



Pine Brook Press

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

SUMMER 2002



GIVE US A BREAK!

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION FUNDS MAJOR FIREBREAK

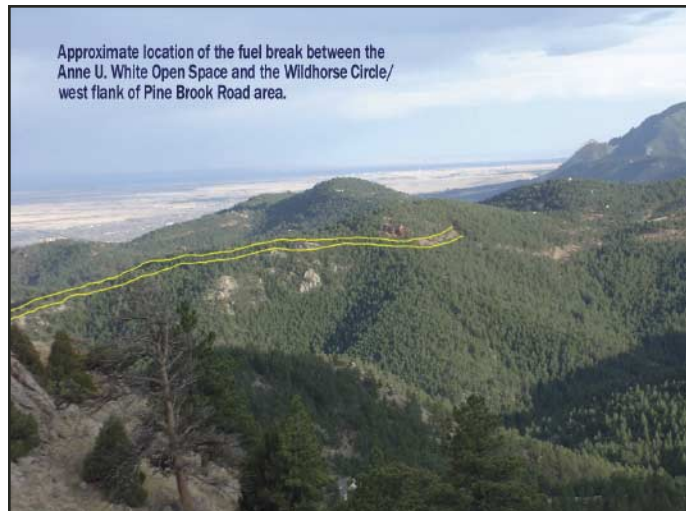
Creation of a major firebreak on the western edge of Pine Brook Hills is underway. Utilizing a \$14,400 contribution from the PBH HOA plus a matching grant from the State, a mile long, 100-foot wide swath along the west-facing crest of the hills above the Anne U. White trail will be created this summer. This project, under the direction of Fire Chief Don Whittmore, will provide a fire barrier in the location considered by Don to be the greatest potential threat to our community.

This part of Pine Brook Hills, which runs along Wild Horse Circle and a part of Pine Brook Loop, is a "first line of defense" from any fire that might start down below on the trail. The trail is a highly used public access route where, unfortunately, cigarette smoking and even camping are not unknown. A fire starting on or near the trail would sweep upward, first threatening

from fire mitigation. This year the chipping effort has been integrated into the Fire Department's mitigation program, thereby freeing up HOA funds for the Anne U. White firebreak (please see article on page 10).

The firebreak will be on privately owned land adjoining the County land along the trail. All of the Pine Brook residents whose land will be part of the firebreak have signed an agreement allowing the project to go forward. We wish to thank those homeowners for agreeing to the use of their land for this purpose, which is so important to all of us.

Don expects to assign a crew of at least two people to the project, with Assistant Chief and Wildfire Mitigation Co-ordinator Tom Akins providing on-site supervision. Tom, a BMFA firefighter, is recently "retired." Since leaving his job as a mechanical engineer in mid-April, Tom has taken exactly one day off from Fire Department projects.



Approximate location of the fuel break between the Anne U. White Open Space and the Wildhorse Circle/ west flank of Pine Brook Road area.



Tom Akins, David Tresemer, Allan Wolpowitz, Jim Eyster and Cam Peterson reviewing work on break.

the houses on Pine Brook Loop and Wild Horse Circle, and then endangering all of Pine Brook Hills.

In prior years the HOA has sponsored chipping projects to dispose of slash

FIREBREAK AN EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION

In a sense, the Anne U. White Firebreak was underway before it was begun, thanks to the efforts of some Pine Brook neighbors. When former Fire Chief Peter Slack visited David Tresemer in 1988, he identified a "chimney," a narrow gully leading up through a forested area directly to David's house. He told David, "You'll need to take out about 2000 trees!"

To David, who had only recently bought the property, that sounded like a lot of trees. But by 2002 he had removed 4000 trees, all over four inches in diameter (“We didn’t count the small ones”), creating what is now the beginning of the firebreak.

David’s neighbor Cam Peterson noted another chimney on David’s property, this one leading to the Peterson home. He asked David if he could buy the property in order to clear trees. David said, “Never mind buying it. Let’s just cut the trees.”

Then Allan Wolpowitz, who moved next door to Cam in 1996, became concerned about fire and began cutting his trees, furthering a firebreak across the three properties. The HOA-sponsored break begins at the edge of the clearing on the Wolpowitz land.

The decision to create a major fire break came at an HOA Board meeting last March when Fire Chief Don Whittimore alerted the group to a state matching grant available only to communities, not to fire departments. The Board decided to allocate a major part of the year’s income to the firebreak.

FIRE MITIGATION AND FOREST HEALTH

Extensive mitigation can produce a “lumber camp” look - piles of logs and scattered slash that still retains some verticality and, hence, vulnerability to fire. Tom Akins explained that the Anne U. White firebreak will use a “Lop and Lay” technique. Trees are

dropped along the contour of the hill, with the slash cut small and piled underneath the trees. “At first glance, this looks almost like a meadow - and in time, it WILL be a meadow,” Tom added.

In theory, “Lop and Lay” will rot the trees and slowly bury them, while also getting more water into the ground by creating multiple small dams. By trapping the dirt, soil for grasses is created. At first, the slash sets up from the ground, but as winter goes by, the slash settles.

“You’d think, ‘Hey, there’s been a crew out here that’s taken everything away!’” commented neighbor Allan Wolpowitz. “Deer are here all the time now. We get more grass, so the wildlife has more grazing. Ecologywise, I think we’re making a big difference.”

“Fire mitigation and forest health are not separate concepts - there is a major overlap,” Tom said. Thinning the forest results in bigger, healthier trees, more resistant to pine beetles, and being more widely spaced, less vulnerable to mistletoe. A healthy Ponderosa is a fairly fire resistant tree when trimmed high enough to avoid ground fire. But a tree killed by beetles or mistletoe is tinder. Tom says he looks for trees compromised by mistletoe when he is tagging trees for cutting.

Both for the health of the forest and the safety of its residents, fire mitigation should be our number one priority.



FIRE ENGINE RIDES! HOSES! ICE CREAM! GAMES! HOA SOCIAL, JULY 27! BE THERE!



Diana Waddell: Poster Girl for the very successful May Garage Sale. (See story on p. 9)

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

PRESIDENT

Jim Eyster, 786-7586

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY

Deborah Springer, 443-7939

TREASURER

Al Whitfield, 546-6318

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Al Gerrish, 443-7361

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Ken Larkin, 440-8280

SOCIAL CHAIR

Karen Peperzak, 440-0691

NEWCOMER WELCOME

Joyce Colson & Rob Quinn,
447-3192

ROAD SAFETY

John Landwehr, 443-2482

WILDLIFE OFFICER

Patrica Belanger, 786-8569

FIRE CHIEF

Don Whittemore, 440-0235

FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT

Alan Saville, 415-1221

FIRE/MEDICAL AUXILIARY

Vickie Schilling, 413-8699

WATER BOARD

Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

WATER DISTRICT

Robert deHaas, Mgr., 443-5394

PINE BROOK PRESS

EDITORS

Anne Singh, 417-0373

Suzanne Adams, 449-0997

LAYOUT: Param Singh, 417-0373

STAFF B.K. Adams, 449-0997

Nancy Tamura, 448-0225

ADVERTISING: Cheri Cathey, 449-8844

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA OLD TIME ICE CREAM SOCIAL Saturday, July 27, 2-4 P.M.
Fire Engine rides, games, Ice Cream with all the toppings! For info, call Sheryl Genco at 786-7311.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE-Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the firehouse.

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

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every other month at 7:00 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse. Call 440-0235 for specifics.

FITBALL - Come join the Bouncers on Friday mornings, 8:30-9:30 A.M. Free, but you need your own ball. Please call 449-0997 for encouragement and further details.

PBH HOME TOUR - Saturday, September 7, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., Sunday, September 8, noon to 4 P.M. For info call Mary Barakat at 442-4520.

PBH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB - Next meeting on Tuesday, July 23 at 7:00 P.M. Please call Ilene Lasher at 938-1360.

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

FIRE BREAK IS GOOD FOR ALL OF US

By Jim Eyster

As you've read in the lead story, the Homeowners Association (HOA), Boulder Mountain Fire Authority (BMFA) and the State Forest Service are working together to help insure the safety of our residents and property. The HOA applied for and has been fortunate to receive a matching grant from the State Forest Service for \$14,400. Without this grant, we would not be able to undertake such a project. This is the largest mitigation project the HOA has undertaken and the HOA Board is investigating the possibility of a similar project for next year.



A special thank you goes to those residents who have given their permission to cut the fire break on their property. Without their cooperation, this project would not get done. No one likes to lose trees, but we all recognize that there is inherent

danger living in a heavily forested area. This danger, unfortunately, is compounded when it is adjacent to Open Space with public access. Evidence has indicated that the majority of wildland fires in Boulder County are caused by careless people using poor judgment.

The April 24 Homeowners Meeting was very well attended and addressed fire mitigation issues. We were fortunate to have representatives from the County, City, State Forest Service and BMFA. The participants shared many great fire mitigation ideas, however, the County and City also made it clear that if we are going to protect ourselves from public access lands, (1) we will have to pay for it ourselves (or get matching fund grants) and (2) do it on private land.

Your HOA Board is pleased to be able to undertake and help fund the Anne U. White Fire Break Project. For several years now, Don Whittemore, Fire Chief for BMFA, has identified the Anne U. White Open Space area as our greatest fire threat. To be able to insulate ourselves from this to some degree may at least give us a fighting chance should a wildland fire start along the Anne U. White Trail.

This project is just one of many your HOA Board discusses and ultimately helps fund. Allocating financial resources among numerous projects is always a difficult matter. As we all know, HOA dues are voluntary. About 80% of the PBH homeowners pay annual dues; on the other hand, the revenue lost from those that don't pay equates to \$4,000.

Your HOA is always trying to make Pine Brook Hills a better place to live. We solicit homeowner input and encourage you to attend the HOA Board Meetings. The Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of alternate months starting in January. Due to vacation schedules there will be no Board Meeting in July. You can always contact me or one of the other Board members. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas with your HOA Board.

Once again this year we're going to have an OLD TIME ICE CREAM SOCIAL at the firehouse on Saturday, July 27, from 2 to 4 P.M. Sheryl Genco and her committee are working diligently to plan a great event. I know they're always looking for scoopers, topping dressers, game masters and all around assistance. If you can help, please contact Sheryl (786-7311). The fire department will once again provide rides in the trucks for kids of all ages. Hope to see you there.

ON THE WATERFRONT

With Bob deHaas

First the good news! As of May we kept receiving occasional rains which are keeping our stream flowing, which means we do not need to impose restrictions yet. How long will this last? Your guess is about as good as ours; the best bet is to wait and see. What should you be doing? **First and foremost be watching for notices.** Our water supply situation could change quite quickly and we will need everyone to take immediate action when we request you to reduce your usage! Have you looked for leaks? Have you fixed them? Have you thought about how you will reduce your usage when asked to?

Be prepared! It is better to be ready and not have to take action than to need to take action and not be ready.

Now the bad news. Well quite honestly the bad news is that there hasn't been enough moisture to change the water situation for most entities even though it's been enough to keep us in adequate water supplies.

Other news. By the time this comes out we should either have the two new pump houses on line or be just about to bring them on line. These pump houses were designed to provide the District with reliable facilities that are safe to operate while being aesthetically pleasing. We feel we hit the mark! The pictures shown below show the old pump house and the new; what a difference they will make for the District's operations!

Everyone who receives District water should have



A tight squeeze: Shawn Beauprez tries to work in the old "hole-in-the-ground" pump house at Wild Horse Circle.

received the new Consumer Confidence Report which explains the water supply and the water quality. If you didn't receive this report, let the office know and we will get you a copy.

Along with that notice was the

news that the District now has a website at **www.pinebrookwater.com**. Hope you find it useful and if there is more information that you feel should be available there please let us know.



What a contrast! Shawn and Bob deHaas in the new pump house

That is all of our news for now; let's hope for continued rains instead of a hot dry summer! Remember fire danger is up so let's be careful and not have any fires!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Al Whitfield

We have had a good response to our annual solicitation of membership dues, making it possible for the HOA to go forward with its many activities planned for the year. Dues received to date total \$16,500. A follow-up letter is being sent out this month to those who have yet to pay in the hope of achieving 100% membership.

Thanks to all who have already paid. If you have not, please do so by sending \$50 (or more, many do) to Al Whitfield, Treasurer, 137 Alpine Way, Boulder, CO 80304.

HOA's NEW WEBSITE -www.pinebrookhills.org

Come up and see our site sometime!

By Suzanne Adams

The little enclave that once called itself a community although it had no roads or running water now has all that and more - a website replete with juicy tidbits about life in Pine Brook Hills. Log on - you'll find information on The Big Three: the Fire, Water, and Homeowners organizations, plus the latest editions of The Pine Brook Press and archival material from the Press under four categories: Nature, Community, People and Pests of PBH. (See if your name is included and under which category). You can find the weather and the local movie and arts listings, maps, hiking trails and how to locate Pine Brook addresses. The "PBH News" link brings you recent developments in the Hills, and there is a Bulletin Board for your needs and family rated desires. A community calendar lets you know what's happening, where and when. It's a great way to keep in touch.

The website is managed by **The Pine Brook Press** and has come about due to the efforts of several Pine Brookers, most notably Param Singh, web designer,

Dave Besemer, web master and Al Gerish, (web) cheerleader. Funding for the site comes from your HOA dues. We hope that you will find it useful and that you will feel prompted to send comments and items for inclusion such as photos and stories about life in Pine Brook Hills.



PBH Women's Book Club

By Eileen McKenna

The Pine Brook Women's Book Club meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every other month at the Community Center.

The readings for the rest of the year are:

July 23, 2002: *The Englishman's Daughter* by Ben Macintyre

September 24, 2002: *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

November 26, 2002: *Endurance* (Shakelton) by Alfred Lansing

Please contact Ilene Lasher (303-938-1360) before July 7 if you plan to attend the July 23 meeting.

BOOK REVIEW

By Cyndy Brooks

Do you want to be serious this summer or do you want to "Veg Out?" "*The Lexus and the Olive Tree*" by Thomas Friedman is a most serious read. How does the world find the balance between the ancient values and traditions of a community and the current globalization systems? From his extensive travel and first hand observations he gives the reader vivid details of the conflict and offers some possible scenarios for the future. Globalization is here! How is the world going to deal with it?

Along a lighter note and switching to fiction, "*The Blue Nowhere*" by Jeffrey Deaver shows us how sadistic a computer hacker can be! Mayhem, murder - all possible with the latest computer technology - is this another aspect of globalization? Another fun read is "*Headwind*" by John Nance. White-knuckle flying sequences and authentic technical details make for a very suspenseful ride. This novel also touches upon the current controversy concerning the International Criminal Court. I often wonder what comes first - the actual event or the novel? Enjoy.

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

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

by Anne Singh

Long time PBH residents Larry and Nancy Tamura and Jack and Marsha Walker are planning to move away. Larry and Nancy are moving to Ft. Collins in July where Larry has taken a job at Atrix. They plan to return to PBH when Larry retires. Hurray! Their daughter and son-in-law, Tracey and Tom Murray will hold down the fort for the duration. Jack and Marsha have bought a house on Old Tale Road in Boulder, which they will remodel during the summer before moving. We are sad to see you go, Marsha and Jack, and hope to see you up here often.

Kathleen Larkin, a recent CU graduate majoring in creative writing, has written a film script, her second, based on her own experiences in a Catholic boarding school in Ireland. The plot involves a young girl, her long dead mother, tales of magical ponies and riding championships, nuns (of course) and a long lost father. A novel and her first film script are also in the works, now being revised. We wish you good luck in your endeavors, Kathleen, and look forward to seeing them realized.

Elisabeth Hyde gave a reading of her third novel, **Crazy as Chocolate**, at the BoulderBook Store in May. Isabel is preparing to come to come to terms with her 41st birthday, at which age her own, fey mother had killed herself. Then her father, sister and niece decide to come for the weekend to help her celebrate, making for a complicated and emotionally charged weekend. John Irving has praised Hyde, saying she ".....is a remarkably lucid and authoritative novelist."

Marc Silverman has developed a computerized rehabilitation device for shoulder injuries called the **Sports Rac**, which is being used by major league baseball teams, particularly pitchers. Therapy can begin just days after surgery and healing is speeded up dramatically when it is used. The company, Sports Trac, was founded by Marc and Michael Mellman, a former team physician for major league baseball teams, to make and market the Sports Rac. The company is also in the process of developing physical rehab gear for other joints. The first clinic to use the Sports Rac is the Boulder Center for Sports Medicine.



BIKE LADY SIGHTED IN PBH



You see them in Boulder, single-mindedly peering over their handle bars. But the steep incline of Linden makes the sighting of a **multiple-bike** lady in PBH a relatively rare occurrence. We found this one by the Community Center.

She was beaming. "The space!" she exclaimed, adding "Boulder is getting so crowded."

"Are you planning on staying here?" we asked.

"Not for long," she said, adding, with a twinkle in her eye, "I hear they have real cowboy bars in Ft. Collins."

As she turned around to mount one of her two wheeled steeds, we asked, "What's your name?"

"Just call me Nancy T." she replied.

Riding away, she turned around and yelled, "**I SHALL RETURN!**"

Shades of Gen. MacArthur, we sure hope so, Nancy T.



ENJOY SOFT WATER!

America's Best Water Specialists

Softeners
Service/Repair
Free Water Test

Reverse Osmosis
Taste/ Odor Filters
Free Estimates

23 Years Experience
Pine Brook Hills
References

303-425-7396
***We're here to solve
water problems....***

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors:

One early morning, about a year ago, I took a hike on the Sanitas Trail. I saw a group of about six teenage boys coming down off the mountain. They were wearing long trench coats and carrying empty water bottles. I asked them, sort of friendly, how their camping went. They said real cool but they were out of water.

I got home and called the police. I described what I had seen, knowing darn well that I at that age would never have stayed out overnight without smoking cigarettes or starting a camp fire. I asked the police to question those boys at Mapleton, where it seemed they'd be getting into a car.

I got a call back from a Fire Department person. The boys had not been interviewed by any cops at Mapleton, but the Fire Department wanted details about exactly where I saw the boys come off the mountain. Later the officer called and said he had gone up to the Sanitas Ridge looking for evidence of someone camping. He found it - some embers partly buried in a fire circle. He put it out and probably prevented a serious fire from breaking out because someone, me, was willing to be suspicious about what kids exactly like me could do.

Anne Butterfield



Dear Editors:

“An Accident is Waiting to Happen on the Pine Brook Roads”

I run or bike in Pine Brook Hills almost every day. I consider it a privilege to live here and I greatly enjoy getting out to exercise on our neighborhood roads. However, lately I feel my safety is threatened whenever I go out. Too many people drive too fast and fail to treat either runners or bikers courteously. This is something we should all think hard about. If we don't, one of these days we are going to have a serious accident right here on our neighborhood roads.

We have to begin with the fact that many people in PBH routinely drive well above the speed limit.

Speeding leads to inadequate time for the driver to adjust to other users of the road. I am often forced off the road by drivers. I can understand that they may have to drive close to a bicyclist or jogger if

another car is oncoming, but when there are no cars in sight, why not slide over just a bit to give me some clearance?

I always try to be as safe and courteous as possible when running or biking. I ride my bike as close to the edge of the pavement as possible; when I realize that two cars are going to meet near me, I ride with my tires right on or outside of the white line (although it should be possible for a driver to actually slow down and wait a couple of seconds in order to safely pass me). When I am jogging around blind corners I typically try to cross over to the open side so that I won't surprise a driver coming around the bend.

If all of us, whether walkers/joggers, bicyclists or drivers, could just follow a few simple rules, we might avoid the kind of accident none of us wants to see - one that involves one resident injuring or killing another resident. Please let us all be able to safely enjoy the roads of Pine Brook Hills.

Steve Maxwell

Suggested Rules for Sharing the Pine Brook Roads

1. Pedestrian - Walker/Jogger:

In General: Use the left side of the road, facing oncoming cars. Pay constant attention to traffic - if cars in both lanes are going to meet where you are, get yourself, your dog, your stroller, etc. well off the road.

Exceptions: On blind curves, stay well off the pavement at all times, or better yet, carefully cross to the right side of the road for the duration of the blind curve.

2. Bicyclists:

In General: Use the right side of the road, moving with traffic. If cars in both lanes are going to meet where you are, get as far over on the pavement as possible - tires on or outside of the white line if possible.

3. Drivers:

In General: Obey the speed limit! Do not routinely cross the center line to save time. On blind curves, be particularly observant of not crossing the center line (whether there is an actual line or not).

Exceptions: On a “straight-away” with good visibility and no oncoming car, give a bicyclist or pedestrian a little “breathing room.” (On a blind curve, however, slow way down - allow a walker/jogger time to react - follow a bicyclist until it is safe to proceed.)

THE PINE BROOK HILLS BIENNIAL TOUR OF HOMES IS COMING!!!!

SATURDAY, Sept. 7, 2002, 10:00 A.M. to 4 P.M.

SUNDAY, Sept. 8, Noon to 4:00 P.M.

by Mary Barakat

Five gracious families have allowed us to view their wonderful homes, and in addition, one wonderful garden:

Jake and Cyndy Brooks, 229 Alder Lane

Pam Creswell and Marshal Swanton, 12 Boulder View Lane

David and Janet Hummer, 313 Alder Lane

John and Cynthia Kendall, 1145 Timber Lane

Bruce Klahr, 19 Arrowleaf Court

Unmani Cynthia F. Bestani, 107 Boulder View Lane
(garden only - see photo back page)



Mary Barakat and Pam Creswell discuss the upcoming Home Tour in Pam's garden.

The 2002 Home Tour proceeds will benefit the Pine Brook Hills fund to insure ongoing fire prevention programs in our community. Tickets will be \$15.00 per person, \$10.00 for seniors, and may be purchased at the homes on the tour.

Volunteers are needed to serve as helpers stationed at each of the homes. Please call Mary Barakat, Chair, at 303-442-4526 to participate. It's a great way to help each other and know we have a part in the protection and preservation of our beautiful forest. Call Mary to join the fun now!!!

HOUSE FOR SALE Stunning waterfall home, 107 Boulder View Lane reveals 360 degree views of the Flatirons, foothills, the city of Boulder and beyond. For more information: Call 303-245-0571 or visit www.107boulderviewlane.com.

Gabbie, Beth and the Mountain Lion

By Patrica Belanger

I was going on holiday and had left the care of my animals and household in the very capable hands of my neighbor, Beth McKnight.

Beth, like me, is an animal lover and was looking forward to taking "Gabbie," my 80 pound German Shepard, on her daily walks down Pine Needle Road.

"Make sure you don't walk her down that road after dark," I said. "Many of my neighbors who live on that road have seen mountain lions roaming around at night and you sure don't want to run into one." Beth laughed when I told her this because the last time I was away and Beth was taking care of Gabbie, she had in fact walked her on Pine Needle Road many times late into the evening.

Like Gabbie, most German Shepards are known for their intelligence, obedience and protective nature. Gabbie knows how to open doors and will often let herself back into the house after I put her on the deck. She has a grasp of the electronic world which she demonstrated by jumping up, hitting the switch, thereby opening the garage door and letting herself out. She is trained to walk without a leash, right beside whomever is walking her. She only runs ahead when given the release command and always runs back as soon as you call her. She is also trained to leave the deer alone and not to chase squirrels or birds.

So on Friday, Beth and Gabbie set out for their daily walk down Pine Needle Road. It was about 4:30 in the afternoon and Beth was walking with Gabbie beside her, toward Andrea and Tom Mann's driveway. Beth looked up and sitting at the bottom of the driveway about 20 yards from the road was a mountain lion. Now, as residents of Pine Brook Hills most of us have read all about what to do if you come upon a mountain lion. You're supposed to:

- 1) Not make eye contact
- 2) Make yourself appear big and intimidating
- 3) Back away slowly from the mountain lion while speaking in a firm and authoritarian voice and saying something like "I'm not afraid of you Mr. Mountain Lion----I am Woman, hear me roar...now back off, baby...."

Beth did not use quite those words.

She did exactly what I'm sure I would have done. She

saw the mountain lion, she made eye contact, she froze and said out loud in a very shocked voice, "That's a mountain lion."

Now I have often wondered how much of what I say to Gabbie she really understands. She knows certain words: sit, come here, no, walk, biscuit, but I never knew she knew that the phrase, "That's a mountain lion" was an indication of danger. Before Beth could utter another word my very brave dog instantly bolted up the driveway and started chasing the mountain lion up the hill.

Beth of course began yelling for Gabbie to come back and watched her as she chased the mountain lion. She lost sight of her as the dog got over the ridge but then saw Gabbie run back down the hill, right up to Beth, sat right beside her and looked up at Beth as if to say "Don't worry, Beth, I took care of that nasty mountain lion...can we go home now?"

They did, rather quickly, with Beth trembling and Gabbie apparently unfazed by what she had done.

Gabbie got lots of hugs and kisses that night from Beth and I did notice that the box of milk bones was almost empty. I also noticed a new bounce in Gabbie's step whenever I walk her past the spot where she chased the mountain lion. This morning when I was walking her down Pine Needle Road she ran over to the spot, sniffed around and looked up with this mischievous smile on her face as if to say, "You never told me I wasn't allowed to chase mountain lions!"



GARAGE SALE A SMASHING SUCCESS

By Art and Babette Markey

In our Pine Brook Press notes after the 2001 Garage Sale, we wondered, since the 2001 sale had been so very successful, whether we could continue to grow the total sales again in 2002, as we had for each of the past six years.

Well, at the 2002 Garage Sale in May, the community answered that question with a resounding YES WE CAN!!!!

Thanks to the largest amount of donations we have ever received, we brought in over \$7,300 on merchandise sales. This blew through last year's previous record total by over \$1,000. To hold everything, we had to expand our "retail sales floor" to include all three bays, the ground around the entrances, the community room, and the deck. We may

have just about maxed out our capacity.

A big hug and thanks to Ed and Tiki Theiss for their donation of an immaculate 1988 Audi Quattro. We sold that car, via a silent auction that turned into a spirited live auction at 2 PM Sunday afternoon, for \$3,200. That brought our grand total to over \$10,500!! With total expenses expected to be about \$500, we should net just about \$10,000. Is that stupendous or what????



A tired but happy group at the end of the three day record-breaking sale!

Thanks to all the donators, the volunteers and the shoppers. All were needed to have such a successful sale.

Without the terrific support of all of the volunteers, we could not have made this happen. A particularly big thanks to those folks (you know who you are) who kept coming back to the firehouse to help setup and price. They had worked their originally scheduled shifts, but seeing how overwhelming the number of donations were, they returned again and again to help get the sale all organized and ready to go.

Hoping we have not forgotten anyone, here's our outstanding volunteer team, in alphabetical order:

Suzanne Adams, Mary Barakat, Alex Baris, Eve Berg, Paula Connolly, Cecille and Joe Duray-Bito, Jane Engel, Kathy and Jim Eyster, Cindy Fowler, Anita Griffin, Rosie Hauge, Elisabeth Hyde, Maria Kline, Susan and Betty Maxwell, Donna McCraith, Eileen and Quentin McKenna, Weesa Parker, Vicki Schilling, Anne and Param Singh, Donna Sutton, Stephanie Sutton, Nancy and Larry Tamura, Tiki and Ed Theiss, Judy Tupy, Marsha Walker and Jacqueline Wurn.

By the way, if the purchaser of the Bushnell binoculars is reading this, we have the lens caps. And, to the purchaser of the Jim Beam-filled Chevy, we have the front bumper assembly. It must have fallen off and you should be able to just glue it back on.

Thanks and start saving for next year!

CHIPPING PROGRAM

This year the wildfire mitigation chipping program will run a bit differently than in previous years. Here are the basics:

Chipping services are at no cost to you if you cut and haul the material to the road. The chipper will be passing through the district at least once a month from now until early fall.

Slash should be stacked along the roadside with cut ends (widest diameter) facing out towards the road. Avoid placing piles in ditches (if it rains, water flowing through the ditches deposits sand and gravel on the slash). We can chip slash up to 6 inches in diameter. Slash must have been alive within the past year. Old, dead material places excessive wear on the chipper.

When you are ready to have the chipper stop by your house, please notify us so that we may put you on the schedule. You can either send an email to mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org or call the office at 303-440-0235.

\$25 OFF PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING

*Clean Windows and
Personalized Service
Since 1978*



Nathan Kirkland

Owner/Operator
Boulder, CO

(303) 494-3784

Many satisfied Pine Brook Hills customers.
References available on request.

**HOW MUCH WATER DID YOU WASTE TODAY
WAITING FOR HOT WATER?**



With the Methund D'MAND® System you can save up to 40 gallons of water per day. That's 1200 Gallons a month, 14,400 Gallons a year!!!!

Pine Brook Residents:

Start conserving today!

"I've lived with the D'MAND System for five years and I love it!"

David Johnston, What's Working, PBH Resident

* Featured on the
Discovery Channel

* Approved by the
Dept. of Energy

Call for a brochure or free in-home demo: Desiree (303) 589-0644
www.gothotwater.com (800) 638-5863

\$50 off for Pine Brook Residents



8th Street Salon

Artistic • Creative • Professional
A Full Service Salon

303 • 402 • 9475
1980 8th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302

15% off first visit with the mention of this ad



Disposal Service




*Serving
Pine Brook Hills
since 1993*

Personal weekly household trash service at the road side or at your garage door!

Starting at \$ 20.00 per month.

(For a little more we'll also pick up recyclables!)

Call 303-823-0556 for more information



Piano Lessons

teaching children a life-long appreciation and joy of music

Mary Heath
450 N. Cedar Brook
303-444-1556

teaching children for over 20 years

PINE MOUNTAIN CONTRACTORS, INC.

Professional and Effective Forest Management Services include:

Fire Mitigation, Complete Forest Thinning, Tree Removal of any Kind, Hauling, Winching, Chipping, Grading and Excavating, Post Hole Drilling, and Snow Plowing. Firewood (\$140 for full cord including delivery, \$110 for pick up, etc.)

Call Michael for a free estimate:
720-352-0099 or email to
pmountain@qwest.net



10% OFF FIRST VISIT!



Tena Burton Nail Engineer

14 Years of Professional Nail Care

Cut Loose Salon
2900 Valmont Road
Boulder, CO 80301

**303-447-3988
720-540-6626**



**ROCKY RIDGE
CONSTRUCTION, LLC
303-417-1465**

Your Neighbor → Your Builder

Ken Larkin

Quality Construction & Dependable Service

Custom Homes & Remodels

SHHHHHHHHHH!

Boulder has a secret!
A world-class speaker's
bureau right here in
our town!

You need a speaker or trainer.
I can help. I know who to call and how
to get you the best deal! I can work
within your budget to make your
meeting or convention truly successful.



SHHHHHHHHHH!

Rickie Hall & Associates
303-444-4508
www.rickiehall.com

Rickie Hall & Associates has been providing
speakers for 25 years to such organizations
as: National Association of Broadcasters,
NOAA, US Steel, CBS, and various government
agencies, as well as international clients.

STEVE YODER CONSTRUCTION

Decks • Baths • Kitchens

Windows • Remodeling

303-443-7513

Pine Brook Hills References Available



Kent Hansen, CPCU
Financial Advisor

303 441 5384
303 441 5370 fax
800 367 3052 toll free
kent.hansen@ubspainewebber.com

UBS PaineWebber Inc.
1330 Walnut Street
Boulder, CO 80302



Boulder Real Estate Services, Ltd.

Gail Lyons, Broker - Owner

Specialist in Pine Brook Hills

Personal, Client-level Services for Seller
Buyer Representation Market Value Analysis
Investment Counseling

2541 Spruce Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
303-442-3335 Office
800-285-0062 Toll-free
303-817-0482 Cell
303-442-3925 Fax



CIPS, CRS, CRB, CCIM, ABR, DRE

Web site: www.Boulder-RealEstate.com E-mail: Gail@BoulderRealEstate.com

MORTGAGE AMERICA, INC.

■ 1525 Spruce St., Suite 201, Boulder, CO 80302

Whether buying the home of your dreams or refinancing your current home, come to us for:

- *Competitive Rates*
- *Professional, Courteous Service*
- *Timely Attention to Detail*

**No
Application
Fee**

Member of Tom Martino's Trouble Shooters Network and the Better Business Bureau



REFINANCE NOW WHILE RATES ARE LOW!

Your Pine Brook Neighbor **Toby Terrell, PhD.** • 303-440-6900 ext. 106



Craig Peterson, GRI

Listing and selling real estate in Pine Brook Hills

1844 Folsom Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302 • 303-443-2240 • 800-343-8885
(Direct) 720-564-6008 • Craig@PetersonHomes.com • www.PetersonHomes.com

SPENCER'S "PHOENIX" HOUSE

By Suzanne Adams

On Sunday, October 5, 1980, the fields west of Wonderland Hills leapt with flames. Within ten minutes the fire roared upslope to Pine Brook Hills and utterly destroyed Tom and Emmy Spencer's home, the only Pine Brook house ever lost to wildfire. The cause? "Two juveniles," says Emmy, "One age 12 and one 32," who set off fireworks on the hot, dry hillside. All of Pine Brook was threatened that day, saved only by the efforts of 200 firefighters and the fortuitous availability of a slurry bomber.



The Burned House

the burial of their belongings. They were able to salvage one ski boot and a few bottles of wine that, amazingly, had survived the fire.

What is lost when a home is lost? Music, for one thing. Tom and Emmy are classical music fans and lost six to seven hundred LPs. They were in Japan when the fire occurred; the Japanese don't like to give bad news. Trying to determine the extent of the damage, Tom called his company, Ball Aerospace, and asked, "Should I buy new hi fi equipment?" That was one of the easy questions. "Yes." Of their former home only the chimney remained, and that eventually collapsed. Another significant loss was their "travel museum." Tom and Emmy are world travelers. Their lost collection was irreplaceable: the Macao bark cloth costume, the Guatemalan frame loom, the Kashmiri carved box, the Yugoslav carvings, the blowgun and arrows. In addition, photography projects for an article about Japan that Tom planned were, of course, gone. And

The fire was eventually controlled but cinders from the house and its contents were still smoldering. The fire department felt that the safest course was to scoop everything up with an excavator and take it to the dump. When Emmy and Tom returned to the nothing that had been their home, they were allowed to go to the dump and watch

then there was the wine. Tom describes himself as "a fanatic about wine"; his interest goes beyond simply drinking fine wine. He is interested in all aspects of viniculture. There had been good places to store wine in the house, and investment-quality vintages were among the 200 cases that, in the 70's, had been purchased reasonably. "There was wine on my side of the closet," Emmy recalled. "There was wine under my yarn!" A water pipe had melted in the fire and kept some of the wine wet. One of Tom's co-workers crawled in and out, salvaging 40 cases, including some 1963 Port. Grand Cru Bordeaux and Burgundies from the 50's and 60's were among the 150 cases lost.

But it was more than those things, however irreplaceable. A way of life was lost. As Emmy

says, "It's not the wood and stuff - it's the life you had, the deer sleeping, the foxes..."

Emmy is a talented professional weaver. She had yarn, lots of yarn. "7000



The New House

pounds," said Tom. "The yarn was everywhere in the house; it would overflow whatever storage was made for it." Now Emmy's yarn and the looms were gone. "I felt so naked because I didn't have any yarn - no yarn!" And no looms or place to put them. Ten years passed before she felt that she had regained her former level in weaving.

For Tom, the house had been almost an extension of his workplace. As Ball's chief astrodynamist, Tom had published technical articles which he presented at meetings throughout the US and abroad. He and Emmy entertained experts in his field in their house. It was part of his career. Losing the house severed one of the anchors tying Tom to Ball. When coupled with loss of support for several of the projects that particularly interested him, the break seemed complete. Eventually he retired, and he and Emmy spent the next three years in Europe, traveling and living in a Volkswagen bus.

Why didn't they just rebuild? They thought about it for the first three or four years but found that

they couldn't deal with the damage - the trees were gone, even the rocks were blackened and exploded from the heat and the water. It was hard to reconcile themselves to the land because they knew what it had been before the fire. They couldn't build on the old foundation. They would have to clean the ridge. It would cost \$100,000 just for the excavation. "We couldn't stay, we couldn't face it."

Time passed. In fact, 20 years of time passed. Occasionally they would hike back up to Pine Brook, and find themselves thinking, "God, this is really beautiful." They had bought a house on Wonderland Lake, but as Emmy said, living on a hill makes you feel "Physically and psychologically elevated." It's not the same down in Flatland. And then there were



Emmy and Tom Spenser

the people; "We knew more people in Pine Brook - even after 20 years. We felt at home here." Finally they decided to rebuild the house on the original site. They surveyed the land themselves, running cheap cord down lines and using a five foot pole with a level. It was, Tom said with some surprise, "an amazingly good job." They did their own site plan review and had it accepted. Emmy drew plans for the house and Tom said they wouldn't work. They found a young architect who saw that they liked curves and used their ideas. And after 20 years, the Spencers returned to Pine Brook Hills, to a beautiful house with the same neighbors on both sides- the Bramhalls and the Toomres.

So what kind of a house is it? According to Tom, "One of the things we're most proud of is that from Boulder, you can hardly see the house." It's true. With the earth-tone stucco, gray tinted windows

and a profile that is actually lower than the original house, the home settles into the ridge. In fact, the ridge intrudes into the house, creating the room



Emmy at her loom

known as the Rattlesnake Pit. A fire alarm repairman was bitten by a snake in that room. No problem - he treated the bite, killed the snake and skinned it. Emmy wishes she had that skin.

Understandably, Tom and Emmy have some concerns about - FIRE. Tom noted, "We're quite concerned about protection from future fires. We are definitely in a very bad place for fires." As a result, the new house:

1. Has a stucco, not wood, exterior.
2. Has no exterior wood except for one deck, and it is on top of concrete.
3. Has a cistern, storing a lot of water, under the driveway, and a generator to make it work if electricity were cut off.
4. Has water sprinklers on the roof.
5. Does not have trees next to the house. Tom cut 33 trees and limbed the remainder high.

The new house is beautiful. The LPs are replaced by CDs; the large speakers delineate the living area. There is a real wine cellar, housing one of those bottles from the fire. Emmy lifted it to show me and a few crimson drops fell out. "It's OK," said Tom, "It's still good." Emmy's weaving studio is a large, light room bright with the colors of her yarn. She calls her studio "a dream thing. I feel so lucky to be here. I believe in treading lightly on the earth, but lately I'm just enjoying its bounty." And, she added with a note of amazement, "I have an appliance garage!"

PINE BROOK VIEWS



The Bestani garden will be on the Fall Home Tour

Photo by Suzanne Adams

Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Assoc.
PINE BROOK PRESS
1907 Linden Drive
Boulder, Colorado, 80304

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