



# Pine Brook Press

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

AUTUMN 2007



## THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

At the fall HOA meeting on October 31 we will elect officers for the next year. This matters. Pine Brook Hills is an extraordinary community, and the voluntary community organization that is the HOA is one of the reasons for that. This community functions the way it does because of volunteers.

The following Pine Brookers have volunteered to serve as officers for the next year:

President: Mark Menagh. Since 2005 Mark has served as Vice President of the HOA. A Pine Brooker since 2001, he is Executive Director of the Farmers Markets in Boulder and Longmont. Prior to becoming a mountain man Mark and his wife Deborah left senior management positions in Silicon Valley, sold everything and bought a sailboat for what was intended to be a three year cruise down the West Coast and through the Panama Canal to Florida. But, he said, "we turned right instead of left," crossing the Pacific in a trip that lasted ten years and involved travel and work in a



number of communities and countries. They discovered that on the islands in the Pacific the open air markets were the place to find information and community, an insight that influenced Mark's present occupation. As cruisers, they were welcome to join the islands' meals and dances. The atmosphere of "join us, become part of us, and be yourself" was deeply appealing. To Mark, "community" is where you can be yourself and be welcomed without expectations. "I vowed after leaving that I wouldn't ever live in a place where I didn't feel

that it was MY community."

In Pine Brook, Mark joined the Beetle Busters and found it engaging, informative and fun. "So when I was asked to be VP, I jumped at the chance."

Mark hopes to facilitate communications in PBH. "We may have a community that's too busy to communicate," he notes. "We have shared values (the beauty of the environment, concern for the wildlife, and more). We need to make communicating easy, so that people can get involved to the level they want." He is concerned that there may be a sense of complacency, a feeling that "somebody else is in charge." But PBH is run by volunteers. "We're rural, not urban. We NEED volunteers."

Vice President: Bill Alexander. Bill and his wife Charmaine Settle have lived in Pine Brook since early 2004,



having chosen Colorado over North Carolina for retirement from IBM. He has lived in 5 states and traveled to perhaps 40 countries. As his picture would suggest, he has had plenty of public

speaking experience to small and large groups worldwide. Other pertinent experience includes acting as treasurer for two different condo associations in Florida and one in North Carolina, plus running a property management firm which included 8 different condo and HOA associations as customers. He has also built 5 homes in the Poconos since April, 2006. At present he volunteers for several women's rights groups in Denver. An active skier and hiker, Bill hiked Alaska's Kenai Peninsula this August.

Secretary: Marla Saville. Marla is an artist with a strong passion for animals (as witness the two ferrets with whom she and Allen share housing). She describes herself as having a deep respect for nature, and says, "I don't deal well with the food chain." She moved to Pine Brook Hills in 2000, after



meeting and marrying Allen Saville. Marla and Allen both volunteer with The Third Arm. They are frequent travelers to Scotland, where Allen commutes as a consultant. Marla is pleased that a change in her work hours, which used to involve 10 hour shifts and nights, allows her to run for office with the HOA. She admires the organization: "The HOA does a great job. It's such a big part of PBH. We rely on it for information and a sense of community. I'd like to see that continue and become even more accessible. I really care about this community."

Many thanks to President Tim Triggs and Secretary Mia Mestdagh for their years of service. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who have come forward to offer leadership to the community.

**THE GRANITE GARDEN:  
Plants and Bugs**

By Barbara Hosmer

Perhaps it's because I've given up planting the kinds of plants the deer like to eat in places they can easily sneak in and munch, or perhaps we've had enough rain that the deer have been able to find the shoots and leaves they like elsewhere in the woods...it's been a relatively damage-free year in my yard. I hope it has been the same for others! Whatever the real reason, I'm happy that most of my perennials survived the season to hopefully re-sprout again next year. I will be sure to water mid-winter if we don't have enough wet snow.

I'd like to spread the word about Russian Sage, and also tell you about another interesting critter, a flying kind, that visits our neighborhood, the BEE-FLY.



Russian Sage is a tried and true plant for our area.



Russian Sage

It's deer resistant! It grows easily and tolerates soil and watering abuse. It grows quickly and has pretty purple flowers that the bees have a great time visiting. It has a great scent and pretty gray colored woody stems through the winter. You should

prune it in the early spring, even as much as to within 6" from the ground. All the flowers grow on the new shoots. High Country Gardens calls it "An indispensable plant for the western garden."

Actually, Russian Sage is neither Russian nor sage. It was named after a Russian diplomat, and the sage part of the name came because it's quite aromatic when the leaves are smushed. It's really a member of the mint family. The hummingbirds and butterflies like it, too. It will grow most vigorously in full sun and can be a little floppy if planted in partial shade. This has been one of the easiest and most successful plants I've added to my yard.

**BEE FLY**

Have you seen a weird looking "bee" with a fuzzy reddish body, a long proboscis and big eyes? They're so curious, I decided to learn more about them. They are really flies. There are over 800 species of bee flies in the U. S. and Canada. Interestingly, their larvae feed on a number of bugs, including cutworms, beetle grubs, bee and wasp larvae and grasshopper egg pods. While they are considered beneficial, efforts to use bee flies for biological control of grasshoppers have not proved successful. The bee flies use their slender long proboscis to extract nectar from flowers. Look for them next August...best of all, they don't sting.



Bee Fly

If you would like your gardening efforts profiled next year, know someone whose garden is noteworthy, or have a great garden story, please let me know!

**PINE BROOK HILLS  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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

**BARK BEETLES vs. PBH - WHO'S WINNING?**

Come hear the latest at the OCTOBER 31 HOA meeting!  
6 p.m. Potluck, 7 p.m. election of officers and program  
on Beating the Beetles. Please join us!

**AGING IN PLACE** - Insurance Talk, October 28, 3-5 P.M. (see p. 14)

**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 440-6132 for confirmation.

**MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS** - Nov 3, 10 A.M. - 5P.M., Nov 4, noon - 4 P.M. (see p. 15).

**OPEN STUDIOS** - Oct 6-7, 13- 14: noon - 6 P.M. (see page 15).

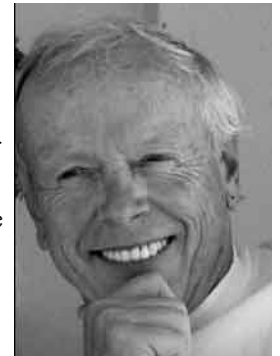
**WATER BOARD** - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 4:00 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

**PRESIDENTIAL PASSINGS**

By Tim Triggs

As I begin to write this I suddenly realize that this will be my final Presidential article in the Pine Brook Press as my two year term will be completed at the end of December.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to donate my time and efforts as your HOA President. It has been rewarding and fun serving in the finest mountain community around. It has been a very active two years for the community. The HOA has completed two large fire mitigation projects with the help of government matching funds. The Water Board has successfully constructed the badly needed reservoir. The Beetle Busters have been very active in educating the community and at keeping the little critters at bay. We have presented highly informative programs at our HOA meetings on topics including wildfire, native plants, wild birds, and mountain lions.



Many changes will occur to the HOA Board of Directors as of January 1st. Pam Creswell will end her two year term as Member at Large; Mia Mestdagh will end her two year term as Secretary; Mark Menagh will move from Vice President into the Presidential position; I will move

from President into the Member at Large position; Dave Davies will continue as Treasurer. The current nominees for new Vice President and Secretary are Bill Alexander and Marla Saville, respectively. (The above nominations need to be ratified by election at the October HOA meeting.) Join me in thanking Pam and Mia for their generous contributions as they leave the Board.

I feel totally privileged to be living in an area full of wild critters including mountain lions. Just had one under our deck last night. But, why are people leaving their dogs outdoors at 8:00 and 10:00 at night? This is completely contrary to what the CDOW people recommended at our HOA presentation in July, as well as contrary to simple common sense. This type of irresponsible dog owner behavior is equivalent to putting a sign on the dog that says "free food." ...OK, no more preaching.

Let me thank everyone in our community who has given me their support over the last two years. It has made my job a lot easier as well as more fun. I can't wait for the ski season to begin. I love going fast on the race hill.

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

## THANK YOU, PINE BROOK HILLS .....

By Dave Davies



As many of you are aware we raised the dues in 2007 and went on a campaign to raise enough so that we could make an appreciable dent in the formation of the fire breaks and in fire mitigation in general.

Thanks to you we were able to raise (to date) \$28,000 in dues, and over \$30,000 overall, which is almost a 50% jump over last year, so we were able to spend \$38,000 on shaded fuel breaks and get half that back as matching funds from the State. Thanks to ALL of you who made a contribution, and especial thanks to the 25% who gave over the requested minimum of \$75. The average was over \$90.

In particular I want to thank one PBH couple, well known to many of you, who came up with a very generous matching scheme. They offered to match dues contributed by every household who gave in 2007

but had not given previously. We raised an additional \$1500 that way. They wish to remain "anonymous."

Alas, there are still some households who have not anted up. You can still do it! Drop off a check made out to PBH HOA in the HOA box at the firehouse, or mail it to 151 Boulder View Lane, Boulder 80304.

NEXT YEAR we will keep the dues the same and hope to keep the budget in much the same form as this year but try to build a secure reserve. We will be letting you know exactly "where the money went" and what the plan is for 2008 in a few months.

Let me know what you think: [davedavies@qwest.net](mailto:davedavies@qwest.net) or 303 938 0522



## ON THE WATER FRONT

By Bob DeHaas

### Has the Reservoir Done Its Job?

The answer is a resounding YES! While this year may have seemed wetter than past years, it really wasn't. Although by early spring we had received more precipitation than normal, by mid September we were almost four inches behind. That equates to over 25% less than normal.

If we had not had the reservoir we would have placed everyone on strict water restrictions beginning in early August. Because of the reservoir we did not have to do this. As of this writing (September 14, 2007) the reservoir has dropped almost 3 feet. This situation will probably continue until November 1 when we can begin using some of our winter water rights.

### Summary of the Reservoir Recreation Survey Results

Over 55% of the surveys were returned to the District. Of those responding,

1. 75% felt that there should be some recreational activities allowed
2. 75% felt that they would like to be able to go out on the dam and beyond
3. as to whether dogs should be allowed it was evenly split
4. 75% felt that fishing should be allowed
5. just a slight majority felt that some boating should be allowed and it was about evenly split as to whether there should be community boats for residents to use

The major concerns noted were

1. no activities if they would create extra costs

2. how would we keep outsiders out, as they are more likely to leave trash than Pine Brook residents

The District has stocked the reservoir with minnows and grass carp. The grass carp are to control the algae and the minnows are for the overall health of the reservoir. Based on the numbers of fish that will eventually need to be in the reservoir for good reservoir health, the Board decided to stock it themselves as the State could not supply enough Greenback Trout.

If you drive by the reservoir you will have noticed that a cable and more signage were added to the "scenic overlook" area in July. Prior to doing this there had been some incidents of people going into the area - there had been two reports of people swimming, several incidents of people going out onto the dam (some of whom were contacted by the District), people trying to park behind the dirt piles (for unknown reasons), and some local construction workers having their lunch down by the reservoir and tossing a stick into the reservoir for their dog to swim out and fetch (which of course we did not appreciate). Since the cable and additional signage have gone up we have had almost no violations. But in September we did catch one person with a very young child on the dam and a new resident kayaking in the reservoir.

*NO USE OF THE AREA IS CURRENTLY ALLOWED AND NONE WILL BE ALLOWED UNTIL THE RULES OF USE AND HOW THOSE RULES WILL BE ENFORCED HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.*

#### **DONATIONS NEEDED?**

The other important issue that the District currently faces is trying to raise money for moving the dirt and landscaping. The District would like to explore the possibility of having a donation drive. If you have experience with this or would like to help, have ideas, etc. please come to any of our board meetings or call the office (303.443.5394).



## **Fire Side Chat**

By John Benson

Hello once again from BMFPD. I trust everyone had a great summer, even with our high temperatures. Here at BMFPD we have been busy with multiple projects to ensure the safety of our residents and fire fighters.

The BMFPD Mitigation Department and I want to thank everyone who did some wildfire mitigation and/or removed dead and dying trees killed by those pesky beetles and dwarf mistletoe. Your continued support helps to protect our little slice of the world. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

It looks as though we have made it through most of our fire season here in the county virtually unscathed, with the exception of a single tree lightning strike, which was quickly extinguished by the members of BMFPD under the command of Greg Anderson. With that being said, we cannot afford to let our guard down just yet. Some of our biggest fires have happened in the fall and winter. The problems can occur when the foliage freezes and turns completely brown. This, coupled with low precipitation, could still cause a major fire. Please continue your vigilance until we have a good blanket of white on the ground.

As we head into the winter months BMFPD is asking for your help. As you all know, in the event of a structure fire it is imperative that we have quick access to our fire hydrants. If you have a fire hydrant near your property, could you please help us keep our hydrants free of snow? Not only does this help our fire department in the event of a fire but it also helps incoming fire departments responding under our mutual and automatic aid agreements. BMFPD will also be on snow patrol throughout the year.

As I close out this article, one of my biggest worries I have now is people and animals falling in our new reservoir. As most of you know from last winter, the water never froze over completely. This was due to the aeration system installed during construction. It only takes a moment to fall through the ice and into frigid waters. I ask all of you to refrain from entering out onto the ice for any reason. If you were to go through the ice and into the cold water, it only takes a few seconds to develop hypothermia. Once you have hypothermia, your body functions start to shut down. This causes panic and an inability to rescue yourself. If you see pets or wildlife that have fallen through the ice,

dial 911 immediately. If the ice did not support a pet or animal, it will most likely not support your weight. Resist the urge to conduct a rescue and provide emergency responders with location, time and what type of animal you have seen fall through. By providing this information, you will ensure your safety and the safety of rescuers.

Always remember to DIAL 911 INSTEAD OF CALLING THE STATION. There are times when no one is around the station. Time is critical in any emergency. Until next time enjoy the autumn colors and be careful.



## QUICK ACTION SAVES THE DAY (and perhaps the subdivision)

By Kristi Clary-Cullen

It was a lovely, lazy Sunday afternoon in Pine Brook Hills, when I noticed the wind kick up and the usual afternoon storm roll in. As I went outside to keep our umbrella from blowing inside out, I



heard a very loud crack of thunder, enough to make me jump and run inside. Just as I settled down onto the couch for a short nap I

noticed a hint of smoke in the air. As I got up to look out the window, I heard Elliot Smith's car siren scream up the hill. I looked up and there it was, smoke pouring out from the hillside. I could see, from my window, dust trails of vehicles racing up the dirt road. I then saw shovels throwing dirt onto the source of the fire. The wind was sporadic as the stormy weather threatened to turn a sunny Sunday into what could become disastrous at any moment. I wondered if I should pack up the dogs and drive over N. Cedar Brook in case the fire took a turn for the worse (we would be locked in if it spread across the mountain). The next time I looked out the window, I saw the firefighters and neighbors smothering the last of the smoke. The quick response and many hands made all the difference. Thank you fire fighters and neighbors of PBH for being so responsive and available at a moment's notice. I know you have saved our homes and hillsides many times. You are much appreciated!

## THE THIRD ARM

By Cassie Kabal

Do you want to increase your community's emergency preparedness but you can't, because of time or physical restrictions required to become a BMFPD firefighter? The Third Arm is the group you've been looking for. We are continuing to grow and develop our organization based on the needs of the community. Currently we have 3 major focuses:

- Traffic and Evacuation Coordination - direct and assist with evacuation efforts
- Helpers - comprehensive support of traffic personnel and circulation of information via phone bank - these folks do it all!
- Animal Emergency Response - assist in the successful (exit, withdrawal, passage) of companion animals from the evacuation zone

### Upcoming Third Arm Events:

Traffic and Evacuation Training - Station 1 (1905 Linden)

Part 1: Thursday, Oct 18th 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Part 2: Saturday, Oct 20th 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please contact Barbara Thomas at 303.440.8162 to RSVP for training.

Helper training - Fall/Winter '07

Animal Volunteer Training - Spring/Summer '08

The Third Arm would like to recognize 8 of your friends and neighbors who completed the first Traffic and Evacuation training. **A special thanks to Bob Love-man, Cindie Baker Maita, Diane Nicholl, Marla Saville, John Seward, Barbara Taylor, Barbara Thomas, and Kirk Webb for their time and dedication in completing the Traffic and Evacuation Training.** We look forward to these folks becoming mentors in future trainings and participating in the Buddy Program.

Please look in the Pine Brook Press and On Fire for future updates on the Third Arm and also for valuable information and resources that you as a homeowner and pet owner can use in case of an emergency.



For further information about the Third Arm please contact Cassie Kabal at 720.289.6531 or [cassie@kabal.org](mailto:cassie@kabal.org) (please put Third Arm in the subject line).

## WILD TURKEYS OF PINE BROOK

By Peter D. Goldfinch

By wild turkeys we do not mean certain wild drivers and tailgaters of Pine Brook, a subspecies of *Homo sap.*, but rather wild bird turkeys, more familiarly known to us as *Meleagris Gallopavo*. There are currently some 500,000 wild turkeys in North America and at least 50 in Pine Brook Hills.

Native only to this continent, turkeys were present long before persons of no color (Spaniards, etc.) arrived, and were known to and dined upon by the Anasazi, the Aztecs and all. Some were taken to Europe in the 1500's to become properly domesticated.

Ben Franklin proposed that the wild turkey be elected by Congress as our national bird, but it lost by one vote. A national bird with a naked head seems to have captured Congress's imagination, for it later elected the Bald Eagle to that lofty status, perhaps betraying a predilection for symbolism over substance even then. And yet, Congress did show a prescient awareness of Family Values in choosing the eagle, which is faithful lifelong to the same mate, whereas the male turkey is a promiscuous polygamist and haremizer, a prolific producer of progeny which it abandons even before their birth. A wild turkey appeared on a US postage stamp in 1957.

Our attention has been drawn to a flock of wild turkeys which winters on the south rim of Pine Brook. It is a coeducational flock, the males being distinguished by their larger size, a brighter iridescent coloration, and a feather tuft on the breast. The flock, which numbered as many as 60 in the late 1990's, dwindled in size and disappeared completely for two years. Some 50 turkeys were warmly welcomed back again last winter.

A turkey's diet can include seeds, insects, arachnids, buzzworms, an occasional juicy snake, as well as the cracked corn or sunflower seeds that certain humans are willing to provide. Containing up to two ounces of small stones, a turkey gizzard functions as an internal food grinder. The Italian biologist Lozzaro Spallanzini (1729-1799) showed that turkey gizzards can break up steel needles. That's 400 pounds per square inch of crushing power. Keep your distance!

Communication takes various forms among turkeys. As in some mammals and other birds, flushing of

the skin can display emotion. Several vocal patterns are apparent. When feeding, a chick-like keow-keow is heard, an incongruously tiny sound from such a large bird. When separated from the flock, a loud yelping sound can call others from a considerable distance. The alarm call consists of a sharp cluck, emitted by adults to warn the flock, or by a mother hen to gather her chicks under her tailfeathers. And, of course, we have the gobble, which occurs mainly during mating season.

Mating begins as early as mid-February. Toms will gather up to 10 hens for their personal harem, winning them over with strutting, fanning of the tailfeathers, and lots of gobbling. If you gobble at a turkey during this intense time, it may gobble back! Turkeys have, in fact, gobbled back at certain Pine Brook Press staff

members. The males also compete for mates by killing other males with their beaks and spurs. There are reports of the victorious male then copulating with the dead rival it has killed in this mating behavior. I can assure you that I personally do not intend to gobble at any of these fellows during their mating season.

The hens nest in mid-April, now separated from the males who could

destroy the eggs. They lay one egg per day, up to 20, an average of 11, which incubate for 28 days. Crows are a major enemy at this time. The nest is covered with leaves at the times the hen must be absent. Rarely, as many as 3 hens will build a communal nest, with up to 40-some eggs, thus assuring that at least one hen will be present to guard the nest at all times. Within two weeks of hatching, the chicks are able to fly up to a tree branch. The males rejoin the flock in the fall.

Although capable of flying across a river, turkeys, like chickens, are not strong fliers because the "white meat" or breast muscle has a poor blood supply. The "dark meat" in turkeys' legs has excellent circulation, making them prodigious runners, reportedly capable of outstripping a horse.

A hummingbird's heart beats 1200 times a minute, a turkey's about 90. That's all.

*This story first appeared in the Pine Brook Press, Winter, 1994. As the turkeys have reappeared, it seemed appropriate for the story to reappear as well. Ed.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Hello Neighbours:

We are very pleased that our property was included for the Timber Lane Shaded Fuel Break project. Steve Lynn and his crew did a superb job in selecting the right trees for cutting. Forester Bob Bundy was here also to help with the selection.

We got some good advice from them about how to keep the forest well cared for and safe. We kept all the wood for our fireplace. They cut the logs to just the right size and chipped the small branches. They were very cooperative; we have not had gotten better work from anybody else.

We know the worth of our forest and want to keep it healthy and clean. Also we welcome all the wild creatures, yes, including the mountain lions. The forest is ours in the daytime, but night time is for the wild creatures.

Cecile and Joe Duray-Bito



### “Barking Tools” and “Power Dogs!”

Many of us sleep with our windows open to receive the wonderful fresh mountain air in Pine Brook Hills. But sleeping in the early morning hours and late at night has been unreasonably disturbed lately. We have many friends in PBH whose dogs do not bark at all. However, many dog owners are accustomed to their own dog's bark and are not aware of how annoying it is to others. If you cannot control your barking dog, then please do us all a favor and keep your dogs inside until after 8:00am and after 10:30pm.

As for power tools, it would be nice to wait until at least 9:00am to be rudely awakened by chain saws or weed whackers. Let's try to be considerate of one another. After all, we moved away from town in order to enjoy the serenity and peace of the mountains.

Barbara Boorstein  
barbara1952@comcast.net



### Clarification

*In the last issue we ran an item about a Pine Brooker saving the lives of Denver squirrels by bringing them up here. Two alert readers pointed out that it is actually illegal to transport wild animals more than ten miles without a Department Of Wildlife OK, and given the occasional occurrence of plague in squirrels it's probably not a good idea anyway, despite the good intention.*

## TIME WELL SPENT!

By Deborah Menagh

Sixty Pine Brook residents participated in the informative July 25 Mountain Lion meeting where several representatives from the Division of Wildlife presented the lions' natural history, conflict awareness and led a question/answer session. The meeting was well received and people said they learned much they didn't know about lions. Did you know that one to six kittens per litter are born and that kittens can stay with their mother until they are two years old? This is most likely the reason some residents have seen more than one lion at a time. It's important not to wait if you see a lion, or a family of lions, but to use an air horn IMMEDIATELY or make any loud noise you can to frighten them away. The younger lions have not developed the wariness we want them to have! Another interesting fact is lions are active **any** time of the day, not only dusk to dawn, so we must always be alert. Throughout the meeting the consistent theme was: prevention is better than a lion confrontation. For more details on this refer to your Pine Brook Hills Directory, page 8 or the DOW website <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Mammals/LionCountry1.htm>.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

The Pine Brook Press has until now refrained from including a financial column. But the recent wild swings in the financial markets have prompted us to reconsider that decision. Where to look for advice that will withstand the test of time? Melissa Balmain suggests, in BABYTALK, that important business lessons are to be gleaned from fairy tales. For instance:

1. Beware of shaky real estate investments (The Three Little Pigs)
2. Never miss a window of opportunity (Rapunzel)
3. Don't trust an offer - no matter how enticing - if you are unfamiliar with who is making it (Hansel and Gretel).

Very good, but why stop there, we asked ourselves? Here are other suggestions:

4. Trading in commodities can be risky (Jack and the Beanstalk)
5. Weather reports can influence consumer confidence (Henny Penny)
6. Beware of sweet talking financial predators (Little Red Riding Hood)



## A MOST UNUSUAL HOUSEGUEST

(Don't Try This At Home!)

By Michael Aisner

This summer alert Pine Brookers may have seen a group of people huddled over a mountain lion in the meadow at 60 North Cedar Brook. The people were my guests, joining me at my home in July to greet the oldest lion on record, a visitor from Telluride. Ruby, the 180 pound Iowa-born lion, is one of many creatures in Melissa Margetts' Rocky Mountain Ark in Telluride, where Ruby has lived with arctic wolves, ravens, otters, eagles and others since she was acquired

when she was a few weeks old from a fur farm that was being closed down. Ruby's trip to Pine Brook was in honor of chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall's son Hugo, who was visiting me from his home in Tanzania. (Goodall stays with me on her local lecture tour dates.)

Two years ago I was invited to visit Ruby and became the first non-family member to sleep with the lion. At that time she still was very much a mountain lion. There was protocol for making contact, things to do and not do, but now at 22 Ruby is old, a bit arthritic and just very mellow. It was, however, amazing to see her strut through my house and out in the meadow. We could see deer nearby and there were certainly other mountain lions about, but Ruby has actually never had to catch anything to eat. As Melissa says, she's had a lifetime of room service, thus her historic longevity. Ruby had a nice roadkill deer meal before the trip. We had a professional photographer here and videographers and sound engineers getting her pronounced guttural lion purr.



At one point Ruby was outside near a tree at dusk and I was walking along the path to go see her. I completely missed her in the yellow grass, and it makes me think of all the times I wander around at night wondering if a wild "Ruby" was lurking about---I simply did not see her, she blended in so well.

Lions are never pets and never tame, but Ruby now is very accessible. It was such a rare and rich opportunity for all of us to look into her eyes and see her lion walk. About 50 people came here to be with the lion and to a person I think this was a profound experience. Some even held an ice cream cone for

her - Breyers vanilla bean only, with a plain cone. And yes, the old girl had a little accident in the house and I can confirm 100% that lion pee smells EXACTLY like buttered popcorn. P.S. Not long after Ruby's visit an official

Department Of Wildlife MOUNTAIN LION WARNING SIGN went up next to my mailbox.

The website below is the record of my sleepover with Ruby two years ago in Telluride. The brief video at the end has great sounds of Ruby's purr: <http://web.mac.com/michaelaisner/iWeb/Ruby%20Lion/Cover.html>



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- ❖ **Fall Equinox Celebration** Sat., September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm.
- ❖ **New Moon for Women** Tues., October 9<sup>th</sup> and Fri., November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
- ❖ **Full Moon** Fri., October 26<sup>th</sup> and Fri., November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm.
- ❖ **Samhain: Celtic Final Harvest Ritual** Weds., October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm.

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## LINDEN'S LONG-TERM REMODEL

**B**e of good cheer! The extensive and seemingly endless remodeling at 245 Linden in Spring Valley will - it truly will - conclude in the near future. "We hope to have the front portion of the house and landscaping completed enough for a FOR SALE sign to be put up by January 1," said Joe Forbes, recent project manager for the renovation and long-time friend of the owner, Michael J. Roberts.

Forbes, project manager since mid-March, is genuinely concerned with the traffic, noise, and other headaches the project has necessarily inflicted on the neighborhood. Like the neighbors, Forbes is eager to see a completion to the project and an end to the disruption on Linden.



Michael Roberts has owned the 1.10 acre property since 1988, and at one time he lived in the house. Roberts did an early remodeling in 1991-93, but the current remodeling projects have been underway for several years (Boulder County records include 16 separate building permits). According to a local source, the house is between 6,000 and 7,000 sq. ft, with 4 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths, and a 2500 sq. ft. pool house. Building permits list a total of 10,329 sq. ft. on the property, including a 3,652 sq. ft. pool house.

Some unusual features planned for the house and grounds are:

- A covered slide from within the house directly to the outdoor swimming pool east of the house.
- An "Eldorado Springs climbing wall" - a very Boulder element.
- Green features-the inspiration of Roberts'

family-for energy to be provided to Excel include things such as a new geothermal energy source that operates on a heat-pump principle and solar energy collectors.

We hope the place will be on a future house tour!



## AGING IN PLACE IN PBH

By Penny Triggs

**T**he "Aging in Place" PBH group has invited two insurance agents, Michael Finch and Aaron Eisenach, two highly qualified experts on the subject of Long Term Care Insurance, to present at the firehouse on Sunday, October 28th, from 3-5pm. Both men have been highly recommended by members of the Aging in Place group who have dealt with them in the past. This meeting will be informational, not a sales pitch, but for those who are interested, we may be able to get a better deal as a group; HOA members should qualify. These short presentations will have a focus on care in the home. All are invited...come with your questions!



## SEEN ANY BEARS LATELY?

*News report from the Lewisboro (NY) Ledger:*

A Flintlock Ridge Road man said he saw a bear in his backyard. Police could not find a bear when the officer arrived. Police said it was possible the man saw two turtles.



## SOMETIMES SMALL IS BETTER!



*Submitted by Bruce Benninghoff.*

### THREE PINE BROOK HILLS ARTISTS AMONG THOSE PARTICIPATING IN OPEN STUDIOS DURING ANNUAL TOUR

By Caren Paul

Some of the finest visual artists in Boulder will open their studios to the public for the thirteenth year of Open Studios this fall. During the first two weekends of October, this self-guided art tour showcases more than 100 local artists, including sculptors, painters, photographers and more. This year three



Watercolor By Caren Paul



Mixed Media By Ellen Maclaren Caukin

Pine Brook Hills artists are participating: Caren Paul, Ellen Maclaren Caukin and Jean Watson.

During the two weekends, bright yellow Open Studios signs will be planted on many Boulder roads, directing visitors to the

various studios. An exhibit of each participating artist's work will also be hanging in the Canyon Gallery of the Boulder Public Library from September 14 through October 14.

WHEN: Noon - 6:00 p.m.  
October 6-7  
October 13-14

For more information, contact the artists or visit [www.OpenStudios.org](http://www.OpenStudios.org).



Watercolor By Jean Watson.

The Fire Department Auxiliary invites you to:

## MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS 2007

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10 am - 5 pm

**Sunday, November 4**

noon - 4 pm

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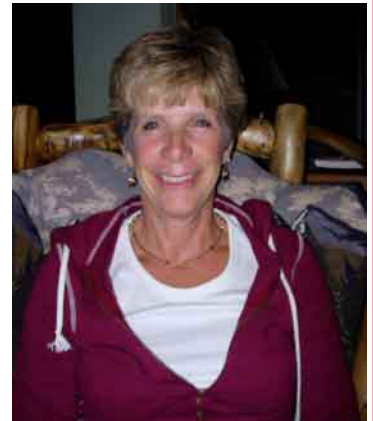
### Mountain Expressions Lives On!

My name is Marysue Huckabee, 15 year resident of Boulder Heights and Board Member of the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. We appreciate all the community support in the past and look forward to another successful year.

After fulfilling the role for the last 12 years, Susan Maxwell has asked me to organize the fair this year. Susan has provided me with ample information to carry on, but her shoes

won't be easy to fill. Thank you, Susan, for all you have done!

I am eager to work with you as we prepare for yet another season. There are plenty of opportunities to participate either as an artist or a helper before or during the event. We would love to count on your help! Please contact Marysue Huckabee 303-443-7409 or [mshwhglh@comcast.net](mailto:mshwhglh@comcast.net).





Autumn in Rocky Mountain National Park

*Photo by Suzanne Adams*

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