



# SANDSTONE RANCH

## Homestead Herald

*Homestead Herald* is a publication of Sandstone Ranch. Its purpose is to share information about events, news, and volunteer activities at Sandstone Ranch with visitors, volunteers, and the general public.

Editor:

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### Sandstone Ranch Visitor Center

#### Hours:

**Year round**  
Every Tuesday,

9 am-Noon

**March– October**

2nd and 4th

Saturdays

10 am—2 pm

Groups may arrange  
tours at other times

by calling  
303-774-4692

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Winter 2011

As winter descends on Sandstone Ranch park, the cold season of short days brings a different perspective. Come and contemplate the peaceful natural surroundings. Make time to escape the hustle and bustle nearby and the stress of the holiday season, if even just for a short moment along the trail.

Whether you arrive on foot or bicycle, you have made an escape from the hub-bub of modern life to a place filled with nature's ancient rhythms of a changing season.

Bring your binoculars for up close viewing of migrating birds. Grab your camera and photograph the magnificent French revival style main house built in the early 1880s by Morse Coffin, the original settler of Sandstone. Winter is a perfect time for stunning photographs of white landscapes and magnificent sunrises and sunsets.

With the extensive bike trails throughout, Longmont you can ride east from Golden Ponds to Sandstone Ranch while enjoying the best of outdoor Colorado. Or lace up your sneakers for an invigorating run.

The park is open daily about dawn to dusk. If you'd like to visit the historic main house to learn more about Colorado

pioneer life, it is open year round Tuesdays, 9 a.m. until noon.

Sandstone Ranch always needs and welcomes volunteers to share its story of Colorado's Pioneers and unique natural history with the community. Interested? Call 303-774-4692 or contact Ann Turbin, volunteer coordinator at

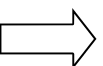
[Ann.Turbin@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:Ann.Turbin@ci.longmont.co.us)

#### Volunteer Needs

- \*\*Visitor Center Hosts
- \*\*Help with events
- \*\*Research and write articles
- \*\*Someone to clip and save newspaper articles about Sandstone Ranch
- \*\*Program leaders and/or tour guides for group visits

Call 303-774-4692

E-mail: [ann.turbin@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:ann.turbin@ci.longmont.co.us)





## Sandstone Ranch Fall Harvest Event 2011

Early in November, this year's Harvest Open House Festival at Sandstone Ranch was a delight for all. Cookie decorating became face decorating from all the gooey frosting and went on to marshmallow roasting out on the back patio. The day was clear and chilly, making the fire pit a popular destination. A beautiful matching pair of big Belgian horses named Kit and Kat pulled an old-fashioned trolley for nostalgic tours around the park. Story tellers spun their magic with tales of long ago autumns on the pioneer prairie. Wandering minstrel, Duffy Keith, strummed traditional folk songs on his mandolin, creating a soundtrack for a perfect family afternoon.

Thank you and an invitation to come again to all who attended! And a thank you to the wonderful volunteers!



Jewell Getson is dressed in a ball gown from the 1860's.



Surrounded by frosty grasses, a lone coot swims in the St. Vrain River.

## Winter Meditations

Before the last round of snowstorms and bitter cold winter temperatures, I took a late afternoon walk on the trail between County Line Road and the grounds of the main house at Sandstone Ranch. As I went east on the trail, the din of traffic noise gave way to the sound of laughing geese. Hundreds of Canadian geese were gathered on the wetlands surrounding the St.Vrain River. Two meadowlarks trilled back and forth across the bare branches of young trees. A flock of red wing blackbirds was picking through the stubble of an adjacent cornfield. With a clicking call and beep they swirled up in flight, flashing the bright epaulets on their wings. The geese splashed and cackled.

Standing on the bridge over the St.Vrain river, I saw a dark shape moving swiftly in the quiet water toward the cover of cattails near the banks. A beaver? A muskrat?

Cold pink sun colored the yellow sandstone cliffs to gold. Not quite the gold that homesteader and entrepreneur Morse Coffin came seeking in Colorado, but he did see income potential from quarrying the abundant stone for building material and staked his claim. I sat on a bench and imagined the scene along the river in 1860. The natural riches of this place where Lefthand Creek joins the St.Vrain river were as valuable as any he would find panning in Gold Run.

**SANDSTONE RANCH  
DISTRICT PARK**

**3001 KEN PRATT BLVD  
LONGMONT, CO  
80504**

Mailing address:  
7 S. Sunset St.  
Longmont, CO 80501

How to get to Sandstone

Ranch from Longmont:

Go east on Ken Pratt Blvd., one mile past the intersection with Weld County Road I. Turn south onto Sandstone Drive (between the park and Chevrolet dealership) and follow the directional signs to the Visitor Center Trailhead. Walk down the trail to the Visitor Center, or follow it up to the overlook and see a panorama of the Rockies! (Handicapped parking is located near the Visitor



Sandstone Ranch  
District Park  
3001 Ken Pratt Blvd.  
Longmont, CO  
80504

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**PRSR STD  
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Permit No. 19**

Please check out the City of Longmont calendar, Daily Times-Call, or our website for updates and details on Sandstone events. [www.ci.longmont.cp.us](http://www.ci.longmont.cp.us)

**Wanted: Natural Resource Volunteers!**

The City of Longmont Natural Resources Division is currently recruiting volunteers to help monitor raptor nests and control noxious weeds in 2012. These are both excellent opportunities to meet new friends, get your family involved, spend time outdoors, and help improve the beautiful environment of Longmont.

For more information or to sign up please contact Jim Krick at [Jim.Krick@ci.longmont.co.us](mailto:Jim.Krick@ci.longmont.co.us) or 303-651-8451.