks. Jeri has been honored as a Fellow by the National Speleological Society for her exploration and geologic research in caves throughout the world. She challenged our members with the question, “Do You Have What It Takes To Be A Caver?” She used her years of work in Wind Cave NP near Hot Springs, South Dakota to share her excitement about caving.

In 1903 Wind Cave was the first cave location and just the 6th park site designated as a National Park. Now it is one of 4700 parks, historic and cultural sites managed by the National Park Service. Wind Cave was long known as a sacred site by Lakota natives. It was the source of various human origin stories in indigenous cultures. This cave is also known in cave science as a breathing cave because of the 40 MPH winds going into or coming from the cave opening. These dramatic wind changes occur as atmospheric pressure differences inside and outside the cave change.

Jeri also shared that Wind Cave is one of the longest caves in the world and that more passages are still being discovered. She says it is also one of the world’s most complex caves. There are an astonishing 166 miles of passageways surveyed and mapped. Jeri introduced us to “complex maze waves”. These formations are a frostlike web of dense underground formations similar to Swiss cheese. Moreover, the paths they form go down into the earth an amazing 7-10 stories deep!

Thanks to retired Rangers Jeri and Larry for a fascinating introduction to caving. Quite a number of FFNC attendees indicated by a show of hands that they had interest in what it takes to be a caver.





CLEO: March 21st, Star of India



CLEO: April 18th, Museum of Nature and Science

“It was amazing. The Blue Whales IMAX, the Gerry Forney’s guided tour of the dinosaur exhibit, then a second IMAX about the Future of Our Cities. ...So from dinosaur times to air taxi times.” --Ken Weaver



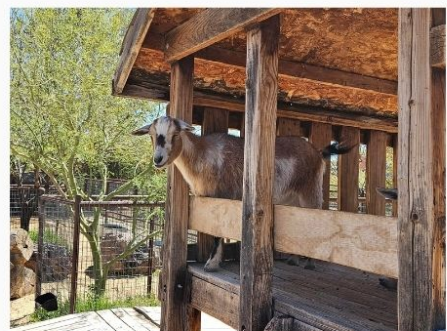
Phoenix & Tucson Journey

Eleven ambassadors from FFNC were treated to a fun and interesting four days on our recent journey to FF Phoenix. We took a tour of the Sun City Museum and learned about the first retirement for 50 and older adults developed by Del Webb. We also had a chance to “try” to play bocce ball. We visited the Desert Caballeros Western Museum. The “Cowgirl Up” Invitational Exhibition by contemporary women Western artists was amazing.

Our Sedona photo and educational tour included stops in Montezuma Castle National Monument, Courthouse Butte and Chapel of the Holy Cross. Of course, the majestic crimson red rock buttes, monoliths and spires are what have made Sedona famous.

We had a guided tour of the Musical Instrument Museum which is the largest museum of its type in the world. The collection of over 15,000 musical instruments includes examples from nearly 200 countries.

We had a wonderful time with our new Arizona friends and they have asked to participate in a reciprocal journey to FFNC sometime in the future.



Phoenix & Tucson Journey, cont.

We were delighted to get to see some old friends (who are also members of FF Cheyenne) and meet new friends in the FF Tucson club. Our first whole group adventure was getting our photos taken atop saddles in the bar, touring the beautiful grounds and then enjoying a delicious lunch buffet and welcome event at the White Stallion Dude Ranch. We were introduced to Ben's Bells, a non-profit which emphasizes the positive impact of intentional kindness and encourages people to practice kindness as a way of life. We all received a fun wind spinner, specifically made with a horseshoe representing the White Stallion Ranch, and a small ceramic Ben's Bell.

Springtime in the Oro Valley and Tucson area was ablaze with brilliant colors as many varieties of cacti were in bloom. Our senses were awakened when we toured the stunning and peaceful Tohono Chul Botanic Garden. We all gathered again at the Gaslight Music Hall to enjoy pizza and a lively and highly entertaining multi-genre violin performance by Heather Hardy and her ensemble. We didn't dance, but many of us sure felt like it!

Our hosts led us on a tour of the historic 1929 Pima County Court House, dubbed the "most outstanding Spanish Colonial Revival building in Arizona" where John Dillinger was tried after being captured at the Tucson Hotel Congress. Touring the interesting Univ. of AZ Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum we viewed a stunning collection of specimens from a worldwide scope but with a specific emphasis on minerals from AZ and Mexico.

All too soon, it was time to enjoy the farewell party, which included sampling prickly pear punch and yummy bbq. Pam Morrison and her sister, Carolyn Deeming did a great job entertaining us with a variety of ways handkerchiefs were used in the old west. We are hoping our gracious, fun hosts and other club members will come and visit us in CO soon!





Journeys & Events

OUTBOUND 2024

Pecs, Hungary: May 29 -

Cornwall, UK: June 3 - 10th

INBOUND 2024

Southwest Florida : June 25 - 30th

Austin Texas: September 13 - 18th

OUTBOUND 2025

Austin, TX : TBA

Sherbrooke, CANADA : TBA

INBOUND 2025:

Baton Rouge, LA :TBA

May CLEO

May 16th Nordy's followed by
Barnyard Buddies (baby goats)

2024 Officers & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT: Susan Mathre
VICE PRESIDENT: Suzie Gossard
SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Carol McGrath
TREASURER: LaDonna Palm

Journey Directors: Ann & Rick Lohmeyer
Meeting Greeter: Cathie McCallum
Meeting Hospitality: Suzi Gossard
Meeting Music: Rosemary Donovan
Membership: Cathie McCallum
Membership Booklet: Ed Brigden
Newsletter Reporters Coordinator: Suzie Gossard
Newsletter Editors/Publishers:

Sue Cummins
Marilyn Garner
CathieMcCallum

Programs: Barbara & Dennis Miller
Social Activities: Rocky Padden
Store Manager: Debby Jones
Ways and Means: OPEN
Website: Rick Lohmeyer
World Friendship Day: Barbara Miller

If you are willing to help with any position, please contact Susan Mathre, president, or the chair of the committee that interests you.

*Committee chairs, invite someone to work with you!
It feels good to be needed and wanted, --an active member.*

Refer to our club website:

ffncolo.com

For back issues of newsletters and information on programs, journeys, leadership contacts, upcoming events and for opportunities to apply for other regional club journeys. Thanks to Rick Lohmeyer for an outstanding website that can provide up-to-the-minute information between newsletters. Refer to www.friendshipforce.org for broad information specific to member and for sharing personal information needed for journey registration.