



Pine Brook Press

A Quarterly Journal for, about and by
Pine Brook Hills Residents

AUTUMN 2006



PROUD DAY FOR PINE BROOK HILLS

On Saturday morning, September 23, the Pine Brook Hills community gathered in the Community Center/Firehouse for a dedication ceremony marking the completion of the Pine Brook Reservoir and de Haas dam. The Homeowners Association, joined by the Water District Board of Directors, decided to name the dam after the de Haas family in recognition of the years of service that family members (particularly Bob and his mother Trudie Lay) have contributed to the water district. Boulder resident Jim Hooley of Channel 7 was master of ceremonies.



the reservoir and into our taps. (Hooley joked, “6 P.M. yesterday?! And I thought I was a procrastinator!”) Bob concluded by saying, “I’m honored that you listened, that you thought it out, voted overwhelmingly for the reservoir, and trusted me to run it. It’s been a big honor.” Whereupon the crowded room gave Bob a standing ovation.

In relating the water history of PBH, Bob’s mother, Trudie Lay, sounded another note of praise:

“This community is a magnificent community.” The de Haas family moved here in 1966 when there were only 22 homes in the district. They were immediately aware of the water problem: “We threw ourselves into solving it, head, heart and everything... But if we’d been smart instead of stubborn Dutch we would have moved to Niwot!” The problems involved fixing the controls, finding more money and finding more water. They drilled wells that didn’t work and fixed broken water mains in the middle of the night. As a boy Bob worked with his mother, both initially as volunteers. Later, when Trudie became Water District Manager, the Water Board agreed to hire Bob as an employee. In the current reversal Bob manages the district and Trudie works for him. She characterized both of them as “fanatic about water and about doing the right thing.” She added, looking at Bob, “I am so proud of you.”



In what was clearly a heart-felt speech, Bob thanked the Water Board, the Water District employees, his family, the landowners who donated their property to the project and the community, for letting the district “do what we needed to do. I can’t tell you what a wonderful feeling it is to work with people like you... You stood behind me when the need for a reliable water supply became clear.”

To emphasize that need, Bob noted that eight days earlier, Pine Brook Hills had lost seasonal rights to take surface water, leaving us with less than a week’s supply of water before our tanks would run dry. But at 6 P.M. on Friday, the day before the ceremony, the district began pumping water out of



Other speakers included Kirk Hendricks, Water Board Chair, who pointed out that we are now in a drought year as bad as '02. But, "The dam will help us get through adversity and prepare for a 'rainy day' - when we can bank the water!" Fire Chief John Benson reminded us of the Wonderland Fire in '02. "It was pure luck that the firefighters got hold of it, with no houses lost, no lives lost and no injuries. If the fire had happened in September, the story would have been different." Tim Triggs, HOA President, demonstrated a model of a plaque from the HOA, naming the dam in honor of the de Haas family. And David Tresemer and Candice Knight from the Star House (see story, p. 8) spoke of the centrality of water in human life. David distributed little glasses of water from the reservoir, which looked clear and pure - though Bob quickly advised that this was raw, not treated, water - for appreciating but not for drinking! Candice, a minister at the Star House, spoke of the power of



PBH Community Gathers to Celebrate New Dam

Pine Brook Dam. It has been my great pleasure to have been so intimately involved in the creation of this great stone bowl and have the water it holds wash away the dust of my mind...All who worked here quickly learned that this dam was different. At Pine Brook an attitude of accomplishing something great as a team overshadowed every project member...**It is my wish and prayer that the attitude of unity will forever find a home in this community and with this**



Art Markey and Marie Zanowick (pouring), Water District Board Members

thoughts, and praising PBH's "ability to work together to make something wonderful happen," told us to infuse the water with positive thoughts. The water was later returned to

the reservoir, carrying the good wishes with it.

Most of the speakers mentioned the extraordinary spirit of community in Pine Brook Hills. Del Shannon, Project Engineer, quoted the 16th century Japanese poet Sen-No-Rikyu:

*"When you hear the splash
Of the water drops that fall
Into the stone bowl
You will feel that all the dust
Of your mind is washed away."*

Del continued, "This is exactly how I feel about the

dam. I will consider myself lucky if I can find this same spirit even one more time in my career. Thank you, Pine Brook Hills...I'm a better person and a better engineer for having worked with each of you."

Like the speakers, Pine Brook residents have every reason to be proud of our community. Like his mother, Pine Brook residents have every reason to be proud of Bob de Haas.



PICCOLO THE MIGHTY BEAR CHASER

Piccolo: Italian for small, smaller than ordinary size.

That fits. Piccolo Duray-Bito weighs six pounds and stands ten inches high. She is also fourteen years old, but the years have not dimmed her protective ardor. She LOVES Cecile Duray-Bito. As Cecile expressed it, "I am her universe." One morning in early spring, just when the bears were awakening with hunger pangs, Cecile and Piccolo left the house. Piccolo spotted a young bear and barked at it. For some reason this alarmed the bear, who took off running, Piccolo in pursuit! Cecile was horrified, certain that the bear would turn and crush Piccolo. "I yelled 'Get away from my house! Go to your own place!' And the bear understood. I'm not afraid of animals. If I met a mountain lion I would be able to say, "Look, there's a deer, she's good and fat. I am not good and fat." Just the same, we'll hope that Piccolo avoids mountain lions.



Piccolo and dad, Joe

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings are at the Community Center/Firehouse unless otherwise noted.

**HOA MEETING WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25 AT THE
COMMUNITY CENTER. Potluck, 6 P.M., Meeting, 7 P.M.,
Discussion on Dam Beautification and Reservoir Recreational
Opportunities**

RESERVOIR LANDSCAPE MEETING - Tuesday October 17, 7 P.M. at the Community Center. Bring your ideas. See story on page 6.

PINE BROOK KIDS: Please fill out the questionnaire on page 15.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE - Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 P.M.

BIBLE STUDY - Meets weekly. For info, call Greg or Donna Johnson at 449-1692.

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse. Call 440-0235 for specifics.

FIRE AUXILIARY - Generally meets the first Sunday of every month at 7 P.M. Call 786-7586 for confirmation.

WATER BOARD - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICIZING*

By Tim Triggs, HOA President

*Well, not really, but the title might catch someone's attention. The only thing I will say is that it should be an interesting mid-term election this fall.

As you know our fantastic new dam facility was dedicated in a ceremony on 9/23/06. During the ceremony, the Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association presented a bronze plaque, in recognition of the contributions made by the de Haas family to the PBH water district. The plaque will be installed in the dam at a prominent location.



The water district plans to finish grading at the dam by placing dirt on the face, creating a much flatter slope that can be walked without difficulty. This creates the opportunity for the community to get involved in two related projects. The first would be to take a role in the planting of native grasses and shrubs. A kickoff meeting on this subject will take place at 7:00 P.M. on 10/17/06 in the Community Center/Firehouse (see story p. 6). The second opportunity for involvement is in considering recreational uses for the land around the dam. This idea

will be open for discussion at our next HOA meeting on 10/25/06 where a study committee will be formed to develop a usage plan. HOA members will be asked to submit topics to the committee for study.

Also at the next HOA meeting, the HOA board will present our proposed version of a mission statement for our HOA. Not to worry, it won't be long and complicated. We have it down to a short and direct 32 words.

As you know, we have exhausted our current matching grant money on the Timber Lane fire mitigation project. We were able to complete work on many of the most hazardous areas, but another grant along with matching HOA funds will be required to complete the project. It now looks like a second source of matching grant money will be made available to us, rather than the original source which would have delayed restart of the project for nearly a year. So, if all goes well, we may be able to restart within the next month or two.

It's hard to believe that it's October already. It's been a wonderful summer, working on a new addition on my home as well as doing many fabulous hikes with my wife, Penny, in the Colorado high country. Now I am looking forward to another great ski season. We all live in such an amazing place.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next HOA meeting, and the potluck prior to the business meeting, on October 25.

(Tim can be reached at timtriggs@comcast.net or at 303-444-4093)



FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Fire Chief

First off, on behalf of BMFPD, let me say "THANK YOU" for the support you have shown to the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. The car show was a great success. The funds raised by this event will help us purchase additional communications equipment for the department. We have been replacing our old and obsolete equipment over the past three years; this will allow us to expedite replacement.

This year as we look back we can all agree that luck has been on our side regarding any major wildland fires within our district and Boulder County. Even though we have received more moisture during the last couple

months, a wildfire can still rear its ugly head. As temperatures drop and winds increase the moisture level in our fuels is still below normal. The fire department asks everyone to be extremely careful and report any smoke or suspected smoke you may see.

As most all of you know, this year the fire department has added another element to our response capabilities with the addition of the Third Arm (see story, p. 9). The Third Arm will assist the fire district with emergency evacuation needs, pet evacuation, data base and help coordination. This will allow the fire fighters to concentrate on the incident. If you are interested in helping with the Third Arm please call Station 1 at 303-440-0235 and we can put you in contact with the appropriate coordinators.

Finally, as the summer comes to an end, colder temperatures will start creeping into our area. With the return of colder temperatures your fireplaces, heaters and furnaces will also start again for the season. Below are a few tips which may prevent injuries and damage.

1. Have your natural and propane furnaces checked by a reputable appliance technician. Remember Carbon Monoxide is colorless, odorless and taste less. It is considered the "Silent Killer."
2. Have your fire places, chimneys and wood burning stoves cleaned and checked by reputable chimney sweep personnel. Chimney fires occur when homeowners let the creosote build up in the piping. This causes chimney fires that can possibly spread to the rest of the home.
3. If you are using electric heating devices, inspect the power cord for frays and separation. If you suspect that your appliances may be worn out, discard them and purchase new ones. Fires due to short circuits occur frequently and can lead to loss of life and property.
4. If you have any questions regarding heating appliance safety, please feel free to contact us at 303-440-0235 and we will be more than happy to conduct a home safety inspection or give recommendations on reputable personnel to assist you with your heating needs.

Until next time, enjoy the cooler temperatures and the colors of fall but most importantly, please have fun and be safe.

MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS 2006

Fine Art, Crafts & Home-baked Goodies



Saturday, November 4, 10 am - 5 pm



Sunday, November 5, noon - 4 pm



PBH Community Center/ BMFPD Station 1



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The Artists Next Door

Donna Johnson (D.J. Donovan-Johnson) has been in business as an artist for decades. Her exquisite watercolors and acrylics are well-known in the Boulder area and beyond. Amy Munding has just begun selling her art quilts in the last couple years. She will be famous soon. They are both your neighbors and they are both glad to see Mountain Expressions returning, after the year off due to the dam construction. The Fire Department Auxilliary counts on the talents of these two artists and many others, along with numerous crafters and multitudes of bakers to create this annual fall fundraiser.

Mountain Expressions is a chance to get a jump on holiday gift shopping, an art treasure for the home, a supply of unusual greeting cards or a unique addition to the wardrobe. There are items in every price range and for every taste. A percentage of each dollar spent goes to support the Auxilliary in its efforts to take special care of the dedicated BMFPD volunteer firefighters. The Auxilliary uses Mountain Expressions earnings to feed, reward and equip our firefighters.

The warm, community feel of this event is one of its hallmarks. It is a chance to visit with neighbors before winter settles in. The span from old-fashioned crafts to fine art to scrumptious goodies baked from scratch is bound to capture everybody, especially with the aroma /taste of hot cider or punch.

The Auxilliary hopes every Pine Brooker will stop by. If you have any questions about Mountain Expressions, contact Susan Maxwell at (303) 444-9851 or SCMBonniesStudio@comcast.net.

IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE?

By Mia Mestdagh, PBH HOA Secretary

Ever since our home was broken into a few years ago, I've been wondering how safe Pine Brook Hills is. To find out, I recently contacted the Boulder County Sheriff's Department to see what the statistics say. David Rogers with the Sheriff's Department was very helpful.

Here are the findings for the period of January 2004 to June 2006. There were a total of 395 calls. The top 15 reasons for contacting the Sheriff's Department are:

CALL CODE	INCIDENTS	PERCENT
Animal Complaint	67	17%
E-911 Hangup	20	5.1%
Noise Complaint	18	4.6%
Intrusion Alarm	16	4.1%
Ambulance Medical	12	3.0%
Smoke Investigation	11	2.8%
Theft	11	2.8%
Traffic Complaint	11	2.8%
Criminal Mischief	10	2.5%
Property Damage Accident	9	2.3%
Welfare Check Missing	9	2.3%
Fire Alarm	8	2.0%

The big question is: Are these numbers high? In comparison to what? According to David Rogers that's a very tricky question. In comparison to Boulder Heights, the crime rate statistics are very similar, but you cannot really compare it to, for example, the City of Boulder. In general, crime rates are usually very high in the following situations:

- In transient areas where people move in and out of apartment buildings frequently and neighbors don't know each other.
- In areas with heavy through traffic. (Potential burglars might be tempted when driving by.)
- High density areas.

Pine Brook Hills is lucky not to be faced with any of these three key factors but there is still crime in PBH. To keep our crime rate low get to know your neighbors and report suspicious situations immediately by calling 911.

Although Pine Brook is a very safe place to live, unfortunately crimes do occasionally occur. Just a few weeks ago the

home of two long-time PBH residents was robbed. The robber made entry by removing a screen from a downstairs bedroom window. The items that were taken were those that could be quickly sold to finance the thief's drug habit. Although the stolen items (some of great sentimental value) were not recovered, the thief was captured and is now in jail. Ed.



LANDSCAPING THE RESERVOIR AREA

Now that the dam has been completed, the community can look forward to the time when the state will give approval for the creation of a landscaped berm on the non-water side of the dam. We have choices to make. Wildflowers? Bushes? Trees, on the lower part of the slope? Walking paths?

Pete Lillydahl (303.449.1447) has offered to chair a committee to help plan the future landscaping.

Anyone with an interest and/or expertise in landscaping is warmly invited to come share ideas at the Community Center/Firehouse on October 17 at 7 P.M.



BEAR QUESTION

The summer issue listed a number of "Hop Scotching" Pine Brookers, people who moved from one PBH house to another. In a further Hop Scotching Incident, Andria and Burt Lewis are moving from their home on Pine Brook Loop to Linden, the home of their friends Karen and Marc Peperzak. (The Peperzaks will be moving to a condo currently under construction in Boulder.) Many of us have learned to check the Peperzaks' deck as we drive up or down Linden. If the black bear is on the deck, the Peperzaks are in town. But now they are moving!

The Question of the Subdivision: Who Gets The Bear? Was it included in the contract? Can you have a bear in a condo? Check future issues for further information.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors.

Is it worth your while to include in the PB Press that there was a dearth of hummingbirds this summer? The reason: we destroyed their nesting/breeding grounds at the bottom of the valley where the lake is going to appear. They breed down there in May/June, but now it's scraped clean for vegetation.

Regards, Harry Van Loon

We wonder whether the birds, like other Pine Brookers, are "hop scotching." In upper PBH we saw more than the usual number of hummingbirds this summer. Ed.

AGING IN PLACE IN PINE BROOK HILLS

(an invitation)

By Priya Huffman and Friends

Many of us here in Pine Brook Hills have talked informally about our concerns about getting older. Perhaps others of you have the same concerns but haven't shared them. The nagging concerns seem to be: What can I expect in the winter of my life? and How can I prepare for whatever is to come?

Now some of us have started a more formal inquiry into what the answers may be. And other questions occur: How well will we age? Where will we be? What might we need? Would it be possible to create a better chance to "age in place" here in PBH? Could we create a neighbourhood community of support, an "eldering support network," that would help us continue to live independently? Can we lessen the isolation that often accompanies aging? And most important, what can we do not to become a burden to our children?

If finding answers to these questions feels important to you and you would like to participate in the inquiry, please join us at the Community Center/Firehouse on October 29, 3:00-5:00 P.M., and join in the conversation. Bring something to write on. For further information, call Milt or Fran Slater at 303-447-8989.


ARC NOTES

By Mike Connolly

Here's a brief report on the noteworthy items your Architectural Review Committee has worked on this past quarter:

- Remodel at 151 Boulder View Lane - approved
- New (second) detached garage at 82 Pine Needle Road - not approved
- New residence at Lot 148A High View Road - preliminarily approved
- Color selections for new siding at 555 Wild Horse Lane
- New residence at 75 Alder Lane - currently under review
- Revisions to plans for new residence at 250 Pine Tree lane - approved

If you have any questions or suggestions, are remodeling the exterior of your house or are concerned about projects underway, call Ken Larkin, Chairman at 303-417-1465 or email him at kenlarkin@comcast.net. Other committee members are Tim Triggs, HOA Representative; Mike Connolly, Secretary; and Luke Landin. We welcome your input.

NEWCOMER NEWS and SOCIAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Pam Creswell

THANK YOU, PINE BROOK HILLS!

The Car Show and Block Party in August reminded me once again what a privilege it is to live in such a friendly and supportive community. I want to personally thank the many volunteers who so enthusiastically offered their support. To those many that offered to help but ended up not being needed, you were still a great help. I can't tell you how much just knowing you were there if needed, allowed me personally to relax and enjoy the event. Residents' generosity also abounded in the many extra donations and "well over value" auction bids; the nearly \$6500 generated by the event helped the Fire Department to purchase needed communication equipment. I just hope you all had as much fun as I did! (See photo page 15).

NEWCOMER POTLUCK OCTOBER 12TH

Thursday, October 12th, we will have (or already did have, depending on when you received this mailing) a potluck dinner and Pine Brook Hills orientation for '06 newcomers. It will be held at Pam Creswell and Marshal Swanton's house at 12 Boulder View Lane, at 7 PM. RSVP 720-406-9783

FEATURED NEWCOMERS

Steve and Brenda Hoffman are our new neighbors at 789 Linden. They have six and nine year old daughters and were thrilled to find their new neighbors have children the same age. Steve works as a money manager while Brenda works at Mountain Peaks, a private school in Longmont. They moved their family here for the "gorgeous and peaceful setting."

Glen and Patrice Spitz brought their ten year old son, Benjamin, and their seven year old daughter, Juliet, to live at 239 Pine Tree Lane. It was a big move for Glen to relocate his business, Webscan, to Longmont, but things are going well and they were just recently featured in the Longmont Times Call. Patrice, herself, sounds very busy as Interfaith Clergy, Energetic Healer and ceramic artist. (Isn't it great to have so many artists in our community!)

IF YOU ARE NEW TO PINE BROOK HILLS (HERE LESS THAN ONE YEAR) AND WOULD LIKE TO BE A FEATURED NEWCOMER, PLEASE E-MAIL PAM AT PCRESWELL2@AOL.COM.

OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE WEST: STAR HOUSE AND ALL SEASONS CHALICE

Look at the community map in your PBH directory. That empty space to the left (west) consists of over 200 acres of rolling meadows and forested slopes, with unobstructed views of the eastern plains and Front Range peaks. This beautiful expanse is what most Pine Brookers know as "StarHouse."

Perhaps you have heard some of the fuzzy and mixed Perceptions of StarHouse: It's a 'new age' cult!... they dance naked under a full moon!... they are nice people... we can walk on their property... they allow emergency egress to Sunshine Canyon across their land.

The Press visited Lila and David Tresemer at their home in mid June to sharpen our focus about StarHouse and clarify what really goes on there.

One of the first things that David and Lila tell the Press is "StarHouse is a building, All Seasons Chalice is the community."

David has a doctorate in psychology from Harvard and in 1970 got involved in studying the world's sacred religions. He got to know Boulder after attending a conference and moved here in 1986 from Vermont.

In 1987 he bought the seven parcels of land, one of which is home for the StarHouse/All Seasons Chalice property from Gilbert and Anne White. Gilbert is known as the "father of flood plain management," and was one of CU's most distinguished faculty members. He and his wife Anne championed responsible stewardship of natural resources. The Anne U. White Trail along Four Mile creek is named after her. As a member of the Boulder Parks and Open Space Committee she was responsible for preventing the Denver School District from selling Bald Mountain Open Space for development. The Tresemers both emphasize that they wholeheartedly continue the responsible stewardship exemplified by the Whites. They have cut approximately 6000 trees on the property for wildfire mitigation - something that also protects the western flank of our community. The Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District also serves StarHouse/All Seasons Chalice.

David has an abiding interest in sacred places - places on earth where one can feel a palpable energy that marks them as special - he mentions Chartres Cathedral. Closer to home one can think of Chaco Canyon. Other interests include the principles of



Lila and David Tresemer

sacred geometry, particularly in buildings and astrological cycles. The inspiration to build StarHouse came from weekly meetings in Boulder. Construction was started in 1989 and completed a year later.

Lila Tresemer attended CU in the late sixties/early seventies. Her interests also included alternative approaches to philosophy. Along the way she became a producer of multimedia events and a photographer. In Aspen, she worked with John Denver on some of his events and was involved with women's programs there in the late eighties. She met David in 1991 and they were married in 1995. She and David have co-authored a play about Mary Magdalene.

The StarHouse is situated where, David says, the Utes may have had a council area. It has twelve sides and is aligned with the four cardinal directions. The wooden interior is empty, waiting to be filled with participants. More details about its design and construction can be found at www.thestarhouse.org.

All Seasons Chalice, according to Lila and David, is an eclectic, trans-denominational and tolerant community which is inclusive of Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Native American earth based traditions. The mission statement is to provide sacred ground, celebrate life and honor what is common within us and in our various traditions. The ultimate temple, says David, is within each of us. StarHouse is there to remind us of that.

The property is strewn with geometric designs, including a seven-fold labyrinth. David and Lila suggest that certain forms stimulate humans in ways that are helpful. These have been known since ancient times within all cultures and All Seasons Chalice honors

them all.

There are more than a 100 members and some of them reside in PBH. The community welcomes people who are earnest about peacefully harmonizing their lives with those of others and with the natural world around them.

Hmm...their practices sound quite main stream, especially for Boulder, but... what about those naked dances under the full moon?

Dancing and the phases of the moon are, it turns out, an integral part of All Seasons Chalice celebrations, but the nakedness is, alas, just an unfounded rumor. 'Dances of Universal Peace,' (www.dup-co.com/danceinfo/index.html) reflecting the time-honored rituals of ancient cultures, were initiated in the late sixties by Samuel Lewis in San Francisco for promoting peace. They combine simple dancing in a circle with chants from Jewish, Greek, Sufi and other traditions.



StarHouse. The main entrance faces due south.

At StarHouse they are led by Timothy Dobson, a graduate of Naropa University and an ordained minister. Each dance usually lasts about twenty minutes. This dancing is intended to create bonds within the community as well as with nature. Services are held when the moon is new and when it is full, as well as on the solstices and equinox. Indeed the name "All Seasons" is intended to invoke the rhythms of nature.

Since its inception, All Seasons Chalice has spread its wings beyond Boulder. There is a women's program, "The Path of the Ceremonial Arts, a program of Ritual and Sisterhood" (www.PathofTheCeremonialArts.org). "Women of Vision" is a program that brings Christian, Jewish and Muslim women together here and in Israel, to focus on what is common to all, thereby promoting peace and understanding. The community supports

service projects in Africa: the Kisiizi malaria project in Uganda, the "beads for life" project, also in Uganda (www.beadforlife.com), lifting war refugees and women with HIV/AIDs out of extreme poverty. There are also a number of healing funds for helping people with medical needs.

StarHouse and All Seasons Chalice, it turns out, are not quite as mysterious as the rumors make them out to be. They have been good neighbors to PBH. Recently (see page 1 story), David Tresemer participated in the dedication of de Haas Dam and blessed the waters which all of us will use from now on.



THE THIRD ARM (Another Way to Help Our Fire District)

By Gail Loveman

The Third Arm is up and getting ready to run (if an arm could run). This new volunteer opportunity is open to all fire district residents who would like to make a significant contribution to our firefighting effort but may not have the time or physical strength to become firefighters. The group was organized to fill needs that became apparent during the Sunshine Fire. Thanks to those BMFPD residents who have already volunteered. Many more are welcome.

We have filled most of the Co-Chair positions:

Evacuation and Traffic Control: Barbara Thomas and Paul Mundinger

Animal Rescue: Robin Richmond and Shawn Roberts

Help Coordination: Diana Waddell

Our top priority is to fill the open Co-Chair positions. We are still seeking a Third Arm Civilian* Co-Chair, Information Group Co-Chair, and a technical guru.

Please volunteer. First check out the Third Arm page on the BMFPD website. Fill out the volunteer form (e-version available - e-mail me with request). Contact the relevant Co-Chair for a specific group or Gail Loveman at e-mail gloveman@ameritech.net to discuss your possible role(s).

Be a Neighbor Helping Neighbors.

* "civilian" means someone who is not currently a firefighter

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The StarHouse & All Seasons Chalice Church

Join us for upcoming seasonal and celestial events

New Moons (women only~ 5:30 pm, September 21st and October 21st)

Full Moons (all welcome~ 7:30 pm, September 6th and October 5th)

Fall Equinox, Friday September 22nd 7:30pm

* 303-245-8452 * www.thestarhouse.org *



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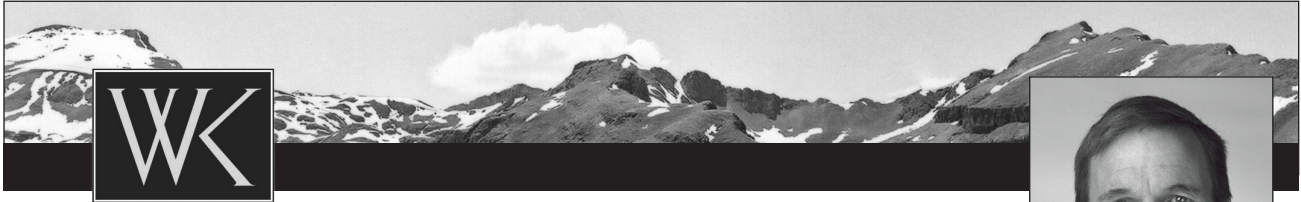
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THE GRANITE GARDEN

Your Cheatin' Grass!

By Barbara Hosmer

Cheat grass (AKA Downy Brome or Drooping Brome), a non-native plant considered a noxious weed



in several states, is getting a lot of attention not only by rangeland and agricultural management folks, but also by good people who research wildfire frequency and the plants that provide tinder-dry fuel for wildfires. It is also the plant many area veterinarians warn us about because the seed heads pierce pets' paws and can get lodged inside, or cling to our pets' fur and get ingested causing stomach and intestinal problems, even death.

Cheat grass likes soil that is undernourished. We can see it many places around Pine Brook, growing along roadsides, driveways, and under the ponderosas on our hillsides. It looks green in the spring, when it actually provides some nourishment as a green "grass" for our local deer. Its negatives, however, far outweigh any positives.

Cheat grass matures very early in the summer, turning brown and then somewhat purple, releasing hundreds of seeds per plant. Those seeds can survive in the soil for up to 5 years. Even if you mow it down before the seeds are released, (and leave the cuttings on the ground), the seeds continue to mature and end up in the soil. It is a plant whose roots spread out laterally close to the surface of the soil, monopolizing the available water and denying water to nearby plants whose root systems are deeper. It spreads more rapidly in the absence of competing plants, which is one of the reasons it flourishes after a forest or range fire. **Perhaps most importantly, many fires have been started from parking a car with its hot muffler over a stand of cheat grass, or from some other simple spark, cigarette butt or lightning strike by a field or hillside with tinder-dry cheat grass.**

So what to do? The answers are not simple. Know that it will take perseverance. However, there seem to be some basic facts that are helpful to keep in mind as you try to rid your property of this risky nuisance plant:

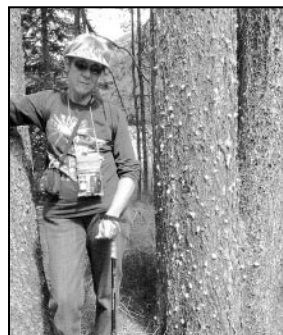
- Fall is a good time to start with an herbicide that will interfere with the seed germination activity that begins during the winter. Products that con-

tain Trifluralin (Preen, Miracle Gro Weed Preventer, GreenLight Crabgrass Preventer) have been some what effective, although most pre-emergent products also strongly suggest another application in the spring. It may take a few years of effort, with fewer plants emerging each year.

- The spring weed-killer application is most effective before the seed-heads are formed. This can be as early as May if we have a warm spring.
- There is an organic solution. Corn gluten meal has been found to be an effective pre-emergent weed preventer. McGuckins carries this product in the spring only. The corn gluten meal has been found to inhibit the growth of the feeder roots from the seeds, which affects their ability to absorb moisture, ultimately weakening the plant. It's applied as a dry powder and like other measures against these sorts of weeds, requires multiple applications over several seasons to reduce the plant population.
- Round-Up is perhaps the most used and successful product against cheat grass. It's important to "spot-treat" the plants so drifting aerosol doesn't kill the good plants nearby.
- Since cheat grass likes poor soil and little competition, you can "crowd it out" by fertilizing and helping along nearby healthy desirable plants. Some PineBrookers have had success planting sheep fescue in areas where they are trying to kill the cheat grass.

Enjoy your fall gardening and outdoor projects! Each year as we get rid of the noxious and risky plants our beautiful neighborhood gets even better.

Why is it called Cheat Grass? One story is that ranchers in the late 1800's initially welcomed cheat grass because it was the first grass to green up in spring. But when cheat grass not only proved to have little nutritional value but also crowded out good forage and dried up just when forage was most needed, the ranchers felt cheated. Ed.



Unhappy homeowner examines beetle-hit trees. Bark beetles are devastating western forests. Protect your trees. Go to: www.pinebrookhills.org/HOA/beetle-busters.htm or contact the Beetle Busters via the Fire Dept. 440-0235.

KIDS' PAGE

By Ayla Bessemer, Age 10

(Hey parents, this article is for kids, so PLEASE give it to them)

Now that we are all back from summer vacation and back to school, I thought it would be a great time to get to know each other. Did you know that there at least 135 kids in Pine Brook Hills? How do I know that? I took the 2006-20007 PBH directory and counted all the kids names (there are 64 boys, 56 girls, and 15 whose names I'm not sure about).



Who are we? What do we like to do? What do we like to eat, read or play? I think it would be fun to know and I bet other kids would too. So here's a survey to find out a little more about you. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take 5 minutes to fill this out and send it to me at 1431 Timber Lane or via email to ayla@besemer.com. Send your survey by November 20th, and come to a holiday party where we can all get to know each other better. But you have to send in your response to find out when and where the party is going to be. Even if you don't want to come to a party, please send in your answers...it would just be fun to know about the kids in our special neighborhood.

In the winter issue, I'll summarize the information you sent me, plus include several interviews (and pictures) with Pine Brook kids (ages 0-5; 6-10;11-15; 16+). Let me know if you would like to be one of the first interviewees for our winter issue.

Have a great fall! Enjoy Halloween, the cool nights, falling leaves and if you feel like it, give my favorite fall recipe a try (it's really good and super easy).

PBH Kids' Survey - All About Us

- Name:
- Boy or Girl:
- Age:
- Month of Birthday:
- What grade are you in and what school do you go to?
- Do you have a pet? If so, what kind?
- Favorite Book:
- Favorite Movie or Show:

- Favorite Snack:
- Hobbies:
- Do you play an instrument? If so, what kind?
- Favorite music, song or album:
- Favorite color:
- Favorite Pine Brook Wildlife:
- Favorite Part of Living in Pine Brook Hills:

Ayla's Favorite Fall Pumpkin Cake

Ingredients: 2 cups sugar, 4 large eggs, 1 cup canola oil, 2 cups pumpkin, 2 cups flour, all purpose, 2 tsp cinnamon, 2 1/2 tsp baking soda, 1/2 tsp salt
Frosting: 1 stick butter, softened, 1 box powdered sugar (1 lb.), 8 oz cream cheese, softened, 2 tsp vanilla, 1 cup chopped nuts, optional
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine all the cake ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Pour into a greased and floured 13 x 9 pan. Bake for about 35 to 45 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. You can also make cupcakes (~24) and bake for about 17-20 minutes.

For the frosting, combine all the ingredients and beat until fluffy. Spread on top of cooled cake and sprinkle with nuts if you like (I don't like the nuts, but you might). Happy Fall!

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Marshal Swanton checks out an old "buggy." (To the owner - just kidding!)

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