

Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2008

THE BIRDS AND THE ... BEETLES!

As the bark beetle epidemic destroys millions of trees to the west of us, it is reasonable to wonder what we can do to stop these winged marauders. For several years now the Beetle Busters have been inspecting trees and, when bark beetles are found, recommending treatment. Our community has been very responsive. All of the known beetle-hit trees in our district have been removed.

So are we safe?

Alas, no. The beetles we have been finding are endemic to our forest. By finding and eliminating them we have reduced the population of tree-killers. By thinning the forest we are making our trees healthier and more resistant to the beetles. But the enormous numbers of beetles that have attacked places like Granby and Dillon haven't arrived here yet.

So what should we do now?

We should keep doing what we've been doing: thin the overcrowded trees to promote forest health. Look for trees that are fading, turning pale green at first and then rusty red. Trees hit by Mountain Pine Beetles turn color uniformly in late spring. Trees killed by Ips Beetles tend to die first at the top. Call

the Beetle Busters or the BMFPD Mitigation Coordinator to check on suspicious trees. Spray the trees you would REALLY hate to lose. And watch for woodpeckers! A lot of bird activity in a tree usually indicates that there is something good to eat there, and that something is probably bark beetles.

looking to enlist avian help in the Beetle Battle. Donna Waters (below, left) demonstrates an easily made, inexpensive birdhouse. And Roger Svendson (right) and Tom Foster have made those birdhouses - 118 of them! Some may still be for sale at the firehouse for a \$10 per birdhouse donation. The birdhouses should be placed on the East or North side of trees so as not to cook the babies. While birds won't solve all our beetle problems, they may help, and there is no downside to encouraging them to join the neighborhood.

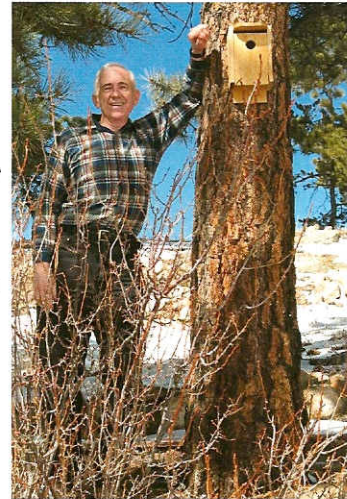
Bruce Benninghoff, the forest health consultant who trains the Beetle Busters, feels that if any neighborhood can withstand the beetle epidemic it is Pine Brook, because of our proactive stance. Nonetheless, we should think about creating age diversity in our 100 year old forest. Consider clearing an area to allow regeneration of new trees. Keep the very young trees that you may find on your property. Either let them grow where they are or transplant them. Any trees that voluntarily take on our granitic sand soil and arid climate really want to live here. Should the worst happen to our trees (and with everyone's help we believe we can prevent that), we'll have a forest again - in a hundred years or so. Probably.

For the Beetle Busters: call Pam Creswell at 720-406-9783

For the BMFPD Mitigation Coordinator: call Steve Lynn at 303-440-0235 ex. 1.



Speaking of birds, some energetic Pine Brookers are



WHY MOVE THE DIRT?

By Al Gerrish

Thanks to all who have contributed so far to the "Move the Dirt" project, Pine Brook Hills citizens' response to completing the landscaping around the reservoir. So far we have collected \$21,275. We're off to a good start but still have a way to go. Calls with prospective donors have resulted in many responses such as, "Yes, we will contribute!" but also, "What about recreational access?"



What we have now

A good question! At this point a committee, organized by Suzanne Adams, has been formed to look at the critical issues of administering the area. And hopefully a plan for access and limited recreational activities at the reservoir will soon take shape.

At the moment, we anticipate the development of



What we would like to have

painting by Debbie Springer

a basic eco-friendly landscaping and access to the reservoir via a nice walkway along the north shore of the reservoir. Other recreational activities might be possible later, but until basic questions of management and control of the area have been answered, it's too early to promise more.

So why move the dirt? Well, if you want to appreciate the beautiful surroundings of the reservoir via a new

walkway, with at least the possibility of more recreational activities in the future, the dirt must be moved first!

So please keep up the donations so we can raise \$75,000 by May! Write your checks to Pine Brook Water District with "Move the Dirt" on the memo line, and mail to: **Pine Brook Water District, 1903 Linden Drive, Boulder, CO 80304.**

Thanks so much!

MORE BEETLE STUFF... FUN, TOO!



How many Beetle Busters does it take to....



Eat a chocolate beetle cake?

ANSWER: Like the loaves and fish on the shores of the sea of Galilee, this cake can feed many, many more volunteers. **SIGN UP!**

BEETLE BUSTER SEMINAR APRIL 26

FREE...Lunch included!

**9 AM - 3 PM, Community Center
Reservations Necessary: 720-406-9783**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PINE BROOK PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

HOA Meeting April 30. Potluck 6 p.m., Business Meeting 7 p.m. (This program was scheduled for the last HOA meeting but a lively discussion of PBH issues left no time.)

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

BEETLE BUSTER SEMINAR: April 26, 9 AM - 3 PM, FREE (Lunch included). Reservations necessary - Call Pam Creswell at 720-406-9783 or email BeetleBusters@pinebrookhills.org.

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

BMFPD AUXILIARY GARAGE SALE: Donations accepted on Saturday, May 3; Sunday, May 4; Saturday, May 10 & Sunday May 11; 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. THE BIG SALE is on Friday, May 16, 9 - 4; Saturday, May 17, 9 - 4; Sunday, May 18, noon - 4 P.M. (see p. 7).

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.

WATER BOARD - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 4:00 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

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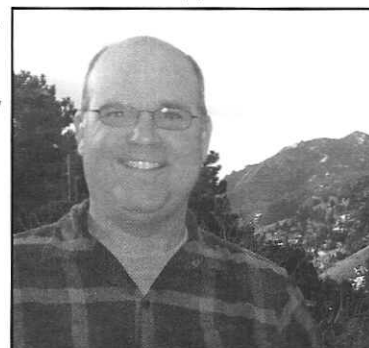
PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS:

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR SHARED POTENTIAL

By Mark Menagh, HOA President

April 30 is the next Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association meeting. Our meetings are the chance for you find out what is happening in your neighborhood and to influence HOA goals. Please join us and share your ideas.

Now that I am president of the HOA I see how much our neighbors work together to make our community a great place to live. I am very encouraged. The fundraising is underway to "Move the Dirt," with the objective of making our new dam and reservoir area a really beautiful asset for us as well as a practical benefit. There have been substantial contributions, yet we have a way to go to reach the financial goal. Please consider how beautiful the landscaped area will be and what you can do to help.



As I write this the bulbs and sprouts are popping out to prove that spring is upon us. This is when many of our vacationing neighbors come back from

afar; welcome back. What a wonderful time to be living here right above the Boulder skyline.

Let's put up birdhouses! What a great idea for part of the effort to combat tree-killing pine beetles. For my out-of-the-cold vacation this year I headed to Costa Rica; I had anticipated struggling with dreaded insect repellents to keep from being bitten by mosquitoes, but when after a week I hadn't seen one, let alone been bitten, I started asking around. The Costa Ricans responded, "Of course not - the bats and birds take care of them for us." I work with organic farmers and have heard the alternatives they use to control bug infestations, but hadn't made the obvious connection to our "gardens" of trees. We know those tiny dreaded bark beetles are coming at us. When I heard that Donna Waters was providing a seminar on building birdhouses it was a head slapping moment. Besides thinning our overcrowded trees to make healthy forests, we can encourage a simple balance of nature by providing homes to nuthatches and chickadees, who dine on beetles. Our trees are so important to the beauty of our environment. We will need all the help we can get to battle the Mountain Pine and Ips Beetles, and birds are an ideal natural ally. This past month Roger Svendsen and Tom Foster, in true community spirit, built many birdhouses and provided them at cost. This is what makes Pine Brook Hills a pleasure to live in.

One of the key advantages of having a home owners association is to pool funds to provide services that might not be done otherwise. As a community we work together as volunteers. There is an opening for an important volunteer position in the HOA: Project Coordinator for our mitigation projects. This volunteer seeks out grants to help fund the most critical projects benefiting all homeowners and then contacts the businesses that can implement the work. Please search your time and availability to determine if you can assist all of us by taking on this critical role. Contact me at 303-247-0827 with your questions.

Reminder: Our next homeowners meeting is on April 30. The potluck preceding the meeting begins at 6 p.m. Because of our lively discussion at our last meeting we didn't get to the presentation, so we will hear that program (anecdotes about life in early Pine Brook Hills) at the conclusion of the business meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m. Please come and participate.

ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob de Haas

A recent area of public/media concern has been the finding of pharmaceuticals in water. But exactly how much of a health threat is it? The Denver Water Board noted that the 1 to 3 parts per trillion that was being found was equivalent to one drop of water in 20 Olympic size swimming pools, or one drop in 20 million gallons. This means that you would need to drink eight glasses of water per day for 428 years to have consumed the 1 to 3 parts per trillion of any residual medicine in the water. Now consider your prescriptions: what is the dosage you have been told to take?

The real point here is that everyone should think about what they put down their drains/toilets, whether they are connected to a sewage system (like the City of Boulder) or have a septic field, as anything that dissolves in the water will be carried by that water into the various streams/rivers and aquifers.

Everyone who receives water from the Pine Brook Water District should have also received a notice in their March bills notifying them of a violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). While it takes long term consumption of the water to even possibly be a health concern, the Water District still takes the violation seriously. The latest tests show that we are in conformity with the SDWA standards for the quarter, but the annual average, which is what the standard is based on, still exceeds the allowable level. As in the example above, it is not by much. 85 parts per billion is our annual average and the standard is 80 parts per billion for an annual average. The annual average is determined by averaging the last 4 quarterly tests done.

The continued testing is indicating that if the District controls the algae in the reservoir then the disinfection by-products will stay below the allowable levels. Controlling the algae has the additional benefits of preventing any taste or odors issues, and will also improve the clarity of the water in the reservoir.

The District's goal is to have installed a method to control the algae by June, so that the algae does not have an opportunity to grow later in the summer, as they did last year. This should keep the District in compliance with the water quality standards.

The District is also investigating other additional treatment methods to not only ensure compliance

with the disinfection by-products standard, but also (if the need is found) to be able to treat for future standards. The goal is, instead of adding any needed treatment options that only address one type of contaminant and then having to add another treatment method for the next contaminant, to look at additional treatment methods that would address multiple potential issues.

This type of approach is likely to save the District (and therefore each home) money realized by total lower capital costs.

The District will continue to keep you informed by our articles here in the Pine Brook Press, in bill stuffing or in special newsletters. So to stay informed please keep a watch out for any news from the Water District. Everyone is also welcome to attend any of the Water Board meetings which are posted at the drop boxes and on the website at pinebrookwater.com.

The Water District elections have been cancelled. Nobody filed the necessary paperwork to run against the incumbents Brian Hanson and Marie Zanowick so they will continue to serve on the Board. Art Markey's position was also up for election as he had announced that he would resign in May. Only one person, Matt Rheingold, filed the paperwork to run for Art's position. Since there was only one person running for this vacancy the election is not necessary.

Art has served on the Board since March of 1995. That's over 13 years of service! He has been an invaluable asset to the Board and will be missed. We know we will still see him and his wonderful wife Babette, as they are major driving forces behind the annual garage sale and are active community volunteers.

Please join the Water Board and District Staff in saying thanks to Art for so many years of service and in welcoming Matt onto the Board.

NEWCOMERS NEWS From Pam Creswell

We are welcoming Kimberly Curtis to Pine Brook Hills. A new resident on Wild Horse Circle, Kimberly has been here since December.

After some years in Chicago and Boston, Kimberly moved to Boulder a year and a half ago. Loving trees, views, space and quiet, the Pine Brook Hills area seems like the perfect place for her to settle into now. Kimberly works as a software engineer but also is a trained chef, rock climber, skier, and hiker (she has hiked the Appalachian Trail!). Again, a warm welcome to Kimberly.

PBH TREASURER'S FIRST QUARTER REPORT - the GOOD news and the BAD NEWS

By Dave Davies

As of the middle of March the GOOD news is that the generosity of Pine Brookers is exceeding even that of last year. To date 211 households have paid their dues and the average household has donated well over the suggested minimum of \$75. In fact the average is over \$103, significantly better than last year's \$93. Of the 211 families who have paid, 98 have paid OVER the suggested minimum. We have had several donations of \$300, \$500 and even (a new record for recent years) of \$750. So to date we are at just under \$22,000 out of our target of \$29,000.

So what is the bad news? Well, we have 378 available homes in PBH, so that means that 167 have NOT YET paid (this number of 167 includes the vacant homes). PLEASE save us the cost of another letter by sending your dues donation to me (see below) or drop it in either of the HOA boxes at the Firehouse.

To date we have expended, in round numbers, about \$3000 on forest health and fire mitigation, just over \$1500 on the Directory, and just under \$1000 on the Pine Brook Press, but we are close to breaking even on the Press with good advertising revenue. The bulk of the planned expenditure for fire mitigation and fuel reduction has yet to be billed but the work is being done right now under a contract with our Fire Protection District (50% cost shared with the State). Expenses for legal and administrative issues have been minimal so far; let's hope they stay like that.

Call or email me if you have a question or can not remember if you have paid your dues (although if you can not remember it is OK to pay again!).

Dave Davies

151 Boulder View Lane Boulder 80304,
303 938 0522, davedavies@qwest.net



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

VIRIDITAS, "The Greening Force," in THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Jay Markel

For many of us a "traditional" garden is not possible, or not preferable, in Pine Brook. Container gardens can be a beautiful, meditative, savory, and even delicious alternative. Containers can be used for water features, water gardens, annuals, perennials, herbs and edible vegetables, for a fraction of the effort in maintaining a traditional garden.

Single small containers are nice to use in simple groups of single-crop pots. For example, a sampling of different herbs or salad greens, and creating flower arrangements with a variety of flowering plants, can be very satisfying when placed in the right spot to be viewed from the house. Mixing plants has endless possibilities, but should be done in larger pots. I like 1.5 quarts per plant, and for larger plants like tomatoes more. Don't forget that containers, unlike plants in the ground, offer no water reserve, and in our area probably will need water every day in the summer. For this reason I prefer larger cedar box containers. They also have a more architectural look that blends in well with decks and your home.

Water gardens can be built in 3-to-30 gallon waterproof containers of any form or fashion. For a fun craft project you can use mosaic materials of any sort, grouted over a plastic container. Just add water plants in a suitable medium, and a small fountain pump and you have a great patio water feature.

Plant selection is the key to any successful garden. Timberline Gardens, in Wheat Ridge, is the best choice for non-professionals. They have several interesting gardening courses this season, including one on container water gardens. You will receive tips on soil types and receive plants and container with your fee. The reason I so strongly recommend Timberline is that they propagate the very best plants for our area and have a very knowledgeable staff. The important thing to remember when shopping at nurseries is that they tend to put out what is in bloom and looking its best. Remember to make selections that will have your garden or containers looking their best for the longest time.



For more information on container gardens "The Bountiful Container" by McGee and Stuckey and "Container Water Gardens" by Philip Swindells are both paperbacks easily available on the web.

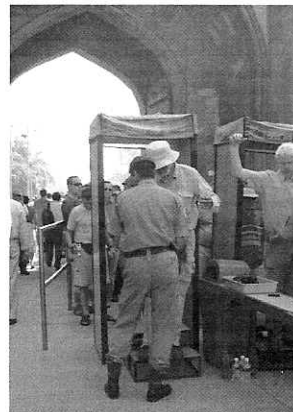
May the Greening Force be with you.

Many thanks to Jay for contributing to the Granite Garden. Jay is a 2 year resident of Pine Brook Hills and owner of Viriditas, a 10 year old landscape and sculptural garden design firm. You can learn more about Jay, his work and awards at www.viriditas5.com.

A MESSAGE FROM INDIA

I have to report probably the first incidence of BMFPD responding outside the borders of the United States. Our sister-in-law, Paula, had come to India on her first visit. From Delhi, Anne and I took her to Agra to see the Taj Mahal on March 15.

There was long line to go through security to get inside. While in line, there was a commotion behind me. After a while I saw somebody in a wheelchair being wheeled under the shade of an archway. He looked pale and confused. There did not appear to be anybody checking him out or doing anything. He was part of a big group and they were just milling around. I called out to a guard, showed him my BMFPD ID card and told him I was a "medic." They would not have understood "First Responder."



I'm in the white hat.

I was hustled to the front (still had a 10-15 minutes wait) and taken to the person in the wheel chair. My first words to him were whether he spoke English. It turned out he was Walter from Chicago, a banker with Citibank and, yes, he spoke English! Trying to remember what I was supposed to do, I took his vital signs and medical history. He was alert and everything seemed normal. He was not on any medication. The previous evening he had "tummy" troubles and admitted that he had not drunk much water. Apparently he had fainted standing in the hot sun in the line behind him. He was part of a group of 67 bankers and someone had called and there was doctor waiting at the hotel. The hotel was only about a quarter-mile away, so I released him.

End of report - Param Singh, BMFPD 4374.

THE BIG GARAGE SALE

By Babette and Art Markey

It's almost time for the May 2008 Garage Sale!

For the past few years, we have had numerous "off-season" donations that have filled up a storage shed and part of an Auxiliary member's garage. Not so this year. We have only a small amount of donations already in storage. We hope that means that everyone has been able to hold on to their own donations and we will still get as much donated as we have in recent years. The other alternative is that donations will be down this year... which we certainly hope will not be the case!



Babette - aka Aunt Tique

Remember, this is the Fire Department Auxiliary's largest single fund raiser for its work in support of our BMFPD volunteers. To give you an idea of how valuable this is to the Fire Department and the community, the 2007 sale provided the funds to pay to have all the Fire Scouts (fire sensors that help protect all of our homes) in the entire district converted from battery powered to solar powered. But the only way that this sale happens is with the help of all of you.

We need 3 things: Donations, Volunteers, and Shoppers.

1. Lots of donations, both large and small.

We will 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 or incomplete systems (stand-alone monitors, printers, etc.), 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, 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 gives our bottom line a big boost! Because of recent IRS rules changes, we will basically act as the "broker" in selling any vehicle. We will have the buyer make their check out to you and have you in turn write a check to the Auxiliary for the amount of the sale price. A little extra work but much simpler than dealing with the new IRS rules!!!!!!!

Of course all your donations are tax deductible and we will provide a receipt. You have to assign the value.

2. Lots of volunteers.

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. We need people to 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!

As you may recall from our post-Garage-Sale-2007 article, in addition to volunteers working shifts before and during the sale, the Auxiliary is in need of people from the community at large who are willing to step up and agree to 'own' a piece of the work... i.e. be responsible to see that it gets done and done on time. There are a lot of different pieces that we can carve out, with varying time requirements, from a few hours on up. Please consider becoming a part of the team that runs the garage sale. We DO need your help!

3. Lots of enthusiastic shoppers with wallets full of spending money (sorry, no credit cards).

No matter how much great stuff is donated, without a lot of shoppers we would have a building full of stuff, no place to go with it, and a lot of unhappy volunteers. 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



Art - aka Uncle Junque

support our firefighters. We always have an amazing assortment of goodies. This is one of the best sales in the area, so spread the word amongst your friends and acquaintances. We will have business cards and flyers available for distribution in advance of the sale. If you would like some of those, (or if you would like to be in charge of publicity for the sale) please let us know.

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

Collecting donations at the Pine Brook Firehouse:

Saturday May 3	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday May 4	10 AM - 2 PM
Saturday May 10	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday May 11	10 AM - 2 PM

The big sale:

Friday May 16	9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday May 17	9 AM - 4 PM
Sunday May 18	noon - 4 PM



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As I was clearing out "stuff" that has been collecting on my shelves, I realized I had lots of samples of cosmetics, pretty soaps, lotions, shampoos, perfumes, etc. that were given to me that I will never use (regardless of how much others might think I need them). I talked to both Mother's House and Safehouse and they would absolutely LOVE to have such! (The Homeless Shelter says they have little demand) Both of my book clubs are contributing their items and I thought Pine Brook women might also have some to give away. If there is anything these women need, it is to once again feel pretty and pampered. This is one small facet of self esteem which we can help bolster. If gazillions are collected, I can deliver to other communities such as Longmont. Can a plea for my campaign be printed in our newsletter? Since everyone must pass my house coming and going into Pine Brook, I can arrange a container on my porch where items can be left when I am not busy saving the world or running to the store.

Eleanor Patten

Dear Editor (and PBH Gardeners!)

The Pine Brook Press is always welcome at our house,

full of "news we can use." We just want to say thank you to Suzanne and her staff for a quality paper that brings our diverse community together!

On another subject, I would like to get together with other like-minded "gardeners" in Pine Brook who want to share ideas on how to garden (flowers only for me) in our deer-friendly environment. Perhaps in early spring, and see how it goes?

Mary Lou Peterson (303) 440-3922

Dear Editor and Fellow Pine Brookers,

Two friends of mine that I have known for over 20 years are interested in renting or house-sitting in Pine Brook during the last three weeks in June. Lily Pollock and her husband Jeff Krock are meticulous, responsible and very caring people. If anyone you know is planning on being gone in June, I can highly recommend Jeff and Lily to keep their house (inside and out) in great shape. They would gladly care for a cat or two and perhaps a dog. You could email Jeff and Lily at jeff@jeffkrock.com, or phone them at 407.814.9922 (east coast). Thanks.

Kathy Moritz (303) 442-5100



EXERCISE FOR SENIORS

We were interested in this helpful exercise, gleaned from the internet. Although the exercise is designed for seniors, many of us can benefit from increased physical activity:



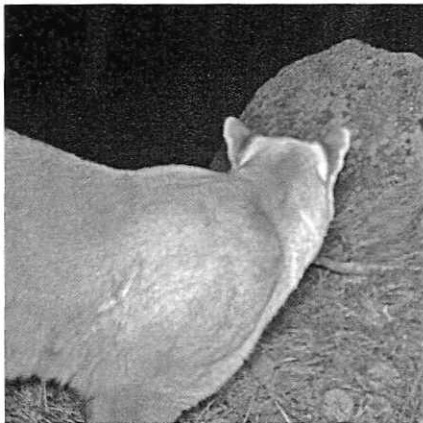
Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level) After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

NATURE RECYCLES DEER CARCASS

By Bart Adams

What happens to a lion kill during the days and nights after a fine young buck is down by a lion? A motion sensitive-camera set to fire automatically round the clock yields images of several who came to dinner; breakfast and lunch during the following week:



2/18/08 7:00 P.M.



2/18/08 6:41 P.M.



2/21/08 7:54 P.M.



2/24/08 3:35 P.M.



2/21/08 7:27 P.M.



2/22/08 8:06 P.M.



2/26/08 2:37 A.M.



2/22/08 12:34 P.M.



3/1/08 Only a few hairs remain.



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Join us as We Joyfully Celebrate Spring's Opening

Our Spring offerings are many. Go to our website at www.TheStarHouse.org and choose from the many ways that we have been celebrating the spirit nearly 18 years.

- ❖ **Spring Equinox** Thurs., March 20th at 7:30pm
- ❖ **New Moon for Women** Sun., April 6th & Mon., May 5th at 5:30pm
- ❖ **Arvil Byrd & Fifth World in Concert (Native American & Scottish)** Sun., April 13th at 7:30pm
- ❖ **Full Moon** Fri., March 21st & Mon., Sun., April 20th at 7:30pm
- ❖ **Ash Dargan Didgeridoo Concert** Sun., May 4th at 7:30pm

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Saturday Market is Open!
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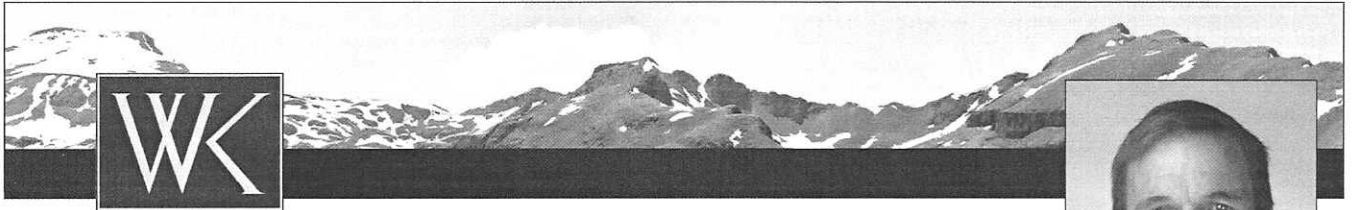
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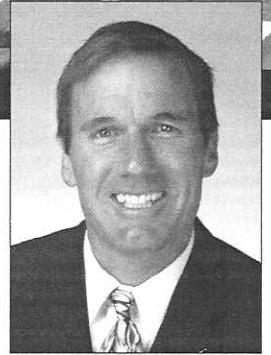
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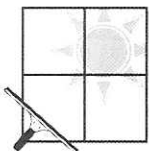
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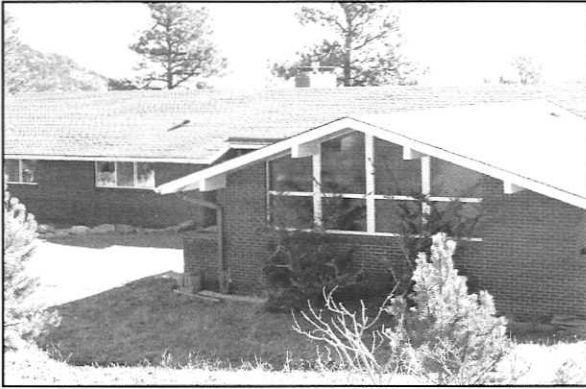
Pinebrook Playgroup Wanted

Looking for families to start a neighborhood playgroup for preschoolers. If interested, please contact Gail Wagner: (303) 545-0165
gailmwagner@comcast.net

PINE BROOK- BACK IN THE DAY...

By Lorajean Current

Ahh...Pine Brook...back when I was growing up.... My name is Lorajean Current, R. Marshall Coon's daughter, and I grew up in Pine Brook Hills in the early 60's and 70's. In fact my father's place was one of the first homes up here, and a couple years before he passed on in 2003, he was named The Pine Brook Hills Patriarch.



The Coon House. In January 1964, the Boulder Daily Camera published a photo of this house. At 2,471 sq. ft., it was the largest house built in unincorporated Boulder County in 1963.

When I was growing up in Pine Brook (we always just called it Pine Brook) there were only dirt roads, much more wildlife, very few homes - only five to seven for quite a few years - and we had to walk 25 miles through deep snow to get to school...no...just kidding on that last part! We WERE on our own private wells and had to be very conservative of water. You couldn't take a shower then turn around and do a couple loads of laundry, or the well would run dry.

I often saw porcupines, eagles, snakes, wild turkeys, jack rabbits, ptarmigans, and of course, all the animals everyone still sees today - bear, fox, deer, hummingbirds and especially the cougars. One cougar had

a den over the east Timber Lane ridge from us, right next to where one of my friends lived. She would see the mother cougar nearly every day with her cubs. They never bothered anyone and we never bothered them. It was actually the snakes that we felt we needed to keep an eye on. We constantly had to knock the bull snakes out of the trees to keep them from eating the birds' eggs. It just didn't seem fair...big, healthy snake...tiny, helpless bird...okay, so we didn't ALWAYS leave things alone! But, hey, what's the fun of living surrounded by nature if you never participate?

All the kids had horses, mules or ponies and our main activity was riding all over Pine Brook from dawn to dusk. Even though we owned saddles, generally we all rode bareback. Everything was wide open spaces (owned, but unbuilt-on property), so we would ride to each others' houses, gather each other up and go off on long exploration rides following all the deer trails. The whole area to the west of my Dad's was a huge meadow, and right in the middle of it was a little log cabin from way, way back in the day. We entertained ourselves for hours charging around that cabin playing cowboys and Indians, or circle the wagons, or whatever else popped into our heads. After we'd tired ourselves out with that, we would take off, on what I suppose was an old miner's road, behind the meadow that connected us up to Sunshine Canyon and wander around 'til the sun went down. On other occasions we would race the horses around on the roads, and of course, every three or four months they would need to shoe the horses, so we would ride down Bow Mountain Road that connected us to Lee Hill Drive and Olde Stage Road. There was a ranch there where they would shoe our horses. It may still exist, but maybe they don't shoe horses anymore.

It was all great fun and a wonderful way to grow up...in Pine Brook...back in the day...

TERRIBLE NEWS

We send our deepest sympathy to Pine Brook resident Janet Graaff, whose son David Parrish died in Mexico during spring break. According to reports in the Boulder Camera, a thief tried to take Janet's purse; David attempted to forestall the robbery and was shot and killed. All those who knew David speak of him as a fine young man, eager to help others. A quotation from Robert Ingersoll on the death of his brother seems particularly appropriate to David as well:

"He added to the sum of human joy, and were every one to whom he did some loving service to bring a blossom to his grave, he would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers."

PINE BROOK QUARRY ROCKS

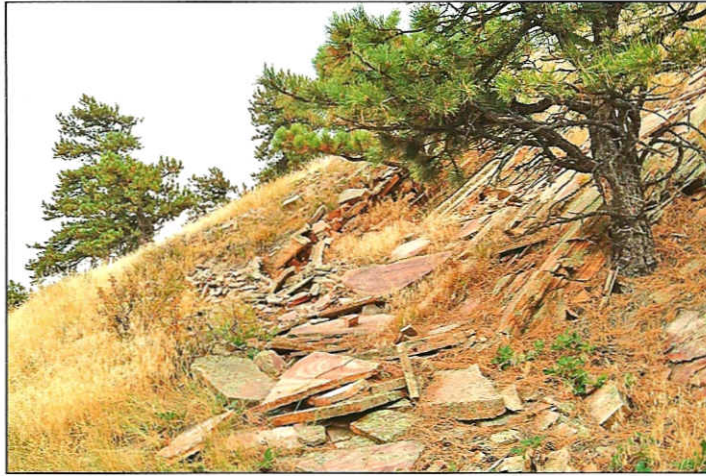


Photo by Bart Adams



Photo by Bart Adams

Flagstone-Unit rocks like these were once very popular for building materials in the developing community of Boulder. These rocks were carried out of Pine Brook by the tons. Geologist Pete Palmer, until recently a long-time Pine Brook resident, explained that if you go north on North Cedar Brook Road, over the pass and past the pump station, you will see several pathways that are actually ancient trails to quarries used over a century ago. The handsome red sandstone lying around Pine Brook in the Lyons Formation was hauled out by Boulderites and used in foundations, patios, and walkways. The pretty rocks were so popular for building fireplaces and sidewalks that the 100-year-old quarry pathways worn into the hillsides are still visible in Pine Brook today.

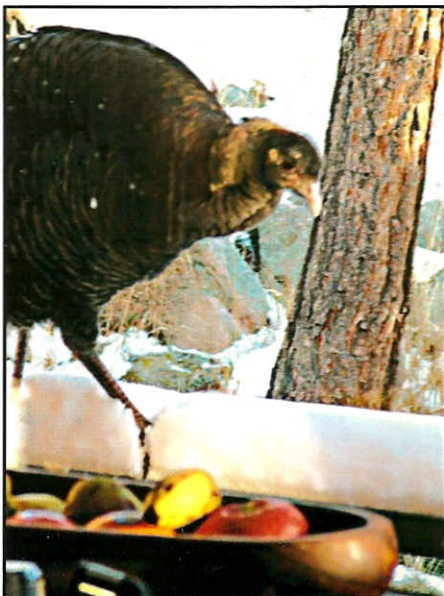
Pete gave us some information about the abandoned quarry and the rocks pictured above right, which were

found below Fountaintree Lane.

"The rocks are reddish which suggests they are from some of the upper beds of the unit that lies below the flagstones, which includes the rocks that form the Flatirons. It's called the Fountain Formation. The surfaces are mostly covered by lichens, which grow very slowly, so they have been exposed surfaces for many decades. The focus of the photo is a feature called liesegang rings, which form along a flat crack between two pieces of rock. You can get an effect something like this by imagining a layer of moisture between two panes of glass. There is a diffusion phenomenon that produces these more or less concentric rings. So the surface you see should have had a counterpart once upon a time and the minerals in the groundwater in the crack produced the pattern before the upper layer broke off and fell away."

Indeed, by looking closely, such counterparts can be seen lying in the quarry above.

PEEPING TOM



ESTABLISHING PECKING ORDER



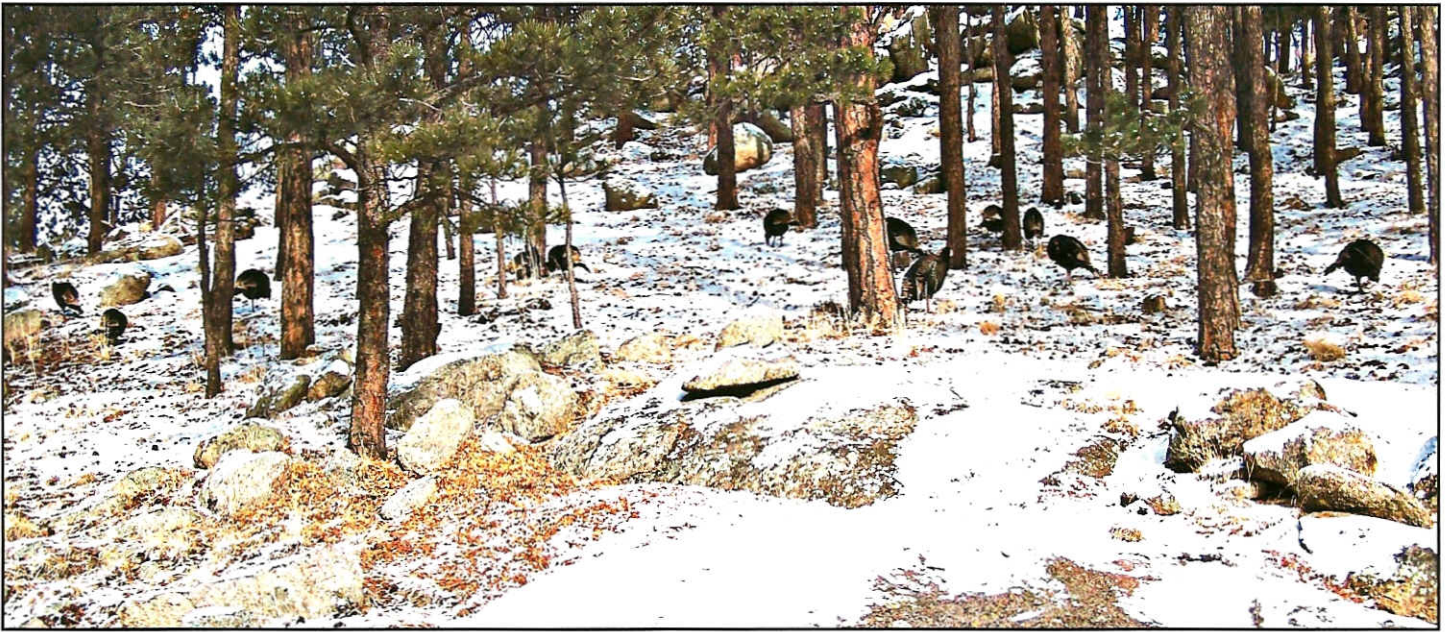


Photo by Peter King-Smith

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