



Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2013

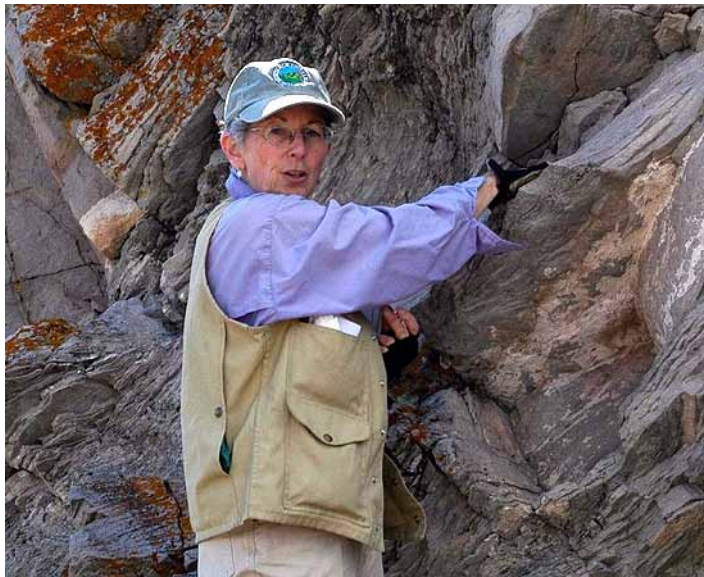


THE STORY ROCKS TELL: THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF BOULDER COUNTY

At the HOA meeting on Thursday, May 23, we'll be joined by geology expert Dr. Sue Hirschfeld.

The geologic history of Boulder County goes back over 1.7 billion years. Ever wonder where the rocks came from, how they formed, or what the earth was like back then? Geologist and volunteer naturalist Dr. Sue Ellen Hirschfeld will answer these questions and more. Learn how to read the story in the rocks and interpret the landscape changes through geologic time.

Sue will present an entertaining and informative narrative, with images, of Boulder County's unique geology and landscape. Among her recent accomplishments is a published study of the Old Kiln trail that abuts PBH and she has published three local trail guides based on tours she gives.



Dr. Sue Ellen Hirschfeld on the Old Kiln Trail

These tours follow east-west oriented trails located in Open Space and Mountain Parks (south, central, and north Boulder). These trails cross rock units ranging from about 300 – 700 million years ago. The rocks record environments representing the complete erosion of the Ancestral Rocky Mountains, flooding of

Colorado under the Western Interior Sea, and uplift of the present Rocky Mountains. The guides and associated tours identify the rocks, environments they represent, and how geologists interpret the geologic history.



PBH Rocks!

Photo by Dave Davies

Dr. Hirschfeld is a retired Professor of Geological Sciences from California State University, Hayward. She received her B.S. in Biology in 1963, her M.S. in Geology in 1965 from the University of Florida, and her Ph.D. in Vertebrate Paleontology in 1971 from the University of California, Berkeley. Sue moved to Boulder in 2001. She volunteers as a naturalist for the City and County of Boulder and she presents programs and field trips on local geology. She has developed several educational, interpretive geology signs for notable geologic locations and web-based self-guided field trips in Boulder that are on her personal website and the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks website.

**ANNUAL BMFPD GARAGE SALE
APPROACHING
May 17-18-19**

Thrifters will find plenty to love at the 2013 garage sale. The BMFPD Auxiliary's main fundraiser fills every available space at Fire Station 1/PBH Community Center. Hours are 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily, with a tradition of early birds gathering Friday morning, eagerly awaiting the 9 A.M. rope drop.

Collecting Donations at the Pine Brook Firehouse

Saturday, May 4	10 AM – 2 PM
Sunday, May 5	10 AM – 2 PM
Saturday, May 11	10 AM – 2 PM
Sunday, May 12	10 AM – 2 PM

The Big Sale

Friday, May 17	9 AM – 4 PM
Saturday, May 18	9 AM – 4 PM
Sunday, May 19	9 AM – 4 PM

Art Markey, along with his wife, Babette, has been a garage sale coordinator for 16 years. "We started out raising a couple thousand dollars, and last year we raised more than \$30,000, thanks to the great donations of items we get from the neighborhood. Dozens of neighbors and Department volunteers put in countless hours to make the sale happen."

upholstery, broken or incomplete items, computers more than three years old, or tube TVs).



More volunteers are needed: working 8 hours or more earns pre-shopping privileges. To volunteer, contact Kady Offen at kaydor@yahoo.com.



Long-time residents of the District know to schedule spring cleaning to coincide with the two Donation Weekends that precede the sale. Donations are welcomed at the fire station the weekends of May 4 & 5 and May 11 & 12, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. each day.

High-value donations – vehicles, power tools, antiques, and collectibles – add excitement and boost the sale's earnings. Organizers welcome donations large and small (but no mattresses, damaged



*Pine Brook Hills
Homeowners Association*

The existing PBH Logo - suggested changes are welcome. (See "President's Patter, pp 3-4.)



Boulder, Colorado 80304

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING, Thursday, May 23, 6 P.M.
 6 P.M. for potluck and refreshments, 7 P.M. for the talk by Dr. Sue Ellen Hirschfeld on "The Story Rocks Tell: The Geologic History of Boulder County." Business meeting at 8 P.M.

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

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 & Catherine Von Hatten, 997-8319

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WATER DISTRICT

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

AUXILIARY GARAGE SALE - Garage Sale Donation drop-off: 10 AM until 2 PM on 5/4, 5/4, 5/11, and 5/12. The BIG SALE: 9 AM until 4 PM on 5/17, 5/18 and 5/19. (See page 2.)

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 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 4 P.M. Call 444-9851 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 Dave Davies, HOA President

As detailed elsewhere in this issue, we have yet another great speaker in May. The trails of Boulder County are one of its greatest jewels. As you walk them (or bike or run or walk the dog) you must have wondered where the landscape came from. Our speaker, Dr. Sue Ellen Hirschfeld, is a professional geologist who, after retiring from a university position, came to Boulder and works with the Open Space staff to both act as docent and to understand the local geology. Her talk is entitled...



The Story Rocks Tell: The Geologic History of Boulder County. The presentation will be on Thursday, May 23, at the Community Center/Fire House. As usual, there will be a potluck at 6 P.M. followed by the talk at 7 P.M. There will be a brief business meeting afterwards.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Now on to another topic — "Where (and who) is Pine Brook Hills?"

In the last few years, I have met with several of the Boulder County staff including the three former County commissioners and the two newly voted-in ones, as well as several staffers in Land Use, Zoning, and

Transportation, etc.

I have consistently been struck by one thing: **“They barely know Pine Brook Hills exists.”**

As an un-incorporated County community we have little awareness at the County level--especially among County decision makers. As the media pros would say we have no image, no awareness, no profile or (as Patricia Belanger would—and has said) no “BRAND.”

Now this may be because we have a somewhat pedestrian name, after all we are not named after a famous local Indian Chief (like “Niwot”) or have unique weird name (like “GunBarrell”). There isn’t even a “pine brook” itself to my knowledge. Even our Fire Department is no longer Pine Brook Hills, but Boulder Mountain Fire. (For good reason I must admit)

It may be that this is fine, maybe we don’t need a stronger image, but I think it would help get our point across in local issues such as roads, traffic, tax increases, etc. if the awareness was higher. We are after all one of the largest and highest taxable value subdivisions in the County.

In addition to a stronger government awareness, it might even help property values. Local realtors know where we are but are surprisingly ignorant on who we are. Several times a month I have to respond to realtors who are closing on a house and need to know what the HOA “charges.” Many of them have no idea about PBH and its culture.

I am NOT advocating spending money to hire professionals, placing ads, doing a PR campaign. I don’t think that is what most of our residents want. After all we live in the mountains to get away from that by and large. BUT we can do something that will help and that is easy, such as...

1. We can be more active in participating on County Boards and committees. We have made a start here and some of our residents have applied to be on the Transport PID board. But by and large, our voice is not heard on the dozens of other County advisory boards.

To that end I will keep focused on what board and committees are open and need people and then suggest to potential candidates that they might sign up. If you get a call from me please be positive if you can, we are all busy but it can be a fun opportunity.

2. We can cultivate local journalists and occasionally

“place” favorable local stories. Our BeetleBuster story, for example, has been publicized locally and is known state wide. But we need more awareness not just with the local paper but with the Denver TV stations—who certainly have never heard of us.

What else might be out there that you think is a positive local story? The fire mitigation efforts we have done locally are also known in some quarters but we could certainly push that out there more.

Bottom line on this is that we need a volunteer for what I will call “PBH Outreach”—someone with an ear for a good story and the moxie and contacts to get it out there (in a PBH positive light of course)—any volunteers?

3. I am considering that we invite some Denver area TV personalities to a HOA meeting. They will often do that as part of their own local awareness project –after all that is their business. Of course it depends on them having something to say...and whether they have influence on the news editors at all.
4. How about we take the PBH logo. (see page 2) and spruce it up and then get the option of it being embroidered on shirts, etc. The HOA will pay to get it put in digital form (generally about \$50) and then place it with well-known vendors such as “Lands End” and others in what is called a Corporate Program. Anyone interested can then buy a Lands End shirt and order it with the logo embroidered for a nominal sum. Then as we frequent the bars and watering holes of Boulder people will say—“what is that Tree on your shirt?” and learn all about us.

But before we think of that let’s see if we can punch up the logo a bit, the existing logo (**see page 2**) can be changed and improved, use your creative power. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DRAWINGS AND IDEAS TO ME, all I ask is that if we select your improvement, you assign the copyright to us. Rough drawings are OK we will tidy them up, and stay within the existing theme if you would. The selected winner will get a (very modest) gift.

Any other ideas along these lines to raise the brand awareness of PBH? Send them to me or put them out on the yahoo group.

HOA DUES REMINDER

If you are one of those who just can't seem to remember to put that check either in the mail or in the HOA box in the community center parking lot, why not do it now? The suggested HOA dues amount of \$ 75 per year per lot has been recommended for several years. There are many residents who contribute more than their share each year. As always, checks made out to Pine Brook Hills HOA and sent, if by mail, to 1907 Linden Drive are always welcome. Thank you very much for making PBH a great place to live!

ROADS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Cindy Lindsay

The Boulder County Subdivision Paving webpage - www.bouldercounty.org/subdivisionpaving has been updated and will be the best place to stay up on all the issues listed below.

1. Each homeowner in Boulder County Subdivisions will be receiving a letter from the Board of Commissioners letting them know of:
 - The decision to place creation of a PID on the November ballot
 - The decision that should it (PID) not be approved, creation of a LID
 - The link to the new webpage, encouraging participation, etc.
 - It will also provide information on the working group that has been created to advise the Transportation Dept. on recommendations for the PID/LID, and that the working group meetings will be public (but will not include public input)
2. Boulder County has contracted with CDR Associates to help manage public outreach and education around the PID.
3. Look for a letter to the editor (or go to <http://www.bouldercounty.org/roads/plans/pages/spwg.aspx>) asking for volunteers to participate on a small (5-10) Working Group to guide development of the specific public improvement and local improvement district characteristics and guide public outreach and communication efforts. The Working Group will be focused on how best to structure the improvement district; NOT whether to move forward with creation of a district – that

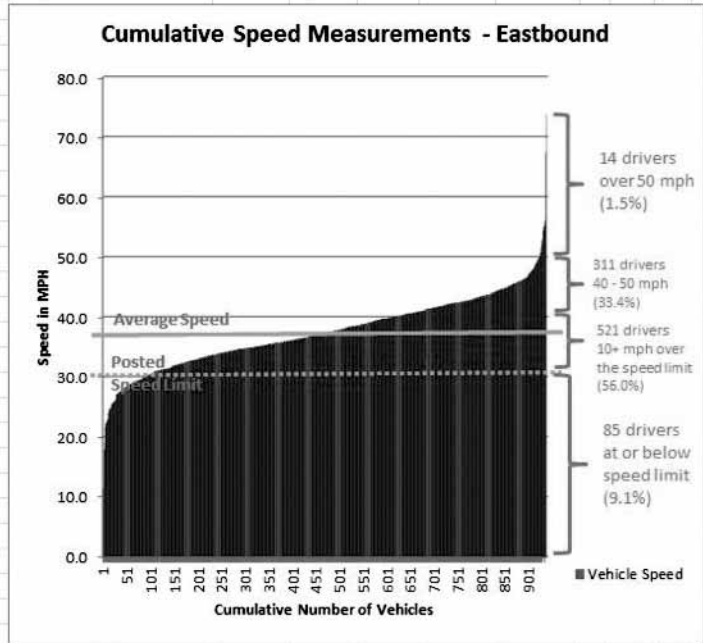
decision is already made.

4. The general timeline is that the Working Group will meet 4 to 5 times between April and June/July, with public hearings on the PID occurring in the July/August time frame.

Boulder County Department of Transportation is also publishing a road safety and county safety intervention guideline document that will be available later this spring. The Roads Committee is following this process to determine if there is any way to have the county take action regarding the speeding on Linden. Look for more information on this document.

1. The county did a one-day speed test on Linden. See results in chart “Cumulative Speed Measurements—Eastbound.”

Average Speed:	37.6 mph
% at/below speed limit	9.1% (85 drivers)
% 30.1 to 39.9 mph	56.0% (521 drivers)
% 40.0 to 49.9	33.4% (311 drivers)
% 50.0 to 59.9	1.3% (12 drivers)
one person at	67.5 mph
one person at	73.7 mph



2. The Boulder County Sheriff provided an accident report summary for PBH over the last 4 years. Data and statistics, for 2011 and 2012, for accidents per vehicle transit are show on the next page “Boulder County Sheriff’s Office Accident Report for Pine Brook Hills.” This data does not indicate that the accident level in PBH is severe enough that the county will be interested in intervening using county funds. Interesting information from the report:
 - All reported accidents happened on Linden

- Accidents happened at all times of day
- Accidents happened in Q1 & Q4 (most likely bad weather months)

Boulder County Sheriff's Office Accident Report for Pine Brook Hills

2011 and 2012

CAD Incident	Location	Case Number	Call Type	Call Code	Created -- Closed	
LBC110205005244	S CEDAR BROOK RD & LINDEN DR		INROL	ROLLOVER ACCD - LAW	02/05/11 06:33 -- 02/05/11 07:17	Q1 morning
LBC110218007319	1024 LINDEN DR		UNACL	ACCD - UNK INJ	02/18/11 21:22 -- 02/18/11 22:30	Q1 night
LBC110928045363	LINDEN DR & TIMBER LN		PDACC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCI	09/28/11 15:18 -- 09/28/11 16:05	Q4 afternoon
LBC111109052134	LINDEN DR & TIMBER LN		PDACC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCI	11/09/11 18:10 -- 11/09/11 18:53	Q4 evening
LBC120107001044	1579 LINDEN DR	LBC120107000094	PDACC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCI	01/07/12 16:25 -- 01/07/12 18:26	Q1 afternoon
LBC120207005684	LINDEN DR & PINE BROOK RD		PDACC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCI	02/07/12 07:37 -- 02/07/12 08:29	Q1 morning
LBC120313011731	S CEDAR BROOK RD & LINDEN DR		INROL	ROLLOVER ACCD - LAW	03/13/12 15:00 -- 03/13/12 15:36	Q1 afternoon
LBC120922044584	240 LINDEN DR		INACL	ACCIDENT WITH INJURI	09/22/12 23:39 -- 09/23/12 0:47	Q1 night
LBC121007046734	LINDEN DR & WILD HORSE CIR		INACL	ACCIDENT WITH INJURI	10/7/12 14:02 -- 10/7/12 15:52	Q4 afternoon
LBC121110052087	CHOLLA CT & LINDEN DR		PDACC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCI	11/10/12 15:06 -- 11/10/12 15:26	Q4 afternoon

10 TOTAL Accidents reported to the Boulder County Sheriff's Office

Definitions

INACL	Accident - Injury
INROL	Rollover Accident
PDACC	Property Damage Accident
UNACL	Accident - Unknown Injury

From the speed study: Approximately 900 vehicle trips per day drive into/out of PBH
 Annual vehicles = 468,000 Vehicles per 2 year period (approx.)
 Ratio of accidents to vehicle 0.0000214
 --> 1 accident in every 50,000 vehicle trips into/out of PBH

If you add in 2009 and 2010 - basically no change:
 Annual vehicles = 936,000 Vehicles per 4 year period (approx.)
 Ratio of accidents to vehicle 0.0000224
 --> 1 accident in every 50,000 vehicle trips into/out of PBH

ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob de Haas

The Pine Brook Water District has a lot going on right now!

First, it's been a very dry winter. Snowpack, as of the middle of March, is only about 70% of normal. The winter has been so dry that the District has only been able to move one of its two winter water rights over to the reservoir. That is why the reservoir is down lower than normal for this time of year. The District has not been able to move any water to the reservoir since December.

So what does that mean? Not a lot right now. A lot can change between now and summer (though the predictions are not encouraging). What we do know is that beginning April 15 we can start filling the reservoir. If we are lucky, we might be able to start around April 1. Based on everything we know right now the District should be able to fill the reservoir by the end of June or at the very least come very close to filling it. Assuming that this occurs then the District should be in good shape for the rest of the year.

Second, the District is taking an aggressive approach to address a problem in "lost" or "unaccounted" water. This is water that is produced at the filter plant and pumped into the system but does not seem to be showing on the meters that measure how much



water is used by each home. Having some lost water is normal; the goal is to have 10% or less. Currently there is about 20% to 25% lost water which in this day and age is just not acceptable. The District is taking a two prong attack to identify where the lost water "is."

1. The District will be replacing 175 meters in lower Pine Brook. Then by comparing what our meters in our pump houses show being delivered to that area to the amount of water used by the homes we can determine if the age of our meters (most of the meters are 14 years old) is part of the problem. These new meters are more accurate and less prone to start reading less usage as they age. **This also means that some homes (those who were actually using more water than what their meter was registering) may see an increase in their bills.**

It is important that we can access the meter pits to change out the meters so if you have plants, landscaping, etc. around your meter pit you may want to move it before we have to. This includes trimming up tree limbs that may reach over the meter pit. Remember, we need clear easy access to the meter pits at all times. To work on the meters, we typically kneel or lay down and have to reach into the meter pit to replace the meter.

2. The District has also purchased its own leak detection equipment so that we can do a "leak" survey of our water mains. The goal is to see if there are leaks that are not visible and of a low volume but yet should be fixed. This will also aid in reducing the amount of "lost" or "unaccounted" water.

Each year the District normally sends out a report about the water quality. This report is called a CCR report and has normally been mailed out by this time. This year the EPA has decided that rather than having to mail out all of these reports, posting to the internet on our website is acceptable. You can find these reports by going to our website at pinebrookwater.com, go to the tab on the left that says "Water Info," and then click on the tab that will appear that is labeled "Quality." It will take you to a page that shows many years of CCR reports. Then just click on the 2013 report and you can browse the report on your computer. You can even compare it to prior year's reports if you want. This is a great new way to "deliver" these reports as it saves on paper and postage. If you do not have access to the internet or would like to have a printed copy mailed to you just let us know and we will send it out.

To access the water quality report:

- Go to pinebrookwater.com
- Go to the tab on left marked "Water info"
- Click on tab labeled "Quality" and open report

The last item we have is that we see payments or other papers meant for the Pine Brook Home Owners Association in our drop boxes. Please don't drop these items in our drop box, if it is not for us. The HOA has a drop box at the beginning of the parking lot at the Pine Brook Hills Community Center and is labeled as such; we also have a drop box there.



THE ARCHITECTURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Why do we need it and what does it do?

The Architecture Review Committee (ARC) is a subcommittee of the PBH Association Inc. (often called the HOA). It is chartered in the original covenants going back to the 1960s when PBH was platted and developed. The scope and purpose of the ARC is summarized on page 3 of the 2012/13 PBH Directory and also detailed there are the fees and contact method (email to ARC@PinebrookHills.org).

On pages 4 through 7 of the Directory, you will find the approved and legally established "Covenants" that relate both to the organization and to the ARC per se. It is instructive reading—please take a few minutes to read these pages.

So much for the legality, now what about the reality? I get questions on this frequently, so I thought I would lay out my informal answers.

1. What does the ARC do?

It reviews all PBH plans to ensure they comply with the Covenants. The Covenants apply to the following: all new construction, additions, remodels, exterior color changes, decks, large retaining walls, and storage sheds. They also apply to other land use restrictions such as sanitary facilities, livestock and poultry, compliance to all federal, local, and state laws. Also to "detriments" such as (but not limited to) dangerous, unhealthy, or hazardous conditions.

2. Who is on the ARC?

We have the following brave and dedicated souls on the ARC. They are appointed by the PBH HOA Board per Article 4 of the Covenants. Members are Acting Chair, Dave Davies, Neil Patel, Bill Alexander, Jim Eyster, Gabrielle Schuler (an architect), Rob Gordon, Tim Triggs, Barry Aaron and Mike Von Hatten. They meet every second Tuesday of every month at the Fire House if there is business to transact. All are welcome to attend; the meetings are open.

3. Why do we bother with such an activity, we are not a condo complex with shared walls and space? Why do we need it?

We are actually required to have the committee; it is obligatory under the original Covenants. To eliminate it will require a change to the Covenants and that needs 51% of all home owners.

But more importantly, it serves the following real and effective purpose—it provides neighbors with an opportunity to understand what changes are being made to a neighboring property and to add input to those changes if, (and only if), they have a basis for their input in the Covenants. The list above (question 1) outlines a pretty broad scope. In practice, what does the ARC NOT cover? Well nothing inside your home unless it violates the law or detriments clause. You can remodel the interior without approval. For the outside of your home, if your neighbors cannot see or hear it, we are less inclined to get involved (unless once again it violates the law or detriments clause). There are sometimes exceptions to that however, if in

doubt see paragraph 5 below.

4. What happens if the PBH resident ignores the ARC and violates the Covenants?

This is a problem for us as it happens occasionally. None of us want to be the “Neighborhood Police.” We don’t want to be hauling our neighbors off to court. The legal documents (Page 7 of the Directory, Article 6 of the Covenants) say we have the legal right first to seek arbitration and a judgment can be awarded by the arbitrator. Additionally if the ARC finds that a violation has been, or is being, performed we have the right to an immediate injunction to stop the work. The injunctive relief is in addition to the arbitration and the possible arbitration award.

Violation of an approved legally obtained injunction is a serious legal issue with significant potential penalties beyond any Covenant penalties.

NOW—as I said above we don’t want to go around taking people to court. So we try very hard, working with the neighbors, working with the County (Land use, Zoning, and the Sheriff) to resolve issues. It does take a long time, the wheels of county government are very slow but they get there eventually. We have the possibility of waivers but we use it very rarely (just twice in recent years). We have in the last few years gone to court with success. By the way, if we win at court or in arbitration, the violator is on the hook for ALL legal fees, including ours.

5. OK so I am not sure if my plan needs ARC approval, what do I do?

Just send us a brief message to ARC@pinebrookhills.org tell us the issue, give us your phone number, and we can respond generally within a week.

Let me know (davedavies.pbh@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Dave Davies, PBH Inc. President

TIME TO SPRAY FOR BEETLES

Spring is finally here and it is time to think about spraying your favorite trees to guard against pine beetles. You may have heard rumors that the pine beetles surrendered and moved on. That’s true in part – PBH has not suffered the losses that some areas along the Front Range have, mostly thanks to your vigilance, backed by the BeetleBusters. BUT if the drought continues, the trees will be stressed and the pine beetles will have the advantage again.

Your neighborhood BeetleBusters encourage you to

continue to spray or use Verbenone to protect your favorite trees. We’ll put the details of Verbenone purchase on the BeetleBuster website shortly (www.beetlebusters.net). In the meantime, local contractors such as Davey, Taddiken, Ehrin Weiss, are gearing up for the spraying season. Rates are pretty much the same as for last year. You can check the website for contractors.

Most sprayers are recommending two sprays per year in light of the research that suggests two life cycles per year for Mountain Pine Beetle. Please don’t be complacent. We seem to be in a slight lull with respect to pine beetles. Let’s try to keep it that way.

If you have any questions, email us at beetlebusters@gmail.com.

Your BeetleBusters Team

FIRE SIDE CHAT

By John Benson

BMFPD SETS NEW RECORD. On March 30, ten members completed an 80 hour Emergency Medical Responder Course (AKA First Responder). These members endured two nights and every Saturday until completion, learning how to provide emergency medical care to the residents of our district. These new members will join our existing medical responders, which consist of 14 Emergency Medical Technicians, 1 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, and 2 Emergency Medical Responders. This is not an easy class, the students must take multiple tests, drill extensively with mock scenarios and then take a final written and practical exam in the end. A huge congratulations goes out to Stacy Wade, Tim Farrell, Rick Waters, Cindie Maita, Colin Schaffer, Marcia McHaffie, Bob Oliver, Helen Norton, Allen Saville, and Kenny Johnson. We will also have one more member of our department -- Brook Harrison is going through the Emergency Medical Technician class right now. This class entails at least 169 hours of study. These new members will greatly assist our current medical responder staff, when responding to medical incidents in the district.

OUR SUMMER OUTLOOK. This shouldn’t come as a shock to anyone, but from all of the NOAA predictions and long conversations with meteorologists, and fire behavior analysts, it is looking like this is going to be a dryer than normal summer with less moisture. This trend is already in effect and it appears that we will

continue to see this pattern through the rest of the year. So, what does that mean for us here at BMFPD? It means a continued heightened awareness, daily staffing level monitoring, increased fuel moisture monitoring, and a very aggressive response to any smoke report and wildland fire. Our firefighters are spending the month of April preparing for this upcoming wildfire season. Our members are not taking the predictions of a bad wildfire season lightly. As always we will be to provide the quickest response possible.

What does this mean for you as a resident? If you smell or see smoke, do not hesitate, DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT CALL THE STATION. DIAL 911. There are times when we are away from our desks, out at meetings, on other incidents, or working in the field. We may not be back in the office for quite some time.

With the predictions described above, we are urging all our residents, guests and workers alike to be extra careful, one spark, one discarded bucket of ash, one cigarette butt; ONE SMALL PIECE OF CARELESSNESS has the potential to cause a large disaster. As conditions change you will be receiving updates from me, to inform you of the conditions. We encourage everyone to go to bouldermountainfire.org and review our wildfire evacuation and information.

If you are in need of mitigation work, or just need to schedule an appointment for an inspection of your property, please contact Steve Lynn at 303-440-0235 or at mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org

If you have not purchased your green reflective house numbers kits from us yet, please do so. The decorative rocks are pretty, but do not reflect headlights at night. Remember, "if we can't see you we can't treat you."

With your help, we can make our community safe during these upcoming months.

Until next time Be safe -- Stay vigilant.



BMFPD AUXILIARY KICKS OFF 2013 WORK PROGRAM

Over 30 members of the Fire Department Auxiliary gathered in March to set the year's priorities. Fire Chief John Benson set a serious tone for the meeting, reporting that the forecast for the spring and summer is for dry, warm weather, posing serious challenges for the District and its volunteer force. Andi O'Connor, the Sugarloaf resident who blogs about the loss of her home in the Fourmile Canyon Fire and who has become a fire victim advocate, returned to



deliver a talk, "Lessons Learned from Recent Fires." She covered legislative efforts at insurance reform, local government and community response, the importance of knitting a mountain community together with information

sources and emergency communication, and the realities of a two- to five-year recovery period.

With preparedness on the minds of the members, the group reviewed the four program areas it pursues:

- Fundraising to provide life safety equipment and other readiness-related support to the Fire Department.
- Community education and outreach, including the fall Fire Safety Sale to put updated fire equipment into more district homes and an outreach campaign to new District residents.
- Food and drink provisioning for responders on-scene at incidents and during major training events.
- Recognition and social opportunities for Department volunteers and their families.

Auxiliary co-president Ann Blonston cited three successes from the Fire Safety Sale and online store (bouldermountainfire.org): a deck fire, a dryer fire and a kitchen fire were all extinguished by residents using new equipment and the technique they learned at the Fire Safety Sale. Of the New Resident Outreach program initiated in 2012, she said, "With 3% to 5% of the District's homes changing hands every year, we have an ongoing challenge to educate our new neighbors about smart mountain living, and to jumpstart their relationship with their fire department."

Residents of nine households in the District are organized into teams to deliver food and beverages to firefighters during and after incidents. "A downed power line can require volunteers to divert traffic for hours; even a small house fire can be an all-day affair. Timely food and drink helps keep the firefighters going and is a tangible sign of their community's support," she said. North Boulder suppliers of emergency provisions include Lucky's Market and Moe's Broadway Bagel. The Auxiliary's meeting schedule is posted at bouldermountainfire.org. To become involved, contact co-presidents Ann Blonston or Catherine Von Hatten at auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org.

THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Jay Markel

Hi Neighbors!

This may be the most unusual garden article you've ever read. Well, at least I would think so.

What I would like to present to you are concepts not specifically based in gardening, but in design thinking and the overview effect.

There are books, many, that discuss these ideas, so please grant me the summary and brevity required for this allotted space in our neighborhood quarterly.

There has been a shift in design that goes back decades that amounts to a shift from just "making something" to the idea of what's termed "design thinking." You may have already stopped reading, but for the brave that are wanting to see how I bring this home to your garden let's proceed with how you can benefit from this thinking when planning your garden.

All the previous Granite Garden articles have been design based--not design thinking. That is, I have presented plants, drainage utilization, and general garden tips. Design thinking actually starts with the solution. For us that might be a beautiful, affordable, water wise garden. (It's your desire that is the starting point.)

Where we continue from there is with empathy. In our context this is your wish list of what you want your garden to be from the abstract—from a compassionate meeting place for friends and family to considerations of soil slope or budget--basically all factors that are inherent, but not specifically limited to a single item. For example, I've mentioned formulas for soil amendment. Design thinking starts with something more like a desire to utilize the existing soil, and limited imported material. We then move to the creative phase of how we might achieve this, and then to rationality, or the how to's that include the details of the execution of the design thinking goal.

What does this mean to you and your garden? It means collaboration, maybe you and a contractor, or just you and the land. Next, as you progress to the work, context. This could be the existence of a slope that is simply too steep to sustain long-term plant growth. The desired result is to move to accountabil-



ity which makes you, or a landscape firm a strategic thinker, rather than just a maker of say a wall, for example.

Hand and glove with this approach is the concept of the overview effect. This emerged when the earth was first viewed from outer space. When we see a blue jewel protected by what looks like a paper thin atmosphere in an incomprehensibly harsh and massive universe, it changes our perspective irreversibly. To bring this home to you, again, it means having a context for your ideas that are larger than just the consideration of "there is erosion here." We don't just discard this issue, but as I mentioned in a previous article, to eliminate your spurge you may need to look at the spurge in your neighboring properties. More simply put we have a larger perspective.

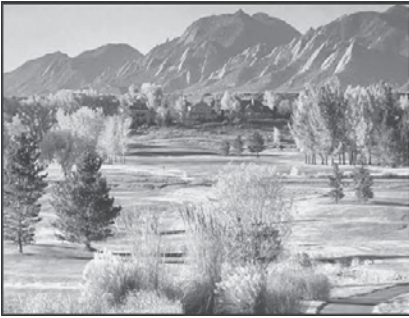
These concepts have been present in our (Viriditas') work, and previously in my art work. I realize this is a stretch for our busy lives, but is a more powerful place to create long term sustainable beautiful gardens, and community environments.

I'm happy to serve you as individuals in this capacity, or speak to the community at large at our community center, if there is interest. My intention with such a different approach to this article is to collect the separate pieces and to offer you a more substantive and effective approach to your home environment. I know that these concepts are not at all foreign to many of you. I simply felt it was appropriate and helpful to bring them to this specific discussion of our gardens.

Happy gardening!



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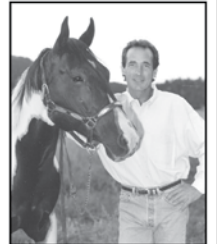


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A CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT THE PINE BROOK PRESS

This is the last issue edited by Amber Morris, from now on Catherine Von Hatten will edit the Press. We would like to thank Amber for all her work these last few years and her never flagging skill and enthusiasm. Thanks Amber, and welcome Catherine.

Dave Davies and Param Singh

Thank You PBH and Press!

Two years ago, Suzanne Adams, a much beloved and generous Pine Brooker, asked me to take her place as editor of the Pine Brook Press. Even though I knew I had big shoes to fill, I accepted the passing of the editorial torch. What a wonderful experience it has been!

Through my role as editor, I have come to admire and to be in awe of the sense of community in PBH and the dedication of many of our residents. I wanted to send special thanks to those who have played a vital role in helping me get the Press to the printer each and every time: Param Singh (who does everything and is the true spirit of the Press); Dave Davies our illustrious leader who cheerfully submits articles, article ideas, and photos; and to all the regular contributors who keep all of us informed about what is happening in our community. Volunteers like them make Pine Brook what it is--wonderful.

I am passing the editorial torch to a new editor--Catherine Von Hatten. She has contributed a great deal to this newsletter and will become the full-time editor with the next issue. I am confident that she will carry on the great tradition of the Press and keep all of us PBHers informed about our terrific community.

Thank you.

Amber Morris

When my husband and I moved to Pine Brook Hills a year and a half ago, we had fallen in love with the mountains, the fresh smell of the pine trees, and the quiet peacefulness of the area. Little did we know that was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the beauty that PBH has to offer.

- Sunrises over the plains
- Mists in the valleys
- A first class Volunteer Fire Department

- Friendly neighbors
- A welcoming Home Owners' Association
- Trails through the woods right down the street
- Deer just outside the front door
- Bears, mountain lions, black squirrels, birds
- A vibrant BMFPD Auxiliary with lots of volunteer opportunities
- Authors, artists, movie-makers, readers, business leaders, poets...all just down the street or around the corner
- and we are just minutes from "town" and all that Boulder has to offer

We feel so fortunate that we landed in such a diverse and interesting place with so many opportunities for newcomers to get involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as editor. I look forward to working with Param who knows the Press inside out. I appreciate that so many members of the neighborhood are already regular contributors. Please let us know about topics you would like to see included or articles you might want to contribute. We welcome your ideas and feedback.

Catherine Von Hatten



NEWCOMER NEWS

Compiled By Jo Wiedemann

Brian and Cathy Letts moved to N. Cedar Brook last August. For both, it was a return to Boulder after spending almost 25 years in Florida. Cathy grew up here and Brian attended CU for his undergraduate studies. They have a son and a daughter, both grown, living on opposite ends of the country in California and in Florida. Brian is a traveling doc and Cathy is working on a couple of books. They enjoy travel, outdoor recreation, and finally being back home with friends and family!

Ric and Eva Green are partners in life and the love of family, food, nature, and travel. They are so happy to be living in the beautiful Pine Brook Hills area along with their dog and cat. Eva is a chef specializing in vegetarian and ethnic cuisine and has an extensive background in



event planning and catering. She is also the writer of the culinary blog, Epicurean Eva (www.epicureaneva.com). Ric is a computer nerd, private pilot, guitarist, and a master cheesecake baker. Together, they run a food and event business, Haute & Fresh (www.hauteandfresh.com), hike and bike the trails of Boulder, and travel in search of fun and adventure. They look forward to meeting all their Pine Brook Hills neighbors!

Cherine Herrmann and her English husband moved to Wildwood Lane in September 2012 with their two little daughters, Mary and Juliet, ages 3 and 2 years. It took a lot of convincing but Cherine's husband finally agreed to come to America, leaving England for Boulder. Originally from North Carolina, Cherine has been living in London for the past 12 years, where they met. They are slowly settling in and learning the ways of Boulder. While they miss the green fields of England, they have so enjoyed the sunshine of Colorado. They look forward to getting to know the good folks of PBH.



TRANSPLANTING TREE SEEDLINGS

As *BeetleBusters*, we support thinning to promote a healthy forest. At the same time, we recognize the need for introducing trees of different species and age. Regeneration is an easy way to promote age diversity. Buying seedling trees in local nurseries is an option, but it doesn't guarantee locally grown stock. Transplanting your own volunteer seedling trees or sharing with neighbors is a much better approach.

As we (members of the *BeetleBusters*) inspect properties throughout the year, we often come



This seedling is starting its second growing season. It is pretty small, but in 5 years it will grow significantly, especially if given food and water. (See next photo.)

across clusters of Ponderosa pine seedlings. The customary recommendation is that a home owner thin these seedling stands to allow one or two trees to flourish. We have often thought that it would be a great idea to relocate these seedlings or give them to someone who needs an extra tree or two rather than simply cut them down. So when our Consulting Forester, Bruce Benninghoff, produced a paper on starting Ponderosa pines and Doug firs

from local seeds, we got to thinking again about relocating those unwanted seedling trees.

Ideally, seedlings should be transplanted after two or three growing seasons. If they are allowed to get too large, the ratio of foliage to root ball is too much for an amateur with a shovel. And if you don't get all or most of the root ball, the foliage will pump out more moisture than the root ball can deliver and there goes your seedling.



Five year old seedlings in Bruce's yard at 5,600 ft. These seedlings were grown from seed collected in the nearby forest. They had supplemental watering and fertilizer.

Transplanting should be done as early as possible in the spring unless you can provide supplemental water in the new location. The amount of supplemental water will depend on the soil texture and how closely the root ball fits in the new hole.

If you plant your seedlings on a slope, build a berm on the downhill side of the planting site to capture rainfall and irrigation water so it can sink into the loose soil at the margin of the root ball. Also, you need



Ponderosa seedlings rarely regenerate or flourish under a dense canopy. They will, however, regenerate in openings close to the taller timber where the seed can find sunlight and where there is no direct competition for soil moisture.

to pay attention to where you plant your seedling. Ponderosa pines do not do well in the shade; they need an open area. Douglas firs are more tolerant of shade.

The internet has plenty of tips on transplanting seedlings if you need practical advice. You should

also check out Bruce Benninghoff's guide, "Start Your New Seedlings from Your Own Seed." This publication details what you need to know from seed collection through transplantation. So before you cut out unwanted seedlings, check that you don't have a better spot for them, bearing in mind the size of a full grown Ponderosa pine. Or offer them to a neighbor. And give yourself a pat on the back; you're promoting age diversity in the forest.

Your *BeetleBuster* Team

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Photo by Ian Morris

Aaah....spring time in the Rockies. Babies coming soon!