Green Mountain Falls Says Goodbye to Local Icon

A message from Rocco Blasi

Such a loss, not only for the person Dick Bratton was, but for the void he has left in our GMF community and the larger regional trails community.

Following his military retirement as an Air Force Major in 1982, Dick settled in the Town of Green Mountain Falls, bringing with him his commitment to public service.

First, a little about Dick Bratton, the man: he was a professional architect, avid Dodgers baseball fan, accomplished downhill ski racer, and - surprising to some of us - a passionate community theatre actor, lending his booming baritone to many productions and also using his skills to design stage sets. Dick reveled in social settings, often stopping to chat with neighbors or to make new friends, handing out hiking maps as he made his way to and from his second home, Green Mountain Falls' Pantry Restaurant. His love for Green Mountain Falls was incalculable and many will miss his friendly "whoop" to passersby headed for the trails, as he sat on his deck with a Martini, feeding peanuts to the jays.

From town-to-region, state-to-country, Dick Bratton's trail legacy is monumental. He founded and chaired GMF's trail committee for many years, leading the design and construction of a 'legendary' 12-mile hiking trail network in and around GMF, all at no cost to the taxpayer. He contributed to the greater Pikes Peak region in many ways, serving as chair of the El Paso County Parks Board, initiating action to create the first Parks Master Plan in 1997. Dick was instrumental in establishing the Ute Pass Trail, currently under development, championing the project's benefits before the El Paso County Commissioners. At the larger level, Dick served on the Colorado State Trails Committee for 5 years and was a director of the American Discovery Trail Society for 20 years.

Above and beyond his myriad official contributions, Dick added joy to our community, volunteering countless hours over many decades to ensure the success of GMF's annual Bronc Day community celebration, coordinating many events and activities to keep children and families smiling. He was an extremely generous benefactor to GMF, shoring up Town infrastructure from the public swimming pool to Gazebo Lake to purchasing fire mitigation equipment to make our community safer. He also authored six successful grant proposals that benefited GMF.

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As the waves of sorrow wash over those who knew Dick Bratton, we know that we will not sink, but swim, for Dick Bratton taught us how. He left this world as he lived: on his terms. I know he is at peace knowing there are so many people he guided and mentored, fostering a generation of dedicated trails supporters committed to preserving and expanding his legacy. It is no surprise that Dick Bratton continued to give until the very end: the night before he died he could be found participating as a member in the town's fire mitigation committee, a group formed at his urging.

Peace, Rocco Blasi,
Friends of Ute Pass Trails

A celebration of life will be held at GMF’s Church of the Wildwood Wednesday, June 16th, time TBD; casual dress.

The family requests no flowers and suggests donations to the Bratton Trails Fund, online at https://www.ppcf.org/donate/ by clicking “Give” under the Bratton Trails Fund. Or, checks may be sent to: Rocco Blasi - BTF, PO Box 194, GMF CO 80819, payable to “PPCF”, Memo: For Bratton Trails Fund.

Dick had a very special talent for recruiting volunteers. He chose folks for what they were good at, and put them on projects that needed to be done. He trained them to do the jobs better, or sent them to special training so they could excel. He recruited huge numbers of workers for building trails and then rewarded them with a great lunch and drinks and follow up fellowship. They came from far and wide, and volunteered on a regular basis.

Claudia Eley, GMF

Dick was a wise man. He always made the most of our trails committee monthly work days. He would plan ahead what we needed to accomplish, provide us with the expensive tools we needed, supervise the work (as long as he could make it up the mountain), provide us with trained crew leaders, and then meet us at The Pantry to provide us with lunch and beverages and great friendships!

He was also wise enough to train others to step into his shoes...He loved the town and gave of his heart, soul, and resources to continually care for it. He will be so dearly missed!

Dorrie Guyan
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**UPHS Gift Shop Reopening...slowly**

The *UPHS* Gift Shop will reopen regular hours, Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 to 3, beginning April 15.

*UPHS* has tons of history books, cookbooks, Indian art, handmade jewelry, art and vintage photo reprints. Phone us at 719.686.7512 or e mail us at *uphs@utepashistoricalsociety.org* and set up an appointment for a *free* tour of the five historic buildings in History Park. We are located at 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, next to the Woodland Park Public Library.

Please, wear a mask!

Check out the trailer for the new *UPHS* movie on [YouTube—*Our Story -Dude Ranches above the Clouds*—coming out later this year](https://youtu.be/4sOlBAyziQ)

**Upcoming Events, 2021**

- July 4: Annual Cemetery Crawl
- July 31: 83rd Annual Bronc Day Festival
- October 22: Potato Soup Supper
- November 6 and 7: Marcroft Hall

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**Green Box Arts**

The winter Lake Street art display is here! Stop by and take a moment to appreciate our past with this historical photo taken of Green Mountain Falls in 1907.

This display is located at the end of the road, near The Pantry. Photo supplied by the Ute Pass Historical Society.
“Moose is Loose” Window at the Cowhand

Window designed to emulate the original grocery store, located near this spot. Decorators, from left: Pat Hyslop. Julie Snyder and Karla Schweitzer

2021 Marigreen Pines Tours Rescheduled to 2022

Due to pandemic concerns, the dates of the 2021 Triennial Marigreen Pines Tours are moving to July 16 and 17, 2022

Tickets to go on sale April 14, 2022
Dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Ute Pass families and communities since 1976

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UPHS is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

THANK YOU!

The Ute Pass Historical Society’s Board of Directors is grateful to our loyal patrons and enthusiastic volunteers. Without your generous financial contributions and dedicated volunteer service, we would not exist. Thanks to all of you for supporting our mission to preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado.

It is an honor to serve you!