



Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2005



MALCOLM WATSON TO PERFORM AT HOA ON APRIL 27

Travelers on North Cedar Brook may have noticed a wire statue of a purple violinist with yellow violin in front of number 194. It's the home of violinist Malcolm Watson, who, although not purple, is definitely colorful.

Malcolm was born in what he describes as "the slums of London," into a family of musicians. He was given a violin at age five and immediately determined to become a professional violinist. At seven he was performing solos; by age ten he appeared with symphony orchestras. His talent was such that England's Royal Academy of Music waived their age requirement for him, offering him a full scholarship at sixteen, two years younger than the regular age of enrollment.

Cinematographer Chris Menges, who later won academy awards for his work on "The Mission" and "The Killing Fields," saw Malcolm in performance, was fascinated and made the movie "Busker," based on Malcolm's life and musical talent. The film was shown on television throughout Europe.

Malcolm performed as the opening act for Supertramp in the 70's and toured Europe as a CBS-Europe recording artist. Performances

for television have included a PBS Millennium broadcast with Deepak Chopra and political fundraisers for celebrities like former California governor and presidential candidate Jerry Brown.

What kind of music does he play? Everything:

joyfully energized classical, jazz, pop, and especially his own compositions, available on CD. His riveting performance style, dancing and whirling barefoot while playing, is as unique as his music. A review in ONSTAGE Magazine describes Malcolm in performance: "A sprightly harlequin swirling around the stage whilst feverishly bowing his instrument, Malcolm Watson brings stage life to the violin." Another observer wrote, "Watson does not play notes...he plays feelings."

He is happy to be living in Pine Brook Hills. When asked his reaction to the area, he

responded, "I just went 'AAAAHHHHHHH!" He immediately noticed "the wonderful sense of community."

Malcolm Watson will play for us at the HOA meeting on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 7 P.M. (potluck dinner at 6) at the Community Center. He promised, "I'll play my heart out for you, and dance and leap in my bare feet!"





ROOKIE FIREFIGHTERS IN THEIR NEW DUDS
 L to R, Bill Alexander, Gail Loveman, Tom Robinson, all from Pine Brook Hills.

In the olden days of Pine Brook Hills every resident was automatically a member of the Fire Department. When a fire was spotted, phone trees alerted the neighborhood. One person took care of all the children and everyone else rushed out with buckets, rakes and shovels to do battle with the flames.

Firefighting in our neighborhood has changed in many ways, but one thing remains the same: our fire department is composed of unpaid volunteers, most of whom are neighbors. Pine Brookers Bill Alexander, Gail Loveman and Tom Robinson are the newest members of Boulder Mountain Fire's Rookie Program, a year-long class designed, taught and mentored by veteran firefighter Tom Akins.

What does it mean to be a rookie firefighter? You don't just rush out with buckets and rakes any more. There is an ever-increasing emphasis on safety. The BMFPD Rookie Training Program begins with an intensive three day weekend. After that, the program has three phases, the first lasting about two months, the second, four months, and the third, six months. In most cases a rookie can complete the initial training program in a year or less and become a full-fledged firefighter or medic.

With each new step of the program come new responsibilities and privileges. For example, having practiced with SCBA gear (self-contained breathing apparatus) and toured the Burn Facility on Lee Hill Road, the rookies are much better equipped for that baptism by (real) fire, the scary experience of entering a burning

building. The Burn Facility is a concrete structure in which flammable material is set on fire for training purposes. Rookies in previous classes, like Elizabeth Korevaar, had a tougher time. Never having seen the Burn Facility or practiced with SCBA equipment, when she went into the burning building she was horrified to discover that the equipment had failed. "I CAN'T BREATHE!" she sucked into the mask. Tom Akins got her out of there. She was asked, facetiously, whether she had enjoyed it. "I conquered my fears! This is huge!" she responded.

We owe a lot to our firefighters. They spend many hours in training to help in all kinds of emergencies: auto accidents, medical emergencies like delivering babies (see the Pine Brook Press, Winter '05 Issue), hazardous material spills, and, yes, fires, both structure and wildland. When you see your firefighting neighbors, be sure to say HI and Thanks.



FOX NEWS channel EATING BREAKFAST CUTS CALORIES AND HEART RISK



Joshua Mundingering notes that signs show us where the hydrants are. Shouldn't something show us where the children are?

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING APRIL 27: Potluck at 6 p.m., HOA meeting at 7 p.m. Musical Entertainment by Malcolm Watson. Don't miss this one!

BMFPD AUXILIARY GARAGE SALE: Donations accepted on Saturday, May 7, Sunday, May 8, Saturday, May 14 & Sunday May 15, 10 a.m.. to 2 p.m. **THE BIG SALE** is on Friday, May 20, 9 - 4; Saturday, May 21, 9 - 4; Sunday, May 22, noon - 4 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

STRAIGHT FROM THE PREZ

By Pam Creswell, HOA President

Spring is here, and at our home we had our first daffodil on March 7! Our upcoming HOA meeting is on Wednesday, April 27. We strongly encourage everyone to attend the potluck at 6 PM, but if you can't get there that early, be sure to join us for the meeting at 7 PM. The performance (see p. 1) will be fantastic!

Our Bylaws call for the selection of a Nominations Committee Chair at the April meeting. This person forms a committee to suggest names for next year's officers. We'd welcome volunteers for the Nominations Chair or to serve as an officer or committee chair. Just call Tim Triggs (444.4093). Thanks.

Please save the date for our annual Dinner/Square Dance on Saturday, July 30.

I want to mention, again, the problems we have been having with stolen mail. A few words of advice:

1. Always report stolen mail both to the Postal Service and to the Sheriff's Department. Perpetrators are difficult to prosecute unless



complaints are on file.

2. If you might have had personal checks stolen, cancel them because they can be "washed" and made out to a new name. Most banks will waive the cancellation fee if you explain the situation.
3. Much of the stolen mail is used for identity theft. Put a fraud alert on your "credit." This means that if anyone applies for a loan, a credit card, etc., in your name, you will personally be contacted to verify.
4. Consider a locking mail box. This protects incoming mail, but all rural residents are encouraged by the Postal Service to take outgoing mail to a postal box or office. McGuckins has locking boxes that do not require your mail carrier to carry a key (which is essential).

Thanks. See you at the meeting!



FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Fire Chief

Let spring begin! I do not know about you, but I am ready for winter to end. Even though we still receive a majority of moisture in the spring, it means we are one step closer to the summer season.

I want to thank all of you who attended our Community Meetings held in the past few months. Your enthusiasm and participation are greatly appreciated. BMFPD is very pleased at the momentum and is ready to assist in forest health and mitigation efforts. Please remember that you can contact the fire department at any time with questions and concerns. I want to make one point clear to all of our residents in the entire district. The Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District is NOT mandating that you clear-cut your residence and property. BMFPD does not have nor does it want that level of authority. Our mission is to increase our forest health and protect our citizens from the threat of wildfire. If you are talking with someone about these issues, please pass this on.

With the onset of spring, it is time to start preparing your property for the upcoming summer season. Below are some tips to help you.

- ◆ Clean your gutters to remove pine needles and debris.

- ◆ Check for any storm damage, which might have occurred through the winter.
- ◆ Remove or gather slash for disposal.

I had another thought as I was driving through the district. A vast majority of our utilities are overhead power and cable lines. Over time, power poles and the lines which are attached have a tendency to break down or get tangled up with tree branches. Please take the time to look at or have someone look at your utilities. With the wind we have in the district, it is imperative that we take every precaution. Tree branches can be exceptionally rough on power lines.

I have included an e-mail I received from RJ Smith on March 13, 2005 regarding power lines and trees. **(RJ is a Pine Brooker and the inventor of the Fire Scout X3, an early fire detection system that the BMFPD has proposed installing throughout the district. ed)**

"Last night at 12:50, one of my X3s woke me up. Despite the falling snow, I looked around for any legitimate reason, and saw that the power line just below Ridge Drive was arcing and had actually started a small fire in the pine whose branch had drooped from the weight of the snow. I managed to shoot about 15 seconds of video before my camera battery bellied up...Thanks for all your help in picking locations for the X3s. I think we're gonna make a difference."

As you have read by the e-mail above, early fire detection does work and the cause of the fire was power lines and tree branches. BMFPD is committed to the safety of our community. Until next time have fun and stay safe.



ON THE WATER FRONT

With Robert DeHaas

Pine Brook Reservoir Update

All of our plans are continuing to move forward. As many of you saw, we had heavy equipment out in early March. The purpose was to dig some test holes and remove some of the earth for further testing to aid us in determining how much of that material can be used in actual construction.

After reviewing our initial plans the State has agreed to allow us to backfill with native materials against the entire face of the dam and plant it with grasses. This means there will be no exposed spillway down the face of the dam. The exposed concrete surfaces will be the upstream face of the dam (that's the reservoir side of the dam) which will be mostly concealed by the

water stored, and the top 6 to 8 feet of the dam. This should greatly aid in the aesthetics or visual appeal. A spillway to handle excess stream flows will be routed through the dam.

Tentatively we are planning to start the clearing of trees and excavation early in the summer. By late summer we should be starting to build the dam, still with plans to have it completed by the end of the year.

Water Supply Outlook for 2005

Currently the snow pack for our water shed drainage area is below normal; however, that can still change. What does this mean for the remainder of the year? There is no way to know for sure. Last year we had a bleak outlook at the end of the winter but then the year turned wet. Until the reservoir has been built and is operational we cannot predict with any level of confidence what the water supply availability will be for the remainder of the year.



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Alex Baris

Although I've lived in Pine Brook Hills for a number of years, this is my first experience as a member of the Homeowners Association Board. I am most impressed with how hard everyone on the board works to make this neighborhood such a great place to live, and they do it seemingly effortlessly; however, there is a lot that happens behind the scenes.

Recently you should have received a letter requesting a donation for dues for 2005. Many residents have already sent their dues and we really appreciate such rapid responsiveness. The dues are used for any number of community projects and events, including this Pine Brook Press you are now reading, which is published every quarter.

When I moved here this spirit of community did not exist. There were few educational and social events; the Pine Brook Hills Directory was published sporadically--only every few years--and much information was shared only by word of mouth. Now the board takes an active role to keep this a better informed and more cohesive community. I'm proud to be a member of this group.

NEWCOMER NEWS

By Dianne Whitfield

Please give a warm welcome to our newest Pine Brookers:

Roger Henderson and Wren Schauer, 168 Meadowlook Way. Roger and Wren have been living in Boulder for some time and are now in the process of moving into their new home in PBH. He is an engineer for Ball Aerospace and Wren is a patent consultant for RX Kinetics.

Stewart and Loretta Dorman, 1253 N. Cedar Brook. Stewart and Loretta have lived in Boulder for the past seven years and are busy getting settled in their new house, which they love. They have two dogs who are very enthusiastic about living here. Stewart works for IBM in their consulting division, and Loretta is an accounting manager with a Boulder company and also has a tax business.

Steve Smith, 25 S. Cedar Brook. Steve moved here very recently from Breckenridge. He is a retired dentist with a wide range of interests. His great-grandparents settled in Colorado in 1885. He has a son living in Florida and a daughter in Littleton who is expecting her second child very shortly.

Welcome all! We're glad you are here.

FOLLOW-UP STORY

The Boulder County Sheriff's Department issued a warrant for the arrest of a suspect in the dog-stabbing incident reported in the Pine Brook Press, Winter 2005. The suspect faces charges of criminal mischief, stalking, and aggravated cruelty to animals.

If the suspect is found guilty, the penalties can be severe. The state legislature passed a law in 2002 (and clarified its language in 2003) making it a felony, rather than a misdemeanor, to intentionally torture an animal. A felony conviction can carry a penalty of up to three years in prison, \$100,000 in fines, one year parole and anger-management classes. A misdemeanor in an animal-abuse case can result in a maximum jail time of 18 months and fines up to \$5,000.

At a status hearing on April 4, the accused person requested and was granted the right to leave the country on or before April 26, returning on or before May 14, in order to visit a family member with cancer in the U.K. The case will be heard again on May 27. As always, the suspect has the presumption of innocence.

WARMING UP THE FRONT RANGE:

Karen Peperzak and **Introductions**

How did you find your love? Pine Brookers met in various ways. A few met the love of their lives in elementary school (Al and Dianne Whitfield). At least one couple met in a bar (Singhs - but it was the bar at Eldora Ski Resort, so that's all right). At least two Pine Brook couples met through dating services, one such couple being Marc and Karen Peperzak, who met with the help of a matchmaker in 1988. Gratitude for that experience and the feeling that being a matchmaker would be "a fun thing to do" led to Karen's new business, **Introductions**.

Dating services seem to be everywhere these days: in the magazines, newspapers, and especially on the internet. Karen feels that her business offers something different. "People are looking for a more sophisticated and personal touch where they can count on the people being who they say they are," she says, "**Introductions**, personal matchmaking, is a luxury not available in the past and has a high level of service not found elsewhere."

And it probably couldn't be outsourced to China.

How does it work? Karen carefully interviews her clients, trying to discover what they are looking for in a match. But do people always admit to what they actually want? Although one Italian gentleman had a hard time conveying (without actually saying) that he preferred a woman who was, well, very much a mammal, Karen finds that some are very clear - and perhaps surprising. "One woman requested that (her match) be able and willing to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro with her. A man in his 60's requests that (his date) also enjoy nude sunbathing on the French Riviera." Well, that's Boulder for you.

Matchmaking has its misunderstandings and confusions, Karen acknowledged. "Talking to a doctor on his cell phone, I thought he said he was taking care of six parrots and I was quite impressed. He seemed very stressed about how difficult and time consuming it was. I commented on the fact that some types live to a very old age and asked what kind he had. After a long silence he said, 'My father.' Oh, a sick parent."

Any, uh, neighbors involved? Karen is discreet but did convey that she was "thrilled by the referrals from Pine Brook."

A year of dates with Introductions costs \$1800.

These dates are carefully organized. One of her clients explained that "Karen would set up the date, coordinate the time and place...and every restaurant I went to the host/hostess seemed to be sensitive to it being a blind introduction, which was great as this could have been an uncomfortable situation trying to find your date in a crowded room without having seen each other before."

It usually works, Karen says, but one time "a couple was scheduled to meet at an ice skating rink but when he got there it was

closed due to the warm weather so he left to call me. She got there and was told a man just left for a coffee shop. He returned to the rink and was told a woman just left for a restaurant. Each time they arrived at a new place they were told that the person just left. They were strolling

around restaurants, coffee shops and bars for an hour. Finally, they ended up in the same bar, saw each other across the room, were attracted to each other at first sight, and were delighted to find that they were each other's blind date! Does that mean I don't get the credit?"

A letter that arrived coincidentally shortly after The Press began talking to Karen certainly gives her the credit: "The service you provide...has been a life changing experience for me. Yes, I found a fantastic woman who is everything I want in a partner, she's truly a perfect match, and now we're engaged to be married."

He's not alone. In the short time Karen has been in business, her introductions have led to one marriage, one engagement and 1/3 of her membership who have met a match through the service and want time off from additional dates to pursue the relationship.

Karen's ads state that there are 158,000 single people in Boulder County. Or anyway, there used to be.



GARAGE SALE 2005: ALL SYSTEMS GO!!!!

By Art and Babette Markey

Back in January, we weren't sure what might happen to the 2005 Garage Sale schedule because of the reservoir construction project. Well, now we know. And the answer is ...NOTHING!! Both the building and the parking lot will be fully available for use as usual so we are Go For Launch in May. Now we need to get donations, volunteers and shoppers lined up. These are the three key ingredients for a successful garage sale.

First, we need donations. We have a good head start. Once again neighbors remembered the sale and donated in our 'off-season'. We have almost filled the storage shed in Boulder Heights and have others who have let us know about things they are holding in their homes for the sale. But we will still need lots more donations to have a successful sale. Here are our guidelines:

What makes a good donation? Things that are in good usable condition, clean and in working order.

What won't we take? Building materials, chemicals, pre-Pentium II computers, guns, large appliances, mattresses, custom window coverings. Since we must be able to sell what we get, we reserve the right to decline any donations.

What types of items are good? Most anything that is not listed in the 'won't take' list. Here are some ideas: antiques, collectibles, furniture, jewelry, toys, books, electronics, lamps, house-wares, CDs, countertop appliances, linens, sporting goods, artwork, knickknacks, clothing, etc.

A car would be a super donation. If anyone wants to donate a running, "registerable" car, please call us. That really helps boost the bottom line.

Of course all your donations are tax deductible and

we will provide a receipt. You have to assign the value.

Second, many volunteers are needed to make the sale successful. If you have previously worked at our garage sales, we will be calling you to enlist your help again this year. If you have not volunteered before but would like to help out, please call us at 303-440-6132. There are lots of jobs, no experience is needed and training is provided. Team members accept donations, haul our current stash out of storage, set up the rooms, price, move items out to the 'sales floor' before opening, sell, and clean up after closing. We definitely need some folks who are skilled at lifting and hauling. We are a fun group to work with, so come out and join us!

Third, no matter how much great stuff is donated, we can't have a successful sale without a lot of shoppers. Since what one person can no longer use can become another person's treasure, you need to come shopping to see what treasures you can find to buy and to support our firefighters. We always have an amazing assortment of edible goodies. This is one of the best sales in the area, so spread the word amongst your friends and acquaintances.

Here's the schedule. Please mark the dates on your calendar.

Collecting donations at the Pine Brook Firehouse:

Saturday May 7	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday May 8	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday May 14	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday May 15	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

THE BIG SALE:

Friday May 20	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday May 21	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday May 22	noon - 4 p.m.



Young Turks of Pine Brook Listen Attentively for Rustle of Spring

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dogs and their Doings

We read with interest the letter from Andrea Mann in the Winter 2005 issue. It would seem that Alder Lane shares the plight that Pine Needle Road is experiencing. Thoughtless dog owners who let their dogs leave droppings by the road are spoiling the walk for others. It takes so little effort and a newspaper bag to preserve the beauty of the area. We have cleaned this mess up on several occasions and resent the boorish owners who can't be bothered. We've seen dog-walking neighbors carrying newspaper bags and appreciate their consideration. It's too bad a few rotten apples spoil the beauty for the rest of us.
Kurt and Nancy Carpenter

"This Land is Spurge Land..."

Dear Editors:

How about creating an anti-spurge campaign this spring? It seems to me that Pine Brookers have not paid attention to just how much of our beautiful hills this "stuff" has covered. This invasion needs to be confronted and this year would be a good time to start. Please consider this idea: you could mount a large speaker on your SUV and drive around PBH with it blaring, "The Hills are Alive with..."



If it weren't for the fact that I've been traveling lately, I would have brought it up myself at one of the HOA meetings.

Best,
Don Baer

Don is right. Spurge is a scourge. *Euphorbia Myrsinites*, aka myrtle spurge or donkeytail spurge, is a nasty, invasive "obnoxious weed that is dangerous to native plants, wildlife and you," to quote Kerrie Badertscher, CSU Cooperative Extension, in her Camera article of 3/10/05. This spurge, which grows 4-6 inches tall with blue-green leaves and, in spring, clusters of small yellow flowers, can be seen all over PBH. The sap has a toxic, milky latex that can cause blister-like burns and potential blindness if it gets in eyes. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act mandates removal of this species. Using gloves, long sleeves, pants and eye protection, dig up the plants, bag carefully and, if the plants are in flower, take the bags to a solid waste landfill. This plant is a baddy. Let's get rid of it. -- S. Adams, Ed.

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR TREES? CALL THE "BEETLE BUSTERS!"

Colorado is experiencing an epidemic of bark beetles, both the familiar Mountain Pine Beetle and the even more devastating Ips Beetle. These tiny creatures can kill a tree in a year. Each infested tree can produce enough beetles to kill from two to ten more trees the next year. Foresters project that the beetle epidemic in heavily infested areas will be over in a few years. The reason? There will be no more live trees for the beetles to kill.

Volunteers from Pine Brook Hills and Boulder Heights are working to keep our neighborhood from sharing the fate of places like Grand Lake, where a forest of dead sticks has replaced the beautiful green trees of just a few years ago. The volunteers call themselves the Beetle Busters and 'Toe* Crushers (*short for Mistletoe. Fear not for your tootsies). They've been studying the beetles and their ways. During a field class recently the group watched some beetles being pried from their winter sleep (see photo).

If you invite the Beetle Busters to your property, a team of two or more will appear, binoculars, magnifying glasses and other tools at the ready. They will appraise the general health of your part of the forest and



A Beetle Buster has roused a mountain pine beetle from its barky bed

look at individual trees for indications of beetle and dwarf mistletoe infestation. You will get a report and recommendations. It's free. No obligation. Call Tim Triggs (444.4093) or Suzanne Adams (449.0997) to schedule an inspection or to join the Busters.



SAFETY SUGGESTION FOR PEDESTRIANS

Charlie Springer has a useful suggestion for Pine Brookers out for a walk. Although people are generally advised to walk facing traffic, in our hills it would be a good idea to walk on the outside of curves, even if this means crossing the street. With our relatively narrow streets and absence of sidewalks, a driver of a car on the inside of a curve doesn't have much time to

see and react to a person who is also on the inside of that curve. Stay safe, everybody.



PINE BROOK SCAT

or

Who's Who and What Are They Doing?

Even after extra chairs were provided, there was Standing Room Only at concert pianist David Korveaar's performance on January 25 at Grusin Music Hall on the CU Campus. By the end of that memorable evening, even those in the audience who had found chairs were standing in a heart-felt ovation to this CU Professor of Piano and PBH neighbor. In addition to numerous Colorado venues, David's busy performance schedule this spring takes him to New York, Texas, Iowa, Latvia and Abu Dhabi. With all the unfortunate publicity CU has generated lately, it is certainly wonderful to be reminded of something good about the place. CU is lucky to have him, as are we.

Figure skater Lynnie Barber, 17, featured in a 2002 article in the Pine Brook Press, has continued her pursuit of excellence and was recently rewarded by passing her Senior Figure Skating Tests in February. Only one percent of skaters achieve this status. Does she want to be a professional skater? No, this Boulder High honor roll student wants to be a doctor, perhaps because she's seen a lot of doctors in the last few years. Skating is hard on the body. Lynnie has undergone multiple knee surgeries and suffered a displaced hip. This does not deter her from her goals. "She'll keep skating," her mother says grimly, "until her body gives out."



If you hurry you can catch Harriet Edelstein's art show, "Intense Connections," oil and mixed media paintings, Judaica and expressionist landscapes, at the Boulder Jewish Community Center, 3800 Kalmia Avenue. The show, which opened on January 22, closes April 15. "I'm developing a new life after retirement, and art is a big part of that," she said. Previously a school social worker, Harriet now is Co-Chair of the Boulder County Senior Advisory Council. "It's a new field for me, going from children to seniors." She invites anyone with concerns about aging to call her.

Greg and Donna Johnson's daughter Ruthie, who grew up in PBH, was married to Jonah Werner on January 8 in a beautiful candlelight ceremony at the old Ryssby Church in Niwot. Jonah is a song writer and musician. One of his best-known songs is "Blue Pajamas." At a lively reception at the Boulder Theater following the wedding, Jonah was presented with blue pajamas, complete with footies and flap. He obligingly doffed his tuxedo, donned the pajamas and sang his song to the delight of the crowd.



Malcolm Watson (see p. 1) will be making a video on April 17, 10 a.m., at The Dairy. If you would like to see his performance and possibly be part of the video, call Patrica Belanger at 786.8569.

"Don't Get Around Much Anymore" - or at least not enough to get ALL the news from Pine Brook Hills. Please feel free to write us at pinebrookpress@aol.com, or call 303.449.0997 (Suzanne) or 303.417.0373 (Anne) with letters, news or articles. Thanks!



RECYCLING NEWS YOU CAN USE

Do you currently take your recyclables down to Boulder to recycle them? Do you know where the drop-off center is located and what you can recycle there? Did you know you can recycle computers and plastic bags at the Boulder CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials)? These questions and more can be answered by Pine Brook Hills' own resident recycling expert, Pete Palmer, who is a volunteer Eco-Leader with Eco-Cycle. He'll be making the newest edition of the Eco-Cycle Times newsletter available to everyone at the upcoming HOA meeting and copies will also be available at the Community Center. Pick up a copy to learn what and where you can recycle throughout Boulder County as well as all the newest waste-reduction and Zero Waste news. Interested in joining Pete in increasing recycling in your neighborhood and beyond? Contact Eco-Cycle at 303-444-6634 or visit www.ecocycle.org.

Fact: There are 158,000 single people age 25 to 64 in Boulder County.

Our experienced matchmaker's objective is to make private introductions to individuals who meet your standards & fit your criteria. This ensures that your dates are fun.

introductions
PERSONALIZED MATCHMAKING

Your confidential critique after each date is analyzed for your next scheduled introduction. Our policy is to meet with each Client, determine who you are & who you are looking for, do a background check, and provide a high level of service not available elsewhere. **Please call 303.440.0692**



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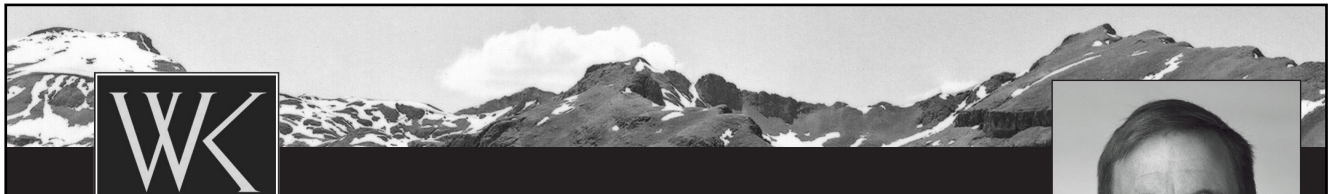
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AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A STUMP

By A. Stump, as told to P.D. Goldfinch

On March 10, 2004, while wandering in the hills of Pine Brook, the Press encountered a knowledgeable-looking stump that had obviously been there for many decades and asked if it would be willing to share its life story with the Press readership. The stump consented. He, she or its story follows.

I am called *Pinus ponderosa*, alias Western Yellow Pine, Black Pine, Red Pine, Soft Pine, Heavy Pine, etc. My name is legion. I have a proud heritage, conifers having evolved by about 200 million years ago. We have strong DNA.

As is true for all of us living things, I live in delicate balance between the forces of life and death, playing a hand dealt by chance, instructed by my DNA to grow to adulthood and to reproduce. After that, the instructions are unclear.

My first episode of peril occurred during seed formation. My species has cones of each sex, both maturing nearly simultaneously in time for mating in the late spring. The male cone is soft, reddish brown, about 2 cm long and covered with pollen grains which are wafted away by the breezes, sometime for miles, perchance to land among the opened scales of the green female pinecone. After the awaiting female ovule at the base of a scale is pollinated by a male grain carried in by air eddies, the scales close and an embryo slowly develops over the course of a year. In addition to nuclear chromosomal DNA from each sex, cytoplasmic DNA for mitochondria that metabolize sugars to energy is contributed by the female, and cytoplasmic DNA for photosynthesizing chloroplasts by the male. The stage was now set for the developing embryo's first exposure to death.

The threat appeared in the form of *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, the Western Conifer Seed Bug, a brownish leaf-footed insect of about 1.5 cm with tibiae of the hind legs enlarged and flattened to look like a small leaf, recognizable by owners whose homes it enters for warmth in the winter. It emits an unpleasant odor if squeezed. In spring, the insect lays its eggs on pine needles near the soft green cone. Soon the adult and newly hatched nymphs insert their proboscises (think mosquitos) into cones and suck the juices from the embryonic seeds, often killing as many as 40% of a year's seed crop. Some of my siblings perished in this manner, but I survived and was promoted to the rank of "seed with a hard covering," or pine nut.

By autumn the female cone reached full size, dried

and woody and brown, its scales parted to release the seeds. The seeds are winged so they can flutter to ground at a distance from their parent tree, or simply fall with the pinecone when it drops off.

As a seed with a hard shell I was never to be safe from a multitude of other predators. Birds like the Nuthatch (whose name was originally Nut Hack), for example, would swoop down on us like harpies and carry us off in their claws to trees, to be hidden and stored or simply hacked open and our inner flesh eaten. And the rodents like squirrels and chipmunks, constantly searched for us on the ground or still suspended in tree cones. If I hadn't escaped all that, would I be telling you this today?

The Ponderosa seed next needs to germinate. To land on a dry, rocky surface could be fatal, obviously. It's much better to sink roots into topsoil having adequate moisture and nutrients, and better yet for the roots to establish a symbiotic mycorrhizal (fungus/root) relationship with certain soil fungi. The roots contact and intertwine with the fungus, whose extensions or hyphae can reach far beyond the root into the soil, even substituting for root hairs, to bring back essential nutrients such as water, phosphorus, manganese, copper and zinc in exchange for something the plant can provide, namely organic carbon (saccharides) as a food/energy source for the fungus. If no fungi are available, as in soil sterilized by heat of an intense fire, the pine may not thrive or even survive. Happily, I dealt with all this and achieved the rank of seedling.

My story now advances several decades to adulthood. Droughts were survived. At times the bark beetles attacked in number, often attracted by aromatic molecules from resins released due to injuries to my branches or bark. They had evolved a sex pheromone with similar aromatics, such that the odor of tree injury attracted them similarly to their own pheromones. There were pitched battles as I pushed them out through their boreholes in my bark with my own resins, which sealed the holes and formed so-called pitch tube visible externally. All this before they could infect my circulation with the blue stain fungus that



A. Stump

kills pines. There are more than 50 other insects that prey on Ponderosas, as well as viruses and fungi, some of which I've dealt with, but too numerous to mention here. Just take my word for it.

Among other pests were the Abert's Squirrels which co-evolved with pines and feed on our resins that ooze out after they clip off branch tips or chew through our bark. Resins of individual trees with relatively high sugar content attract the squirrels. Those with low sugars and high terpenes repel them. Fortunately, my resin is of the more repellent type. Rarely, other pines with high sugar content have been nibbled to death by Abert's Squirrels.

Finally, the worst pest of all: humans who arrived in hordes as the period of settlement began in this area in the 1850's. An 1884 report disclosed that about one quarter of the forest land in the county had been destroyed by fire. The remainder had mostly been cleared for fuel and mineral purposes, and chiefly for lumber and railroad ties. I hate even to think of it. Yet, while many companions fell along the way, I managed to survive all of that and, as an adult pine, to reproduce, engendering who knows how many pine offspring for miles around. I felt no need to boast. The successful execution of my DNA's program provided sufficient testimony.

Then, one day, came two men over the hillside, carrying something..... a cross-cut saw. They walked over to me, glanced up, down and around, chattered briefly, took off their shirts to reveal underlying red union suits, and, slowly back and forth with their cross-cut saw at waist height, cut off my stately trunk and crown, which were later dragged off and sawed into lumber.

At that time, maybe 80 or 90 years ago, I went into retirement with the rank of Stump first-class. My kind

of stump can be distinguished from the lesser ones, closer to the ground, that came with the advent of the chain-saw in the 1940's.

While telling the brash young reporter of my life to date, it occurred to me that I might still be sitting here on this hillside, slowly rotting away, long after The Pine Brook Press has gone extinct. Yes. I'll go on.



THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Barbara Hosmer

Stretch those muscles and get out the work gloves! Besides the back muscles, this is the season that stretches the imagination and gardening education. The expert gardening information resources available on the internet make researching any gardening challenge (such as deer, other critters, bugs or poor mountain soil, just to name a few) so very easy.

Do visit the following sites just to familiarize yourself with the resources at your fingertips:

www.coloradogardening.com - this site will link you to CSU Extension Service, Plant Select, Plant Talk, Zone Maps, Ask the Expert, gardening articles and news, Q&A (with MANY questions on deer browsing), and other sites.

www.highcountrygardens.com - another very helpful site.

www.bouldergarden.net - a Front Range Gardening e-mail discussion list that is free and safe to subscribe. It's a free place to ask questions and share your experiences and even share your plants!

Plant Select is a program administrated by Colorado State University, Denver Botanic Gardens and landscape and nursery professionals in the region. Each year it recommends plants that have been tested and found to be especially suited to gardens in the Rocky Mountain and Plains states. Here are some of the 2005 selections. All are xeric once established, but not all are on the "relatively safe from deer munching" list!

Mojave Sage (*Salvia pachyphylla*) - A shrubby perennial that grows 36" high and wide. It blooms June to November.

Moon Carrot (*Seseli gummiferum*) - A biennial or short-lived perennial that has pale pink flowers the second year. It grows 2 to 3 feet tall.

Valley Lavender Plains Verbena (*Verbena bipinnatifida* 'Valley Lavender') - A perennial whose lavender flowers bloom from late spring to frost. This plant is 3 - 6" high and 12 - 18" wide. It attracts butterflies.



Mojave Sage



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