



Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2006



CLOSE CALL FOR PINE BROOK HILLS

By Suzanne Adams

March 1 was windy and warm, with low humidity, a “Red Flag Day” when fire districts are told to be particularly vigilant. And then, a little after

called back to say that he just had a feeling that something might blow up during the next week; he had decided to turn down the invitation.

That’s why our Chief, all our engines and firefighters were available when the fire struck on March 1. A Fire Chief with intuition! How lucky can we be?

CALLING FOR HELP

John Benson summoned all the help he could get, and 15 agencies responded, along with 38 of our own firefighters, a great response. After suppressing the fire some of our people spent a cold night on the scene, making sure that the fire didn’t flare up again to threaten the sleeping subdivision. We owe profound thanks to every firefighter!

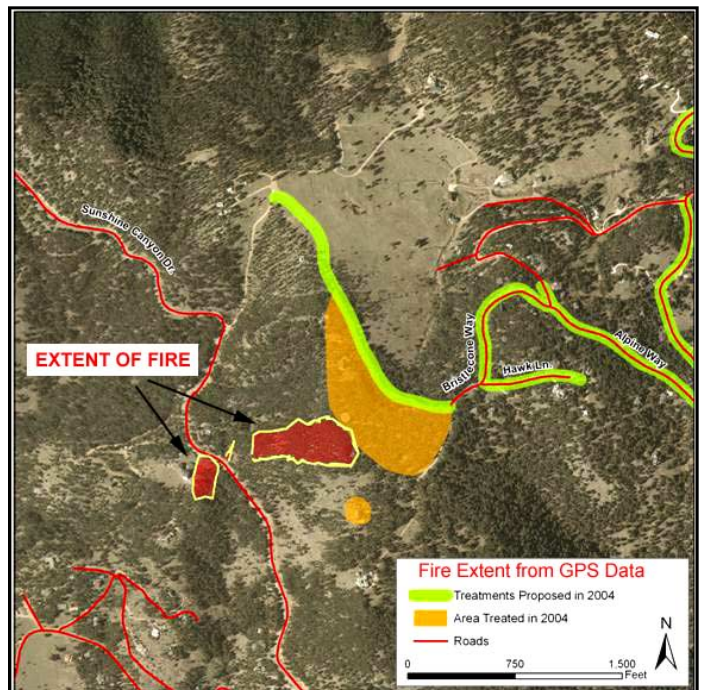
MITIGATION SAVES THE DAY



BMFPD firefighters on the job *photo by Gail Loveman*

noon, smoke began billowing up from Sunshine Canyon, pouring over Bristlecone and Hawk, filling the valley below Alpine Way and Alder. The winds were weapons aimed straight at upper Pine Brook, already identified as a “Very High Hazard Area” for catastrophic wildfire. PURE INSTINCT

On the previous Sunday, February 27, an invitation had come for BMFPD to assist in firefighting in the Katrina-devastated area. Our fire department is occasionally offered a chance to go out “on deployment,” taking engines and firefighters to help combat a fire in another district or state. In these instances the Fire Chief consults with the Chairperson of the BMFPD Board of Directors. It is advantageous to the district to accept these deployments because our firefighters gain experience fighting big fires and the district is compensated monetarily. As Sunday was a low fire-danger day, it was agreed that BMFPD could go. Later that night, Fire Chief John Benson



Mitigation works! The fire stopped at the boundary of recently mitigated terrain. *data from Anchor Point*

The fire started in Sunshine Canyon, apparently from a slash pile burn whose ashes had smoldered for ten days before bursting into flame, jumping the road and roaring up the hillside, coming straight for Pine Brook. But it was stopped. WHERE? Exactly where individual homeowner mitigation efforts had cleared excess timber and removed the “doghair” conifers, the small, slender young trees that can conduct a fire up into the canopy. This was a textbook argument for mitigation (see aerial graphic on previous page). The BMFPD-sponsored fuel break along the Bristlecone extension, an emergency exit route leading to Sunshine Canyon, allowed fire trucks to get up the old Water Road to the fire and also was a backup that would have come into play had the fire gone further.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH SIX CATS?

In the midst of packing for evacuation, Rody Kent got a hurried visit from rookie firefighter Gail Loveman. “Can you take four cats?” The Lovemans own a house on the fire’s “front line,” the four homes on Bristlecone Way that Chief Benson thought he might lose as the fire climbed the hill.

Rushing to respond to the fire, Gail had stuffed her three cats unceremoniously into cat carriers and headed next door. The Balogs, owners of a second house on the fire’s front line, were away, and Gail had been petting their cat to keep it company. She found the cat, but lacking a fourth cat carrier, popped the cat in a duffel bag where it apparently felt quite cozy. Then down the hill to deliver four cats to Rody, a logical person to choose as Cat Evacuator because Rody has two cats of her own. Back uphill to the fire, Gail! Downhill to Boulder for Rody, husband Peter Arnold and six cats! Know any Boulder hotels who would offer shelter to six cats? Neither did they. Fortunately, the evacuation order was cancelled by mid afternoon. But upon unpacking, Rody could find only her own two cats plus the three in the cat carriers. Where was Cat Six? Panic and consternation. Had it gotten away and run back home, straight into fire danger? And what was that unfamiliar-looking bag? Ahhh. A duffel with a peacefully snoozing cat. Just one more tiny drama in a drama-filled day.

Note: the Boulder Humane Society will accept pets when their owners are under evacuation orders.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY

The message is riveting clear: mitigation works. And it is most effective when it is communal. While every

thinning effort helps, piecemeal mitigation is not as effective, as fire seems to be uncannily clever in seeking out weak, unmitigated points. So - if you haven’t already done so, CALL THE MITIGATION COORDINATOR: 440.0235. The cost of mitigation by the BMFPD is very reasonable. The cost of not mitigating could be catastrophic. For all of us. When it comes to fire, we’re all in this together.



IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY....



District children learn about defensible spaceand see what happens when the model “homes” AREN’T mitigated.

photos by Bruce Hertelendy



PINE BROOK PRESS GETS SOME PRESS

(as does Pine Brook Hills)

We were pleased to be contacted by “In the Know,” the quarterly publication of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Project. They are using the front page story and pictures from the Winter, 2006, issue of the Pine Brook Press in their upcoming publication. That story described the Timber Lane Fuel Break.

And Pine Brook Hills is getting some nice coverage from Bruce Benninghoff, who wrote “One Community’s Solution,” a front page article about our Beetle Busters in the current issue of “Forestry,” the professional journal of the Forest Service.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING APRIL 26 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.
Potluck, 6 P.M. Program: Scary Fire Season Ahead! Presentation by
BMFPD, 7 P.M.

PINE BROOK KIDS! Come to a May Day Party at Ayla Besemer's house, 1431 Timber Lane, on May 1st, 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. Please RSVP to abesemer@besemer.com or call Ayla at 443.0545. See story on p14.

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

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENTIAL PURVEYANCES *

By Tim Triggs

As you know, we are having a pretty exciting early wildfire season with numerous fires around the Front Range foothills. I and my neighbors, living in the southwest part of Pine Brook, were told to evacuate on March 1st due to the Sunshine Canyon fire. A couple of things come to mind as a result of the incident.

Have a plan so you know what to take with you on very short notice. Of course about 99% of your possessions are replaceable. Just have an idea ahead of time as to what the remaining 1% looks like. And of course there are the pets and the other family members, "priceless."



photo by SkiPix.com, LLC / Wendy Scipione

The volunteer fire fighters again did a fantastic job of making short work of the fire. One thing that stood out was the differences in the areas involved with respect to what was previously mitigated and what was not. It was a real life situation with high winds showing that our community and private mitigation efforts make a real difference.

As the project manager of the Timber Lane fuel break I am aware of how much effort goes into these mitigation projects. But, they are extremely important to the welfare of the community. In the big picture we are only getting started on what ultimately needs to be done in Pine Brook. Thanks to your voluntary dues the HOA is able to leverage the dollars

through matching government grants to reach our goals. There have been informal discussions about modestly increasing the \$50 per year dues, in order to more aggressively pursue our mitigation goals. In addition to HOA funding, the BMFPD is doing mitigation work in the district with grant money of their own. Both of these mitigation efforts are aimed at reducing wildfire risk to the community at large and do not address defensible space for individual homes. Defensible space is the responsibility of each homeowner. Matching grant money is available to individual homeowners for that purpose.

Our spring HOA meeting of the year will be on April 26 {at the community center} or {at the Holiday Inn Express on the corner of N. Broadway and Lee Hill Road}. We will begin at 6:00 with a potluck dinner followed by the business meeting at 7:00. After the business meeting we will have an informative wildfire presentation by the BMFPD.

I decided to replace the normally boring portrait picture with an action shot of me racing Giant Slalom at the Rocky Mountain Masters Series race in Vail.

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

* I have no idea if "purveyances" is a word or what it might mean, but I think it has a nice ring to it. I hope that all of you in the community have a wonderful and fun spring season.



FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Fire Chief

Greetings once again from sunny scenic Pine Brook Hills. Hard to believe spring will be upon us shortly. It is also hard to believe that wildfire season has already started and to an unusual extent. On March 1, BMFPD was paged to a wildfire on approximately 3100 Sunshine Canyon Road. Along with BMFPD, agencies such as Sunshine FPD, 4-mile FPD and Boulder Rural FPD were the initial agencies paged to the incident. Before responding units could get to the scene, the fire had crossed Sunshine Canyon and was now on its way up the hill toward Bristlecone.

BMFPD set up structure defense along Bristlecone and aided additional resources to suppress the fire before it could get past the water tank and the Bristlecone exit area. If not for the quick suppression efforts of the fire fighters and the fact the BMFPD

had just completed wildfire mitigation efforts in that area, the number of acres and possible values lost could have been much worse. At the conclusion of this fire, 4.1 acres were burned and no structures were lost.

One of the major problems emergency responders ran into was that when the fire was crossing the canyon road it also burned through the telephone trunk line, which would have provided "reverse 911" evacuation information. Emergency personnel had to rely on the old-fashioned method of evacuation: on foot and door-to-door. It worked.

The next time you see our BMFPD firefighters please tell them thank you. These individuals ate a lot of smoke and accomplished a great deal of suppression in a short period of time.

Because of the fire in Sunshine Canyon, I want to offer some tips for a timely evacuation.

- ◆ Now is the time to make a list of those items you will need to take with you. (glasses, prescriptions, insurance papers or other documents, important phone numbers, etc.) Make sure you have these items centrally located so they can be grabbed at a moment's notice.
- ◆ Have a plan to notify family or close friends that you have been evacuated.
- ◆ For those individuals with children make sure there is a plan in place to contact each other. If you have a baby sitter make sure you supply the proper phone numbers for emergency contact.
- ◆ Familiarize yourself with the emergency evacuation routes listed on the back page of the Pine Brook Directory.
- ◆ If you have an unlisted phone number, please make sure the fire department gets that number so we can go through the list and make the appropriate call back for the area.
- ◆ Keep your phones turned on. You will not get a reverse 911 call back if your telephone ringer is turned off. This is especially important during high fire danger months.
- ◆ When ordered to evacuate PLEASE DO SO. Knowing that everyone is out of the general evacuation area allows the fire firefighters and emergency response personnel to do their jobs more proficiently without having to worry about those residents who want to stay behind.

- ◆ Members of the structural protection division will make a complete check of the dwelling. If needed we will turn all utilities off and prepare the structure for defense.
- ◆ During the initial stages of the fire, information will be difficult to get out. Ensuring firefighter and citizen safety is our primary goal, followed by structure protection and fire suppression. If you are looking for information regarding the fire, please dial 303-441-4300. This is the county information line. From my understanding, the Sunshine Canyon fire was updated every fifteen minutes. We are also working on plans to have someone here at Station 1 to assist with information. Please stay tuned for further details on this.*
- ◆ Always remember in the event of an evacuation you will be told what egress to use.
- ◆ Your job is to get out and get out quickly. Allow the fire fighters to do the job they are trained to do.
- ◆ Finally, yet importantly, DO NOT DRIVE BACK UP INTO THE AREA TO CHECK ON THE FIRE CONDITION. The emergency services personnel have enough difficulty trying to keep track of all the equipment and emergency personnel and media coming into the area. Please respect closed-off areas. This allows firefighters to focus on the tasks and safety at hand.

I hope these tips will help you in planning for an evacuation. After reviewing the long-range prediction for this coming season, the forecast does not look favorable regarding wildfire danger.

Always remember, if you have any questions please feel free to contact BMFPD at 303-440-0235. In addition, if you know of anyone who may need assistance trying to evacuate, please give us a call at the number listed above and we will place these individuals on a list. Our main goal at BMFPD is to ensure a timely and well-coordinated evacuation in the event of a wildfire. We will get you back in your homes as soon as the danger has passed.

Until next time enjoy the springtime and be safe.

* The Pine Brook Press will try to carry information on the website banner at www.pinebrookhills.org. Please understand that it may not always be possible for us to do that. Ed.

ON THE WATER FRONT

With Robert de Haas

First off, let me say that this article is going to be short and sweet, due to the demands of keeping the reservoir project on track.

Yes, we are behind the original schedule, but we chose to do so in order to keep the project as close to being on budget as possible. If we had simply kept going, regardless of costs, the budget would not only have been busted, but we would have all been wondering how we could finish the project.

Many thanks to our contractor, ASI-RCC for all their efforts to assist us in keeping the project not only moving forward but on target. They not only have been doing an outstanding job, but they have continually considered not just what is best for them, but what is best for our community.

The target is to bring the project on line in June. Can we make that target? Only time will tell, but I can say that we are doing everything possible to make that timetable a reality.

Thanks for your patience.



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Alex Baris

Well, winter weather finally put in an appearance just as the calendar indicated that spring was imminent. In the midst of the recent spate of cold snowy days, along with checks for homeowners' dues came some warm messages from our community. Among the messages was one from longtime Pine Brook residents Norma and Ed Bixby, who wrote that "we greatly appreciate all the fire mitigation and reservoir work in particular - It has influenced our decision to fix up our own house and remain in Pine Brook." In addition, they sent a most generous donation to the HOA - a very special Thank You to Norma and Ed! We really appreciate all the donations that are being received at this time.

We are all so lucky to live in such a beautiful community with so many caring residents. Here's hoping for a great spring in Pine Brook Hills!

GARAGE SALE 2006: NOT

It's now official There will not be a garage sale in 2006.

Although the dam and water treatment plant construction will likely be finished, there will still not be a parking lot available. And anyone who has been to the garage sale, especially anytime Friday or on Saturday morning, knows that we can't have our garage sale without a LARGE parking area.

The huge piles of dirt that you see near the site will be occupying what used to be the entire unpaved parking area until the water district is allowed to cover the face of the dam with that dirt. And the state is requiring that the reservoir be filled and the dam be in use for a while (to demonstrate that there no leaks) before the face of the dam can be covered.

NO PARKING SPACE - ERGO: NO GARAGE SALE

To paraphrase General MacArthur, "We shall return."

Art & Babette Markey
Garage Sale Gurus



BEETLE BUSTERS ARE BACK FOR '06

By Jo Davies

As many of you already know, Suzanne Adams has taken over as Chairperson of the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District and because of this new responsibility, she has asked Gail Loveman (303-926-0204) and Jo Davies (303-938-0522) to organize Beetle Busting activities for the coming year. Neither Gail nor Jo expects to be able to fill Suzanne's shoes, but they hope to keep the momentum going and, with the dedicated efforts of the Beetle-Buster Team, persuade the beetles that Pine Brook Hills isn't a good place to raise a beetle family.

Watch your mail or the various notices around the neighborhood for an invitation to join a beetle-busting training session (tentatively scheduled May 20). The training is usually a Saturday commitment that teaches the symptoms to look for, introduces diagnostic tools, and involves a short, hands-on field trip to see infested trees up close and personal. Trained Beetle Busters go out in teams of 2+, depending on the size of the property to be inspected.

Any homeowner in the area can request an absolutely free, no obligation inspection of their property for

Mountain Pine beetles, Ips beetles and mistletoe. The goal: to minimize tree kill (and fire danger) in the neighborhood.

Join us, or call us for an inspection. We'd love to hear from you.



DON'T LET YOUR CUT WOOD ATTRACT BEETLES

From your Beetle Buster team ...

The good news is that a lot of home owners are cutting fire breaks and trimming dead or diseased branches or trees on their property. The flip side is what to do with this wood to avoid increasing the risk of beetle hits.

Downplay the Pheromones

As you trim trees and branches, you should understand that the odor of the fresh cut tree sap is very similar to the mating pheromone emitted by the mountain pine beetle (MPB) - a serious and fast spreading killer of ponderosa pines, lodgepole, and limber pines in Colorado. Mountain pine beetles in flight will be attracted to the odor of the fresh cut wood, bypass your cut wood, and head for your nearest healthy tree. How can you minimize the risk of inadvertently attracting MPB while you're doing mitigation and general clean up work?

- Schedule any necessary cutting or trimming of trees before July or after mid September to avoid the period when the MPB larvae mature and fly. Obviously fire mitigation trumps beetle infestation, but if you can do your mitigation early, all the better.
- Never stack freshly cut wood against a live tree. Current guidelines recommend stacking wood 5-30 feet from a live tree. One local expert suggests that stacking cut wood 10-15 ft from any live tree is a good goal.
- Never cut too far ahead of yourself. Only cut what you feel you can clean up within a day or two to minimize the length of time the tantalizing sap smell is in the air.

But what do you do with infested wood? Chip it, Strip it or Ship it!

Chip it

The preferred method of disposing of all slash as well

as wood infested with beetles is by chipping. BMFPD's Mitigation Program can chip wood up to ten inches in diameter. Chipping kills the larvae by destroying their habitat, and any larvae that survive will die as they are exposed to the sun. Also, the large surface area of the chipped wood dries out quickly so it only emits the attractive pheromone smell for a couple of days.

Strip It

The wood can be debarked before being exposed to the sun. This will definitely kill the beetles and is kind to the environment, but debarking is time-consuming and requires special tools such as a draw knife or a "log wizard," an attachment for a chain saw. You need only strip the trunk; that's where the beetles live.

Ship It

The absolute best thing to do with infested wood is to get rid of it - not to a PBH neighbor, but to someone out on the plains, far away from pines. Advertising for such a person on Craig's list in the "Free" section often produces several takers. Your Beetle Buster team may be able to help you find a commercial firewood operation on the plains.

Try Some Diesel

If chipping, stripping or shipping isn't feasible, you can consider solar treatment with diesel. Solar treatments rely on changing the microclimate in the wood to kill the beetle larvae. Good results have been observed when cut wood is first soaked with diesel fuel and placed in a sunny location. Make sure that the logs are not touching each other (side-to-side). Use a watering can, for example, to sprinkle each log with diesel fuel, making sure that all sides of the log are treated. Be sure to place plastic (or some other nonporous material) under the logs before sprinkling them with diesel as the diesel can injure the soil upon contact. The treatment seems to be most effective when the logs are not stacked. You don't need to rotate the logs; just make sure they are in the sun for a good part of the day for several months. The diesel fuel will penetrate the logs through the burrow holes that the beetles have made in the bark and enter the galleries where the larvae are developing. (Treating logs with such a small amount of diesel fuel isn't hazardous to the environment. And unlike gasoline, diesel fuel is not readily combustible, so you don't need to worry about spontaneous combustion. Don't use these logs for firewood, however.) You can further add to the efficacy of this method by ripping the logs before

treating them with diesel fuel. Rip the logs by making vertical cuts (cutting lengthwise) through the bark every 6 inches or so around the log.

Note: Wood trimmed because of infestation of dwarf mistletoe need not be treated at all. Because dwarf mistletoe is a parasite, once the branch or tree is cut, the mistletoe will die. Again though, avoid stacking any freshly cut wood against a healthy tree to minimize the chance of inadvertently attracting MPBs.

More Information ...

The content of this piece was obtained through informal conversations with representatives of Colorado State Forest Service and from information contained in various technical publications. It is in no way intended to be an exhaustive summary of the ways of treating infested wood. For further information, visit <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS/> or <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2>.



BARK BEETLE STATS

Our Forestry Consultant friend Bruce Benninghoff sent figures for beetle-killed acreage in Grand and Eagle Counties for the past six years. Scary. Call a Beetle Buster!

| Year | Acres Affected Each Year |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 2000 | 30,435 |
| 2001 | 37,575 |
| 2002 | 66,334 |
| 2003 | 108,893 |
| 2004 | 264,000 |
| 2005 | 294,584 |
| TOTAL | 801,821 |

BEST ICICLE?



THE De HAAS SAGA

By Marie Zanowick, Director, Pine Brook Water District

On August 23, 1966, the de Haas family (Thijs, Trudy and three small children, one of whom was Bob) moved into Pine Brook Hills. They learned that the Water District had a \$30,000 debt and problems in supplying water to the homes. With Thijs out of town on a business trip, Trudy decided to attend a Water Board meeting at Ernie Smith's house. She was the only guest.

After the meeting Fred Dolder called and asked if she was busy and could she volunteer with the District? Not knowing anything about water systems, she volunteered to help in any way that she could, and worked as the volunteer manager of the District for the next 11 years.

When Thijs returned from business trips, he spent evening and weekends repairing the faulty water distribution system. Bob joined in as a volunteer, even as a child. For example, there was a leak near a water tank that was not accessible by vehicle, so Trudy, Thijs and Bob (age 12) spent a day digging a trench by hand to find and repair the leak - all volunteer labor.

In 1977 the board approved a salary of \$100 a month for Trudy.

When Trudy divorced Thijs she requested a "living wage" and received a full-time salary from the board, for the first time.

In 1988 Bob deHaas began working for the district as Trudy's assistant. In 1989 Bob became the next manager of the Water District and has remained manager since then.

Some of Bob's contributions since he became manager include:

- Forming a partnership with the City of Boulder on the large storage tank located north of North Cedar Brook Road. Through this partnership the district received 600,000 gallons of clean water storage for just \$20,000!
- Upgrading of all the pumping stations in the District
- Design and construction of the water treatment plant in Sunshine Canyon
- In 1999 Bob received an Environmental Achievement Award from U.S. EPA
- Bob is heavily involved in the construction of the

new dam and reservoir.

Because of the de Haas family's leadership and dedication to the Water District, Pine Brook Hills is a sought-out mountain community with a good reputation. Imagine how valuable our community would be without adequate, high quality water and fire protection!

At the last HOA meeting, the following motion was made: "In recognition of their selfless dedication to providing a safe, clean and adequate water supply to the Pine Brook Community for over 40 years, the Pine Brook Community recommends to the Water District that they name the dam the "de Haas Dam." This motion, which was favorably received by those at the January meeting, will be confirmed at the April meeting.

(Note: the reservoir is already named the Pine Brook Reservoir)



PINE BROOK "VILLAGE"

By Steve Grad

Although Jacqueline and I are in good health, we're closer to 70 than to 60, so we've been discussing how best to organize our lives should the challenges



PINE BROOK GOTHIC

of living in the mountains get to be too great. At some point even shoveling snow and driving up and down the mountain, especially at night, can be difficult, but what if one of us gets seriously ill? What if we need help with the simplest of chores on a daily and ongoing basis? What if we need to be closer to health care?

We've looked into retirement communities, but the affordable ones are depressing and institutional, and the most attractive ones aren't affordable. We could sell our home and move into a condo in town, but we like living in Pine Brook Hills and want to stay here. Studies have shown that seniors live longer and happier lives by remaining in their homes if (and this is a big if) there is a support network, but living at home alone can be more isolating and dangerous than living

in a retirement community.

I wonder if our neighbors who are over 50 or 60 would like to join a discussion of how best to meet the challenges of remaining in our homes in the mountains. There's a wide range of choices. At one end of the spectrum we might start simply with monthly pot-lucks and develop an informal telephone tree for times when we need help for anything from shopping to cleaning to regular support visits during illness. At the other end might be an organization modeled on Beacon Hill Village in Boston (check them out at beaconhillvillage.org). The Village offers its members a lifestyle similar to living in an expensive, high-quality retirement community, but they remain in their own homes. Members pay a fee which is used to hire a staff to provide information and referrals, shopping services, classes, geriatric care management, trips and events, and a free discount drug card. The goal is not only to provide needed services, but also to build community and reduce isolation. We could study models already available and develop a system that works best for us here in Pine Brook Hills.

If you're interested in pursuing this further, please contact me at slgrad@earthlink.net, and we'll work out a time and place to meet for further discussion.

NEWCOMER NEWS

By Pam Creswell

Susan and Hagen Finley moved here just last December. Nine year old Amber rounds out their family and loves Pine Brook Hills every bit as much as they do. While trained as a registered nurse, Susan now focuses on her painting and other art. She finds the wide open spaces inspirational after the crowds and limited vistas of Walnut Creek, California. Hagen won't be able to spend as much time at their Pine Tree home as he might like, as his work for EMC requires that he travel a lot. He loves Pine Brook, and Susan quotes him as saying "I feel like I'm on a vacation every day here." The family certainly seems to have settled in quickly. Amber already has already two new friends on her street and Susan is delighted that she has "met more neighbors in two months here than she had met in all her years in California."

Susan and Richard Harvey moved to Pine Brook Hills last October from the neighboring town of Louisville. It was a short move but a perfect one, making their hobbies of hiking and mountain biking as convenient as just stepping outside. Susan says the very best thing

about Pine Brook is "the warmth of the neighbors and the friendly community". Somewhat startling for them however, was receiving a reverse 911 fire evacuation call their very first year!

Joy and Tim Rohde, along with their two year old daughter, Coco, moved here from Las Angeles in January. Joy says they had always wanted to live in a mountain community. She loves the facts that Pine Brook is "such a tight community" and is "mountains yet close in." Joy describes Tim as an "IT guy" who interfaces technology with marketing. Joy writes part time and enjoys hiking, skiing and reading. And what good neighbors they are! They have already scheduled a fire mitigation inspection for their home on Linden.

Ashley Woods moved to Pine Brook's Linden Drive in February. Beautiful mountains are something she has always enjoyed, and no wonder, as she is a professional rock climber. She runs The Spot Bouldering, a bouldering gym at 32nd and Prairie, and conducts a rock climbing guide service from that location. Ashley loves the natural beauty here and was especially pleased to realize that our reservoir is going in so close to her new home.

Kudos to our Pine Brook Hills residents for always extending themselves to make newcomers feel welcome. It continues to be one of the many things that make our neighborhood so unique and wonderful!

EVER THINK ABOUT MONEY?

What assets do I really have? How much do I really need? How do I know which attorney, accountant, broker or banker to trust? What about retirement? Insurance? Estate plans?

We know someone who can help you find the answers. Bob Loveman, President and CEO of Brownson, Rehmus & Foxworth, a Chicago fee-based financial counseling firm, has made a generous offer to people in our fire district: Bob will give financial advice to anyone willing to make a donation to the fire district in exchange. For your tax-deductible gift you'll get a consultation that normally costs thousands of dollars. Bob's firm creates specific recommendations and assists clients in implementation. However, they sell nothing, earn no commissions or fees from any providers and never touch the client's money. They are the family CFO who guides, but does not touch.

For further information on how this offer works, please write pinebrookpress@aol.com.

Advance Transport LLC DIA The Easy Way

Start your travels with a comfortable reliable ride to DIA in one of our luxury sedans or limousines

- We know our way around Pine Brook Hills and will get you to DIA on schedule.
- We will monitor your return flight and be waiting at DIA to take you home.
- We offer reasonable rates and the service you expect.
- 24 Hours a Day: 7 Days a Week, Visa, MasterCard, AMEX accepted.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
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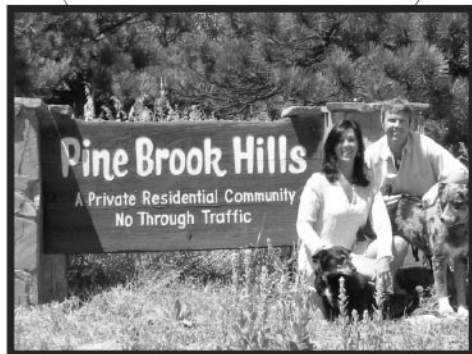
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PINE BROOK KIDS PAGE

MAYDAY! MAY DAY!

By Ayla Besemer, Age 9

Mayday...how distressing!!! No snow and a fire instead. Our snowman contest didn't turn out very well, since there was almost no snow. The little snow we had was too dry to pack, or it's been way too cold to go out. So it looks like our first annual Pine Brook Hills Snowman Contest was a bust, but stay tuned - we'll try again next year.

But on a lighter note...May Day! May Day (May 1st) is an ancient Celtic holiday to celebrate the return of the sun. In present day it can be celebrated by dancing around the May Pole or by leaving flowers on your neighbors' doors as a surprise. The goal is to put the flowers on their door knob, ring the door bell and run away before they see you. This can be really hard in Pine Brook Hills with steep driveways and lots of room between houses, so you have to be really sneaky. But that's okay - the greater the challenge the more fun.

Since we couldn't have our Snowman Contest party, I thought it might be fun to have a May Day party. Don't worry, boys, you won't have to dance around a May Pole! :) I'll have all the supplies (including flowers and little candies) to make May Day baskets that you can leave for your neighbors. The party will be at my house (1451 Timber Lane) on Monday, May 1st from 4:00 until 5:30. No need to bring anything but yourself and a smile, but please do let me know if you are coming. You can send me an email at abesemer@besemer.com or call me at 303-443-0545.

Happy Spring!!!!!!



PINE BROOK SCAT

The Straight Poop (OOPS!) Scoop Who's Who and What Are They Doing?

Well, some of them are playing cards. A number of Pine Brookers accepted Joe Duray-Bito's offer to teach them to play Bridge; call Joe at 303.442.7471 if you would like to join this group. Joe also feels a real MISSION to teach Bridge to youngsters, so please call Joe, whatever your age!

If Bridge isn't enough to keep the brain busy on chilly days and nights, try Mah Jongg. Call Penny Triggs to join a Pine Brook Mah Jongg group (303.444.4093).

One thing Pine Brookers AREN'T doing for a while, unfortunately, is continuing the delightful tradition of quarterly Friday Night Socials. That nice old Pine Brook custom, reinvigorated so successfully by Judy Smith last March, has to be put on hold until the reservoir project is complete - no parking. But watch for signs about socials next fall!



THE GRANITE GARDEN:

Summer Visitors

By Barbara Hosmer

They're fascinating to watch. They're fun to hear. They are our summer guests that we feed and feed and feed. At our house we get the feeders ready for their first signs of arrival because, like many folks, we are delighted to be visited by hummingbirds. Even if you've been putting out a feeder for years and have planted flowers that your hummers like, here are some interesting facts and tips that you might not have already known:



The sugar water mixture you put in your feeder helps supply them with the energy they need to find their main sources of food, flower nectar and soft-bodied insects and spiders. There is no need to buy the more expensive nectar solutions when their regular food is available. Do not put honey, brown sugar, fruit or red food coloring in your feeder.

Hummingbirds feed by sight on routes that they follow often. It's called traplining. They are naturally curious and will quickly check out any new food source.

Pesticide use around plants that hummingbirds like is not a good idea. Killing garden bugs can eliminate the small insects that hummingbirds rely upon for protein. Also, pesticides sprayed on plants could get into the nectar and that's bad for the birds, too.

According to the hummingbirds.net website (a great source of information), hummingbirds have almost no sense of smell, so the flowers that attract them tend to have little fragrance but have highly visible flowers and produce good amounts of nectar. Cultivated hybrid strains of nectar-producing flowers sometimes don't produce as much nectar as wild strains.

Feeders that offer a place to perch are good. They need the rest between searches for food and fighting off rivals. In fact, they spend around 80% of their time perching to save energy.

You can add red or orange surveyor's tape to your feeder to make it even more easily found. Another adaptation for your feeder is to remove or paint over the yellow parts of the feeder, as it has recently been found that bees are attracted to the color yellow. The bees might still find the feeder because they love the sugar water too, but it might take them longer to find it!

Don't confuse hummingbirds with another visitor we have around here... the hawk moth (also known as the clearwing or sphinx moth). If the little creature kind of looks like a hummer but has yellow near its tail, or if it has antennae, then it's a moth that hovers like a hummer.

Hummingbird's natural predators include cats, small hawks and owls, grackles, largemouth bass (in the new reservoir?), frogs, spiders and big praying mantises.



Hummer on Finger

The most common hummers here in Pine Brook are the Rufous and the Broad-tailed species. The male Broad-tailed has a shimmering green upper-part, a long straight black bill, grey underparts, green sides, and rose colored gorget. The females have more buff colored underparts and a spotted

throat. The Rufous are mostly brownish with some hints of green on the back and crown. The males have a white chest and bright orange-red gorget. The females have green backs and crowns, with red spots at the neck. They also have a straight bill.

In hot weather, your sugar-water mixture (four parts water to one part white cane sugar) will need to be replaced



every 3 days. Your unused syrup can be stored in the refrigerator. And it's not necessary to boil the water. When you clean your feeder before refilling, watch for black mold. Use a mild bleach solution to get rid of the mold, which will cause the hummers to stop visiting your feeder. It's recommended that you not use soap, as the hummers don't like the taste. A good thorough cleaning with a solution of 1/4 cup of bleach to one gallon of water should be done once a month.



Don't worry about leaving your feeder up too late in the fall. Hummingbirds will migrate when their hormones and the moon tell

them-- no matter how many feeders are still around. The experts recommend leaving your feeder up at least another week or two after you think they're gone, just in case a straggler needs that extra nourishment before heading South.

If bees and wasps are a big problem, look for the HummZinger feeder. The syrup level is too low for the bees to get at, but accessible by the hummers' beaks. Another strategy is to dilute the sugar water to 5 to 1. The bugs will lose interest (according to the experts) but the birds will still drink it.

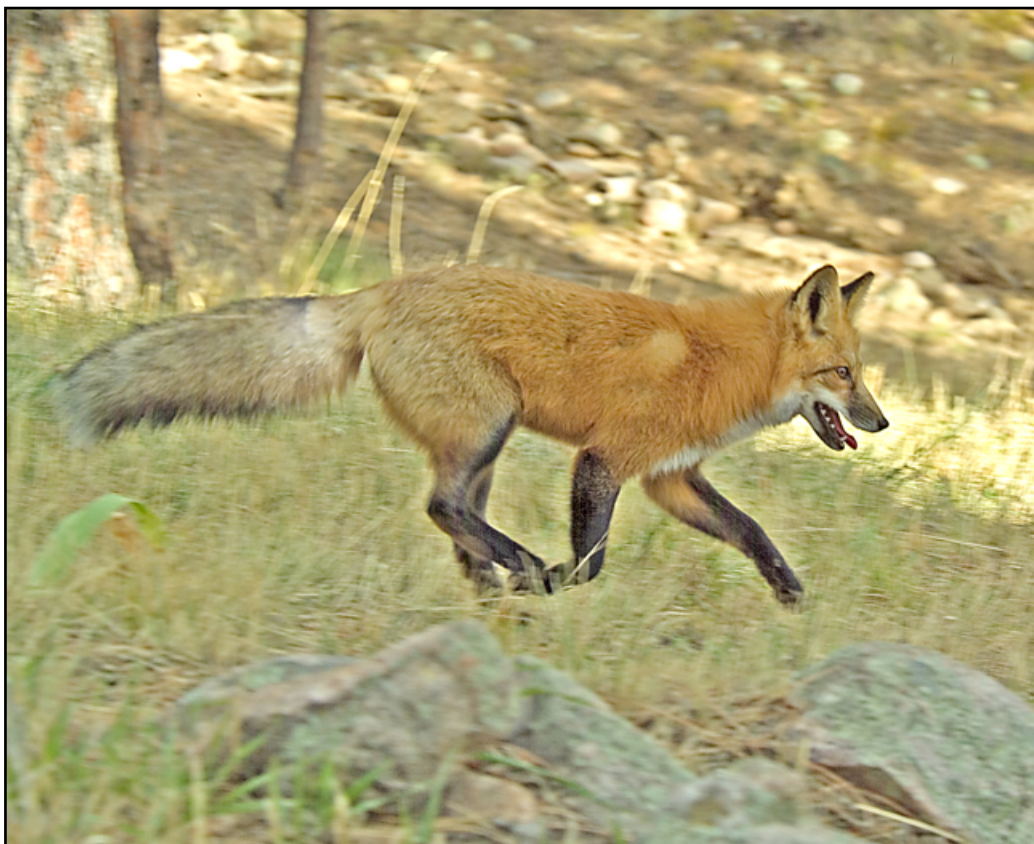
If bats are draining your hummingbird feeders overnight, try a feeder with bee guards or bring it in at night. And if BEARS are attracted to your feeder, you will also want to consider bringing the feeder in at night. Hopefully you're an early riser.... your hummer guests will be looking for their food about a half hour before sunrise.

Happy Spring!



TIME TO PURGE THE SPURGE

Ah, spring. Time to attack the donkey tail spurge again. If we ALL do this, we'll conquer this noxious weed. Donkey tail, or myrtle, spurge is an "escaped ornamental" that proliferates wildly, crowding out native grasses and flowers. Its sap is a milky latex that can cause serious blistering and pain in susceptible individuals.



FOXTROT

photo by Bart Adams

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