



# Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2001



## **KEEP OUR WAGON ROLLIN'**

By Eric Erickson

Having been lured by the winter-fun topic of snowshoeing and gently cajoled by the artful persuadings of our HOA Prez, Al Gerrish, I left the January meeting with the title of Chairman, Nominating "Committee" for the July 25, 2001 elections. I hadn't arrived looking for one more opportunity to lengthen my list of "to do's," but I departed believing that our re-energized HOA demanded whatever modest support I could provide.

It seems to me that as a front-range, mountain community we are now on what could be described as a "Ponderosa Roll." We have a beautifully remodeled Community Center, Firehouse and Officeplex. We have a vibrant and informative community newspaper, The Pine Brook Press. We have two first-rate, locally managed District services, our Water Department and our Fire Department, with a dedicated cadre of well-trained, emergency first responders and a first class Auxiliary. We have a very active HOA with a host of supporting organizations and volunteers. They are constantly reaching out to all members of our community, striving to make Pine Brook living an unmatched experience. And we have a classy, well-organized and highly informative Directory which, for many of us, has become a daily-essential tool. Now we have the opportunity to combine HOA's organizational energy with that of the Fire Protection District to make Pine Brook Hills a front-range model for effective wildfire mitigation and homeowner-managed forest health.

**All of this means that the peopling and leading of our HOA has become one of the very important**

**and exciting volunteer service opportunities we have in Pine Brook Hills.**

Current by-laws call for the election or re-election of five HOA Board members every year. Al Gerrish, our retiring President, Suzanne Adams, a previous President and Secretary, and Al Whitfield, our Treasurer, have agreed to be nominated to non-Presidential positions on the Board for at least one more year. That means we have two open positions, including that of President, for which we need YOU to step forward and help us keep this wagon train a' rollin'.

If you aren't already committed to another PBH Board; if you've been a resident in Pine Brook Hills for at least a couple of years; if you think HOA really stands for "Helping One Another;" and if you're reasonably comfortable with electronic mail, my "committee" would like to hear from YOU now. I should think that the opportunity to sit on the Board and, in particular, to be President this coming year would be especially attractive given the potential support of three strong Board veterans like Al G., Suzanne and Al W. For what more could new Officers ask?

Please call me at 303-447-0671 or e-mail me at [eric.erickson@techgrp.com](mailto:eric.erickson@techgrp.com) and nominate yourself or a good neighbor who has already agreed to a candidacy for one or both of these open positions. We have until the next meeting of the HOA on April 25 to submit a slate of candidates. If no one calls it is highly likely, of course, that some of you will receive a call from me. I would be delighted if you'd call me first.



**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE MAY 18, 19, 20**



Art and Babette Markey, Pine Brook's Garage Sale Gurus, are gearing up for another successful district-wide garage sale. The sales, sponsored by the Auxiliary and held in the Pine Brook Hills Community Center/Firehouse, benefit the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. Last year the sale netted a record \$4100; this year the goal is an ambitious \$4500.

**What's Needed?**

1. **DONATIONS.** The firehouse will be open and staffed on May 5, 6, 12 and 13 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. each day. Need help transporting donations or a place to store them before May 5? Call the Markeys at (303) 440-6132.
2. **VOLUNTEERS.** Staff needed to accept donations, set up, price, sell, and clean up afterward. No experience needed! Again, call (303) 440-6132.
3. **SHOPPERS.** The sale will take place on Friday, May 18, and Saturday, May 19, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., and on Sunday, May 20, from noon to 4. Treasures beautiful and bizarre await you!

**TO BE SOLD AT GARAGE SALE  
SILENT AUCTION:  
1990 VOLVO 740GLE sedan, blue/green  
with tan leather interior, AM/FM  
cassette radio, sun roof and new tires!**

**PINE BROOK HILLS' FIRST "DINE-AROUND"**

By Karen Peperzak, Social Chairperson

I propose a series of dinner parties held in the homes of PBH residents and attended exclusively by residents.

The Hosts choose the Date, Theme, Price, and number of guests to be accommodated.

The Diners receive a list of potential parties, reserve a space by calling the social chair, and pay in advance for the dinner party of their choice.

I look forward to a variety of events such as Elegant, Casual, Musical, Ethnic, or even Mysterious. This is not a fundraiser, just a good way to enjoy meeting and getting to know our neighbors.

If you would consider hosting a party please call or e-mail me for details. Thank you!

Karen Peperzak  
(303) 440-0691 or  
[Karenpep@aol.com](mailto:Karenpep@aol.com).

**FOUND!**



Beautiful large tan cat found wandering in our backyard. He has no tags so we call him Amos. Very affectionate, likes dogs, and sleeps in bed with us. Call if you are missing him. (He may attend the first Dine-Around).

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

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**FIRE/MEDICAL AUXILIARY**  
Nancy Tamura 448-0225

**WATER BOARD**  
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**WATER DISTRICT**  
Robert de Haas, Mgr. 443-5394

**PINE BROOK PRESS**

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

All events are held at the Community Center/Firehouse unless otherwise indicated.

**PHB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION** - Quarterly meeting, "Birding in Pinebrook," on Wed., April 25. Potluck supper at 6 p.m. (note new time), program at 7:30 p.m. All PBH residents welcome!

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE** - Meets 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

**AUXILIARY FIRE AND MEDICAL** - Scheduled meetings for 2001 are as follows: May 6, June 3, Sep. 16, Oc. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. All meetings at 7 p.m. For info call Nancy Tamura at 448-0225.

**AUXILIARY GARAGE SALE** - Fri. and Sat., May 18 & 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sun., May 20, from noon to 4. See story on p. 2 for further information.

**BIBLE STUDY** - Meets weekly. For information on place and time, call Greg or Donna Johnson at 449-1692.

**BOULDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' VISIT** - Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m.

**FIRE BOARD** - next meeting at 7 p.m. on April 16 at the Boulder Heights station. Check marquee on Linden for subsequent dates and places.

**FITBALL** (aka Swiss Ball) - Meets Friday mornings, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Free. Bring your own ball - no experience needed. Call 449-0997.

**PBH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** - Tues., May 22, 7 p.m. Next meeting July 24. Call Eileen McKenna at 415-1111. See story on p. 5.

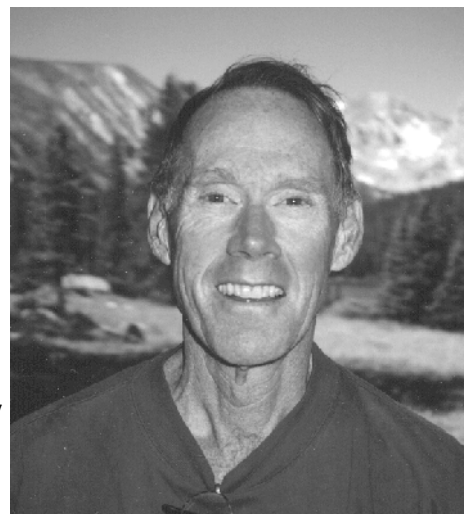
**PHILOSOPHY CLUB** - Meets the first Tues. every other month at 7 p.m. Next meeting June 5. Call Quentin or Eileen McKenna at 415-1111.

**WATER BOARD** - Meets 1st or 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. See marquee on Linden for dates. Special meeting re drought on May 10.

**ALUMINATIONS**

By Al Gerrish,  
HOA President

Spring is the season for new beginnings. So now is a good time to provide your input into shaping the PBH Homeowners activities for the coming year. The HOA regularly sponsors quarterly meetings on the fourth Wednesday night in January, April, July and October. These meetings are a chance for everyone in the community to get caught up on Pine Brook activities and to hear informative programs of interest to PBH residents. Past meetings have been on High Tech in PBH, Remembrance of Times Past (the early days in Pine Brook), Pine Brook Water, and most recently, Snowshoeing Colorado.



This month's meeting will be held on April 25 and will feature Bob Turner of the Audubon Society, who will talk about the Birds of Boulder

**County. Bob leads world tours for the Audubon Society and is an expert on birds in Boulder as well as around the world. HOA meetings are held at the Community Center starting at 7:30 p.m. and are preceded by a Potluck Social at 6 p.m. Please note new time for the Social.**

One of the major thrusts this year will be expanding our fire mitigation efforts in cooperation with the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. New funding will allow the BMFA to begin significant fire mitigation programs. Fire Chief Don Whittemore wants to meet with neighborhood groups of 6-12 homeowners to identify mitigation needs and encourage cooperative action. Help with cutting, piling and chipping slash will be available on a 50% cost-share basis. And the HOA will again be sponsoring a free chipping project. Please call Don or any HOA officer for further information and to schedule neighborhood meetings.

We'd like to have your ideas for future HOA activities. Thoughts? Please send them to me at (303) 443-7361 or [amgerrish@att.net](mailto:amgerrish@att.net), or to any other member of the Homeowners Board. Thank you!

### TREASURER'S REPORT

By Al Whitfield

Response to our solicitation for annual dues is proceeding well, with 65% participation to date. The funds raised made it possible to complete the payment for our part of the Community Center/Firehouse renovation and to prepare for the HOA's fire mitigation chipping efforts planned for this year.

Thanks to all who have sent in their dues and a special thanks to the many whose contributions exceeded the \$50 requested. To those who have not yet sent in their dues, please join your fellow Pine Brook Hills residents and send \$50 (or more) to Al Whitfield, Treasurer, 137 Alpine Way, Boulder, Co 80304. We need your membership to carry out the ongoing programs of the HOA.

### ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob de Haas

The Water District had a very busy winter. There were water mains breaking and service lines freezing from the cold weather. Now that spring is finally here we are hoping these problems will stop.

The question that we are sure is one everyone's

mind is, "Will there be a drought this year?" It is still too early to predict. What we do know is that there has been below normal snowfall, almost a third less than normal, but that can change very quickly. A series of late heavy snows could bring the snowpack right back up to normal.

If the snowpack is below normal, what then? Again, it's still too early to know. We could have a wet spring and summer, in which case there is no concern.

Or...we could have a dry spring and hot summer, in which case there may be a problem.

So how do we decide what to do? As spring ends and summer arrives we watch the stream flows. If the stream flows drop off early then that is an indicator that there may be a problem by late summer. Then we do our rain dances and watch the weather forecasts. If August brings the typical light showers on a regular basis, there will not be a problem. If it doesn't, well then we will let you know what you need to do.

**On May 10 the Pine Brook Water District Board of Directors will be holding a special public hearing on its drought policies.** The Board is currently reviewing the policies and would appreciate your thoughts and comments. What if you cannot make the meeting? Feel free to mail, fax, or e-mail your questions and comments to the office and we will make sure the Board gets them.

Hopefully this will be a normal summer that we all can enjoy!



### WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Compiled by Deborah Springer

**An Equal Music**, by Vikram Seth

Reviewed by Cheri Cathey

"An Equal Music" is a novel about two gifted musicians: Michael, second violinist in a string quartet, and Julia, a pianist. Michael has long been haunted by memories of Julia, whom he loved ten years earlier. Then one day Julia is back in his life, with a few complications.

The part I found most interesting about the book was the author's treatment of the relationships in

the string quartet. The book was able to describe the interaction of the quartet and the trust that is needed to perform chamber music. I was surprised at his ability to bring the reader into the rehearsal process of a quartet and put words to the emotional aspect of creating music.

**(Cheri should know. She has played first violin in a string quartet for the past ten years. Ed.)**

**The Violent Bear It Away**, by Flannery O'Connor  
Reviewed by Judy Tupy

The book, written in 1955, is about an adolescent boy raised in isolation by his uncle on a small farm in the South. When the uncle dies, the boy goes to live with an adult cousin in the city. He struggles with reconciling the religious structure of life that his uncle (who claimed to be a prophet) taught him, with the agnostic life of his cousin. Another source of conflict is the contrast between an isolated rural background and modern life in a city. It is a dark, powerfully written story full of irony and humor.

Flannery O'Connor was born in Savannah, Georgia in 1925. This is the first of her books that I've read, and it makes me want to read more!



### PBH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

By Eileen McKenna

The PBH Women's Book Club meets at the Community Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every other month at 7 p.m. to discuss a book chosen by consensus. Recent books have included Barbara Kingsolver's "Poisonwood Bible" and Tom Wolfe's "A Man in Full."

The Boulder Book Store on the Pearl Street Mall is the official supplier to the PBH Women's Book Club. They hold the books for us downstairs on the book club shelf and offer us a 10% discount.

On May 22 we will be discussing Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." For July 24 we will read "The Red Tent" by Renee Diamant.

None of our members manages to make every meeting of the year; some don't even have time to finish the book before coming to the meeting. Yet we enjoy stimulating conversation and great camaraderie. New members are always welcome.

Please call Eileen McKenna at (303) 415-1111 with any questions.

### NEWCOMERS' NEWS

By Sally Powell-Ashby and Shoni Kahn

Welcome to all the new neighbors who have joined our beautiful mountain community! We hope you are enjoying your new home. Perhaps you have already visited the Community Center/Firehouse on lower Linden Drive for a Homeowners meeting. We'd love to welcome you at these quarterly meetings. Dates and times are posted on signposts as you are entering Pine Brook. It is a great place to meet your neighbors!

Be sure to get your copy of the Pine Brook Hills Directory, compiled by our Homeowners Association. You'll find the directories in the rack by the Water District office (or ask at the office). The Directory is a true treasure, filled with important phone numbers and information you will find very useful for mountain living.

#### Notes from Newcomers:

**Susan and Maury Brochstein and son Adam, age 14, 500 Timber Lane.** We moved from Houston, Texas 2 ½ years ago. Maury is the owner of Pro-Mark Corporation, manufacturing, distributing, importing and exporting drumsticks (the musical kind!). We moved to Colorado by choice and love it. We hike, run and ski. Pine Brook Hills is a lovely community and we are so lucky to be here and experience the beauty.

**Yvonne Weber and Jason Riley, 1354 Linden Drive.** We moved from South Boulder. We are getting married this summer, having the wedding in our new home. Yvonne is a podiatrist with a practice in Boulder. Jason is a project manager of web development. In our free time we enjoy rock climbing and spending time with our lovely dogs, Elle and Tundra.

Are you a newcomer? We'd like to introduce you to the Pine Brook Community by including you in the next release of the Pine Brook Press. Please send a few sentences to us or to The Pine Brook Press at 25 Alpine Way, Boulder 80304. And you'll be hearing from us about a special Newcomers Party in early September.

## INCIDENT AT RIDGE DRIVE

BY Param Singh

Thursday, February 8th was an atypical Colorado winter day: gray, overcast, spitting snow and COLD, a bone chilling damp cold. As the wan daylight ebbed that evening, the temperature was hovering in the teens and roads in Pine Brook Hills were becoming dangerously slick and icy.

*At the house on Ridge Drive, in the northern reaches of our community, the weather was a minor issue. In two days Tom and Caroline were getting married. They were going to dinner with their parents, just arrived from Louisiana and North Carolina. At six that evening Tom was in the shower. Caroline was coming to pick him up and was showing two of his old friends from Louisiana how to negotiate the icy driveway. But that driveway was slicker than an ice rink. When she was about halfway up, the car started sliding over the edge. The hillside there is moderately steep but the road is only about fifteen feet below. The sturdy Subaru wagon skidded several feet down; there were loud grating sounds and then it stopped, the nose angling downhill at a 45 degree angle. Caroline, shaken but unhurt, was helped out of the car by Tom's friends. The car did not seem to have sustained much damage, but there was a hissing sound and the smell of gas in the air. The car was wedged over the natural gas meter. One of Tom's friends called 911.*

At 6:38 p.m. Dispatch sent out a call to Boulder Mountain Fire Authority (BMFA). R.J. Smith was one of the first on the scene. He could hear the gas burbling out. A thirteen year veteran of BMFA, he had prior experience with gas leaks. But this was different. There was a car wedged above the broken line, a car with gasoline in the tank. He determined that, as things were, the car posed a real threat of a fiery conflagration.

Bob de Haas drove up with a fire engine from the PBH station. Bob's wife, Kathy, took the two dogs from the house. When Assistant Fire Chief Tom Akins arrived a few minutes later, he established command and assessed the situation. The danger of the car and then the house catching fire was real. An added complication was that the car sat below power lines which continued down the road and over the fire engine and firefighter staging area. Tom decided that more resources were needed and a second alarm went out over the airwaves. Eventually sixteen people from

BMFA would be involved.

The gas needed to be shut off and Public Service was called. There were two alternatives: move the car and repair the gas line, or dig down to the main gas line and shut it off. The problem with the second option was that the ground was frozen and the location of the gas line, far enough away from the rupture, was unclear. It was Public Service's call; they decided to move the car. A wrecker was called for.

Meanwhile, Kirk Bach, with full gear including breathing air from a cylinder on his back, went to check gas levels in the house. Natural gas (methane) is lighter than air. The house sat above the leak and that is where the gas was going. The readings on the gas detector increased the farther Kirk walked into the house. He asked everyone in the house to leave, including Sheriff's Deputies who had monitored the call and arrived on the scene. Not wanting to frighten their parents, Tom and Caroline went down to Boulder and dinner without letting on about her terrifying experience and the situation up at the house. After they left, Kirk checked the gas levels again. They had reached explosive levels. There was danger that a spark from equipment turning on, such as a refrigerator or electric pumps, could ignite the gas. The circuit breakers were shut off and the house plunged into darkness.

The fire engine was moved into position on the road below the house, with a fire hydrant close by. A fire hose was manned and covered the car. The big water gun on top of the engine was primed and aimed at the house. In the event of a fire, the leaking gas would be allowed to burn. The objectives were to protect the personnel around the scene and to keep the house from igniting.

Now it was hurry up and wait time: wait for the wrecker, wait for the cold to seep in through the firefighter "Bunker" gear, keep monitoring gas concentrations, listen to the sounds of the gas leaking, stay alert to the possibility of imminent fire. Nancy and Larry Tamura from the BMFA Auxiliary showed up with hot coffee. The warmth of the brew, in frozen hands and in the body, was most welcome and wonderful.

After more than a hour, the wrecker showed up. A line was attached to the car and it was slowly lifted off the gas meter. This was the moment of highest tension and alertness. The chances of a "cold" spark

from scraping metal igniting the gas was reasonably low, but it was real.

That night the Mountain Gods smiled. The car lifted off smoothly and the leak was quickly controlled. Tension ebbed away. It was time to mop up. Windows in the house were opened to vent the gas and then closed to keep the heat in. Equipment had to be disconnected and repacked. At 10:37 p.m., almost exactly four hours from the initial alarm, the incident officially ended and firefighters, stretching cold cramped muscles, drifted away.

Who are these people? Tom Akins is an engineer with Lexmark. R.J. Smith retired from Ball Aerospace and still consults for them. Bob de Haas is Water District Manager for Pine Brook Hills. Kirk Bach works in optics at Hyperfine in Boulder. Financial compensation for the incident: zero. Psychological compensation: not measurable. These are friends. Neighbors.

Tom Landry and Caroline Cockshutt did get married two days later. Coming back that night after dinner with their parents, they stopped at Burger King and picked up enough food for 30 people. But when they got to the house the gas line had been repaired and BMFA had cleaned up and left.

Quoting Tom Landry, "...we cannot thank those involved enough for their quick response....I am very proud to be a part of this community. You never realize how important it is to have these people available until you need them. I am forever grateful."



### COLD NIGHT – HOT COFFEE

By Nancy Tamura

On one of those bitter cold nights in February, the phone rang at about 8:30 p.m. I reluctantly answered it, fully expecting an enthusiastic telemarketer who would implore me to consider yet one more item or service that I could not survive without. Instead, Lily Pray, one of our BMFA volunteers, told me about a gas main break on North Cedar Brook, and asked if I could possibly bring coffee to help warm the crew who had already been on the scene for about two hours. Of course I could. I hung up, called for help from Susan Maxwell, and began the process of making multiple pots of coffee (they brew very slowly when you watch them). Between Susan and me, we filled

three thermoses, and I hoped this would suffice. My husband, Larry, and I then drove to North Cedar Brook.

We didn't have any trouble finding the scene – the flashing lights from the various service and emergency vehicles announced the location quite effectively. At first, Larry and I stood by our car, not sure what to do, but were pretty sure we should not get too close so as to hamper emergency activities. I finally saw Lily, and between us, we poured and started to distribute coffee to the crew assembled in the cold ready to help preserve our community. They were all tremendously grateful. We didn't stay long but left the only warmth we could for those sorely needing it.

When we arrived home, Larry and I reflected upon what we had just done. We talked about how privileged we felt to be called upon to help in such a manner. We have since been thanked repeatedly for our efforts, but I really think I should be thanking them for allowing me to help in such a small way.

We don't live within the city boundaries where services are automatically provided by local agencies. Instead, we have all chosen to live in this very special place called Pine Brook Hills – a place where volunteers are essential to our protection and well being. And we all have the privilege and responsibility for supporting this community. There are several volunteer opportunities outlined in this issue of the Pine Brook Press. Please take the time to read the descriptions and choose to be active in whatever way you can. Everyone, but especially you, will benefit from your involvement.



### CELEBRATING LIFE

Significant birthdays! Important anniversaries! There are moments in life which deserve recognition and call for special celebration. One of our Pine Brook residents is working on capturing those milestone moments. Patrica L. Belanger is a television/video producer who recently moved here from Toronto. Her new company, "Celebration of Life," has begun producing videos here in Pine Brook Hills.

"The videos are usually a surprise. Quite often the friends and family members of the person who is having the birthday or anniversary will call me to put the video



together," said Patrica. "They can be anywhere from five to fifteen minutes in length. I work with the family to help them find photos, memorabilia and sometimes home video footage. Sometimes we even spend a day or two interviewing old friends and family members who each have the opportunity to share their stories and memories about the person who is featured in the video."

Patrica has been working in production for over fifteen years, both in front of and behind the camera. For her, living here is a producer's dream. "When you are surrounded by the natural beauty of Pine Brook Hills and you have the deer at your deck every day, it really does bring out the best in you creatively. I feel so lucky to live here."

One of those deer at the deck is also lucky. A doe with a wounded face, named "Scratch" by Patrica, became so friendly that she would come when called. One day the deer was moving its head uneasily. Patrica could see a large burr inside the doe's ear. "You want me to get that?" she asked, not sure whether the doe would literally stand still for it. But she did, and Patrica was able to pull off the burr. Some time later "Scratch" had a more serious affliction, an eye infection that was turning the entire eyeball white. Patrica feared for the doe's vision and called several veterinarians for help. She finally found one who was sympathetic, though doubtful that a wild animal would allow Patrica to put antibiotic ointment directly into its eye. But the doe was not only willing, but came back twice a day for treatment! "That eye is almost totally healed. I am so proud of helping that deer! I feel privileged to have had that interaction. It's like a gift."

Patrica and her husband have "fallen in love with Pine Brook" and have decided to make it their permanent home. If you are interested in learning more about her "Celebration of Life Videos" you may

## PINE NEEDLES

(An annoying, needling column about things Pine Brookers should be doing RIGHT NOW.)

By Jo Noble

1. **MITIGATE!** BMFA Fire Chief Don Whittemore wants to meet with groups of neighbors to discuss how their homes and property can be made safer by fire mitigation. Limb trees up to 6 feet (at least), remove trees that are too close to your house, and space trees so

they have some breathing room. By improving forest health, we also make life more difficult for pine beetles (see #2).

2. Our tiny but terrible foe the **PINE BEETLE** has been at work in our forest over the winter. It's time to inspect your trees for "off-color" foliage, pitch tubes, beetle galleries under the bark, and boring dust on the bark and/or around the base of the tree. Once a tree is infected it cannot be saved. In order to keep the beetles from multiplying and attacking other trees, the infected tree must be cut down and removed or chemically treated. While you're at it, check for mistletoe (not the Christmas kind) and turpentine beetles (see article p. 9).
3. Pull or spray that **DONKEY-TAIL SPURGE!** Now is the time before it goes beautifully yellow and reseeds itself. The sap is VERY caustic and will cause severe burns! It is also not water-soluble; you cannot wash it off. And yes, there really was a man who picked it while hiking, went behind a tree to relieve himself and believes it was the worst mistake he ever made. Use eye protection and wear gloves and long sleeves. If it is just a small area, you can carefully pull it. If a larger area, use Weed-B-Gone, which won't hurt the surrounding grasses, or you can use RoundUp selectively. *Although we are asking for your voluntary support of this project, in the near future the County will, by law, require that you rid your property of this invasive plant. And please, instruct your children and grandchildren not to touch it. A child in Boulder County is blind because sap got in her eyes.*
4. Pull or spray **MUSK THISTLE**. If you do it NOW right after a nice rain or wet snow, the root will come out fairly easily. Once the plant reaches 10 inches or so, the pulling is very difficult. Again, Weed-B-Gone for broadcast spraying works well, or Roundup used selectively. To identify the thistle look for leaves that are alternate, deeply cut or lobed with five points per lobe, very spiny, and 3 to 6 inches long. The waxy leaves are dark green with a light green midrib and mostly white margins. The large and showy flowers are terminal, flat, nodding, 1½ to 2 ½ inches broad, purple, and



surrounded by numerous lance-shaped, spine-tipped bracts. Blooms appear in late May and June and set seed in June or July.

Are you asking, "Why pull the few things that actually like our rocky soil and are NOT liked by the deer?" Thought so. But if you see only one plant (except Ponderosa Pine) in a large area, that plant is choking out the native species that feed our native animals, protect our land, and support our ecosystem. An easy thing to do to prevent a problem before it starts is to buy plants judiciously. Stay away from those that easily escape and become invasive. Here is a list of what NOT to buy:

Common Tansy, Dalmation Toadflax, Dames Rocket, Oxeye Daisy, Purple Loosestrife, Scentless Chamomile, St. Johnswort, Sulfur Cinquefoil, Saponaria (aka Soapwort or Bouncing Bette). Some mints can go wild very quickly also.

If you have any questions about weed control and identification, call Cindy Owsley at (303) 678-6110.



### NEW WORDS NEEDED!

After spending a week with delightful friends from England, we realized that American English needs an infusion of new words from across the pond. For example, we have no simple name for those garbage cans on wheels that adorn our roads on Wednesday mornings. The English do. They are called **WHEELIE-BINS**. What could be more felicitous?

Too, we lack a word for the accumulation of luggage and other detritus that one hauls around on a trip of any duration. Perfect descriptor? **CLOBBER**.

But my personal favorite, which can be used to describe one who is in any way "not with it," is to say that the person is **"OFF WITH THE FAERIES."** This gentle appellation can cover everything from the ageist "Senior Moment" to rather more permanent states. I'm not dotty, off my rocker, or a few sandwiches short of a picnic. I'm off with the faeries, thank you, and having a very nice time.



### NEW BUG ON THE BLOCK!

#### The Turpentine Beetle hits Pine Brook Hills

By Jo Noble

The Red Turpentine Beetle (*Dendroctonus Valens* to its friends) has made its appearance in Pine Brook Hills. Although it is larger than the Mountain Pine Beetle, it is not as toxic to the tree as it does not spread blue stain fungus. Too, it doesn't tunnel the way the pine beetle does, but instead remains in a generalized area. The little critter is 1/4 to 3/8 inch long and can be red, copper, or brown. They attack the inner bark of root collar and stump areas up to six feet from the ground. You'd never know they were there except for the pitch tubes they create to provide fresh air for breathing and boring dust disposal. These pitch tubes are quite resinous, speckled with bark, and look like red popcorn.

Like other bark beetles, Red Turpentine Beetles attack trees wounded or stressed by construction activities like paving, regrading, trenching or root smothering. Damage can be prevented by avoiding these activities within forty to fifty feet of the large pines.

Beetle activity can be mitigated by a series of management practices: watering, fertilizing, trapping out the beetles (using pheromone traps) and insecticide treatment of the attacked stems. Probably the most important practice is to water the trees to keep them healthier so bark beetles of any species aren't successful in either attacking the tree or in laying eggs inside the tree.

Prevention is the most effective method of managing wood-boring insects; in most instances it is the only available control. Avoid injuries to roots and trunks. Irrigation may be important during dry months in drought years. Irrigate when appropriate (and possible) around the outer canopy, not near the trunk. Avoid frequent, shallow watering. Also, dense stands of susceptible trees should be thinned to increase their vigor and ability to withstand an attack.

If you have the Red Turpentine Beetle on just one or two trees, you can remove a section of the bark and dig the little critter and the larvae out. If it is a large group of trees, it is best to call in a professional for advice.

Jo Noble is a volunteer naturalist with Boulder County Open Space

## LIFE'S GREAT QUESTIONS

The Pine Brook Hills Philosophy Club meets at the Community Center on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday every other month. These social evenings are centered around the viewing of professional quality videos chosen that evening by the participants. The diverse topics might include, but are not limited to: Survival, Death and Dying, War and Peace, Crime and Punishment, Science and Anthropology, Politics and Government, Historical Figures, Myths and Fables, The Arts and Literature.

The emphasis is on bringing your own ideas. Our next two meetings are scheduled for June 5 and August 7. Everyone is invited to enjoy a glass of wine with us as we explore life's great questions. Call Quentin or Eileen McKenna at 415-1111 for further information.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN PBH

### The Boulder Mountain Fire Auxiliary:

For over thirty years the Fire Auxiliary has supported our volunteer Fire Department in a variety of ways. Some of our current activities include:

- \*Annual Garage Sale (in May)
- \*Mountain Expressions (fine arts, crafts and bake sale in November)
- \*Family BINGO!
- \*Fire Office Assistance
- \*Training and Fire Board meals
- \*Providing drinks for volunteers
- \*Assistance during emergencies
- \*Recognition of Fire Department volunteers

Come and join your friends and neighbors from both Pine Brook Hills and Boulder Heights in these fun (and very deeply needed) service and fund raising activities to benefit our combined Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. No experience necessary!

All meetings are held at the Pine Brook Hills Community Center and Fire House at 7 p.m. Scheduled meetings for 2001 are as follows: April 1, May 6, June 3, September 16, October 7, November 4, and December 2.

For further information please call Nancy Tamura at (303) 44809225.

## The Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association

Ever since its incorporation in 1967 the PBH HOA has been doing whatever it took to transform a mountain subdivision into a mountain community. We publish the Pine Brook Press and the Pine Brook Hills Directory, provide interesting programs for quarterly get-togethers, and offer socials, picnics, and the occasional square dance. One of the major thrusts this year will be expanding our fire mitigation efforts. In addition to our annual CHIPPING PROJECT to dispose of slash from fire mitigation, we'll be working with the BMFA to arrange meetings with homeowners to plan and encourage creation of defensible space around houses.

There are ALWAYS volunteer opportunities with the HOA. A few of them include:

- \*Accepting an office on the PBH Board of Directors (see p. 1).
- \*Assisting with the publication of The Pine Brook Press
- \*Serving on one of the HOA committees:

1. Architectural Review Committee (call Ken Larkin at 440-8280)
2. Newcomers Welcome Committee (Sally Ashby and Shoni Kahn, 440-0507 & 786-9819)
3. Road Safety (John Landwehr, 443-2482)
4. Social Committee (Karen Peperzak, 440-0691)

Just call any Board Member or Committee Chair (see the list on p. 3) – we'd LOVE to have your company!

***The Boulder Mountain Fire Authority also needs volunteers. Call Chief Don Whittemore for information.***



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: We want to send a big thank you to the Branyan family for removing several trees at the Pine Tree and Timber Lane intersection. It had been difficult to see if someone was coming fast around the bend. Now, with the trees cut, you've made our road so much safer.

The Kimball Family

***The editor loves to get letters. Please send them to Pine Brook Press, 25 Alpine Way, Boulder, CO 80304 or e-mail pinebrookpress@aol.com.***

## BURNING ISSUE

The Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District Board of Directors is considering an important change in the fire code for Pine Brook Hills. Since 1993 there has been a ban on open burning. That ruling came about because of concerns over dangerously large slash fires. When we remember the disastrous fires of last summer we can easily understand the decision.

*HOWEVER, Pine Brook Hills has a problem with a forest that has grown too dense. The prospect of a wild-fire here is terrifying; where would it stop? Our Fire Chief calculates that if we faced conditions similar to the Walker Ranch fire, in ten hours 200 homes would be lost or threatened. Slash from mitigation for defensible space around homes can be disposed of by chipping. Chippers don't escape and burn houses. But what about areas too far from the roads for a chipper to reach or a person to carry the slash?*

The HOA Board has been participating with the Fire Board in the discussion of the fire code. A policy is being formulated that should allow for the advantages of well-regulated slash burns to mitigate wildfire danger and still protect the community from the hazards of open fires. The policy when finalized will probably include such County and Fire District mandates as: obtaining a County permit, requiring a fire plan prepared by a recognized burn boss, supervision of the burn at critical points by a Fire Department representative in addition to constant surveillance by the homeowner, allowing burns only when 4 inches of snow are on the ground (or other moisture deemed sufficient) and other regulations. Community input is welcome.


 THE POETS' CORNER
 

*The House That Lost Things, By Peter D. Goldfinch*

*I lived in a house that lost things  
Or hid them very well  
And each time something disappeared  
Life became a living hell.*

*Documents often were lost from sight,  
There just minutes ago.  
The house caused a bureaucratic mess!  
Information could not flow.*

*Once the wife's jewelry vanished,  
Not to be seen for a year.  
Then found in an unused fireplace,  
So distant, yet so near.*

*Betimes the wife would drop from sight,  
Nowhere to be found.  
So cleverly the house would hide her,  
I almost loosed the hound.*

*Yet, one could not dislike the house  
It would always entertain,  
Somehow keeping one on one's toes,  
And challenging the brain.*

*But wait! A fleeting shadow,  
An elf has just passed by.  
The house had never lost things.  
It was that little guy!*

*Reflections of the Heart, By Eve Berg*

*I have never known the color I am to bloom.  
Is it yellow like the first daffodils of Spring?  
Blue as the ocean, the sky above?  
Green as the grass below?  
I will bloom as a rainbow.*

*Dusk, By Cynthia Ann LoSasso*

*Twilight is a time  
when two worlds blend  
the beginning of velvet night  
the long day's end*

*There is no other time like twilight  
when forms take a different shape  
and blues and blacks cover pale warm tones  
of sunset*

*At twilight you forget to breathe  
all is in hesitation  
when God settles down  
a quiet and calm creation  
with a blanket of a very special hue.  
When time and place are set aside  
and all eyes are open wide  
waiting for night.*

**WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?**

By Anne Singh

Would you like to read about the doings of your friends and neighbors in Pine Brook Hills – doings that might include everything from the mundane to the exotic to the outrageous (but never the malicious or salacious!)? I would like to write such a column – about us, about our children, grandchildren, parents, friends and what we are doing, where we are going, whom we are visiting and who is visiting us, etc.

Now in order to write such a column I will need to receive your news. So, if you are interested (and I hope you are), please send e-mail to [annelsingh@aol.com](mailto:annelsingh@aol.com) or call (303) 417-0373.

**ANOTHER POPULAR ACCIDENT LOCALE**

by Suzanne Adams

After our story in the winter Pine Brook Press about places where accidents frequently occur in PBH, we received several mild rebukes for omitting one of the most dangerous places. It is the curving one-block stretch of Pine Tree Lane between Timber Lane and Balsam. How could we have forgotten this notorious spot where last year a car left the road, plunged through the yards of several homes and landed in a resident's bedroom, with the resident still in bed? DO be careful on this stretch of Pine Tree Lane. The steep and curving hill makes it hard to see approaching traffic.

**WHAT'S THAT AGAIN?**

The Pine Brook Press, cognizant of its own shortcomings, finds pleasure in these

**NEWSPAPER HEADLINE BLOOPERS**

1. Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
2. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

**RESPONSIBLE AND MATURE**

Cedric Foster, 15, would like child care and animal care jobs. Lots of experience with plants and gardens, too. Please call (303) 444-9893.

**EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER!**

Lia Livingston, age 11 1/2, is looking for baby-sitting, animal care and plant watering jobs. Loves children and pets.

Please call LIA at 720-4-6-1982.

**EXTREME ANIMAL LOVER**

Kelly Foster, age 12, trustworthy, wants jobs caring for children, plants and pets. Please call her at (303) 444-9893.

3. Stolen Painting Found by Tree
4. British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands
5. Miners Refuse to Work After Death
6. War Dims Hope for Peace
7. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
8. Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
9. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
10. Drunks Get Nine Years in Violin Case

And on television, more troubles with the language  
**OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF NOTABLES...**

1. "The President has not encouraged me to tiptoe around on bended knee." (William Weld, Clinton nominee for Ambassador to Mexico)
2. "We're all talking in the blind." (Johnnie Cochran)
3. "It's time to step up to the bar and take a swing." (CNBC interviewee)
4. "That's a different can of fish." (Jim Pinkerton on The Drudge Report)
5. "That's a whole other ball of worms." (a future Pine Brook Press Editor)

And even here at home...

**COMMENTS HEARD BY PINE BROOKERS**

1. "There's a lot of smoke, but where's the beef?"
2. "He burned his wild oats"
3. "Living off the fat of the lamb"
4. "Chewing the breeze"
5. "Putting the chicken before the cart"
6. "A question of whether the cart is wagging the horse or the horse is wagging the cart"
7. "Something to look forward to in my reclining years"

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1/3 page (6.75 x 3.5)	\$32	\$120	Children under 18, FREE
1/2 page (7.5 x 4.5)	\$42	\$155	
Full page	\$70	\$300	Non-resident rates: Please Call

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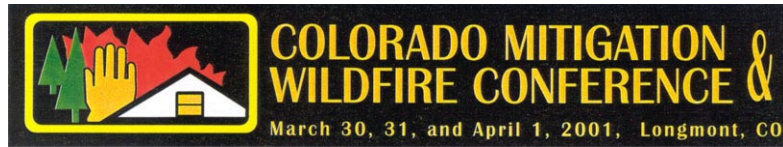


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**T**he Pine Brook Press attended the Colorado Mitigation and Wildfire Conference held in Longmont on March 30, 31 and April 1. It was fascinating. The programs would be of interest to anyone who is concerned about the greatest danger we face in PHB - fire. Firefighters, fire ecologists, mitigation experts, homeowners, county commissioners and insurance companies were represented. Or, as the first speaker mentioned, the audience was about half firefighters and half people (a subtle distinction).

The annual conference was created to deal with the problems posed by the growing wildland-urban interface, and the difficulty of protecting people and homes that have been built in indefensible areas. In other words, it spoke directly to Pine Brook Hills.

Keynote Speaker Jim Hubbard, State Forester of Colorado and a key advisor on state and private forestry, reviewed the situation: homes in the interface, too much forest fuel, moisture readings at an all time low. "Our forests are ready to burn, and they will."

Two of his topics were more cheerful. The first was the formation of the National Fire Plan, a response to the year 2000 fires. 1.8 billion dollars have been assigned to this project; 26 million of that money will go to agencies in Colorado. The new funding will allow more interagency collaboration on mitigation and prevention. Some of those funds will trickle down to Pine Brook for neighborhood mitigation projects. As mitigation can have an average cost of \$1000 an acre, any cash infusion is welcome.

Other good news involved the Los Alamos and Livermore laboratories, which have the largest, fastest computers and access to the most sophisticated data from satellites. With less emphasis on national defense, for the past four years these labs have been looking at the issue of wildland fires. They have developed models that they believe can predict the behavior of fires in "real time." This offers the prospect of technical gains never before seen in fire management.

The "Spotlight on Community Programs" seminar emphasized the importance of long term, community-wide mitigation efforts. After the deaths in the Storm King fire, firefighter safety was extensively studied, resulting in 114 recommendations. Number One was to

implement large scale, long range programs of hazardous fuel reduction. Another advantage of this approach is that for each acre mitigated in a large, coherent project, five acres of forest can be protected. The "patchwork" approach is less effective. **The conference visited the shaded fuel break below Alder and Alpine Way in Pine Brook Hills** as a partial implementation of this approach.

Speakers reiterated that there will never be enough resources to protect every threatened structure. Homeowners must take individual responsibility for protecting their property. In speaking of the fuel-laden forests, one fire ecologist added, "And wooden houses are in that mess - destined for destruction, I might add."

The conference provided an opportunity to see many new mitigation and firefighting products. One potentially interesting product was "Flame Stop II," manufactured by Disaster Mitigation Industries. It's a fire retardant that claims to protect decks and wood siding for 5-10 years.

The most moving moments of the conference were provided by Paul Gleason. A fire behavior specialist and advisor for one phase of the Cerro Grande/Los Alamos fire, he was able to give a personal perspective on the history of the fire and the actions that led to the devastating outcome. His account put a human face on what he called "the good faith decisions made with limited information in a dynamic environment." He told about walking past the burnt shells of houses and cars and thinking, "It's amazing that we think we can manage fire."

One of the lessons he drew from the disaster was that "All prescribed fires require total community commitment." I asked whether he was referring to the firefighting community. "No, I mean homeowners too. Everyone. Know the risks if we do burn; know the risks if we don't. All the stakeholders must be involved."

That lesson is for Pine Brook too. We're stakeholders. Be involved.

- Editor

## VIEWS FROM PINEBROOK



*A sea of clouds fills Sunshine Canyon, creating "Island Pine Brook."*

*By Suzanne Adams*

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