Clubs program KidSight for K-3 early vision screening and to help identify of all kinds. Many cities and nations have had centuries of looking at art integrated into their buildings, town squares, and corners. When we see that a human hand has touched and made something for us to look at and enjoy, it also touches us inside warmly, and that feeling lingers as long as we feel like resonating with it. We can recall artwork we’ve seen and enjoyed in memory and relive that, too.

In our area, we have a number of art venues that are unconventional and some that are conventional, such as galleries and dedicated arts venues. Our installed public art numbers over three dozen outdoor pieces with the benefit of Tri-Lakes Views and such sponsors. Each spring, Tri-Lakes Views holds a call for artists to submit sculptures for the annual exhibit spots all over our community. Stay tuned for the next call for artists, I think it is coming up very soon.

Our most precious and oldest—hundreds of years old—outdoor art forms in our community are in our local forests, particularly in the Monument Preserve. While the trees have been here longer than any of us, we have needed to be educated to notice and appreciate them as cultural art forms that we need to protect for future generations from misguided utility installations (we lost a wonderful tree to some power line installations that could have spared the tree), unearthed fire mitigation efforts (the older trees are fire resistant anyhow), and so on.

The ancient trees are greatly endangered by the ill-informed and we can never get the trees back if they are harmed in any way, because even the Indians no longer know how to make the trees, what they mean in all their many details, and so on. All we know is that the trees are here, have sacred meanings and sacred origins, and must be protected now or we won’t have them in the future.

For many, the spirit trees, or Sacred Prayer Trees, have become a common sight nowadays thanks to in- derosa pines.

derosa pines.

derosa pines.

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above: A Ute Indian Prayer Tree is easily seen from the path on the east side of the Monument Preserve. Orange coloring in the bark denotes that it is hundreds of years old, and ponderosas can live to 300 to 800 years old. Photo by Janet Sellers.

March 24. Contact Lynn Roth: lynn.pdphtographers@gmail.com or 719-649-4241. Janet Sellers is a local fine artist, writer, and art teach- er. She has public art and sculptures in many Colorado cities, local drawing and painting classes for all ages, and welcomes your art questions. She can be reached at janetellers@ocn.me.