

The Oro Valley Historical Society Winter/Spring Newsletter

February Exhibit/Pusch House Museum -
The Road to Arizona Statehood - Saturday,
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 from 9 to Noon. **NO**
walking tours of Steam Pump Ranch in
Feb. due to an event on the property.

February 19, OVHS Fundraiser - See
separate article for details! Last day to
buy tickets is February 15.

March Exhibit/Pusch House Museum -
Courageous, Resilient, Determined Women
of OV and Beyond! - Saturdays, March 4, 11
and 25 from 9 to Noon

Monday, March 13 @ 2:00 - Author Jan
Cleere will present "Following the Bugle", a
history of military wives in AZ in the 1800's
at the Oro Valley Pima County Library.

*Thank you to Jim Williams for setting up our
Speaker's Bureau events!

April Exhibit/Pusch House Museum - The
Making of a Town - Oro Valley! Saturday,
April 1 and 8 from 9 to Noon.

Steam Pump Ranch Walking Tours -
March 18 and April 15. (Note: **no walking**
tour in February due to the Off the Vine Wine
event on the property.) Meet for walking
tours at the Oro Valley Historical Society
booth at the south end of the Farmer's
Market. Tours begin at 9 a.m. and leave
about every 15 minutes. Last tour leaves at
11:30 a.m. Tours last approximately 45
minutes and are on uneven terrain.

Summer break: Please note the last OVHS
activity is the walking tour on April 15. We
resume activities on September 2. Private tours
of the property are available by appointment
only.

The Speakers Event on January 11
was enjoyed by all! Allen Denoyer of
Archaeology Southwest shared
information on archaeological
findings in our locate area that were
excavated due to public works and
development projects. It was a full
house! If you would like to see Allen
at work, visit the Heirloom Garden at
Steam Pump Ranch on Saturdays
from 9 to 1 where he presents
displays and activities.

A few photos from the library event
(thanks to Sherri Graves
Photography).



Did you know that Steam Pump Ranch is one of 203
National Register of Historic Places in Pima County?

Be sure to stop by and see it!
10901 North Oracle Road, Oro Valley

"AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH!"

HOW SARA PLUMMER LEMMON REACHED NEW HEIGHTS

Mount Lemmon towers above Oro Valley but what do you know about its namesake? The indomitable Sara Plummer Lemmon's life will be subject of a presentation given by author Wynne Brown based on her book: "The Forgotten Botanist, Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art".

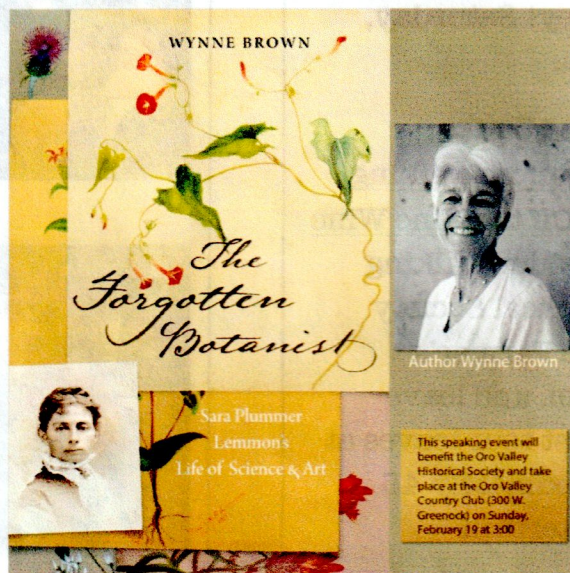
The event will benefit the ongoing programs of the Oro Valley Historical Society and take place at the Oro Valley Country Club (300 W. Greenock) on Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 (non-refundable) and include a buffet dinner and a Door Prize raffle ticket. Tickets purchased February 5 or later are \$85. **LAST DAY TO BUY TICKETS IS FEB. 15!**

This is a perfect read and outing for book clubs and local history loving groups! Wynne will be available to sell and sign books at the event. (And many thanks to Wynne for taking the time to do this event!)

There will also be fantastic raffle prizes (tickets for purchase at the event) including an overnight stay with spa service at El Conquistador, A Hilton Resort (many thanks to the El Conquistador for their generous donation).

One of the comments OVHS docents hear most often during exhibits and tours: "I had no idea the Oro Valley area has such a wealth of history." Now you can learn the history of our beloved mountain and the woman who reached new heights!



Tickets can be purchased at the Oro Valley Historical Society booth at the south end of the Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 9 to Noon or on the website

(on the home page look for the ticket icon)

<https://ovhistory.org/product/wynne-brown-sunday-february-19-at-300-p-m/>

Board Briefs

- The fundraising committee continues to prepare for the fundraising event on Sunday, February 19 at the Oro Valley Country Club.
- The Board is considering Bylaws changes in order to streamline OVHS operations.
- Visitor attendance at Steam Pump Ranch for tours and exhibits continues to increase. To date exhibits and tours have welcomed 1,503 visitors on Saturdays.
- The Annual Meeting will be Thursday, March 30 at 3:00 p.m. at Steam Pump Ranch.
- We have increased the number of our very enthusiastic volunteers!
- The Board is coordinating a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration – date to coincide with the annual meeting. Stay tuned.
- Paul Loomis with the help of Jim Horn has been videotaping our Speaker's Bureau events and will get them loaded to the website soon.
- The Arcadia book project has been put on hold.
- The Town of Oro Valley is working on an agreement to allow the OVHS to use storage space in the newly occupied Parks and Recreation offices at Steam Pump Ranch.
- The OVHS has submitted its annual recertification for the Pusch House Museum with the Arizona Historical Society.
- Climate controlled secured storage space for OVHS collections is still a concern. We are running out of space in the Tack Room.
- The Town of Oro Valley Parks and Recreation department has donated documents and items for our collection that have been stored in the Procter-Leiber house and Bunk Houses. We appreciate the opportunity to procure them.

The Oro Valley Historical Society was delighted to entertain the Saddlebrook Chapter of P.E.O Sisterhood International at Steam Pump Ranch for a private tour of the Pusch House and exhibit. Thank you to OVHS member, Anne Keeler, for arranging it.



HERITAGE GUIDE

George Pusch and Arizona Statehood

Many Oro Valley residents are familiar with the historic Steam Pump Ranch and its original owner, George Pusch. Pusch, a German immigrant, along with his partner John Zellweger, a Swiss immigrant, established a ranch in 1874 in what is now the heart of Oro Valley. By 1902 Pusch Ridge was named after him because of his pioneering role in territorial ranching and his Tucson business endeavors. What isn't as well known about George Pusch is that he was twice a member of the Arizona Territorial Legislature (1891 and 1899) and he served as a member of the Arizona Constitutional Convention in 1910.

To find out more about George Pusch and Arizona Statehood, visit the Pusch House Museum at Steam Pump Ranch this February. See page one for dates/times.