



# Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2009



## GREENING OF PINE BROOK HILLS PROJECT AND CLIMATE SMART LOAN PROGRAM

By Marie Zanowick

**H**ave you thought about making your home energy efficient and/or adding solar panels to your home? At the January meeting of the PBH Home Owners Association and at the February meeting of the Pine Brook Water District, we discussed how PBH homeowners could unite in these efforts to the benefit of both the homeowners and the community buildings. Based on the amount of interest in our community for a leveraged "Greening of PBH" program, the Pine Brook Water District agreed to take the lead on providing information to the community. A mailing was sent to all residents of PBH by the Water District and contains all the information you will need to take advantage of the "Greening of PBH" project - so check your mail! It includes information on how the PBH Community Center can get free solar panels based on participation rates of our homeowners. **The "deal" ends on September 1, 2009** - so if you are thinking of adding renewable energy to your home, do it now and support our community efforts.

Through Boulder County's Climate Smart Loan Program, owners of residential properties in most of Boulder County will be able to apply for a full financing loan to implement specified energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. For more detailed information see: [www.ClimateSmartLoanProgram.org](http://www.ClimateSmartLoanProgram.org)

The Climate Smart Loan Program money will be awarded on a first-come-first serve basis and is expected to sell out very quickly. If you intend to use this loan program, you must have all your application documents ready to submit when the program opens on **April 1, 2009**. You will need an energy audit with blower door, infrared imaging, attend one workshop, complete the on-line application and have a quote for the proposed work from the solar company of your choice in order to apply.

## TAKE A HIKE!

By Jo Davies

**S**eriously, this year it's essential that you take a hike around your property and inspect your trees at least once a month. Why once a month? Because bark beetles can hit a tree just about any time. Your trees may be perfect today, but they may be beetle fodder tomorrow. With the atypical weather, we're seeing atypical beetle behavior. They're flying early and staying active longer. The Beetle Busters are seeing beetle-hit trees on approximately 70% of their inspections this year. At this point only one or two trees per property are being hit by beetles. But the beetles are here in force and just about ready to fly again because of the unseasonably warm and dry weather.



Photo by Jim Adams

Learn to spot the enemy! Bruce Benninghoff leads a seminar for new Beetle Busters last fall.

If you've never had an inspection of your trees, write to [beetlebusters@gmail.com](mailto:beetlebusters@gmail.com) for a free property inspection. If you don't know what a beetle-hit tree looks like, write me at [jodavies.sbr@gmail.com](mailto:jodavies.sbr@gmail.com) and we'll show you one in a quick (30 minute) field trip. Hit trees are easy to spot. Trust us, you don't need a Ph.D. in Forestry! And don't forget that hit trees need to be removed and chipped or stripped of bark ASAP.

An infected tree removed before the next generation of beetles hatch can save you 3-10 dead trees next year.

The Beetle Busters are happy to help you inspect your property any time, but we just don't have the manpower to walk all of Pine Brook Hills every month. You need to do your part to keep Pine Brook Hills green.

Please...take a hike...often!

**NEW BEETLE BUSTER TRAINING SESSION SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

**M**eat the enemy! Learn the impressive powers of a 1/4" beetle! The thrills! The chills!

Everyone is encouraged to join the Beetle Buster Training Seminar on Saturday, April 25, 9-3. Bring your lunch; we'll provide drinks and cookies. There is no obligation to become a Beetle Buster; an informed community will benefit us all. There's a lot to know about the four bark beetles invading our paradise. Those who have taken the class have found it not only instructive but also interesting. Some even say, "Fun." Reserve a spot by writing to [beetlebusters@gmail.com](mailto:beetlebusters@gmail.com)

**BOUREY ACCIDENT**

By Evie Gray

**A**lan and Donna Bourey, who moved to Pine Brook from Decatur, Illinois, in September, were driving to Las Vegas to visit family on February 12th when they were involved in a 22-car accident in a snowstorm near Beaver, Utah. Donna was seriously injured with a concussion, broken ribs, bruised jaw, knee, elbow, etc., and was unconscious when Alan pulled her from the wreckage of their car, which was pinned between



The Bourey Nissan Rogue after the accident.

a van and a tanker leaking gasoline. An EMT from Paige, AZ, stopped on the other side of the road to

help Alan get Donna into the EMT's car where it was warm, and where they awaited the ambulance that took Donna to a nearby hospital.

Now, after just 5 weeks of treatment and physical therapy



Alan and Donna with their new car.

at home, Donna is amazingly mobile and thankful to be up and about again. She continues to improve and plans to resume running and exercising soon. The Boureys have replaced their wrecked SUV with the same make and model—a Nissan Rogue with very high crash-test ratings—but the new one is a 2009 issue, which is one year newer. "[The car] took care of us before," Alan said, "so we got the same one again. Even the same color."

We are glad to have our new neighbors safe, healthy, and among us once again.

**THE PINE BROOK SCROLL OF VOLUNTEERS, REVISITED**

**P**ine Brook Hills is a Community because of its volunteers. This has been true since the earliest days, when Pine Brookers scrounged materials to build



Marla Saville with the Scroll

the Community Center and established the Water District. A few years ago, Jo Noble created a beautiful scroll with the names of the many volunteers who have contributed to PBH. The scroll was displayed in the Community Meeting Room until, mysteriously, it disappeared. But recently it was rediscovered at the back of a closet. Hurray!

But it's out of date. Many new people have contributed to the neighborhood we love. Surely you know some of these people. Please send their full names to [pinebrookpress@aol.com](mailto:pinebrookpress@aol.com). We will add these names and re-mount our scroll in the Meeting Room as a tribute to all these wonderful people in our community.

**PINE BROOK HILLS  
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BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

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Bill Alexander, 544-1333

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**WATER BOARD**  
Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

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

**PINE BROOK PRESS**

**EDITOR**

Suzanne Adams, 449-0997

**ASSOC. EDITORS:** Evie Gray, 443-4086

Anne Singh, 417-0373

**LAYOUT:** Param Singh, 417-0373

**STAFF:** Bart Adams, 449-0997

**ADVERTISING:** Tim Gerchar, 440-5708

**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, April 29, Potluck at 6 P.M., Business meeting at 7 P.M., followed by presentation: Fred Thrall on "The Adventures of a Modern Day Range Rider."**

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

**BEETLE BUSTER SEMINAR** - Saturday, April 25, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M., write [beetlebusters@gmail.com](mailto:beetlebusters@gmail.com) to make a reservation. See p. 2 for details or call 449-0997.

**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.

**GARAGE SALE** - Garage Sale Donation drop-off: 10 AM until 2 PM on 5/2, 5/3, 5/9, and 5/10. The big sale: 9 AM until 4 PM on 5/15 and 5/16, and Noon until 4 PM on 5/17. See p. 5 for details.

**FIRE AUXILIARY** - Generally meets the first Sunday of every month at 7 P.M. Call 786-8476 for confirmation.

**WATER BOARD** - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 4:30 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

**PRESIDENT'S PATER**

By Bill Alexander, HOA Vice-President

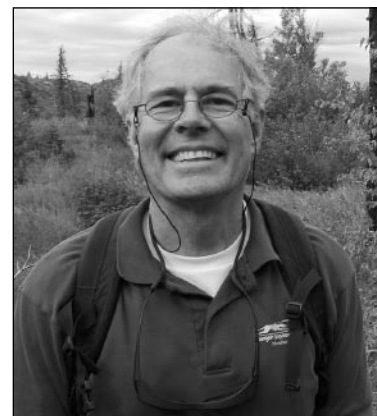
Hello, fellow Pine Brookers. This is Bill Alexander on behalf of Mark Menagh, who is currently out of the area enjoying a wonderful vacation! A few tidbits of news below:

**NEXT PINE BROOK HOMEOWNERS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

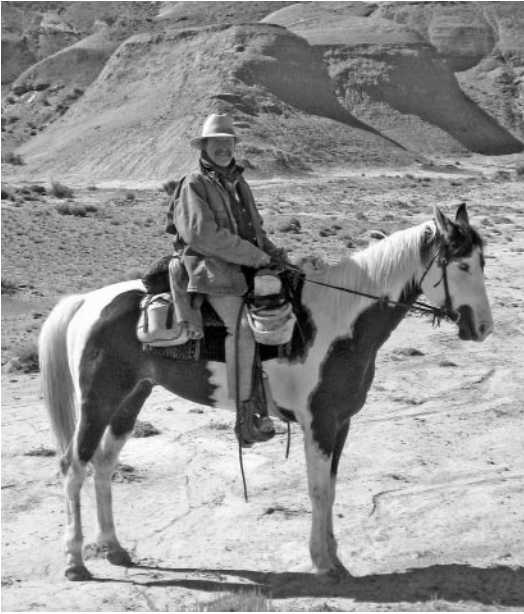
I hope to see you at the Community Center at 6:00 P.M. for our famous potluck, at 7:00 P.M. for our business meeting, and then we will have a very SPECIAL and FUN presentation for your viewing and listening pleasure! Here is some information on it:

**THE ADVENTURES OF A MODERN DAY  
RANGE RIDER!**

Enjoy the re-creation of a 19th Century frontiersman's experience, traveling horseback across Wyoming. Inspired by Kit Carson and the U.S. Cavalry, Fred Thrall accomplished a 3-week, mostly-solo and unsupported horseback adventure across 300 miles of some of the most remote open range in the continental U.S. He rode along the portion of the Oregon



Trail that lies between Ft. Casper and Ft. Bridger, Wyo-



oming, following original ruts in the prairie much of the way. Join us as Fred shares highlights of his trip, including impressive photos he took along the way. (He is a volunteer historical heritage

interpreter with Boulder County Parks and Open Space.) Fred will also bring his provision-laden horse saddle and some of the meager items he carried with him. I have seen his presentation before and I highly recommend it! Check out Fred's picture on his horse!

### COVENANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Are you concerned and frustrated over PBH HOA's significant legal fees the last year or so? Then help us do something about it! This Committee has been formed to advise the PBH HOA on what/how to modify the covenants. The effort is partially due to the association's high legal fees stemming from a challenge regarding our covenants. Please review the version of our HOA covenants that starts on page 11 in the Pine Brook Hills Directory 2008/2009. Either email or call me with any suggested changes, so we can include them in our Committee's report to the HOA: Bill Alexander, home 544-1333, or email [billalexmail@yahoo.com](mailto:billalexmail@yahoo.com).

See you on April 29th!



### FIRE SIDE CHAT

By John Benson

Well, how do you like this weather? Until the recent wet weather, we have had no snow, no rain, hot temperatures, low humidity, and WIND this winter. What does that mean for us? Simple: we could be in for a long wildfire season. The Predictive Services are

forecasting this year could be as bad as or worse than the 2002 wildfire season. I know that BMFPD keeps harping on defensible space, low limbing your trees and keeping combustibles from under decks, BUT! We have had one small fire in the district this year where the fire was able to climb into the tree. The fire was extinguished quickly. As the vegetation dries out the fires will begin to spread more rapidly. "DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!" The last thing we want is another Old Stage/NEVA Road incident. You can rest assured our crews and equipment are prepared.

**SLOW DOWN!** When you see members of the Third Arm dressed in their luminous green, or BMFPD personnel holding out a STOP/SLOW sign, please heed the warning. This usually means our members are conducting traffic control for an accident or doing mitigation work. Unfortunately, this year we have seen a high number of close calls where our members have almost been hit by the traveling public. So with that being said, here are some tips that can ensure the safety of our on-scene personnel:

- Start slowing down early when you seen someone standing in the lane,
- Stay in your lane of travel. DO NOT TRY TO GO AROUND. We will get you motoring along as soon as we can.
- When you get past the traffic control people, do not speed up. We may have more BMFPD personnel working the accident. The traffic lanes can sometimes get squeezed due to the accident location.
- Do not argue with the individuals conducting traffic control. They are only doing their job to protect the firefighters working the scene, and
- DO NOT cut the corners of the lanes. These blind curves are tight and you never know when there is going to be another vehicle or bicyclist coming the other way.

BMFPD greatly appreciates and encourages your participation in keeping both the public and firefighters safe.

As we enter what could be a fierce wildfire season, please ensure your property is well mitigated. Until next time, we need the rain dances to start.

**NOTE:** This is shaping up as the busiest fire and medical response year ever. From December to the end of March, BMFPD has responded to half the calls it normally gets in an entire year. BE SAFE!

## ON THE WATER FRONT

By Bob deHaas

By the time you read this, Spring will have arrived and April showers should be falling. It was a dry winter but our water source, the reservoir, is in good shape. The restoration vegetation should be coming up and the area will soon look similar to the other hillsides in the area.

You should have received a mailer in February about a community effort to get solar power for your homes. The companies participating were giving discounts AND they were also agreeing to help provide solar for the Community Center. Renewable energy is a hot topic. If we want to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and keep the price of oil down it is necessary to explore and utilize renewable energy whenever practicable.

The reservoir has not only benefited the area by providing a much needed dependable water supply (when is the last time you heard us saying, "Be prepared to really cut your usage down?") but it is also allowing the District to reduce some of its electrical costs. The District is able to do this by only moving water from its surface water source to the reservoir when it is sure it can continuously pump around the clock every day for a whole month's electrical billing period. Our ability to move water depends on the water flows at our point of diversion and the water level of the reservoir (whether there is enough room in the reservoir to hold a whole month's worth of pumping). The bottom line is that for four to six months of each year the District does not move water from its surface water source to the reservoir. Each month the District does not move water saves the District about \$1,250.00, for a total of \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 a year! For example the District did not move any water to the reservoir during December 2008, January 2009, or February 2009. The District will move water during March of 2009 but will probably not move any water in April or May. Then, beginning some time in June, the District will again move water, so that if we have a hot dry summer the reservoir will be full before our surface water source (Four Mile Creek) starts experiencing low flows.

This strategy not only benefits the District in cost savings but also benefits the environment, other water users and other communities, because we will

not be taking water during the low flows. Just as the District said when we proposed building the reservoir: this is a win-win project for everyone!



## BMFPD Garage Sale May 15-17

Donavolpers, prepare!

By Babette and Art Markey

Spring is sprung and the garage sale hath come. Or at least it will real soon. It's time for everyone to start getting ready, whether you will be a donator, a volunteer, a shopper or a donavolper (that's someone who will be all 3).

Some folks have gotten an early start. The storage shed is full again this year from "off-season" donations from folks who were moving out of the district or otherwise could not store their donations until the early May collection dates. We also have had a number of calls from people inquiring about what to do with furniture and other things they will be donating but fortunately most have been able to hold on to their own donations until the collection dates.

And now a big thanks to Boulder Heights resident Carol Zelzer, who has so kindly allowed us to use her shed for storage for so many years now. This is our last year for using the shed since she now has other plans for it. We really appreciate her having helped out this way! We are looking into other off-season storage alternatives for next season. Anyone have some space to offer?????

This is the Fire Department Auxiliary's largest single fund raiser for its work in support of our BMFPD volunteers. To have yet another successful sale, we need the help of all of you. How can you help?

### 1. Donate

We will need lots of 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:** almost anything that is not listed in the 'won't take' list.

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! If you donate a car, we will basically act as the 'broker' in selling any vehicle. We will have the buyer make his 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. Volunteer

Many volunteers are needed to make the sale successful. If you have previously worked at our garage sale, 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 have lots of possible "jobs" ... both before, during and after the sale. We are a fun group to work with, so come out and join us!

## 3. Shop

No matter how much great stuff is donated, it takes a lot of shoppers for us to have a successful sale. Making some purchases at the sale is a great way for you to support our firefighters. This is one of the best sales in the area, so spread the word amongst your friends. We will have flyers available for distribution in advance of the sale. If you would like some flyers, (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 2	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday May 3	10 AM - 2 PM
Saturday May 9	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday May 10	10 AM - 2 PM

### **The big sale:**

Friday May 15	9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday May 15	9 AM - 4 PM
Sunday May 17	noon - 4 PM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Hi, it's Charmaine Settle (Bill Alexander's wife) at 304 Pine Tree Lane. I wanted to write and remind our residents to sign up for the PBH yahoo group. Those of us who are already on that email list realize how important it is to receive pertinent information in a timely fashion, like when there are cougar sightings or killings in our neighborhood. This reminds us to keep an ever-present eye on our dogs when they are outside during that time. As an example of my concern, I have seen (and talked with) some of our residents who let their dogs run free outside. I have started conversation with them, asking, ""Do you know we have mountain lions up here and there have been killings?" only to discover that they have not signed up to receive the PBH yahoo group news and are completely uninformed about any of this!!! So I just wanted to chime in with a reminder for residents to sign up on the PBH yahoo group in order to keep informed on all issues pertinent to living in our neighborhood.

Best,

Charmaine Settle

*Thanks for writing, Charmaine. Actually, there are three important email groups in PBH. The yahoo group you mention is the Pine Brook Forum, run by Steve Mestdagh. Access this group by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pinebrookhills> and click on Join This Group. If you have any trouble signing up, there is a place on the home page to send a message to Steve for help. Marty Lasher runs [pbhsafetyandsecurity@hotmail.com](mailto:pbhsafetyandsecurity@hotmail.com), which emails information about fire, cougars, suspicious vehicles and anything else that might affect safety and security in PBH. Join by writing to their hotmail address. Finally, Mark Menagh, HOA President, has a President's email list that sends notices of meetings, minutes, and other matters of importance to the community. To be included in this group, write to [markmenagh@comcast.net](mailto:markmenagh@comcast.net).*

Dear Editor,

In the Quiz at the back of the Autumn 2008 edition of the Pine Brook Press, it stated that Ips Beetles can have four flights per year. When asked how many new trees could be infested in one year, the answer was potentially 192. The answer is not simply four times the number of MPB trees, but potentially 24,576 - it is 8 raised to the fourth power (times the original six).

You're right, this is not engineering, just basic compound math.

I enjoy reading each edition. Keep up the good work.

Tom Akins

*You are absolutely right, Tom. 6 trees infested by Ips Beetles, each tree capable of infesting up to 8 new trees in a generation, and with a potential of 4 generations a year, could indeed potentially infest 24,576 trees in a year. Slight miscalculation. At least no one can accuse me of exaggerating the beetle problem! Down and out with Ips-hit trees.*

*~ Your humble ed.*



## WHY CHEAP WATER IS CAUSING A WORLD CRISIS

By Steve Maxwell

Imagine that an international commission of astronomers discovers that a massive asteroid is hurtling directly towards us, and is certain to destroy the earth in ten years.

With an immediate and coordinated international effort, however, the scientists say there is a decent chance that we can develop the technology to redirect or explode the asteroid before it destroys us.

Given that doing nothing means sure annihilation, the peoples of the world drop their religious and political quarrels, and agree to throw all of their resources and energy together to find a way for the human race to survive.

We need to develop this kind of mindset with respect to the impending world water crisis, and nowhere more than right here in Colorado. There simply is no substance more critical to life than water - we cannot live without it for more than a few days. Ultrapure processed water has made possible our advanced industrial economy and increased standards of living for the world's people. Modern irrigation techniques have allowed us to feed our expanding population, and to turn deserts into shining oases. Yet we continue to deplete and pollute our limited water resources at an alarming rate, and we steadfastly look the other way while our water treatment and distribution infrastructure continues to crumble.

The twin challenges of water quantity and water quality represent an inexorable planetary crisis - Union Bank of Switzerland, the world's largest financial services organization, referred to this as the "defining

crisis of the 21st Century." It may not have the sudden impact of the asteroid, but its ultimate effect may be just as dire.

Much of the population still seems to believe that water should be essentially free, forgetting that it costs money - lots of it - to collect, clean, store and distribute the stuff.

Many of our treatment plants and distribution pipelines were built fifty to a hundred years ago and are rapidly decaying, with leakage rates as high as 50% in some older cities.

More ominously, many of our underground and surface water sources are irreversibly contaminated, or are drying up from decades of overuse.

Yet, mayors are rewarded for keeping spending down, not for insuring that their communities will have vital water resources in the future. City councils are loath to raise rates, even though big percentage increases in water rates would amount to no more than ten or fifteen dollars a month for most of us.

The main reason for our nonchalance is that water remains absurdly cheap relative to its real value. Americans today pay an average of a quarter of a penny per gallon for the clean drinking water that magically comes out of our taps - about \$20 a month for the typical family. Most Europeans pay three to four times as much. On a per gallon basis, we pay a thousand times more for gasoline, and two thousand times as much for soft drinks or beer. It has even been pointed out that chicken manure typically costs around \$15/ton at the local nursery, and potting soil can cost as much as \$2,500/ton, while water costs about 60 cents a ton - a succinct definition of "dirt cheap."

And because our water is so cheap, we waste a lot of it. The United States was recently cited by The Economist as the most wasteful nation on earth in terms of water usage.

A massive public education project is needed to help the American public understand that we must all eventually pay to correct the water pollution problems that we have created, and to rebuild the infrastructure that we have allowed to fall into decay - huge costs that current water prices do not properly reflect.

This is an issue of common economic sense, but it could eventually result in devastating public health

problems and widespread shortages if we don't begin to take action today.

Yes, water frequently falls from the sky. Yes, three-quarters of our planet is covered with water. And yes, fresh water is abundant in many parts of the globe. But it's not always clean, it's not always where we need it, and it costs the world hundreds of billions of dollars a year to collect, clean, and distribute.

The world's population has increased four-fold over the last hundred years, but we still have the same amount of water. And, unlike any other commodity, there is truly no substitute for water.

Serious water problems are hurtling towards us in the near future, and we need to take more dramatic steps right now to begin addressing these problems. To preserve our precious water resources, Coloradans in particular must get ready to conserve more - and pay more - in the future.

*Steve Maxwell is a Pine Brooker and a member of the Board of Directors of the Pine Brook Water District. Although our water is not cheap, Steve's arguments certainly apply to the wider world. His article appeared in the online version of The Denver Post on 2/26/2009.*



## WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBORS!

**The Frasers** - Chase, Tina, Chloe (5) and Quinn (2 ½) write that they moved from San Antonio to their brand new home on Alder Lane "So that we could raise our kids in this beautiful part of the country." Chase owns an internet marketing company and Tina is an obstetrician/gynecologist. Chloe will start kindergarten at Foothills Elementary in the fall, and Quinn will start pre-school. Chase and Tina love to hike, camp and ski and they want their children to grow up sharing and loving these activities too.

**Boni Lonnsburry** - originally from Western New York, she moved to Colorado in 1993. She owns a marketing company based in Broomfield called In Touch Today. The views, natural surroundings, and privacy coupled with proximity to town led to her move to Pine Brook from Hygiene. She has two adult sons (both in college) and three cats. Her varied interests include meditation, writing, reading, hiking, playing racquetball, cooking (vegan) and travel. She says, "I am excited to be living back in the mountains again...people are so much friendlier!"

## THE NEW FOREST

There are good reasons to be starting a new forest even if we do defeat the beetles in this round of Humans vs. Insects. The healthiest forests have diversity not only of tree type but of age class. Our forest is mostly even aged ponderosas, with the majority of our trees about 100 years old. Like the rest of us, trees have a natural life expectancy. Encouraging a new generation of pine trees will provide a forest for the future.

There are several techniques for establishing the New Forest even as we fight to save the old one. Most of us would probably find that we have tiny pine seedlings coming up here and there, mostly there (meaning where we don't want them, such as in a flower bed or gravel driveway). Dig them up! Put them in little holes where you would want new trees to be, and water them. They grow surprisingly fast, which is to say several inches a year. Planning a tree house in one of them would be premature.

Did you respond, "Water them?! With our water rates?" Ah, but there's an easy way to plant a forest for free, without water. The first step is to watch the squirrels. Toward the end of summer they start cutting and storing cones, and that is a sign that the cones are ripe. Pick up some cones or rob a squirrel's cache and put the cones in a paper bag. Set them aside in an outdoor shed or unheated garage and let them dry all winter. In the spring, rake up an area where you would like to grow trees. Shake the seeds out of the cones, plant them ½" deep in what passes for soil around here, and ignore them. Seedlings will appear and survive on their own. Later you can refine your "forest" by thinning or transplanting if you wish.

An even more passive way to start a forest is to select or create an area presently clear of pine trees but surrounded by them. Rough up the soil a bit, and let nature take its course. Pines want to grow in Pine Brook Hills.

Finally, the Colorado State Forest Service offers seedling trees at extremely reasonable rates. Visit their website at <http://csfs.colostate.edu>. The trees are sold in lots of 30 to 50 trees per species, and conifers range from 3" to 12" tall. Cam Peterson has had good luck with his little forest of pines and firs. Rather than planting the baby trees where he wants them to grow, this year he will plant a nursery of





Cam Peterson tends his little forest

white firs and ponderosa, bristlecone and pinyon pines in pots, placed in a trench, near to each other for easy watering. When they have outgrown their pots he will give them permanent homes. There's hope for the future!



### NEW WEAPON IN THE BEETLE BATTLE?

Aspen shares our worries. On the other side of the Continental Divide, the beetles that have devastated the Western Slope are just beginning their assault on the Roaring Fork Valley and the town of Aspen.

John Bennett, former mayor of Aspen and executive director of For the Forest, recently traveled to the little town of Merritt, British Columbia. Merritt is threatened by the epidemic that has killed 33 million acres of Canadian forest. A nearby town, Kamloops, lost 98% of its trees. Merritt decided to take arms against a sea of beetles and by opposing them, if not end them, at least hold them off until the epidemic subsides or (as Beetle Buster Jim Adams says) a cold snap "freezes their little legs off."

The plan was to use the beetles' own weapon against them. Beetles signal to one another via chemicals. When a beetle first enters a tree and finds it to be a compatible host, she (if it's a Mountain Pine Beetle, "he" if it's an Ips) signals to other beetles via an aggregation pheromone that says, in essence, "Come onna my tree." A mass attack on a tree is essential to overcome the tree's defenses. But when the tree is full of beetles and more beetles might threaten their own survival, they emit an anti-aggregation pheromone whose message is, "Tree is full. Try the tree next door." Because of these signals, it is typical in an epidemic

to find first one beetle-hit tree, then a small cluster nearby, and finally a large group of infested trees.

What if that "Tree is full" signal could be manufactured in labs in order to protect trees from attack? It's been done, and it's called Verbenone. Verbenone is not an insecticide. It's an organic compound found in the oils of verbena (hence the name) and rosemary. You may have sipped it in herbal tea, sniffed it in aromatherapy, used it in certain soaps or even glowed with it via something called "Visibly Radiant Moisturizer." In other words, it is very safe. After removing all infested trees in the area, Merritt used Verbenone pouches stapled to some of its trees and estimates that it saved 70% of its forest.

But stapling pouches to trees annually is labor-intensive. What if Verbenone flakes could be dropped via helicopter to protect an entire subdivision? Say, for example, Pine Brook Hills? A Forest Service researcher in California, Dr. Nancy Gillette, conducted an experiment using this technique. The flakes of Verbenone, so small as to be almost invisible, contain a "sticker" that makes them cling to the trees. In Dr. Gillette's experiment, the number of beetle-killed trees in the study area was reduced by 2/3 when compared to the control area. The cost for applying Verbenone in this way is about \$100 an acre. As in the case of Merritt, success depends on removing infested trees first.

In the past, experiments with Verbenone have had mixed results, but the technology is improving. We'll be watching eagerly for peer reviewed studies. If the results are good, Verbenone may be an important weapon in the beetle battle.



### THE SCOURGE OF SPURGE

Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is on the County's list of noxious weeds that must be removed. Now is the time to dig up this weed. Wear gloves and eye protection, bag the spurge and throw it away. The County mandates removal of this nasty pest.



For more information:

[http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/openspace/pdf\\_brochures/myrtle\\_spurge.pdf](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/openspace/pdf_brochures/myrtle_spurge.pdf)

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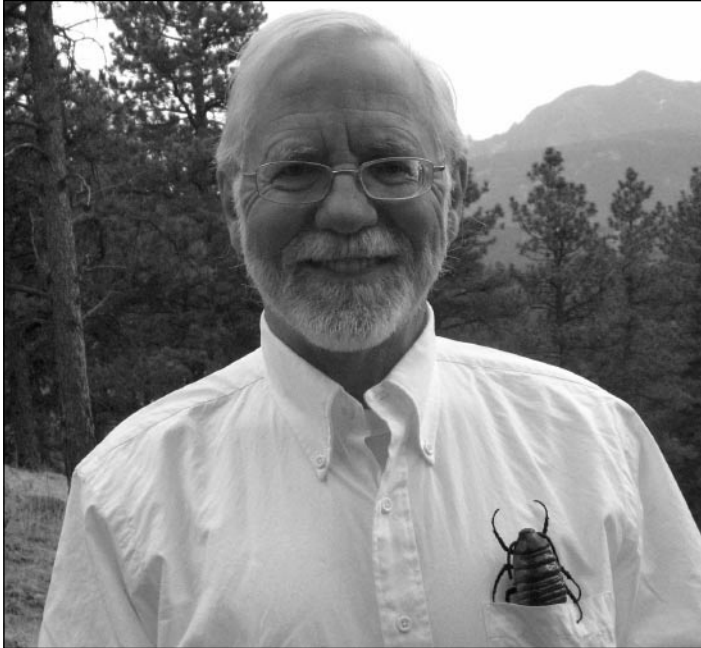
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## BEETLE BUSTER JIM ADAMS RECEIVES HIGH HONOR

Jim Adams is the latest recipient of the coveted Beetle Award, an honor accorded to the Beetle Buster who has made extraordinary contributions in the Beetle Battle. Like the Stanley Cup, the Award is passed from one winning recipient to the next. Unlike the Stanley Cup, the Beetle Award is an extremely ugly



mechanical beetle which can be controlled remotely, enabling the beetle to go backwards, forwards, or dart across the table toward frightened observers, for as long as the batteries hold out.

Jim has been active on many of the more physically demanding beetle inspections and has also contributed his technical knowledge in several ways, such as locating long lost property boundaries and using computer technology creatively to hunt local beetles on the net. Congratulations, Jim!



## REMODELING PROJECT GOES TO THE DOGS (AND CATS)

Jan Mitchell moved to Pine Brook in 1990, to a house that came from a kit, a 2300 square foot box with a floor plan that could charitably be called challenging. But that wasn't the problem. The problem was lack of space for the dogs and cats she rescues from "Death Row." When some animal shelters decide

that an animal cannot be socialized and is therefore not adoptable, they "put it to sleep." This is a crisis for an animal lover, which means that Jan takes many of these animals home.

One time an officer from Animal Control arrived at Jan's door with a box containing a mother dog and six puppies, only days old. The animals were to be put to death because the mother dog could not be socialized. Would Jan take them in? She would. They joined numerous cats and dogs saved from death. At one point she had 24 foster animals, all being cared for so gently and lovingly that they were rehabilitated and most were eventually adopted. But the house was getting a bit crowded, especially because some of the animals needed to be isolated. So the plan was - expand. But do it in a "green" way.

The result, shepherded by Stephanie Ridgeway of 303 Architecture, added 1300 square feet, along with height, light, and what Jan and guests experience as a beautiful energy. Jan wanted a place where friends, "two-footeds as well as four footeds," could gather. She has it now. The Pine Brook Aging in Place group, (currently self-referred to as "The Pine Boxers"), has adopted Jan's house as their regular gathering place. A neighbor teasingly referred to her "new" house as The Taj Mahal. Jan, a massage therapist since 1985, offers neighbors a commute-free massage, steam shower, tea in the garden and the prospect of going home in a bathrobe. That would have to be a Taj Massage.

But the four footeds are still central to the plan. An indoor "endless pool" in a warm room provides "Pawquatics" for dogs with hip dysplasia or other ills. A friend, Deb D'Andrea, can provide canine therapy for arthritic dogs while the dog's owner can watch and relax with a chair massage.

Everything in the renovation seems to have had a prior life elsewhere. Jan and her architect scoured Resource in east Boulder and Extra Building Materials in Denver for usable materials. The staircase banisters are the trunks of aspen trees discarded by an artist who decided not to use them. Kitchen and other cabinets are recycled, some from Resource and others that fell off the back of a Kraftmaid truck. Really. Not a joke. The alder trim in the new rooms came from a lumber yard closing. Interesting glass paneled doors didn't work as doors and so were used as room dividers. The result is delightful, although not especially

cost-saving. For example, a wall unit/closet combination which looks built in, IS built in, but the wall was moved to fit around the furniture.



Jan's Old House

Green improvements added energy efficiency. Jan's solar boiler is 93% efficient; for the first five months her energy cost was zero. The

addition of the indoor heated pool raised her monthly energy bill to about \$44.

Soon after her arrival in PBH Jan added a chain link enclosure under her high deck as a safe place for the animals to play outdoors. It's a large area where the dogs can run, lounge on an old couch or seek refuge in a dog house. She says, "It's an easy solution. A few hundred dollars can protect our loved ones. There are mountain lions here and they have a right to be here. We moved into their territory. We're like the Brits coming in to Indian land. It isn't ours because we came here. We have to share it."

Jan's volunteer work with animals extends far beyond Pine Brook and includes a stint rescuing animals in New Orleans after Katrina, plus multiple visits to Ethiopia and Ghana. In Ethiopia she established water stations for horses. She sold the water for three cents a bucket and provided free first aid and medical supplies for the animals of villagers who agreed to water their horses. It was common to see abandoned horses on the street. Although some had to be euthanized, many were saved, and the former three year horse life expectancy was extended to seven years. Jan's primary goal was to show people that it is cost effective to treat their animals kindly.

Her work in Ghana is ongoing. She responded to a Ghanaian Department of Agriculture proposal and traveled to Yua, a village 14 hours from the nearest town. She was the first white person to

visit there. The villagers had been working their fields by hand. Jan's project was to provide the village with two bullocks, and to show the villagers how to care for the new animals and use them for plowing.

This was a challenge for her, she said. "What do I know about bullocks? I'm from Beverly Hills! Those bullocks looked fierce out in the field. But a demonstration was needed. I walked slowly toward them, sweating bullets. I'd never been next to a bullock. But I talked to them

softly, and they just stood there calmly." This impressed the villagers. After a time the bullocks learned to come when called and the rings in their noses were removed. Jan is now the "Pognaba," or Queen Mother, of the village. Other advances followed, like solar power, a school, and a livestock vaccination program. Jan insisted that only villagers who treated their animals gently could have those animals vaccinated, although it

hurt her to turn animals away. The program became popular, and on one trip 2500 sheep and goats were vaccinated in two days. Subsequently there have been no animal deaths from diseases, a first for Northern Ghana.

"This has been very healing to me," Jan emphasized. "I've contributed to someone else's well-being. That's why I'm here - to experience my own joy as a human being and to contribute to the joy of others. I'm not an enlightened being!"

**Jan is willing to share her experiences in "green building," accommodating homes to animals and the creative use of old materials. She invites the neighborhood to an Open House on Saturday, May 9, 9-6, and Sunday, May 10, 12 to 4.**



Her Remodeled House



Jan and her dog cushions

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