



Pine Brook Press

**A Newsletter for, about and written by
Pine Brook Hills Residents**

SPRING 2000



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION! SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 3:30 P.M.

By Al Gerrish

Come see what your generous support has created! No more struggling up the treacherous outdoor stairs, falling off the interior landing, or cringing at the only available bathroom! A newly remodeled kitchen (with donated appliances) and a large deck overlooking the creek and open



space make the building a lot more functional and attractive. Come see for yourself and get a complete tour including the new offices of our own Pine Brook utilities, the water and fire departments. The meeting will include a program, "Remembrance of Pine Brook Past," and conclude with a Wine on

the Deck Finale (weather permitting)!

ANNUAL PINE BROOK GARAGE SALE

By Art and Babette Markey

Let's start the new century off right! If you all do some serious spring cleaning and bring all the goodies you have but just don't use any more, we'll make good use of the newly expanded room in the Firehouse and have a hugely successful first garage sale of the new century. Last year, thanks to generous donors, serious shoppers and dedicated volunteers we topped \$3000 in income to support our volunteer fire fighters. Let's try to reach \$3500 this year!

Enough of the pep talk. Here are the details: the Firehouse will be open for donations on May 6 and 7, and again on May 13 and 14 from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. on each day. Remember, please contribute only items in good, usable condition. We cannot accept construction materials, mattresses, hazardous materials or

paints. All contributions are tax deductible. If you need help with transporting donations to the Firehouse or need to arrange for special drop-off, give us a call to see if we can accommodate you.

The sale itself will be on FRIDAY, MAY 19 and SATURDAY, MAY 20, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., and SUNDAY, MAY 21 from noon to 4 P.M. Mark those dates on your calendar and plan to stop by the Firehouse. You're sure to find some good buys.

A large volunteer crew is always needed for the sale: accepting donations, setting up, pricing and being there for the sale itself. Anyone who'd like to help is welcome. No experience necessary - we're an equal opportunity employer! Please give us a call at 440-6132.

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PINE BROOK PRESS

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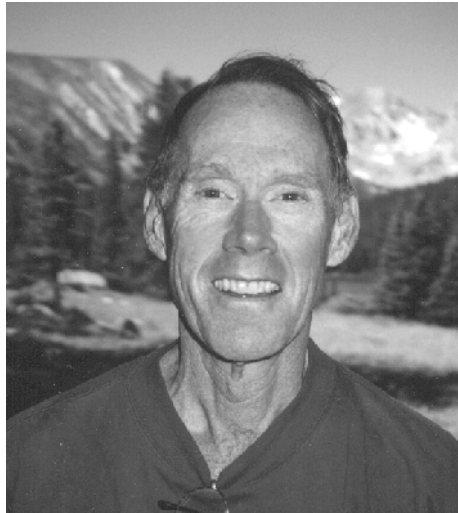
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ALLUMINATIONS

By Al Gerrish, HOA President



STAY TUNED. YOU HEAR IT HERE FASTER!

“High Tech in Pine Brook” was the program for last January’s quarterly meeting and it was a big success! Pine Brookers got a healthy dose of Internet jargon, including the inside track on Business to Business e-commerce, the latest options on high speed access for the net such as Digital Subscriber Loop, and the straight scoop on what holds the Internet together, the IP protocol. Featured were presentations by Larry Yokell, Director of Product Management for Internet High Speed Access and a Q & A session with a panel of Pine Brook’s own Internet experts and users. Outcome of the meeting was the formation of a committee to explore the options for high speed access for Pine Brook Hills (see accompanying article by Bob Olliver).



APRIL HOA MEETING: THE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE REMODELED PINE BROOK FIREHOUSE! The date is

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, starting at 3:30 P.M. There will be a chance to see for yourself the good work done by Bob de Haas, Ken Larkin and all the others who have contributed to the remodel effort. Thanks will also go to all of you who have so generously donated funds to make the remodel possible. The program will be REMEMBRANCE OF PINE BROOK PAST and will include a little history of how Pine Brook came to be, and a video by early Pine Brook pioneers. Also included will be a chance to participate in a lively question and answer session with early residents, and a Wine on the Deck finale. Come hear about the colorful trials and tribulations of the early pioneers! The story of how the first Pine Brook Firehouse was put together with debris from a giant windstorm in Boulder is worth sharing and will be an appropriate story to remember at our Grand Opening Celebration.



**REMINDER FROM THE
TREASURER**

Please join your neighbors and become members of the Homeowners Association by paying your \$50 dues without further requests. We already have nearly 300 households and would love to make all of you who enjoy the benefits also be paying members. Send your check to Jack Walker, 1530 Timber Lane, Boulder, CO 80304, or drop it in the HOA box on Linden at S. Cedar Brook. And many thanks to those who have already paid.

Jack Walker, Treasurer

A ROUGH WAKE-UP CALL



CHIEF'S REPORT

By Don Whittemore, Fire Chief,
Boulder Mountain Fire Authority

Webster's Dictionary defines luck as "a force that brings good fortune," and while the last three months have been the busiest ever for BMFA—the Fountaintree fire, a motor vehicle driving into a sleeping resident's bedroom, another rolling over numerous times down a steep hill—at first blush I would say we have had good luck. After more careful consideration, however, I'd have to change my opinion or at least modify Webster's definition.

During the first quarter of 2000, the BMFA has responded to 24 emergency calls: 10 medical/trauma, six false alarms (smoke or fire alarms), three motor vehicle accidents, and one each of a structure fire (mutual aid to Sunshine), wildland fire, kitchen stove fire, smoke report (false) and a gasoline spill inside a garage. Of these I'd like to highlight two to illustrate my point.

In February, a Pine Brook Hills resident was rudely awakened as an out of control Jeep Cherokee careened backwards into his bedroom, sending him and his bed across the room. The jeep was leaking gas, and fumes entering the house created a possibly explosive condition. Both the driver and the resident, however, were not injured and firefighters ventilated the house and contained the gas. The potential for a very bad scenario was averted; we were really lucky.

Most of you are aware of the Fountaintree fire—either by witnessing it first hand or by reading about it in the newspaper. On first glance at the 20-40 foot flames being whipped by the winds, the more seasoned members of the fire department felt in the pits of their stomachs that we were in for another Olde Stage Fire. The winds, however, abated and the firefighters were able to get a handle on the fire quickly. The final acres burned were less than four. Boy, were we ever lucky.

Back to Webster--if luck is defined as "a force that brings good fortune", then I would be inclined to say that the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority can be synonymous with luck in that the volunteer firefighters and medics of this community have indeed been a force that has brought good fortune. The incidents mentioned spotlight just two situations where your friends and neighbors have taken time away from their work, family, friends (and sleep) with selfless desire to protect and assist those in need. They did so with skill and grace based on hundreds of hours of training. Upon reflection, then, luck has been on our side not because of an abstract "force" but in real sense from our dedicated volunteers.

So if you see one of our firefighters or medics, let them know you appreciate their work and how lucky we are to have them. That is, after all, the only compensation they will receive.

FIRE IN PINE BROOK HILLS

By Suzanne Adams

The wind had been blowing all night long. It woke Donna Spinelli, who put on earplugs to cut the sound. But she was still able to hear the pager go off at 3 A.M., telling her of a fire between North Cedar Brook and Fountaintree. A second tone indicated a serious situation, a wildland fire covering acreage. The electricity flickered off and on, suggesting that the cause of the fire was a downed electric wire.

Greg Anderson had been awakened a few moments earlier by a phone call from a resident who had seen flames (it's best to call 911 first). Greg was the first person on the scene and assumed the role of Incident Command. Gusts of wind clocked at 100 miles an hour fanned the flames above the tops of the trees. The house at 470 Fountaintree was in the direct line of the fire. No one answered the phone. Were they out of town? Greg started up Fountaintree to check but was driven back by flames on both sides of the road.

Donna, a medical responder rather than fire fighter, was drafted to be Accountability Officer. The Accountability Officer writes down everything that happens, who is going into the fire, with what equipment, at what time, to make sure that they come out. She recorded the evacuation of some 35 homes. Cars began to stream past, many with dogs in the front seat, looking confused.

The response from the firefighters was quick. Within ten minutes there were five former fire chiefs of Pine Brook Hills and Boulder Heights (all now officers of Boulder Mountain Fire Authority) on the scene, soon to be joined by firefighters from Boulder Rural, Cherryvale, Left Hand Canyon, the City of Boulder, and 25 members of our own Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. Eventually there were 70 firefighters and 15 engines present. At first the fire was too dangerous for direct attack. In such strong winds, an aerial tanker would be neither safe nor effective. Greg sent two trucks and crew to Wildwood Lane in case the fire crossed the ridge. To Donna, these were the "secret heroes" – they couldn't see the fire, couldn't share the excitement, but they were necessary. "They had it covered, just in case."

At about 3:30 the winds began to shift and blew the flames back on the land already burned, which slowed the fire. Bob de Haas, who had spoken with the Fountaintree resident that day and knew that the

family was at home, drove with Kirk Bach through the fire and thick smoke to the house. Unable to rouse the residents, Bob called on his former cop experience and broke down a door. THAT woke the residents, who followed him down the hill to safety.

Meanwhile, Greg and Tom Akins, Operations Chief, were deploying crews for various firefighting activities such as putting in fire lines, activating a water supply, and hosing the flames. It was cold, it was dark, and at first the wind was so loud that it was also hard to hear. The Command worked from BMFA's internally developed map books, on which they based their decisions. Donna was impressed by how calm Greg and Tom appeared to be, the courtesy shown along the line of command, and the rapport all the different agencies had together, even though they had not all trained together. Agreeing that running a fire response was something like a military operation, Greg said simply, "You've got to make decisions, and fairly quickly." Fortunately, the wind was dying down. There was concern that it would pick up at dawn, which often happens, but in this case it didn't. By 4 A.M. the Sheriff's Incident Van arrived and became a warmer Incident Command Center. Sheriff Epp and Boulder County Emergency Management Officer Larry Stern joined the effort. Donna was surprised when reporters arrived shortly after 4, "nicely dressed and in makeup."

By this time the fire suppression efforts were well organized and effective. Greg feels that this fire proves the merit of the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority, which combined Pine Brook's and Boulder Heights' fire departments. The two departments had trained together for more than two years, allowing Greg and Tom Akins to know the people they were working with, putting them together in teams that effectively used their abilities and expertise. Both Sheriff Epp and Larry Stern praised the department, Stern adding, "Tom and Greg did a great job at Incident Command. They were on top of the situation and handled it real well. We can be real proud in Boulder County – we have great volunteers in our fire departments, especially in the mountains. That's what saves us."

So what can we learn for the inevitable Next Time? Greg had a few comments:

1. If you see or suspect a fire, call 911 first, rather than individual firefighters.
2. A gated emergency egress route from North Cedarbrook to Wagon Wheel Gap should be

developed. During much of the year the alternate route, the Open Space Trail via Ridge Road, is washed out and not drivable, as was the case during this fire. Had the fire taken a different course the people on the north end of North Cedar Brook could have been trapped.

3. We might all reconsider whether it's a good idea to turn off telephones at night.

And finally, join the Fire Department, the Auxiliary, and/or the fire mitigation chipping projects of the HOA! There is a place for everyone. As Donna reflected on the fire, she noted that "It was really fun! The rapport with the neighbors, the camaraderie — people should know how good that feels." Thank you, BMFA!



MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLES (DLDs*)

By Nancy Tamura

They are lurking in a pine tree near you. Mountain pine beetles are small (1/4 inch long) members of the bark beetle family and they bore into our Ponderosas in midsummer to early autumn. To kill them and prevent them from swarming to new trees, a thorough search of your property is in order. You can check for infestations from now through the next few months (before the middle of June) and take steps to rid your property of any affected trees.

The best way to identify beetle presence is to walk around your property and look at your trees. When the beetles bore into the bark, the trees emit pitch in popcorn-size balls. If the tree is successful in repelling the beetle attack, the pitch will be cream-colored—the beetles actually drown in the pitch and die. However, if the beetles have been successful, the pitch will be a reddish color because it will have bark mixed in with it. Additionally, you may see reddish boring dust in the cracks of the bark and at the base of the tree. Also, at this time of year, the tree may be turning a light green, and you may notice woodpeckers routinely feeding at the tree. If you suspect there are beetles, you should take an ax and remove a large piece of bark off the tree (about 10 inches by 6 inches). Beetle activity will be immediately apparent when you remove this bark because you will see the characteristic tunnel structure, and may see the

beetles in some stage of their life cycles. In any event, do not wait until the tree turns brown because that takes several months and the tree will not completely die until long after the beetles have swarmed to new trees to begin their destructive cycle.

WHAT TO DO?

It's important for you to know that you cannot save a tree which has pine beetles—you can only take an appropriate measure to kill the beetles within the tree and prevent them from leaving it. To accomplish this, you must cut the tree down, and do one of the following:

*Solar treat with plastic

*Debark completely

*Burn infested wood

*Remove tree from area

You can do your own research on eradication, or a tree service can help you.

PREVENTION?

It is not possible to protect all of your trees from infestation. However, you may choose to have a tree service annually spray selected trees with a chemical called Sevin (Carbaryl).

If you would like further information about the pine beetles, please notify me and I will forward a copy of an article originally written for the Pine Brook Press three years ago.

*Destructive Little Devils



THE SCOURGE OF SPURGE

By Jo Noble

Lovely to look at, caustic to hold, plant just a little --- and there goes the neighborhood.

It's spring again and, unfortunately, one of the signs that is becoming more prominent around Pine Brook is the donkey-tail spurge plant. This perennial was introduced from Europe as an ornamental plant and has shown great adaptability in our forested area. So what's the problem? Donkey-tail spurge is easy to grow. It does well in disturbed soils, on sandy slopes and rocky areas. It does so well that

it can establish itself in pavement, foundations, and sidewalks. But it has no self-control and quickly escapes into the grasslands where it chokes out native grasses and flowers. If you follow the food chain, it's pretty easy to see what happens. Deer and other wild mammals won't eat it. It has no natural insect, disease or animal enemies. It attracts only a limited number of insects and perhaps butterflies. We then lose some of our bird and mammal populations, including Abert squirrels, who depend on a diverse diet including roots, fruits, seeds and the Ponderosa Pine tree.



The sap of the donkey-tail spurge is milky white. It is also very alkaline and can produce serious blisters if gotten on the skin. There have been reported incidents of blindness to people who have inadvertently gotten it into their eyes. It is not yet listed as a noxious weed (which has legal consequences for the property owner), but the rumor is that it soon will be. If you have donkey-tail spurge on your land, you might want to think how you will protect other people's property from becoming invaded. It can be pulled, but use protective clothing of gloves, long-sleeved shirt and sunglasses or other eye protection. If you have questions concerning the plant, please call The Colorado Weed Management Association at 970-229-0352, or Cindy Owsley with Boulder County Open Space at 303-678-6110.

Jo Noble is a volunteer naturalist with Boulder County Open Space.

SPRINGTIME IN THE GREENHOUSE WITH HARRY

By Marsha S. Walker

I thought when I moved here from Arizona, I'd seen all the cacti I'd ever see. Little did I know that living in Boulder, considered high desert, would provide me with ample opportunity to make prickly pear cactus jelly, or have a next door neighbor with three outdoor cactus gardens and a greenhouse crowded with a vast variety of succulents, and more. Much more.

My visit started first with a phone call asking if I could come and see them and their greenhouse. "Oh, no," Kirsten Van Loon says, "it's not mine, it's Harry's greenhouse, you talk to Harry." So I did. "Come on over, come around 11:00 when the sun is shining on the plants," says Harry. So on a cold, cold Sunday morning, I trudged through the snow to the Van Loons. They were both at the door to welcome me in and I was, well, I was charmed with their humor and hospitality and our easy conversation.

In addition to the hundreds of artifacts and eclectic pieces of wall art collected from years of travel, and nine years of raising three children abroad, there are plants. Plants 14-18 feet high, and more plants... plants in the living room, grapefruit and orange trees growing in pots, and kumquats, and miniature lemons. Hard to believe I was in Colorado. Then to the subject at hand, recalling the building of The Greenhouse. The mixing by hand of sand, soil and manure, and hauling all 17 cubic feet of it in to use as a base for the now huge specimens growing effortlessly under Harry's gentle care.

As we toured the greenhouse, lush with staghorn ferns, oleander, olive shoots, bulbs, towering cactus, and fig, ginger, ginkgo, and ivy, Harry introduced me to his plants, giving me the botanical names for each. It was impressive. I asked him why it was important to learn the "technical" names, and he said, "Ahhh, well, you need to know your children's names, don't you?" And they **are** like his children, these plants, many grown from seed, others gifts from people all over the world. His babes.

Over tea I heard about the time Harry bought a couple of zebra finches for the greenhouse. By spring of that year the population had increased to 40! Just about 38 too many. So on a warm and lovely day he opened the skylight and bid the flock goodbye. It was a nice day so he left the window propped

open. Later in the afternoon, he discovered all the birds had returned, loaded down with nesting material. They were movin' in! Harry said, "There were nests everywhere, and it was a real mess, so the next time I got smart. I opened the skylight, let them all fly out, then closed it fast. Then," he said with a smile, "I got a garter snake, but the day it crawled into Kirsten's office that was the end of that. So now I just have a few little lizards who lie about eating bugs and sunning themselves."

"This interest in growing things, where did you get this idea?" "I was born with it," Harry said, "It's innate, but also my father was very involved with plants." I asked him what is it about the plants he grew that appealed to him. "They're easy to grow and they don't need a lot of watering (about once every two to three months in the winter and in the summer about every three weeks), and it's the shape of them that is so appealing, and, of course, the flowers they produce are beautiful."

"Harry," I asked, "Once you decided to create a greenhouse, did you find a club or group to join where you could get technical advice or help with growing your plants?" He chuckled at that. "Well, I did get together with a few guys at one point, but all they really wanted to do was share their stories about The War. At the Denver Botanic Garden, the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society meets, and I found that to be a good place to find people with similar interests, to swap information and obtain plants."*

"Okay, so what does one need to start a greenhouse?" "Money," he said. What about lighting, heating, placement, water, humidity? "You've got to have the greenhouse facing south. And I don't use artificial lighting because there's enough light just as it is. If I had to do it all over again I would install a

natural gas heater, as opposed to electric, because it's cheaper to run and you don't have to worry about the power going out, and I'd run a water pipe directly in to the greenhouse. The humidity in the winter has been a problem because the materials used in building it were not mildew proof as I had been led to believe. You've **got** to use good materials."

I asked Harry the Big Question. "What has been your greatest pleasure from all of this: the peace and calming the greenhouse brings you, the relaxation?" "No, it's the pleasure I get from seeing

things grow, that's it," he said, "Just seeing things grow." Harry, Senior Research Associate at NCAR and an internationally recognized climate expert, proudly says, "I've even got 17 pots of things growing in my office!"

"So, Harry," I said, "what if someone reading this decides they would like to start greenhouse growing, and specifically raising cacti and succulents and other low maintenance plants, what should we tell them?" "Have them call me," he offered. "I'll help them, and I've got lots of

shoots I can give them. I'll get 'em started. And I'd love to swap plants with anyone out there with a greenhouse." I said to myself, as I was bundling up to leave the snug comfort of the Van Loons..."Boy, I want to be first in line to be mentored by Harry, this kind and generous man of boundless energy." (My husband, Jack, says he can see that this interview with the Van Loons is going to cost him a lot of money).

Meanwhile, as I wave goodbye, Harry calls out to me, "Marsha," he says with a big grin, "My plants have a good life here."

I know that, Harry. Thanks.

*The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at the Denver Botanic Gardens. For more information call Jim Cuscaden, (303)659-8428 or Harriet Olds, (303)989-6998. MW



Humanity Has a Problem. What can we do about it?

By A.R. (Pete) Palmer
 Chairman, Critical Issues Committee,
 Geological Society of America

Last January, after the fizzle of Armageddon and Y2K, I wrote a letter to the Daily Camera suggesting we should now take an overdue look at the real issue facing us — sustainability of the human enterprise. Suzanne asked me if I would prepare something for the Pine Brook Press with some ideas about what we, as Pine Brookers, might do to mitigate the disturbing scenarios for humanity in the next 50 years. This is within the lifetimes of most of our children and grandchildren, and thus the issue gets personal.

If you wonder why life is getting increasingly frantic and suddenly large sectors of our country are becoming concerned about growth of housing developments and traffic, and some are even getting

concerned about the environment of which we are a part, you need only to look at the two simple graphs below to see the roots of our problems.

The human population growth curve for the last 10,000 years (Figure 1) for our planet shows that we are riding a rocket ship. It's not just the sub-Saharan folks and the people of India who are doing this, it's also us. The U.S. population curve, extracted from data on the U.S. Bureau of Census website (Figure 2) shows our smaller, but significant contribution. Each DECADE for the last 50 years WE have added 20 million new citizens who are encouraged by our economic system to want a house, at least one car, and all the material accouterments of the "good life." Should we be surprised at the consequences?

Earth is a finite place. There are only so many acres to be shared amongst its humans, not to mention the rest of the plants and animals that make up the biosphere. Each one of us has an Ecologic Footprint – the sum of the acreages somewhere on Earth that support our consumption of food and wood products and which we degrade by

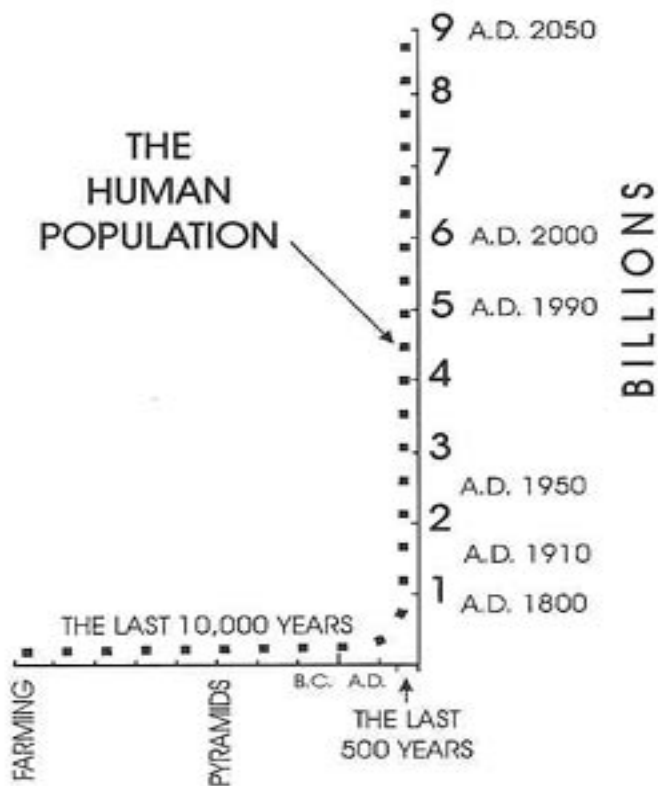


Figure 1. Earth's human population for the last 10,000 years

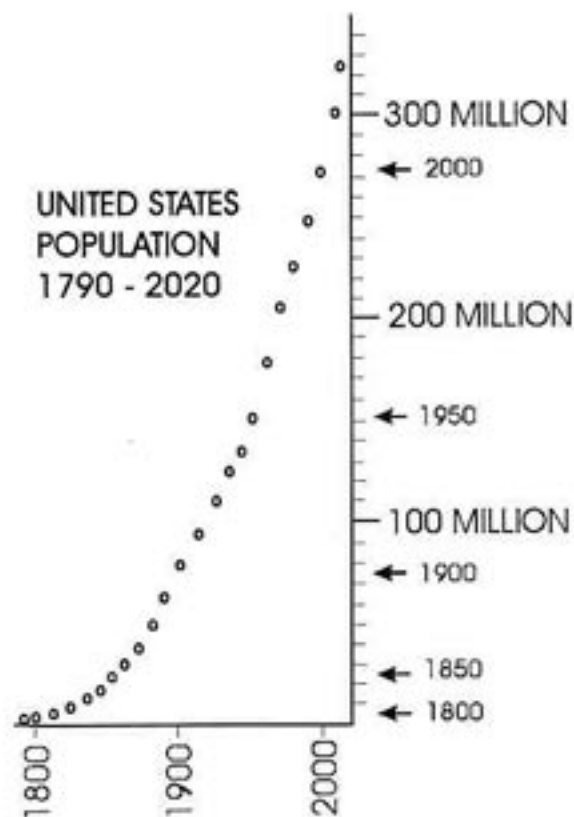


Figure 2. The United States census counts, 1790 to 2000 and projected to 2020.

building our houses. And we also share some part of the degraded land under the cities, airports and highways that support us. The current per capita ecological footprint for each American is a bit over 3.5 acres. To put this in perspective, there are only about 21 billion acres of Earth's surface that are ecologically productive – not under ice, desert sands or water. In 2050 the projected median population of about 9 billion people living as we live would require over 30 billion acres if we left nothing for any other organisms!

We unleashed a monster 10,000 years ago when we began to exploit the Earth without understanding its limits or the consequences of exponential growth. ANY percentage rate of growth, not just money, has a doubling time. To calculate what that might be, divide any annual rate of growth that appeals to you (traffic increase, new housing starts, school populations, bottom line etc.) into 70. If it's 2%, that's a doubling time of 35 years, and it doubles again in the next 35, and again in the next 35. In 105 years, whatever is growing at 2% a year will have increased to 8 times its former size. That's considered an attractive growth rate for lots of cities! It makes one pause.

Population is the ultimate driver of our present situation. If we can't control that, none of our other concerns matter very much. So what can we, who already have our homes, cars and children do?

We can and must find humane ways to bring the global population down to a manageable size where a reasonable quality of life can be assured for all humans. Some thoughtful people have calculated that this is closer to 4 billion than 9 billion people – more or less the population of 1970.

An effective and humane way to do this is to show the young people who have not yet begun reproduction (our children and/or grandchildren) that it is in their long-term best interests, both economically and for a reasonable future quality for their lives, to aim for one-child families for at least a couple of generations. We have the technological and educational resources to make this possible. It would help if we had positive political leadership to attain this goal – a problem we can control with our vote.

We can also be more thoughtful about what and how much we consume. Recycling helps, businesses are finding profitable ways to shrink their

footprints, we can evaluate the components of our own ecological footprints. Help with this evaluation can be found in Brower, M. and Leon, W., 1999, *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists*. Three Rivers Press, New York, 292 pages (paperback).

Humanity has been diagnosed with two potentially fatal illnesses. One is cancerous – we cannot continue growing in a closed container (Spaceship Earth) without filling it up. The other is addictive and contagious – this is the economic system we love so well. We are the addicts and those who want to live as we live want to catch the disease. Earth's resources have limits, so consumption based on those resources cannot continue indefinitely. Our problem is that we, like all good addicts, are in denial that something that has done us so much good is really harmful. Fortunately, humanity has a solution that is fundamental to our being. We have choice. Choosing to do nothing is one of our choices. If we internalize the basics of the issue of sustainability it should be clear that such a choice is not in the best interests of our children and grandchildren. If we determine that a different choice is necessary, we need to acknowledge the truth of our medical diagnosis and take whatever measures we can to restore the long-term health of our system.

We cannot escape the consequences of doubling time except by reducing rates of growth. We cannot escape the implications of ecological footprints without reducing consumption. Humanity (that's us) has a problem!

PETE'S PARABLE: "When was the Pond Half Full?"

I lived by a large pond with a thriving community of fish, so fishing was good. One day not too long ago some algae began to grow in the pond. Their population was doubling every minute. Yesterday morning I went fishing and everything was fine. Yesterday noon when I looked out at the pond, it was suddenly filled with green algal scum and all the fish were dying. Why didn't I see the disaster coming and do something? When was the pond half full? (11:59). One quarter full? (11:58). One eighth full? (11:57).

Suppose, instead of my pond, we were considering an island, or a continent, or Spaceship Earth?



High Speed Internet Access in PBH: Oxymoron or Reality?

By Bob Olliver

Can you run from the foot of Linden to the top of Pine Brook Hills faster than getting your home page to load on your computer monitor? I would argue that it's probably a close race!

Are you interested in the possibility of getting faster connections to the internet for e-mailing, web surfing, research, a home office, e-business, sharing files, stretching your horizons, letting your computer live up to its potential? If you are, we want to know. We need to know.

After the last homeowners' meeting I discovered that I wasn't the only person up here who was frustrated with how poorly my modem served me. As a result, the Pine Brook Hills High Speed Internet Connectivity Task Force was formed. Maybe we should just call ourselves "ZIP" (Zestful Internet Procurers). Sounds better than "PBHHSICTF!"

As of this moment, options in PBH are very limited. This is mostly because Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that could provide us with better options can't justify the cost of improving our infrastructure for just one or two users.

"ZIP" came together with the idea that there is strength in numbers. If we can go to ISPs and say, "Look, we have 100 homes that are interested in your offerings. What can you do for us?" we stand a much better chance of being heard. In fact, it puts us in a position to negotiate and get providers competing for our business.

There are several different ways of getting high speed access to the information superhighway: DSL, digital cable, T1 line, ISDN, satellite, microwaves, etc, etc. Most offer you much faster access to the internet without tying up a phone line. Web pages and graphics appear much faster (so that by the time the page loads you will still remember what you were looking for). Files you need to get or send will come or go much faster. If you pay for a second phone line just for internet access, you wouldn't need it any more. You wouldn't need to dial up the internet either; you would always be connected.

Many of our friends down on the plains already have these services available to them. But hey, we don't deserve to be

techno peasants just because we choose to live amongst the ponderosas. I can understand ISP's reluctance to run the lines or upgrade our infrastructure. Our houses are much farther apart than our friends at Rock Creek. However, if there are enough of us up here who would like a better solution, our buying power should help prevent us from being overlooked.

The first step in researching our options is to know how many of us in PBH want a better solution. **If you are interested in high speed internet access, please send an email to John Nairn (ZIP Committee Chairman) at: John.Nairn@worldnet.att.net or call him at (303) 449-3370.** If you have thoughts, ideas or want to participate in the committee, we welcome you.

Once you contact us, we will send you a comparison of the different options out there and keep you informed as to our findings and progress.

I hope to see you in the fast lane of the information superhighway... not on the side of the road, changing that flat!



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**CREATIVE
MEMORIES**

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KATE LANDIN

Pine Brook Hills sustained a loss with the death of Kate Landin on March 12, 2000. Kate had planned her memorial service, held on March 18, a few weeks before her death. Hence the service was not just about Kate, or even for Kate, but very beautifully FROM Kate. Her intelligence, humor, and strength were evident that day. It is like her, that there was so much laughter during the service. Family and friends shared stories ranging from Kate as five year old molecular biologist to events shortly before her death. One friend remembered telling Kate how much she would be missed. Kate replied, "Yes, but we've learned SO MUCH!" That Kate planned the service and selected the hymns added to the beauty and power of the experience. It seemed to be her voice that had us sing, "Both in our living, and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God."

Kate held Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work, plus a Master's of Divinity, magna cum laude, from Emory University. Kate and Luke came to Pine Brook in 1997. We learned about that decision in her memorial service: "After visiting son Brett at CU graduate school in Boulder in '96, Kate returned to Atlanta and said to Luke (in her characteristically demure fashion), 'I have lived in the South with you for 22 years; it's time to go West, and I hope you will come with me!'" Fortunately for us, he did. The volunteer activities that Kate performed so ably in Pine Brook were only a small part in a lifetime of giving. Here she was Firehouse fundraiser and emergency preparedness coordinator, painter of posters for a Square Dance, distributor of phone books door to door during a snowy winter in 1998 (and the only volunteer to offer to repeat that experience!), and author of insightful and sensitive articles for the Pine Brook Press. Her last article was about the Hembd boys and was titled, "A Joyful Journey." We wish YOU a joyful journey, wonderful Kate. Our deep sympathy to Luke, Brett, Todd, and all of the Landin/Wagner family in the loss of an inspirational human being.

Kate hoped any memorials would be given to Community United Church of Christ New Education Building Fund, 2650 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80303.

BIG DAY for BIG AL GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION

To honor the memory of Al Goldsmith, son of Bill and Joan Goldsmith, the city of Boulder has declared May 21 as People With Disabilities Day. The BAGF and other Boulder County organizations will present a program of events and celebrations, including the dedication of an access ramp at the Solstice Institute. For more information, call The Solstice Institute, 302 Pearl Street, Boulder, 80302,



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor:

As you probably know, on Thursday, March 9th, there was a wildfire in Pine Brook Hills. As the winds whipped the flames into towers of sparks, I watched from my home about a mile away wondering what kinds of damage might happen. Without the gracious intervention of a change in wind it's quite likely that hundreds of families may have been evacuated and many homes destroyed.

Today, six days later, going out for my daily workout, I noticed on the side of the road a collection of empty beer bottles, a Bic lighter and about eight cigarette butts on dry pine needles. Some of the butts had been allowed to burn down freely; they were within about twenty feet of a house. I had noticed a number of times a group of teenagers who come up to exactly that spot on our lane to see the views and smoke their cigarettes, but I had refrained from making any warnings to them.

I called the Sheriff's office and asked what the consequences are for dropping cigarettes out of car windows in high hazard neighborhoods like this. I was told that without actually starting a fire, the ticket could be only for littering; but if an offender started a fire, well, that's a felony.

Here's the question: does the law about dropping cigarettes from cars adequately reflect the real hazards? You can run a red light, be lucky and do no real harm, and still get a pretty serious moving violation, right? The ticket is based on potential hazard. The same goes for drunk driving: whether or not you hit anyone while driving drunk, you're still in a world of hurt if you're caught doing it. But if you drop a cigarette, even in a dry area with homes all around, it's only a littering ticket...if the drop happens to

cause no fire. The real hazard of dropping cigarettes in non-urban areas of Boulder County can be the deaths of many people, pets, livestock, the destruction of homes, and loss of wildlife.

I would like to know if you editors could do some research and writing on this subject, with the possible goal of getting laws and ordinances changed to reflect the nature of the hazards. I expect we'll have a dry, hot summer, and I am interested in knowing that laws protecting drought-prone areas have real teeth in them.

Anne Bartol Butterfield

Dear Editor:

Would you consider mentioning in the Pine Brook Press the fact that the Peperzaks, my wonderful neighbors, had called me the morning of the fire (on North Cedar Brook) and offered the use of their home to anyone needing a place to stay? I think that was an astounding gesture of good will in a community where some folks still don't know all of their neighbors!

Bruce Hertelendy

Dear Editor:

The people who go for walks on the street
Are asking dog owners to keep the place neat,
Else some may go home
With bad stuff on their feet.

Ann Onymus



PINE BROOK WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP meets the 4th Tuesday evening every other month at 7:30 P.M. at the Firehouse. We try to alternate fiction and non-fiction books. Join us next time and bring a neighbor! Book for May 23rd is UNDAUNTED COURAGE, by Stephen Ambrose
Book for July 25th is ANGLE OF REPOSE, by Wallace Stegner

Note: meeting time has changed from 7:00 to 7:30 P.M. for the summer months.

WHAT WE'RE READING:

SICK PUPPY, by Carl Hiaas

While visiting relatives (first grandchild) in Florida,

I was urged to read SICK PUPPY, by Carl Hiaasen, a popular journalist and novelist from Miami. This farcical tale of corrupt politicians and social misfits is both bitingly humorous and gripping. Hiaasen's environmental concerns and broad knowledge of the damage megamalls and housing developments wreak on ecosystems are equally valid here on our own front range. I was delighted to learn afterwards that this amusing and provocative book is on the N.Y. Times bestseller list.

Reviewed by Linda Toomre

THE PRICE OF HONOR, by David H. Hackworth (copyright 1999 and available at the Boulder Library)

This fast paced tale of conspiracy, war, romance and politics weaves the history of a storied American military family into the restructuring of the modern defense industry and the evolution of war itself. Hackworth's crisp prose draws the reader into complex modern subplots based on today's geo-political realities which find their roots in the mystery surrounding a US/Viet Cong battle in the hills of Vietnam.

The book starts with present day terrors that are found in regional hotspots now "conducted" by the U.N. Hackworth then reveals that these conflicts are fueled by the new military/industrial complex which could not exist without them. Presidential politics have been woven into the story's foundation, so much of Hackworth's observations have relevance in our coming election. It is all wrapped up with a tidy conclusion.

Hackworth clearly understands the bonding which battle brings to brothers in arms, and he is hardest on those who command. His tale portrays an obstacle course of power, lies, deceit and cowardice through which cleverly portrayed protagonists race against unseen enemies, and at the same time, answers questions about honor, duty, glory and courage.

A veteran of five tours in Vietnam, Hackworth is the defense editor and war correspondent for Newsweek magazine. He pulls no punches. Boulder readers will not be offended by this military tale as the author is fair and even-keeled in his treatment of a broad range of sensitive subjects. It's a must read for anyone touched by the Vietnam Era.

If you want to reduce it to one sentence, just say, "Tom Clancy meets John Grisham."

Reviewed by Blaise Colt

A DEFROCKED BIO-NARCISIST, or HOW I LEARNED TO LOVE LICHENS

By Peter D. Goldfinch

For some years, I now admit, this writer was a practitioner of the arcane art of bio-narcissism. I purchased and consumed only the most natural of viands from Wild Oats, Alfalfa's, or Whole Foods. No unnatural morsel was ever permitted to enter my pampered alimentary canal. My physical form was a highly refined muscular instrument, with rippling, bulging biceps and abs, not merely athletic or biathletic, but triathletic and beyond. A smoothly functioning metabolic mill, tuned to the highest pitch by the purest and most au courant vitamin and mineral supplements. I enjoyed ecstatic sessions of self-admiration in front of the mirror, reveling in the imagined envy of my form and function by other, lesser, beings.

But alas, during an exuberant run in the foothills, fate intervened, causing me to fall. I awakened face to face with strange forms seeming to grow from a rock. LICHENS!! I have subsequently been unable to think of much else.

What, then, is (or, are) a lichen? A local lichen is the "moss" on Pine Brook's moss rock fireplaces. It, or they, are two separate species living together symbiotically, a fungus and an alga, each contributing uniquely to the whole.

The fungus provides the structure in which the two species live together. It also produces many enzymes which can digest various substrates, such as the rocks and trees it grows on. The fungus can produce substances of various colors – black, green, yellow, orange, red – that have been used to make dyes, such as colored the early Harris Tweed, or baskets made by American Indians.

The alga is basically the photosynthetic partner, and produces various carbon compounds that nourish the fungus. The fungus even has small filaments that can penetrate the alga like a straw to suck up these nutrients (rather like a health-shake).

A most remarkable bit of cooperation by these "marriage partners" is seen in the soredia, reproductive microprojectiles composed of fungal filaments and alga which can be tossed out of the lichen to go forth and multiply. Imagine! Two species popped out into space in their joint reproductive module. (Legal note: the question of fungal/algal interspecies

marriage has not yet been addressed by legislators.)

The two elements of a lichen can be cultured separately. The fungus in culture needs various complex carbohydrates as nutrients, grows very slowly, and doesn't ordinarily generate spore-producing bodies. The alga, by contrast, grows more rapidly, reproduces, and is quite happy when cultured separately.

Biologically, lichens can survive under extreme conditions. They can become desiccated down to as little as 2% water content and stop photosynthesizing until re-hydrated, whereupon growth resumes immediately. There are about 350 species which grow in Antarctica, at temperatures down to minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit, compared to only two species of vascular plants which can survive there. One lichen species lives totally submerged under water. Some mature specimens are estimated to be as old as 4,500 years, possibly a function of their extremely slow growth (increase in radius of 0.1 to 10 mm/year). It is fortunate that we do not have to devise a Social Security plan for them.

Lichens are important to the Ecosystem, being able to slowly digest rocks and form soil. They are sensitive to atmospheric pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide, which can kill the algal chlorophyll. Lichens can thereby be used to monitor pollution in cities. Likewise, they accumulate heavy metals and nuclear fall-out, as in arctic Reindeer Moss, which was used to measure fall-out from Chernobyl.

I've come to admire lichens, which outshine Homo Sapiens in so many ways. Humans can't eat rocks, or survive desiccation or go about naked in subzero Antarctica. Humans can't make clever little reproductive modules that carry two species, or live for 4,500 years. Above all, lichens don't whine. It's come to the point where I, having given up my solipsistic bio-narcissism, am considering the formation of a Pine Brook lichen cult, dedicated to the admiration and worship of lichens.

(Editor's Note: We are happy to welcome Peter D. Goldfinch back from migratory journeys to the Canary Islands and elsewhere, which have occupied him since his last appearance in these pages in 1996. Obsessive readers may remember some of his earlier contributions, such as "Autobiography of a Pine Brook Pine Needle," "Wild Turkeys of Pine Brook," "The Cuisine of Black Bears," or "Wildlife as Pine Brook House Guests (Stinkbugs)."



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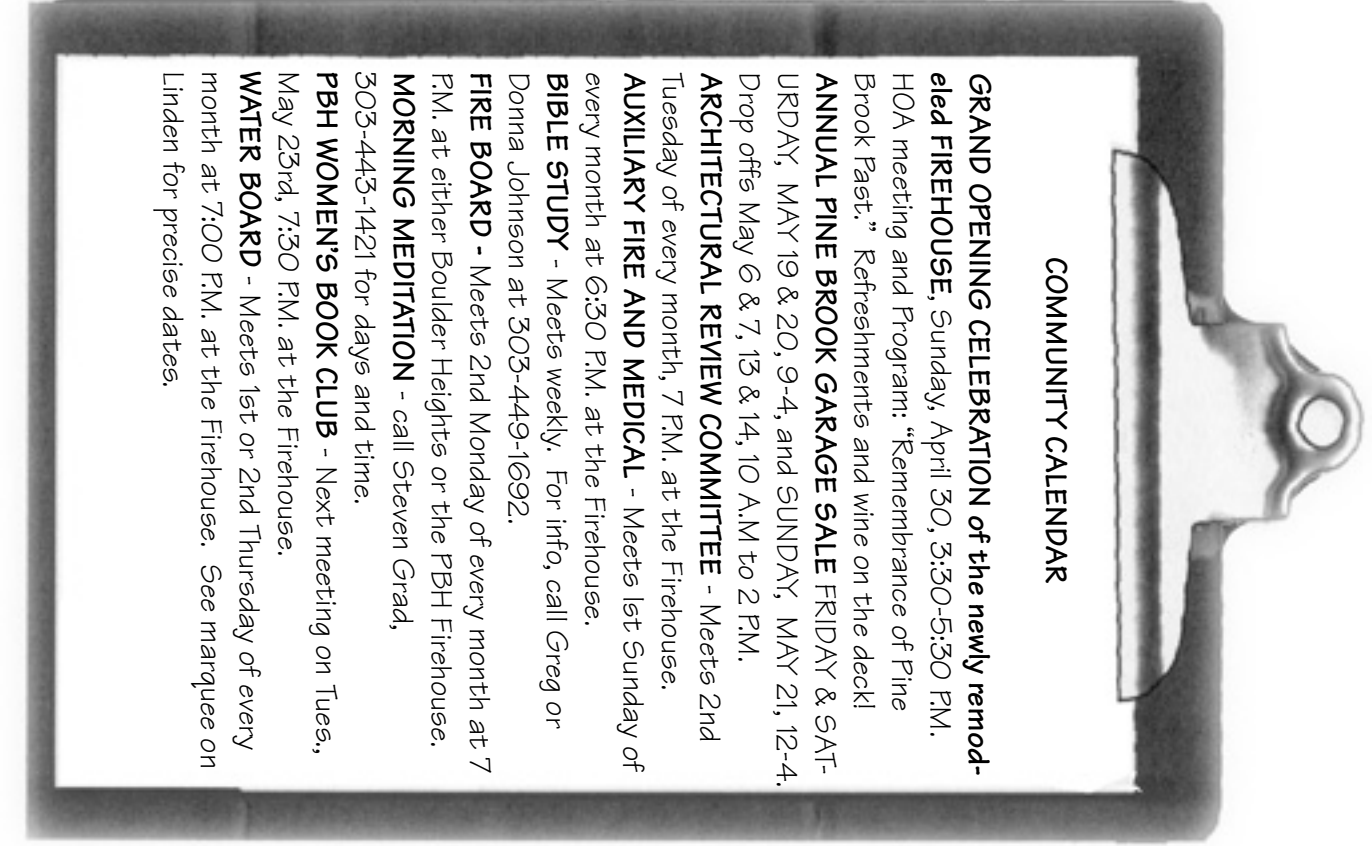


The
Window Washer Guy

Greg Kline

Pine Brook References

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION of the newly remodeled FIREHOUSE, Sunday, April 30, 3:30-5:30 P.M. HOA meeting and Program: "Remembrance of Pine Brook Past." Refreshments and wine on the deck!

ANNUAL PINE BROOK GARAGE SALE FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 19 & 20, 9-4, and SUNDAY, MAY 21, 12-4. Drop offs May 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 10 A.M to 2 P.M.

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

AUXILIARY FIRE AND MEDICAL - Meets 1st Sunday of every month at 6:30 P.M. at the Firehouse.

BIBLE STUDY - Meets weekly. For info, call Greg or Donna Johnson at 303-449-1692.

FIRE BOARD - Meets 2nd Monday of every month at 7 P.M. at either Boulder Heights or the PBH Firehouse.

MORNING MEDITATION - call Steven Grad, 303-443-1421 for days and time.

PBH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB - Next meeting on Tues., May 23rd, 7:30 P.M. at the Firehouse.

WATER BOARD - Meets 1st or 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Firehouse. See marquee on Linden for precise dates.

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