



Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2007



PINE BROOK RESERVOIR: 2006 BEST DAM PROJECT IN THE USA!

ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob de Haas

The Pine Brook Dam, which was completed in 2006, was recently honored by the United States Society on Dams with the 2007 Award of Excellence as the best dam project in the United States last year. This organization is composed of engineers from all over the United States who then vote each year on which project they feel was the most outstanding. Some of the factors they consider are innovation, community benefit and cost effectiveness. To put this in perspective, there are literally hundreds of dam projects in the US (both new and rehabilitation work) each year. Our project is unique from a variety of aspects. It is the first new concrete dam to be built in Boulder County since Gross Dam was completed over 50 years ago. It was designed and constructed in 18 months, which is incredibly fast for a project of this magnitude. And the total costs for engineering and construction were several million dollars less than other dam projects of similar size and scope. The community of Genesee is currently constructing a dam that is very similar to the Pine Brook Dam and total engineering and construction costs are over \$3 million more than the Pine Brook Project.

2007 promises to be an exciting year - at least I know it is for the District. This will be the first time in many, many, many years that while we will remain concerned about drought and water rights issues, we won't be worried about how or where we will get that next drop of water! As most of you have seen, the reservoir is steadily filling. We anticipate that it will reach full

capacity sometime between the end of April and the end of June, mostly weather dependent. When we were inspecting the reservoir we noticed some small minnow guppy sized gold - orange colored fish by the dam. We know that we did not put them in there; we know that they did not get there naturally, so.... It of course means that someone put them there. While I can't say it's causing any harm right now, at the same time I can say PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN THE RESERVOIR! Remember this is a potable water reservoir and what may seem harmless can sometimes have unintentional consequences.



Bob de Haas (on right) and Project Engineer Del Shannon with Best Dam awards.

The dam has continued to perform better than expected. We experienced two small cracks that were detected February 19th. It seems with concrete dams that no matter how well you design and plan you almost always have some cracks that do not behave as designed. These cracks were so small that most dam owners and engineers wouldn't even have worried about fixing them, but....we are not like them....the cracks were repaired 8 days later! During that time



Fixing small leaks: Diver 1 to Diver 2, "You go first. I'll look out for alligators." Diver 2, "Baby, It's Cold In Here."

we located the problem, had divers conduct an inspection to make sure there were no issues that we could not see, drew the water down 2 feet to facilitate repair, decided on the best repair method, and then actually completed the repair and began filling again. In the dam world this is lightning fast. I have talked to many entities and engineers and they were all telling me that they can't even reach a decision about what should be done in that amount of time, never mind fixing it.

For a District as small as the Pine Brook Water District we have been blessed to be recognized several times over the years for our dedication to not only doing our purpose but staying cost effective. In 1993 we were given an **Award of Excellence** by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (along with the engineers, the contractors and the City of Boulder) for what is called the Booton Reservoir. This is a buried concrete tank that is a tank within a tank that the City of Boulder and the District did as a joint venture. Then in 2000 we received the **Environmental Achievement Award** from the EPA Region 8 which states "For your leadership in promoting community based environmental protection and pollution prevention at the Pine Brook Water District." Then in 2006 we received the **Merit Award for Engineering Excellence** for the Pine Brook Dam from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado.

The Board of Directors, Kirk Hendricks, Mel Beauprez, Marie Zanowick, Art Markey, Brian Hanson and the employees, Robert de Haas, Shawn Beauprez and Trudie Lay all would like to thank the community for the support the District has received over all these years that has made everything possible!



The Water District does not want minnow guppy sized gold - orange colored fish in the reservoir (and rightly so, it is our drinking water). Here is someone else we absolutely, positively do not want in there.

PLEASE, NO ALLIGATORS IN PBH RESERVOIR. NOT NOW, NOT EVER!

AWARD WINNING METAL SCULPTURES!

Uriah Bueller, whose delightful house and studio you may pass as you travel Linden Drive just below the firehouse, has been working in metal to create art-



work, custom architectural copper installations and steel furniture. The fountain sculpture in the Canyon-side courtyard at the St. Julien Hotel is his creation. His copper shade panels, aka Parasoleil, won the Innovative Product Showcase Award at the 2006 Colorado Garden and Home Show in Denver and have been featured in the Camera, Denver

Post, Denver Parade of Homes, and Colorado Homes and Lifestyles Magazine. Besides being recyclable, eco-friendly and maintenance-free, the panels cast inviting and romantic shadows.

A GUARD NAMED HONEYBEAR?



Do not let the name fool you. If, perchance, you decide to trespass and view Pine Brook Reservoir from the Linden Overlook and a small dog approaches you at high speed, RUN! A trifle slow and you will

be licked into submission. Honeybear has become the guardian of the rez. Now you are forewarned.

UTTERLY UNSCIENTIFIC NOTE

The Beetle Busters, who will inspect your trees for free (and for beetles), were in Boulder



Heights inspecting a property adjoining a lot where there had been many beetle hits. They expected to find beetles on the neighbor's lot. But there weren't any. What they saw instead were many bird houses (perhaps

20). Is it possible that all those bird houses attract birds that controlled the beetles? Dunno. Interesting.

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

PRESIDENT

Tim Triggs, 444-4093

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Menagh, 247-0827

SECRETARY

Margit Mesdagh, 786-9684

TREASURER

Dave Davies, 938-0522

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE AND
NEWCOMER WELCOME**

Pam Creswell, 720-406-9783

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Ken Larkin, 440-8280

WILDLIFE OFFICER

Patrica Belanger, 786-8569

FIRE CHIEF

John Benson, 440-0235

FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT

Suzanne Adams, 449-0997

FIRE/MEDICAL AUXILIARY

Art Markey, 440-6132

WATER BOARD

Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

WATER DISTRICT

Robert de Haas, Mgr., 443-5394

PINE BROOK PRESS

EDITOR

Suzanne Adams, 449-0997

ASSOC. EDITOR: Anne Singh, 417-0373

LAYOUT: Param Singh, 417-0373

STAFF: Bart Adams, 449-0997

ADVERTISING: Deborah Menagh,
247-0827

E-MAIL: pinebrookpress@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.pinebrookhills.org

WEBMASTER: Param Singh, 417-0373

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**HOA MEETING WEDNESDAY APRIL 25 AT THE
COMMUNITY CENTER.** Potluck at 6 P.M., Program on "Local Birds," 7
P.M. Business Meeting, 8 P.M (after program).

AGING IN PLACE - April 29, 3-5 P.M. (see p. 6).

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

BEETLE BUSTERS - April 28, 9 A.M., Training session open to all.
Call 449-0997. (see p. 7).

**BMFPD AUXILIARY GARAGE SALE: Donations accepted on
Saturday, May 5; Sunday, May 6; Saturday, May 12 & Sunday May 13;
10 A.M. to 2 P.M. THE BIG SALE is on Friday, May 18, 9 - 4; Saturday,
May 19, 9 - 4; Sunday, May 20, noon - 4 P.M.** (see p. 5).

**DAM PLAQUE INSTALLATION May 6, 2 P.M. - Recognizing de Haas
family contributions. Everyone invited!**

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

**FIRE AUXILIARY - Generally meets the first Sunday of every month at
7 P.M. Call 440-6132 for confirmation.**

KIDS PARTY - May 1; 4 - 5:30 P.M. 443-0545 (see p. 14).

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

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

By Tim Triggs

What a great snow season we had this winter. Our forest must be loving it. The reservoir is looking good too, well on its way to being filled. As you know, the HOA has created a brass plaque recognizing the contributions of the de Haas family. We plan to install it into the dam structure in a simple ceremony at 2 p.m. on Sunday May 6th.

See the article in this issue regarding the possible recreational uses of the reservoir area. We absolutely need your input to formulate a plan (at the April HOA meeting or by e-mail). There is a possibility that we may be able to work with the Colorado DOW on using the reservoir as a breeding area for the native green back cut throat trout. If this works out and the community agrees to it, we want to make sure that no other species are introduced until we know if they would be compatible. (For instance, rainbow trout like to eat green backs.)

Work on the Timber Lane shaded fuel break is now nearly completed. The next highest priority is tying this project into the existing Sunshine fuel break. This connection would be from the southernmost point of



Timber Lane, looping around to the Southwest, partially through City open space. We are currently working with the City as well as with the State Forest Service to obtain matching grant funds to make it happen this year.

The April HOA meeting will be on Wednesday the 25th. The potluck will be at 6:00 followed by a program put on by a local wild bird expert with information on birds in our neighborhood and how to attract them to our properties. I can't wait. The program will be followed by the business meeting at 8:00. Note that this is a schedule change, placing the business meeting after the program rather than in front of it.

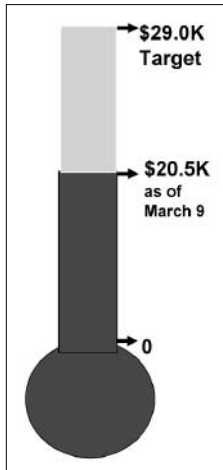
I hope that all of you in the community have a wonderful and fun spring season. Isn't it great when the daffodils are out?

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

DUES COLLECTION STATUS

By Dave Davies, Treasurer

After six weeks of dues collection I can report that we have received just over \$20,000. Of the 390 or so homes or lots in Pine Brook Hills 227 have paid their dues, just under 60% so far. We are on the way to the target of \$29,000 but still have a way to go. A very positive fact is that the average home has



given about \$90, well above the suggested minimum of \$75. In fact several generous residents have given up to \$500. We thank you all.

BUT if you have not given yet PLEASE save us the cost of another reminder mailing by dropping a check (\$75 minimum but anything over is appreciated, payable to PBH HOA) to Dave Davies, PBH HOA Treasurer, 151 Boulder View Lane, Boulder 80304 or drop it into the HOA box at the Firehouse. These dues are

used largely (>80%) for the fire breaks being put in place in Pine Brook Hills. The prime objective going forward is to connect the Timber Lane Fire Break with the Sunshine Canyon Fire Break so we have an enhanced measure of safety in the event of a fire roaring up the canyon. Don't forget that the State matches the funds.

A SPECIAL OFFER-one of the more innovative of our

residents has made the following wonderful offer. If anyone who did not pay in 2006 pays their dues for 2007, this resident will match the dues collected up to \$500.

So tell me if you missed paying in 2006. We will all benefit.

Dave Davies davedavies@qwest.net 303-938-0522

FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson

It is springtime, finally! Even though the weather is nice now, you never know when we will get the winter blast back again. I trust that everyone was able to get out and enjoy his or her favorite winter sports.

It has been quiet here at BMFPD, but that is changing. With the warm temperatures, BMFPD is already gearing up for what could be an interesting fire season. At this point of the year, it is still too early to predict what this year's season will look like, but the experts are saying we are starting to set up in the La Niña type weather pattern. If this does indeed happen, we could see quite a bit of action. Boulder County has already seen one wildfire up in the Sugar Loaf area. Thankfully, the Sugar Loaf Fire Department and mutual aid agencies were able to contain it to half an acre.

Now, I know most of you are tired of me harping on defensible space and the ignition free areas around your homes, BUT this is the perfect opportunity to look around the home and rid yourselves of those annoying flammables and combustibles. I know that most of you will be conducting spring yard maintenance. Take that little bit of extra time to ensure defensibility.

BMFPD does have our mitigation crew working, so if you are in need of a home inspection or consultation on trees, please give Steve Lynn a call at 303-440-0235 or you can email him at mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org for all of your forest health questions or concerns.

Lastly, before I close, if you have an emergency or see smoke coming from our mountain areas, PLEASE DIAL 911. Often there are times when no one is in the office. Just a few seconds of delay can mean the difference between life and death in a medical emergency. I continue to get phone calls here at the station when an emergency is taking place. Do not gamble. DIAL 911.

Until next time, stay safe and enjoy the springtime.

GARAGE SALE 2007

By Babette Markey

As I write this, March Madness has started with brackets being filled out everywhere and the games set to start in a few days. Well, in 2 months, Pine Brook and the rest of BMFPD will be into "May Madness," otherwise known as the BMFPD Auxiliary Garage Sale fundraiser.



With this event coming back to the Community Center/Fire Station after a 1 year hiatus (isn't that reservoir looking lovely with all that water filling in??), it's

time to think Garage Sale. Now we need to get donations, volunteers and shoppers lined up. These are the 3 key ingredients for a successful garage sale.

First, we need donations. We are somewhat concerned that we will overwhelm the space we have available for the sale since everyone has now been saving their contributions for 2 years. Please study our guidelines so you only donate things we can actually use. This is so critical to our success. 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 (see notes on Computers, below), 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, housewares, CDs, DVDs, counter-top appliances, linens, sporting goods, artwork, knick-knacks, 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.

Some special notes on computers: we are anticipating that many of you have changed from bulky CRT monitors to flat panel displays. The Auxiliary has

decided that we will not accept stand-alone CRT monitors. They will be almost impossible for us to sell! We will, of course, accept CRTs as part of fully functional, recent generation systems. We also will not accept computer systems or peripherals that do not work. We plan on logging in electronics so we know who donated them in case any problems arise. Since all computers and peripherals are considered hazardous waste, we have to take them to CHaRM if we cannot sell them. After our 2005 sale, we ended up having to spend \$70.00 to dispose of non-working computers and peripherals. As you can imagine, spending money like that does not help us meet our fund raising goals! We suggest that, if you have stand-alone CRT monitors, old or non-working computers and peripherals, that you please take them to CHaRM yourself. You can learn all about this arm of Eco-Cycle by going to www.eco-cycle.org and clicking on the CHaRM link on the right hand column, under Tools & Resources.

DATES TO REMEMBER: Donations accepted on Saturday, May 5; Sunday, May 6; Saturday, May 12 & Sunday May 13; 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. **THE BIG SALE** is on Friday, May 18, 9 - 4; Saturday, May 19, 9 - 4; Sunday, May 20, noon - 4 P.M.



WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

Pine Brook Scat, or the Straight Poop (OOPS!) Scoop

Our neighbors have been collecting honors this year. Geologist and paleontologist **Pete Palmer** earned the 2006 Boulder Camera Pacesetter Award for science. Pete has led a number of Pine Brook Geology Walks and has shared with us his knowledge about the rocks around our homes. His all-day Eldorado Springs geological-history field trips, where he demonstrates rock formations up to 1.6 billion years old, became the basis for a film, "The Earth Has a History," which the Geological Society has sold worldwide. Those of us who have accompanied Pete on his walks can testify that he is indeed a pace setter. Pant pant.

We should also mention earlier PBH Pacesetter Award Winners **Ozzie Lehnert** in music and **Gary Zeff** in art.

And let's not forget **Uriah Bueller** and his award winning sculptures (see page 2).

David Korevaar, whose music has delighted so many of us, will be giving another concert on Sunday May 13, 4 P.M., at the Boulder Public Library. Not to be missed!



AGING IN PLACE: DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

By Jacqueline Wurn

I'd like to tell you a little bit about a group that's been meeting for a while and to invite all of you who may be interested in starting another similar group to a meeting on Sunday April 29th from 3 - 5 pm at the Firehouse.

Many people have acknowledged the wonderful sense of community that Pine Brook Hills has. Some of us have been working - and playing - to develop a specialized sub-community for those of us who want to stay here and continue to enjoy PBH as we grow older. The idea is to create a supportive community for each of us to call on should we get sick, have an accident, or even just find the daily burden of mountain living too heavy. We're still working out the details of what our needs might be, what we want the group to look like, and what the boundaries should be. Right now it's very informal and flexible, but we're leaving room to change if necessary. For example, we may end up using our consolidated buying power to get a better deal on goods and services.

We get together once a month for a potluck to discuss these issues, and also to get to know each other better and enjoy each others' company. The immediate benefit, besides making and deepening friendships, is that now I know who to call if I need a hand for 5 minutes to lift something awkward or too heavy for me. I've only needed that once, but it was very quick and easy since I knew which one of our group would most likely be able to fit that bill. It's nice to know something about my neighbors and who to call if I do need something.

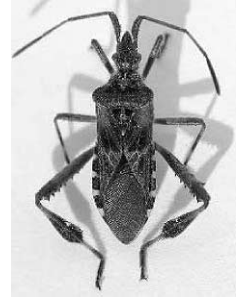
Hope to see you at our April meeting. Victoria Howard will speak. She has worked extensively with the aged and the dying and co-founded and co-directed Dana Home Care, a national, nonprofit organization providing in-home care for frail seniors. She currently teaches in the Master of Divinity program at Naropa. Dr. Howard has assisted in the development of a number of innovative senior care residences and consults for elder care agencies and facilities in the Denver-Metro area. She also works with Hospice of Boulder County.

THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Barbara Hosmer

WESTERN CONIFER SEED BUGS - Just a Nuisance

Unlike some of the other tree-damaging bugs we are asked to watch out for, conifer seed bugs are just an obnoxious nuisance. We found hundreds... seemed like thousands... in the outdoor crevices around the windows of our house last fall. They fell on our heads when we opened doors. Quite likely many people in Pine Brook found them literally camping out in their homes all winter. Because they smell when you mess with them, they are sometimes mistakenly called stink-bugs. A fancier name is *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, "lepto" for narrow, and "glossus" for tongue, the long proboscis that folds under the body when not in use. The good news is that they are harmless, and will be heading for the trees again soon.



These odd brown bugs, rather large at $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, were looking for a warm place to winter when they found shelter around doors and windows and inside our homes last fall. They don't bite or sting, and they don't eat all winter as they live off their fat reserves in their dormant state. During the spring and summer they feed off male flowers, developing seeds and year old pine cones. They also like dogwood and sumac. The defensive stinky smell is from their mostly pine diet.

When we discovered hundreds of bugs hiding in our windows last fall, we got the vacuum out and were astounded by the number of bugs we found with every window we opened. The weather stripping was doing its proper job, but the design of our windows provided the tiny protected space that these bugs packed themselves into for the winter. That was enough for me to research what they were, and what, if anything needed to be done about them. According to the Colorado State University Extension Service website, insecticides have not been tested on these insects, but it is probable that exterior insecticide application, directed around cracks and openings may reduce the number getting indoors. A better plan if you experienced a lot of bugs this past winter would be to eliminate or caulk gaps and tighten loose fitting screens, doors and windows this summer.

Good news, huh? Happy Spring!

TIME FOR YOUR TREES' "ANNUAL PHYSICAL"

The beetle infestation draws ever nearer. Nederland has a sizeable number of infected trees. Our neighbor, Left Hand Canyon, has beetle-hit trees around the site of the Overland Fire. Don't let this happen to Pine Brook!

Take time this spring to really LOOK at your trees. Look first for trees that seem to be fading, where the needles are a lighter green. Then examine the



Pitch tube with trapped Mountain Pine Beetle.

tree for pitch tubes, the popcorn-sized extrusions of resin where the tree has attempted to pitch out the beetle. If you find pitch tubes, your tree has been hit - but it's not necessarily fatal. If there is a beetle caught in the tree sap, YEAY! The tree won! But if there is no beetle, you have to look further. Using a draw knife, slice down through the bark, fol-

lowing the hole in the pitch tube. If the beetle won, you will find a gallery, and the formation of the gallery will tell you which beetle has victimized your tree. Mountain Pine Beetles make vertical galleries with chambers to each side. If you can determine that the invader was a Mountain Pine Beetle, you have until about mid June to act. The tree MUST be cut, and the trunk MUST be treated, either by cutting it up and carting it far, far away, by stripping the bark or by placing the logs on a sheet of heavy plastic and CAREFULLY sprinkling diesel on all sides. Wrap the logs in the plastic and let them sit, preferably in the sun. That'll git them critters.

But if the Y, X, or H shape of the galleries tells you that the Invader Beetle is an Ips, you have to act



The menacing Ips Beetle.

I can hear the cry, "But the tree is still green (albeit light green). I don't want to cut a living tree!"

Here's the problem. Consider that tree to be comparable to a cancer. To save the life of the forest, you have to excise the infected tree, because each infected tree can kill 3-10 trees in the next life cycle of the beetles.

fast. Ips beetles can have several generations a year (possibly as many as five, in a year with mild temperatures). Have the infested tree cut right away and the logs treated.

NEED HELP? CALL THE BEETLE BUSTERS! This volunteer group will examine your property and give you advice about your trees. You can contact them through the fire department's Mitigation Services (303.440.0235). Do it, and congratulate yourself for being a responsible steward of our beautiful forest.

WANT TO HELP? Become a Beetle Buster. Write pinebrookpress@aol.com. The next training session is on Saturday, April 29, at the Firehouse. Everyone is welcome! Come learn how to identify the beetles, even if you don't want to bust them.



THOUGHTS ON WATER CONSERVATION

By Susan Maxwell

Over the years of dealing with drought, Pine Brookers have become good conservers of water. Our Water District manager and board have urged us to be observant about leaks, limit outdoor watering and use our indoor water only when absolutely necessary. In general, we have responded admirably.

Will all this be forgotten with the joy of a finished dam and a full reservoir? We need to recall the big picture. We are part of a county, state, country and world in which water shortages abound. Water is a precious commodity - more precious than gasoline or even food. Pine Brook Hills should still be an example of water conservation after the dam is fully functional.

One of the ironies of careful water use is that better conservation practices can result in lower payments to the water district, in turn resulting in less funding for the district to carry out its work and make investments for the future. If our district has this problem, paying a little more for each gallon of water used might be justified.

Remember that currently, water is ridiculously cheap. Yes, compared to the average price paid in the U.S. for water (.25 cents per gallon) Pine Brook Water rates (average approximately 1.1 cents per gallon) are high (for good reason). However, compare the price of your tap water to many other far less essential substances, goods and services in your life, and our water rates quickly seem quite reasonable. Your next bottled water purchase (at a cost from 100 to 700 times higher) is a very instructive example.

We can be proud of our new reservoir and remain attentive to water conservation, even if it does mean paying a bit more for each gallon of our most precious resource.

**SO THERE'S WATER IN THE REZ...
NOW WHAT?**



The Pine Brook Hills community needs to make some decisions on the uses of the property around the reservoir. The Water District's perspective is

that they are supplying water, not running a recreation department, so whatever activities take place around the reservoir will be the responsibility (and liability) of the HOA.

Some activities have been pretty well ruled out: no swimming or wading, for people or dogs (the reservoir's very cold water and very steep banks makes this too hazardous). Boating is inadvisable for the same reasons. Established picnic areas or playgrounds near the water, however tempting they seem in prospect, also carry serious risks. The thought of anyone drowning in the icy water is the stuff of nightmares.

What might be possible? Fishing from the dam could be considered. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has agreed to visit our reservoir as a potential breeding ground for cut throat trout or other fish. Bird and animal watching from the top of the dam could be rewarding if the area around the water became a wildlife refuge. A walking trail could be developed from the parking area to the top of the dam, and the slope could be seeded with wildflowers.

How about a trail around the reservoir? That very pleasant prospect has to be weighed against concerns about the steepness of the slope, the expense of trail construction, possible trash accumulation and unauthorized parties that might pose a fire hazard.

One thing is clear: none of us wants to police the area. The HOA Board's position is that any activity around the reservoir should meet four criteria: it should have the approval of the water board, should pose no safety concerns, require no supervision, and should be an activity that Pine Brookers strongly desire.

So what do Pine Brookers desire? It's an important decision. Come to the April HOA meeting and voice an opinion!

If you can't attend the HOA meeting on April 25 but still wish to opine, please send your thoughts to pinebrookpress@aol.com.

WINTER WOES

Think you had a rough winter? Consider the Wolpowitz' experience at their "castle" on Wild Horse Circle. Winds blow hard up there and snow accumulates on the driveway - six feet deep and twelve feet wide, in the storm we had on Dec. 20. Allan plowed his driveway multiple times throughout the day and night to keep ahead of the storm, until the jeep with snowplow attachment blew up. Literally. Caught fire, burned to ashes. But luckily, the fire-mitigated landscape and the heavy snow kept the fire from spreading. Then, on Saturday, December 31, the temperature on Wild Horse dropped to 17 degrees below zero. That's hard on water lines. They froze. A specialty plumbing company with pipe thawing machines worked 4-5 hours with no result. Alas.



But luckily, the P.B. Water District found that the water main was still OK, as was a spigot half way between the house and the main. AHA! Allan ran a garden hose from the spigot to the

house, providing a temporary water source for the house in the same manner that all the early Pine Brook pioneers got their water. But the hose froze, as did the outside spigots on the house. Alas.

Undaunted, Allan defrosted the hose over Saturday night and Sunday, heating the hose with 150 feet of electric roof gutter warmers protected with pipe insulators with an on/off outdoor thermostat switch, and lifting the hose into the trees to keep it out of



the snow. Again, the primitive water source was restored. It was better than nothing.

He also bought another snowplow. It's big.

He welcomes the spring.



STAYING IN TOUCH IN PINE BROOK HILLS

Unlike many mountain subdivisions, Pine Brook Hills is a Community. Communities communicate, and PBH has an unusual number of ways to do that. In addition to the Pine Brook Press, the Directory, the website (pinebrookhills.org) and the quarterly HOA meetings, we have no less than three separate Pine Brook email lists. The oldest of these is The Forum.



Steve and Mia Mestdagh

The Forum was started by Steve Mestdagh on December 6, 2002 with a handful of participants. "I thought it would be beneficial for the community to discuss issues and problems we all deal with," he explained. The Forum now has 110 members. A non-

member can access it by going to pinebrookhills.org and clicking on Forum. After joining, any member can post messages on the Forum, which then come directly to every member's email. In this way news disseminates very quickly.

Allan Wolpowitz uses the Forum because he likes the concept of "People helping people...The Forum is a good resource, because many of us have been here for a long time and can offer advice. It's almost like a neighborhood watch," he added, referring to shared information about mailbox theft, suspicious vehicles and mountain lion activity.

Members offer help as well as advice. Shawn Roberts posted a message volunteering to help anyone needing emergency snowplowing. This was useful to Gail Loveman when she found herself impossibly and impassibly snowed in this winter. Shawn, Paul Munding and a houseguest quickly showed up to help.

The next oldest list, dating from 2003, is Tim Triggs' HOA Community list, which Pine Brookers can join by giving Tim their email addresses. This list has about 100 participants and is used primarily to advise members of HOA meeting agendas and minutes, as well as timely information that can't wait for the quarterly Pine Brook Press. Recently the list carried information about preventive spraying of "pet trees" as protection against pine beetles. By joining together, neighbors were able to get a better price than was available to individuals. An advantage of this email list is that it is a "blind" list - members' names and email addresses never appear on the mailings.

Martin Lasher's Neighborhood Watch and Alert program was formed in response to the break-ins last fall. As the name implies, the content of these emails focuses on warnings about theft, fire, bear and mountain lion sightings. The Camera referred to this list when covering the story of a dog killed by a mountain lion in late March - resulting in a large number of nonPine Brookers asking for inclusion on the list, a request Martin does not honor. The program works when a neighbor sends Martin a story; he then forwards the information to his list. Members might have been bemused to receive messages from Hot Poohbah. Martin's children used to call him Poohbah, the name of a character in Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado, so "It's clear they knew! The deference due! To a man of pedigree." As the screen name "Poohbah" was already taken and Martin uses hotmail, Hot Poohbah was a natural evolution.

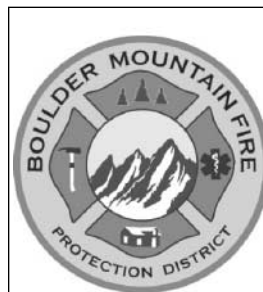
In addition to these Pine Brook lists, we can all subscribe to BMFPD's fire information list via the PBH website. In Pine Brook, staying in touch isn't difficult.



NEWCOMER NEWS

By Juliette Harrington

Barry Aaron and Deborah Bryant are in the process of relocating from New York to Pine Brook Hills. They are looking for the antithesis of city - nature, beauty and a different kind of consciousness. Deborah is a psychotherapist and intends to re-establish her practice here. Barry is a prosecutor with 30 years public service experience. He also intends to re-establish some form of practice here. They both love art, nature, skiing and all outdoor life. Aaron and Deborah are both in their mid fifties with grown children living out of the house. They are looking forward to meeting members of our community. Welcome, Barry and Deborah!



Boulder Mountain Fire PD
Mitigation Services
Forest Health Management
(303) 440-0235

Advance Transport LLC DIA The Easy Way from Pine Brook Hills

Start your travels with a comfortable reliable ride to DIA in a town car, SUV or limo.

- 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.
- Town Car seats 4, SUV seats 7.
- 24 Hours a Day: 7 Days a Week, Visa, MasterCard, AMEX accepted.



Town Car
\$90



SUV
\$115

(Tips and toll fees included)

TO DIA

HOURLY RATES

- 3 Hour Minimum	\$50/hr	\$85/hr
- 1 or 2 Hour "Special"	\$60/hr	\$95/hr

www.advancetransportinc.com

Office: 303-671-2551 ● Cell: 303-435-2779

Fax: 303-671-2532



A DOZEN REASONS TO JOIN LAKE VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Drive for 45!	Golf Only Private Club	Affordable Monthly Dues	Never Pay Green Fees
Friendly, Welcoming Membership	Refundable Initiation Deposit	Easy to Get Tee Times	Great Pace of Play
Extremely Women Friendly	No Assessments Ever	Fun, Casual Environment	Promotion runs 4-1 thru 5-15



Various Initiation Programs Available
www.lakevalley.com

Membership Information
303-444-2114 x22

The StarHouse & All Seasons Chalice

Located at 3476 Sunshine Canyon Road

* 303-245-8452 * www.thestarhouse.org

Join us as We Joyfully Welcome Spring's Rebirth!

- ❖ **Easter Sunrise Dances of Universal Peace**
Sunday, April 8th at 6:15am (free to the Public)
- ❖ **An Evening with RJ Stewart: Acoustic Celtic Music**
Fri., April 20th 7:30pm (Cost \$15)
- ❖ **New Moon for Women**
April 16th & May 15th at 5:30pm (free to members, \$10 guests)
- ❖ **Full Moon**
April 1st and May 31st at 7:30pm (free to members, \$10 guests)
- ❖ **A Celtic Beltane Celebration**
Tuesday, May 1st at 7:30 pm (\$5 for members, \$10 for guests)
- ❖ **Ash Dargan in Concert: The Spirit of Australia**
Sun., May 13th 7:30pm (Cost \$15)

Rocky Ridge Construction

Celebrates its 10th year in Pine Brook Hills

Custom Homes and Remodels
Ken Larkin (303) 417-1465

HANDWERK CONSTRUCTION

Reliable Craftsmanship in Your Neighborhood

Experienced Licensed Contractor
References available

TED HANDWERK

303.587.7165

t.handwerk@comcast.net



Kitchens ♦ Bathrooms ♦ Additions
Custom Homes ♦ Structural Repair ♦ Quality Finish Work

Your Kitchen's Garden



**BOULDER
FARMERS
MARKET**

Saturdays 8 to 2
Wednesdays 4 to 8
Wednesdays start May 5th

Every market day is
a new experience

www.boulderfarmers.org
303-910-2236

DR. GLASS
WINDOW WASHING

Nathan Kirkland
- Owner -

**Pinebrook Hills
Spring Special**

Call for references & pricing

\$25 OFF

New Customer Coupon

303 494-3784

Gutters & Power Washing

MATTHEW ALLEN, ARCHITECT
GREEN DESIGN + BUILD

(970)729-0029

MATTHEWALLEN@MINDSPRING.COM

2703 4TH ST 10 BEESLACK LANE
BOULDER CO 80304 TELLURIDE CO 81435

Over 20 years experience
Green Design/Build and Historic Renovation:
from art studios, guest houses, and homes,
to family compounds and lodges

Architecture in Harmony with Nature



**DON'T YOU DESERVE MORE?
ECOSCAPE TODAY . . . NATURE'S WAY!**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN
& INSTALLATION**

- Xeriscapes
- Edible Gardens
- Patios
- Water Features
- Retaining Walls...
- & Much More!



**ECOLOGICAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT**

- Wildfire Mitigation
- Pest & Disease Mngmnt.
- Wood Chipping
- Native Revegetation
- Firebreaks...
- & Much More!

"Wholistically" Caring For ALL Of Your Land's Needs!

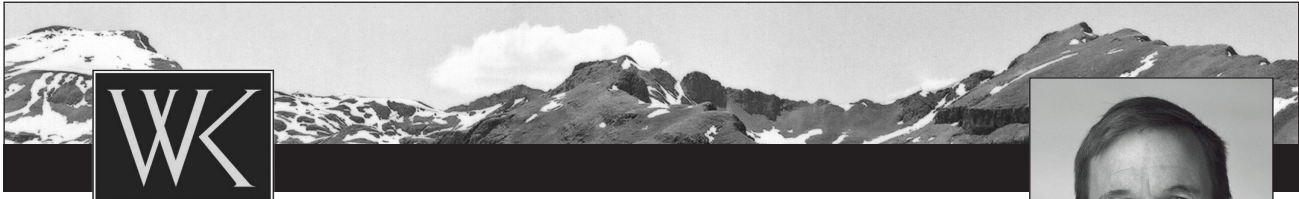
ECOSCAPE

Environmental Design, LLC

303.447.2282

www.EcoscapeDesign.com





WRIGHT-KINGDOM



Craig Peterson GRI, e-Pro
Listing and selling real estate in Pine Brook Hills

4875 Pearl East Circle, Suite 100 • Boulder, CO 80301 • 720.564.6008
Craig@PetersonHomes.com • www.PetersonHomes.com

CULLEN
PROPERTIES

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
AND
MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS



CHRIS & KRISTI CULLEN
1306 N Cedar Brook Rd
Boulder, CO 80304

303-499-6677

cullenck@comcast.net

Thank you for your continued support!

THE GREEN GIRL RECYCLING



Pine Brook's recycler since 1999

Affordable, Complete Recycling

Pick-ups at your front door

Call us: (303) 881-7835

www.thegreengirl.com
thegreengirl1@yahoo.com

We make recycling easy

How will you insure you can maintain
your lifestyle for as long as you live?



Contact:
Veronique Foster, MBA
303-444-9893
insurance@veroniquefoster.com

save
your back

Use my
WoodSplitter

call Tom
303.517.3479

It's so easy to use a caveman could do it.

This is the best-performing electric woodsplitter in
America. It runs quietly and there are no fumes.

4 hours-\$35 and \$8/hour thereafter

This offer is for Pine Brook Hills residents only.

KIDS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Ayla Besemer

Kids really can make a difference in our world. It can be simple things like what you eat for dinner and how you handle your trash.

Even though we in PBH live 1,092 miles from the Pacific Ocean and 1,727 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, there is a lot that we can do to take care of our oceans. The Monterey Bay Aquarium has a cool program called Seafood Watch. These are little cards that help you make good choices on what seafood to eat to help protect our oceans and their wildlife. You can keep these cards in your wallet so when you go to the store or out to dinner, you can make good choices for you and the ocean. If you drop me an email (Ayla@besemer.com) or call me (303-443-0545) I will send you a card right away.



Official Monterey Bay Aquarium Explorer at Work. "What's that on your head, again?"

I was recently selected to be one of three official Explorers for the Monterey Bay Aquarium in 2007. This is my passion. So what's yours? Send me a letter or email and I'll share them in my next article. This will give kids of all ages ideas on how to help make a difference in our world!

Last year my Mom and I hosted a **May Day party** and we made some new friends. We thought it would be fun to have the party again this year. So here are the details: **Tuesday, May 1**, at my house (1431 Timber Lane) from 4:00-5:30. Come enjoy refreshments and make May Day treats. And boys, I promise there will be no dancing around the May Pole. Do let me know if you are coming (303) 443-0545.

ILLEGAL WEEDS, AND OTHER NATIVE LEGENDS

By Uriah Bueller

Many people in our neighborhood remember receiving less-than-friendly letters from Boulder County last fall about noxious weeds. The letters insisted that we had illegal immigrants of the plant world residing in our back yards, along our roads, and banking our streams. To some, this letter seemed harsh in calling some very pretty plants "noxious." Others already knew about the weeds and have been working to eradicate them on their own with varied degrees of success. Either way, the letter rooted out a sore point with many people.

Tim D'Amato from the Boulder County Office for Noxious Weeds spoke to those who ventured out in the cold to the January HOA meeting. While agreeing that the letter was a bit harsh, he pointed out that the weeds really are a problem and that there's a reason for the state mandate to get rid of them. Most of the weeds on the list actually come from other countries where insects, local bacteria and other plants keep the weeds in check and even desirable to have around. However, when taken out of their natural environment, under the right conditions they flourish and spread without their native checks and balances -- certainly not the American way. They run rampant: Spurge taking over hillsides; Teasel taking over creek beds; Thistle growing everywhere else. The native grasses don't have a chance.

Pine Brook Hills has often been a role model for mountain communities: superb fire protection and a well-trained volunteer crew; forest mitigation to prevent beetle problems and their devastation to the pines in Colorado; neighborhood communication and books of information to use in case of emergencies. None of these issues are enforced by the law, but we do them for the sake of our community. Now it's time to respond to the county and state mandate to tackle Weed Control in order to keep our neighborhood beautiful and full of native grasses.

It takes a village to kill a weed.

It'll take everyone working on this. Talk to your neighbor about Weed Control so that when you get rid of all of your weeds, you don't just get more from another's yard. Here's the rundown on the weeds and how to deal with them:

Common Teasel: That plant that grows near waterways and has a spiky top in the fall that some use for dried arrangements.



Grows and Spreads by reseeding itself, so if you can keep it from flowering by continually cutting down to the ground, it'll eventually die off after a few years.

Canada Thistle: Purple bloom, but not to be confused with other less invasive thistles. This one tends



to grow in clusters rather than a plant here and another 40 ft. away. Grows and Spreads by its extensive root system, so no matter how much

you pull it or cut it down, it will come back. It must be sprayed year after year (it takes five years to eradicate).

Myrtle Spurge (aka Donkeytail Spurge): Low-growing, green funny-looking plant that looks particularly



nice on hillsides in the spring when the ends turn a yellow/green and give an area some color. But don't be fooled, it's noxious! Grows and Spreads every year like a

perennial by reseeding itself. Pull it or spray it, just get rid of it! If you decide to pull any of these, wear

leather gloves to protect yourself from thorns, allergies and liquids that could burn or make you itchy. The Spurge is particularly bad if you get it in



your eyes. There are herbicides that are actually safe to spray near waterways: Escort, Milestone, or Rodeo (Escort and Milestone will not kill grasses, Rodeo is nonselective).

Going Native

Once all the weeds are all gone, it's a good idea to plant something native to take over the area. Native Edge & Assoc. (also speakers from the Jan. HOA) are great resources for any new native planting, deer resistant plants, landscape design and directing water and erosion around your house. They have a showroom on North Broadway 303-245-9166.

For answers to your questions, call Boulder County at 303-678-6110 or go to their website at www.co.boulder.co.us/openspace/resources

Snowplow Heroes

A number of people suggested that we run a story thanking the County for the snowplowing we experienced this winter. If you saw any Boulder streets that are not on bus routes you know how relatively fortunate we were up here. In view of the kind of winter that we had, it seems particularly appropriate that the Boulder County Road Maintenance headquarters is on Alaska Avenue in Longmont.

Our Snowplow Heroes leave the garage at 4 A.M.



Snow Plow Hero Tom McKinney.

and aim to plow all the county roads and side streets before the school busses arrive. When needed, plowing continues until 6 or 8 P.M. If conditions warrant the crew will plow at

night in Pine Brook but only on Linden Drive.

This was an exceptional year for county snow plowing, not so much because of volume as because of scheduling. From mid December until mid February we had snow every week. There were 11 straight weekends of snow, which meant that some of the crew didn't get a full day off during that whole period. The exceptional amount of drifting this year caused special problems..

The Press called Ted Plank, County Road Maintenance Supervisor, expressed our thanks and sent a copy of this issue. Ted said, "The guys will get a kick out of this."



Pine Brook Reservoir Viewed from its "Headwaters" (south side).

Photo by Bart Adams

PINE BROOK PRESS
1907 Linden Drive
Boulder, Colorado, 80304

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOULDER CO
PERMIT NO. 224