



Pine Brook Press

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

SUMMER 2003



WATER STORAGE A HOT TOPIC IN PBH

The Press has recently received many letters from the community, many concerned with the water reservoir being considered by Pine Brook Water. We have turned over a good part of this issue to you, our readers. Scattered within, you will find these letters (*in a distinctive font*), plus the regular news of the community.

Excerpt from a Letter to the Editor:

“Does the Board have the education and experience needed to take on a dam project?...Who’s on the Board?”

Leslie Silverman

Reasonable questions. In response we print the photo below, taken at a recent Water Board meeting, and the following brief biographical notes.



Left to Right: Mel Beauprez, Art Markey, Brian Hanson (partially hidden), Kirk Hendricks and Marie Zanowick.

Mel Beauprez holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from CU and a certificate in administration from UNC. He has been a teacher and school administrator in the Boulder Valley Schools for 30 years. A Pine Brooker since 1970, he has served on the Water Board for eight years.

Brian Hanson received his law degree from CU and practices law in Boulder. He served as Chair of the American Bar Association’s Endangered Species Committee, Vice-Chair of the Water Quality and Wetlands Committee, and Executive Director of The



A photo illustration of one proposed reservoir concept by PB Water. View from Linden near Community Center.

Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, a legal service organization advocating for preservation of the Rocky Mountain and Desert Southwest region. He has been on the Water Board for three years.

Kirk Hendricks has a B.A. from CU in Science Education with an emphasis on Geology and an M.Ed. from the University of Hartford. He is a Pine Brook pioneer, having lived here since 1966. While teaching science in the Boulder schools for ten years he began a second career as a builder and has pursued that vocation for 30 years. He is Chair of the Water Board and has served on the Board since May of 1982.

Art Markey holds a B.S. from SUNY, has done graduate work in organizational behavior and holds professional certificates in Human Resource Management and Quality Management. He spent 20 years as an executive in Administration and Human Resources. Keenly interested in western water law, he has been a Water Board member since 1995.

Marie Zanowick has a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech. She has worked in the environmental field for approximately 20 years and is currently employed by the Environmental Protection Agency. She has volunteered as a Water Board member for 11 years.

A WORD FROM YOUR WILDLIFE OFFICER

By Patrica Belanger

Life.....always changing, always moving forward, sometimes faster than you want it to.

I found it funny in a way that I was asked to be the Wildlife Officer in Pine Brook Hills. A city girl, a Canadian no less, and yet mother nature keeps putting me in these places, seemingly at the right time to remind me that life exists in and outside the houses of Pine Brook Hills and is forever moving forward.

I was walking over to my neighbors with my dog Gabbie and I spotted one of the does who had been hanging around our property the last few days. You



could barely see her above the tall grass but something was moving behind her. So I grabbed hold of my dog and backed away, deciding to drive

over to my neighbor's house so I wouldn't disturb the doe. I parked the car, crept around the house and sure enough there she was with two new baby fawns. They were still wet and she was grooming them, so I went back to my house and got my digital camera.

I knew this deer and as I moved slowly towards her and her new fawns, I spoke softly to her. I told her that I had come to see her babies and promised her I wouldn't hurt them. I told her I just wanted to take some pictures and that I would E-mail her some copies. I guess she liked that idea because she turned her back on me and continued tending to her fawns. So I crouched down on a pile of old pine needles and started shooting.

Like most does she had twins. One, braver than the other, was curious about me and started walking in my direction. I backed off, not wanting to risk coming in contact with her, afraid I might accidentally leave my scent on her, putting her at risk of discovery by other predators. Mom wasn't too happy about her wandering off either and coaxed her back into the tall grass where she disappeared. The other fawn was trying to stand up. When she finally did she began suckling while mom continued to clean her.

I stayed there for about half an hour watching the doe care for her newborn babies. It was magical, this moment in time that mother nature had given me. A gift, a reminder of how lucky I am to live here.

While life continues to give us good days and bad days, hardships and problems, here in Pine Brook Hills it also gives us moments like today. When my copper rose bushes are in bloom with bright orange flowers that seem to glow in the sunlight. When the smell of lilacs fills the air and the Yucca's spring rows of white flowers tempt you to pick them. When everything is so green and the mists that climb up the mountains remind you of the rolling hills in Ireland. When the creeks are full and we have more water than we have had in such a long time and the sound of baby birds and new life is all around us.

Always present, always moving forward and always there to remind us how lucky we all are to live in Pine Brook Hills.

Mark your calenders for Saturday evening, July 26! Fun for the whole family!

Old fashioned potluck supper followed by a Country Hoedown (or Square Dance).

Fun and dancing at the Pine Brook Hills Community Center/Fire Station.



The best danged square caller in the West will make sure you have fun. Watch for flyer and signs later this month with further details.

PINE BROOK WHO DUN IT?



For the correct answer see page 15.

Which couple works like Superman and Superwoman to put on the Fire Auxiliary's Garage Sale - year after year!

**PINE BROOK HILLS
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PINE BROOK PRESS

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA SQUARE DANCE, Saturday, July 26. Members Business meeting July 30, 7 P.M. (see "Twofer" this page).

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

FIRE AUXILIARY - Generally meets the 1st Sunday of every month at 7 P.M. Call 449-6656 for confirmation.

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

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

FITBALL - Come join the Bouncers on Tuesday mornings, 9 - 10 A.M. Free, but you need your own ball. Please call 449-0997 for encouragement and further details.

HOA BOARD - Tuesday, July 15, 7 P.M.

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

"TWOFER"

By Jim Eyster

This quarter's HOA Homeowners Meeting is going to be a "twofer." There is a community SQUARE DANCE planned for Saturday, July 26, and a BUSINESS MEETING scheduled for Wednesday, July 30. Mark your calendars for a great evening of fun with your neighbors on July 26. More information regarding the square dance will be forthcoming in your mail from the Square Dance Committee chaired by Jim Woodruff. If you'd be willing to help with the festivities, please contact Jim Woodruff.

The business meeting on July 30 will focus on the water issue and the building of a reservoir. This meeting is not a Water Board Meeting but rather a meeting in which residents can provide insightful input and questions to help us all better formulate our own understanding of the water issue. We've all read the letters from Dr. Villavicencio and Param Singh. We will try to put as much information as we have on our HOA website: www.pinebrookhills.org/Water/issues. We will have concerned community members kick-off the discussion by making



brief presentations about the need, implementation and concerns regarding a water reservoir in Pine Brook Hills.

After these introductory statements, the meeting will be open to questions regarding the reservoir. The objective of the meeting will be to formalize a list of questions and to get answers. If answers to questions are known, hopefully they can be answered at the meeting. If answers are not known, the answers will be researched with the responses posted on the website. The HOA Board's plan is to use these questions to gather a panel of experts to address the issues at the next HOA Homeowners Meeting on October 29. If you would like to participate on a committee to plan the October meeting please let me know.

Now here's the catch. So that everyone has the same basic understanding of the reservoir issues, I'm asking that everyone take the time to review the material that has been sent to you over the past six months which have also been placed on the HOA website. Hopefully, this will help us have a very productive meeting and allow us to focus on questions/concerns that have not already been answered.

I look forward to seeing you at the square dance and the HOA business meeting.



FROM THE HOA TREASURER

By Jim Woodruff

We've had an outstanding response to our dues requests to date. So far these funds have been used for the Pine Brook Press, new signage for the Architectural Review Committee, Welcoming Committee expenses, the Pine Brook Hills web site (www.pinebrookhills.com) and cleaning up some of last year's fire mitigation expenses. We look forward to continued financial support of these programs this year, as well as some great social events which you will find on other pages of this issue. If you are one of those who intend to join the 260+ other households in support of the Homeowners Association but have not yet done so, do not hesitate any longer. You may still enclose a check for \$50 (or more, if you wish) made out to "Pine Brook Hills HOA" in an envelope and either mail it to:

Pine Brook Hills HOA
C/O Jim Woodruff, Treasurer

27 Hawk Lane
Boulder, Co 80304

or drop it in the Homeowners drop box at the entrance to the Community Center/Firehouse parking lot.

Thank you.



FIRE SIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Fire Chief

Greetings once again from BMFA! I hope this article finds everybody well and enjoying the end of spring and the much anticipated start of the summer season. I finally have the whole family down here with me now and we are all settling in the new house, slow but sure. It is nice having everything returning to normal.

Well, it has been an interesting year so far. We went from a severe drought last year to a mega snow storm in March to a torrential downpour in May. What a weird weather pattern. PLEASE, PLEASE do not think for one moment that our fire problem has diminished. On the contrary, thanks to the increased amount of moisture, the grasses have grown healthy and tall. As summer continues, these grasses will start curing, thus causing flashy and ladder fuel fire problems. According to current fire predictions if the moisture levels fall as summer wears on, this may put fuel moisture levels into a critical level. Therefore it is still extremely important for all homeowners to take every precaution they can. This may be something as simple as removing any combustibles from under the decks, cleaning the pine needles out of your gutters (and YES, Param, the Fire Department will lead the charge in this endeavor). Cut your tall grass, especially if it is hiding a fire hydrant. Fire mitigation is still one of the biggest ways that you can help to protect yourself. Remind the kids - NO FIREWORKS IN PBH!

If you think you may be in need of mitigation work, including chipping, please feel free to contact John Pellouchoud, BMFA Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator. He can give you a free consultation on your fire risk. The BMFA was happy to have received a matching grant from Colorado State Forest Service - BUT we won't know until the end of the season how much (if any) of that money we can rebate to homeowners for their mitigation expenses. We have other grant applications for mitigation money still outstanding. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we will receive that funding.

Once again the PBH Auxiliary comes through with flying colors. This year's garage sale was a giant success. I must admit I have never seen anything like it. I thought people were kidding me when they said there were people lined up ready to get those early bargains. I was wrong! I was able to witness this first hand. UNBELIEVABLE!! A special thanks to Art and Babette Markey and all the Auxiliary for donating endless amounts of time and energy to make this event a great success. I know of no other auxiliary that provides so much support and resources to its fire department.

Until next time enjoy the summer and be careful out there.



RESERVOIR.....OUI!

Thoughts from a Water Board Member

As one Pine Brook Hills Water District Board Member, I favor the dam proposal because it offers us the chance to become one of the most water secure communities in Colorado. Without it (or some other more expensive storage option), I believe Pine Brook Hills will never address its exposure to droughts, which will mean continuing water use limitations, greater risks of fire and decreased property values. My opinions are mine alone. I am a volunteer, and, like all Pine Brook volunteers, I can only offer my own opinions.

I did not wake up one day in favor of dams. As a former executive director of an environmental advocacy group, The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, my inclination was, and is, to oppose dams. Dams are not the answer to all water problems. They do nothing to create more water, and evaporation losses, aesthetics, environmental impacts and other factors may undercut their benefits. But I favor the Pine Brook Hills dam proposal because it is the only cost-effective way to provide a useful storage component to our otherwise excellent water supply strategy.

All of us would like to see the rain keep falling. I hope we have seen our last drought, but I fear we have not. I tend to agree with those who point to global warming as a trend that will result in our region being drier, not wetter, over the next few years and into the foreseeable future. Even the Bush Administration EPA has suggested that our region will see increasing drought cycles. (Take a look for yourself at the EPA's Colorado global warming web site found at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/ImpactsStateImpactsCO.html>.)

We have very good water rights, which Bob de Haas and the Board over many years have worked hard to leverage into the best possible position. While we

can and will continue to strengthen our water rights, this will be an incremental strategy, not a solution to droughts. We are represented by one of the best water lawyers in the country, Glenn Porzack, who told me once that we are a very small player in an area dominated by giants. In his view, we've done a good job waiting and watching for opportunities to gain what we can when the giants joust. There are not large quantities of senior sources of water rights available for our purchase.

We have a good drilling program in a very constricted area. Our wells played a big part in helping us get through last summer and they will be a part of future plans. However, the quality of water in the wells is not as good as our surface water (and will require creative management to meet new EPA arsenic water quality standards). It is far from clear that the risks of drilling more increasingly expensive wells to find replenishable and usable sources of drinking water are warranted. Again, we may find some incremental benefit, but not a solution to droughts.

Conservation is clearly part of our answer. I helped the Board draft a more stringent drought policy after the 2000 drought. Many of you visited the Board as that policy was applied last year. It is stringent and effective, and it is not particularly flexible (sorry). Our water rate structure is designed to charge exponentially higher rates for consumers of large amounts of water. Under the drought policy, the Board last year imposed a 6,000 gallon per month limit on all homes and penalized those homes that exceeded the limit, including denying some homes water when they would not comply with our limit. We could and would impose tighter limits if necessary.

*Pine Brook residents responded to the water use limitations in an exemplary manner that makes me proud to live here. Our average home used 3,800 gallons per month during the drought. Even in non-drought conditions, our average home uses around 4,800 gallons per month. To plan for our current and future needs, the Board uses 5,000 gallons per month per home, which we assume to include four people. This is below what one of the leading national water conservation experts, Amy Vickers, says one should expect for a family of four's **indoor** use in a water conserving home. (See Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, page 19 (Water Plow Press 2001), where Ms. Vickers says in a water conserving home the average indoor use is 45.2 gallons per person per day.) Conservation should be and is part of our ethic; it should not be a rhetorical device used to pretend that it is a simple solution to droughts.*

We need storage. We have the water rights, good surface and ground water sources, and exemplary conservation. We do not have the capacity to save water in flush times. (Some have wondered why Pine Brook did not impose limits on water use early last year when

other communities were imposing limits. The answer is that the communities imposing those limits have storage; we do not. Thus, anything they saved early, they could use later. Anything we could have saved early ran down the stream and was not available to us.)

Storage could be obtained in a couple ways: the surface dam or tanks. We cannot store more treated water since we are already at the maximum for our use. Thus, we need to store raw or untreated water. The dam accomplishes this in a cost-effective way that is by far cheaper and more abundant than any other option. The dam also makes the stored water easily available for fire fighting in a way other options do not. Underground tanks could be built. The Board has talked about them and evaluated them for a long, long time. More information will be presented to the community about underground storage. In my view, underground storage is better than no storage at all. But it will be many times more expensive than the dam for less protection, it will not help as effectively with fire fighting and it will compel us to use our treated drinking water for fighting fires.

As a member of this community, I wish there were easy answers (I'd even be happy if it were as simple as replacing an incompetent or corrupt Board!). But, in a way, as unpalatable as some may find it, it is simple: we vote as a community to add raw water storage and become one of the most water secure communities in Colorado, or we vote no and face droughts unprotected and subject to increased water limitations, run the risk of not having available water for fire fighting and develop a reputation as a water vulnerable community, leading to declining property values. That's the choice you and every other resident of Pine Brook Hills will make when the community votes next Fall. I hope you will join me in supporting a viable Pine Brook Hills long into the future.

Brian Hanson



RESERVOIR.....???

Greetings,

The most recent bulletin from the PBWD asks "Do we really need a reservoir?" To me this is a real question, by which I mean the answer is not obvious. However, all of the information I've received from the PBWD implies that the only correct answer is yes. For example the latest bulletin states, "The best solution that we have found is the reservoir." After sending PBH residents multiple arguments in favor of the reservoir and against any alternatives, polling residents on the issue is unscientific at best.

The bulletin also states, "We have never stopped promoting water conservation and wise water use." This

is true. It's also true that other water districts take a much more active role in promoting water conservation than does PBWD. For example, the Irvine Ranch Water District provides free low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, flow restrictors, teflon tape and dye tablets to its customers. It also offers voluntary water audits as well as brochures and workshops on water efficiency. And IRWD's rates increase very steeply to discourage water waste. The rates in the highest use category are 10 times higher than the rates in the lowest use category. Note that these rates are based not on absolute gallons of water but on each house's individual water allocation. See <http://www.irwd.com/> for more information.

I understand that IRWD is a large water district with a far bigger budget and more staff than PBWD. But the estimated cost of the dam is \$4 million! A small fraction of that amount would pay for many water conservation devices and efficiency audits. I also think it's worth revisiting PBWD's rates. When I moved here in 1989 the rates increased much more steeply than they do now, even after the 2001 rate adjustment. At least there could be a special rate structure for periods of droughts.

Perhaps there are good reasons why it's not practical for PBWD to take a more active role in promoting water conservation and discouraging water waste. Perhaps there are even better alternatives. But until PBH residents receive balanced information regarding the alternatives, the question "Do we really need a reservoir" has no clear answer.

Thanks,
Scott Jonas



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RESERVOIR.....NON!

To The Pine Brook Water Board and Fellow Pine Brook Home Owners,

To the Board I respect the time you all give to the Board but I am against a reservoir being built. I have owned my home on 607 North Cedar Brook since 1980. I have seen 4 fires within ~500 yards of my home. I average ~2000 gallons of water per month. I conserve water & keep my grass cut around my home. I see the oversized homes being built on my street.

*I have watched the Water Board try to assure the "safety of our homes." **Each new "fix" fails to do the job the Water Board promised:** "Give the residents of Pine Brook Hills enough quality water, have unlimited water (10,000 per home) & secure our homes from FIRE."*

The Board seems to be ready to spend our money. Why is the Board sending letters with scare tactics ("Do We Need A Reservoir?"). The reservoir will be a financial burden to all Pine Brook residents forever! Not to mention the environmental impact. The people of Pine Brook Hills have entrusted you, the Board, to have addressed these issues with the last funding of the tanks at the end of North Cedar Brook. I question why other avenues are not being explored with the same investment as you are making in the cost of these studies of a dam.

*Does the Board have the education and experience needed to take on a dam project? Why is the Board so desperate? Who's on the Board? **My blue letter from the Water District (not dated) failed to give a time or location for the meeting on June 5. WHY?****

Bob may be great at handling our current needs. What qualifications will be required to staff our Water District in the future?

Leslie L. Silverman

** Ed. Note: Water Board meeting times are posted on the Community Center door as well as in the PB Press.*

FIRE LOG

By Param Singh

It was our intent, starting with this issue, to publish a chronology of all fire calls during the preceding quarter. However, the unprecedented flood of letters and articles from the community has put a premium on space in this issue. I will summarize calls from January 1 to June 10. Hopefully, in the next issue we can start providing a little more detail.

During this period there were 46 calls, which is about average. Of these, 19 were in Pine Brook Hills, 24 in the Boulder Heights district and 3 outside the

district. One of those outside the district was a car fire on Broadway. A BMFA engine was returning to the community center from the Fire Training Center on Lee Hill Drive and put the fire out. Talk about being in the right place at the right time!

The breakdown by the type of call is as follows:

Medical	15
Fire alarms	8
Motor vehicle accident/fire	8
Smoke reports	7
Gas leaks	3
Fire reports	2
Citizen assist	2
Mutual aid (other depts.)	1
TOTAL	46

All the fire alarms were false.

**TO THIN OR NOT TO THIN**

I've heard some Pine Brookers say they do not want to thin the trees and other growth on their property because they like the "natural" look. Their property looks the way it does today because of years and years of fire suppression, which is not natural in a Ponderosa/Douglas Fir forest. Before fire suppression it is estimated that an acre of Ponderosa forest averaged about thirty healthy trees. Today it is not uncommon to see three thousand plus trees on an acre. And most of these trees are scrawny, unhealthy ones that may be unable to stave off pine beetles and/or mistletoe.

If anyone would like to see what a Ponderosa forest probably looked like before fire suppression, visit the Meyers Homestead trailhead at Walker Ranch. This is where fire prevention techniques (thinning, prescribed burns, etc.) have been employed by Boulder County, and this is where the Walker Ranch Fire of 2000 was finally stopped. If these techniques had not been employed, who knows how many more acres would have been burned by the fire. Since it is not feasible to have prescribed burns in Pine Brook, thinning is even more important here.

The following quote is from a front page article in the Daily Camera (8/4/02):

More residents who live in the urban-wildland interface need to thin growth on their properties, said Dean Paschall, Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department Division Manager. Those include residents of Pine Brook Hills, which was in the path of the Wonderland Lake Fire. "The problem with Pine Brook is that they're really nestled right into the trees," Paschall said.

If you have questions about thinning your property, I'm sure our fire department can help you.

Sally Beauprez

WATER CONSERVATION SURVEY

By Art Markey,

Member of the Pine Brook Water Board

At the Water Board meeting on June 5 it became obvious that a number of people felt that a comprehensive survey of those water conservation measures which are already in place, should be undertaken by the water district.

In response to that, I have volunteered to put together a comprehensive survey that will try to enumerate the number of homes within Pine Brook that currently have water conservation measures in place. I plan to ask about number of residents, toilets, shower heads, faucets, washing machines, diversion of rainwater, irrigation systems and plant watering habits. I will also ask about water use habits and mindset. If anyone in the community has other concerns they would like to see included or can lend expertise, I would appreciate any input or help in construction of the document. I can be contacted at abmarkey@attbi.com or 303-440-6132.

My plan is to have the survey ready to be mailed in July, with a request to respond within three weeks. That will allow us to analyze the data and have it ready to publish in the fall issue of the Pine Brook Press.

As most of you know, response to any kind of survey is traditionally low. We would like to make this one statistically significant so I am asking in advance that the community make the effort to fill it out as best they can and return it to us.

I thank you in advance both personally and for the board for working with us on this project.



RESERVOIR.....OUI!

The Reservoir: Climate Change and Fire Insurance

We believe it is very misleading to say that the drought of the past years has been a one in 300 year occurrence. Not only are weather statistics for the earlier centuries nonexistent or questionable, but more importantly, we know that the climate is changing due to greenhouse gas emissions. Current climate models are not yet sufficiently detailed and reliable to assure us that the lack of precipitation in the Boulder area will not get worse. There is a fair possibility that we will have less precipitation, or that, even if annual averages were to increase, summers might become more dry or year-to-year fluctuations more extreme.

Last year's fire was a wakeup call to alert us to the risk of running out of water at the critical moment and losing our homes. The reservoir would give us crucial

fire insurance. Or rather, it is better than ordinary insurance which merely compensates for part of a loss; it would actually reduce the risk of incurring a loss. As an example, for our own house we are paying some \$800 for insurance, and most of the risk is due to fire. The reservoir would increase our cost by about \$260. We consider the benefit well worth the cost.

Melinda Kassen's letter to the editor in the Spring 2003 issue emphasizes the need to explore all alternatives before rushing into such an expensive project. We fully agree with the need for careful study and, like her, we have had no trouble living with water restrictions. But we find the analysis done by the Water Board commendably thorough and entirely convincing. Neither rationing nor the available alternative water sources can give us the certainty of protection that we would obtain with the reservoir. And the price is acceptable.

Brigitte Desaignes and Ari Rabl



DOGS GONE WILD!!

I have lived in Pine Brook Hills for seven years. I have had dogs almost all of those seven years. In that time I had one incident in which a nine year old dog that I had just adopted, escaped from the front door and ran down the driveway attacking a dog that was at the base of our driveway. We did not know her well enough to think that she would do such a thing...but...she did and it was a nasty affair. The two dogs came away unscathed, but the other dog's owner became very violent and called me horrible names etc. I have always been so careful with all of my dogs and this incident was awful. My dog has never since been out of her yard or off leash while in public...ever!

Today we were attacked by a dog for the third time in six months. I am not personally afraid of the dogs, but I do not want my dog to be hurt and I am prepared to defend myself and my dog against your dog if it attacks. The latest incident was only quashed because I came between my dog and the attacking dog as it circled around us. The dog did not come when its owner called it!

Pine Brook Hills does have an ordinance to prevent just this sort of thing: Boulder County Ordinance 97-1. I don't want to have to take further measures to secure the safety of my dog or some other homeowner and their dog who are out for a nice walk. I know that it is possible to keep your dog on your property, as most Pine Brook Hills residents do just that.

*Please abide by the ordinance. And keep Pine Brook Hills dog **FRIENDLY!***

*Signed,
Woody's Momma*

DINE-AROUNDS

by Karen Peperzak

The **Friday Afternoon Happy Hour** is quite full. I look forward to meeting many new people at this event! There are still seats available for the **Boulder Dinner Theater show: Chicago**. This event is scheduled for Friday, July 18. They need confirmation and money a month ahead to save the seats. Please call me soon.

The **Murder Mystery Dinner at Gold Hill** still has openings for August 24. This is a private event so they need confirmation and money a month out to hold the Lodge and secure the seven actors involved. This is a brand new script. Please call me soon.

Look forward to seeing you! 303-440-0691.

THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Barbara Hosmer

Myrtle Spurge/Donkey Tail Spurge. A plant we can all do without. On the Colorado list of noxious weeds, it is spreading in our neighborhood. In the spring 2000 issue of the Pine Brook Press, www.pinebrookhills.org/Press/Articles/spurge.htm, Jo Noble wrote of the problems caused by this plant. Uncontrolled, it spreads rapidly, replacing more desirable grasses and plants, is toxic to animals, and the milky latex sap is caustic and can cause pretty serious burns or blisters to human skin. There are reports that it may even have caused blindness. I can't help but worry when I see new families with children moving into our beautiful area, where the kids may encounter this plant unaware of its danger. It looks pretty with its yellow flowers. But beware. It needs to be controlled. You will want to wear gloves and long pants if you decide to pull or thin any that you have in your yard, or even if you are weeding around this plant. I recently discovered quite a few clusters of donkey tail spurge in a grassy area not far from my house and I've decided to apply an herbicide (RoundUp) to eliminate it. There was just too much to try to pull, and I didn't want to risk getting any of the sap on me.

A natural weed killer you might want to try calls for the following ingredients and is supposed to work as well as RoundUp: To one gallon of white vinegar, add one box of salt and eight drops of dishwashing liquid. Mix and put it in a spray bottle. If anyone decides to try this, please let me know how well it works.

If you would like to learn more about what plants are officially considered noxious by Boulder County, or need help identifying plants on your property, the Cooperative Extension Service office at the Fairgrounds in Longmont has a lot of good information. You can also view the Colorado Weed Management Association website, www.cwma.org. The Boulder County Open Space contact person is Tim D'Amato, 303-678-6110.

Take time to enjoy your garden and our great neighborhood. And have a really good summer.

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?**Pine Brook Scat, or The Straight Poop (OOPS!) Scoop**

By Anne Singh

Annabelle Huddle was born on February 2, 2003 to Dana and Jim Huddle. Weighing 5 lbs 3 oz and arriving five weeks early, she is a healthy 12 lbs now, very active and a blue-eyed blond. We all welcome her and send many congratulations to her lucky parents.

RJ Smith, a long-time PBH resident and fire dept. member, has developed and produced a low-cost wild-fire detection system for homes. It can be put on top of the roof or most anywhere. You can read about it at www.fire-scout.com.

Uriah Bueller and Mike Imperi are the owners of a Boulder-based company, Distant Destinations, which combines economical travel to off-the-beaten-path locations with service opportunities. Both have backgrounds in education and plan trips for school children and parents. They have carried out projects such as delivering (by hiking) school supplies to a school in Kenya and smuggling medical equipment to Ladakh (an ultra sound machine - illegal because it can detect the sex of a fetus - but it also detects kidney stones and saves lives). They go to many countries such as Bali, Thailand, Costa Rica, etc. Their aim is to give a different sense of time, family and lifestyle.

P.S. I am sending out a plea to all of you to help continue this column by sending any personal news you might like to share, such as birth and wedding announcements, graduations, awards, travels, funny stories, animal sightings, etc. You may send news items to either of us, Anne or Suzanne, anytime between the issues and by any means convenient to you: email, US mail, telephone, or hard copy delivery to our front doors. I'll be waiting to hear from you and thank you so much! **AS**



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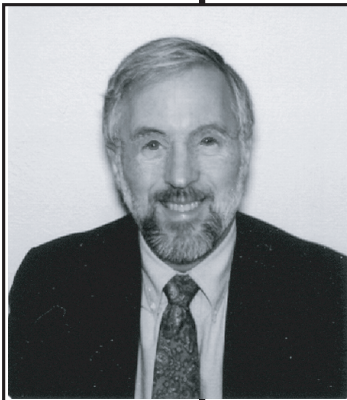
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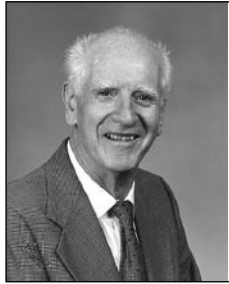


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Robert "Marshall" Coon

1912 - 2003

One of Marshall's neighbors said: "When I talked to Marshall, he would look at me with that little smile and give me his complete attention. He made me feel that what I had to say was the most important thing in the world and nothing else mattered." This sentiment was echoed by many others, Marshall made everyone feel that he/she was the most important person in the world.



In 2001 the Pine Brook Press (www.pinebrookhills.org/Press/Articles/Marshall_Coon.htm) chronicled the milestones of his life. From growing up on a watermelon farm in rural Kansas, his work as an electrical engineer took him to the far corners of the earth. Along the way he found his two daughters, Jan and Lorajeane, in Costa

Rica. Forty years ago the Coon family moved to their brick ranch on Timber Lane, the fifth house built in Pine Brook Hills.

In Marshall's dining room, on the side board, there is a prototype of the electronic circuit he invented for machines that clean and polish bowling lanes. While the invention attests to his intellect, it is the meticulously carved wooden box in which the electronic components nestle that draws the eye. It must be the most carefully crafted and neat prototype ever put together: the fit is precise, no wires cross each other.

Marshall brought that same singular focus and attention to detail to his personal relationships, with his family, friends, neighbors and the wider community. We in Pine Brook Hills owe our Ponderosa forests to Marshall; for several years, in the 70's, he successfully battled infestations of the Pine Bark Beetle that was devastating the Front Range. In the early days of this community when one got stuck on the road the person to call was Marshall. He would come and pull you out with his CJ5 jeep. He served in the fire department for many years. It was just natural for him to help those who were in need.

But he was not all goody goody two shoes. Marshall had a sense of adventure and zest for life. At an age when most slow down, he sped up. In his late sixties he took up gliding, soaring above these hills. At 75 he took up scuba diving!

At his memorial service on June 4th speaker after speaker attested to his unique ability to touch others in such a positive way that he literally changed their lives. The intrinsic goodness of the man touched all who met him, even briefly. If I were Jewish, I would call Marshall a *mensch*. I am from India, and I know what he was, a *maha atma* - great soul.

Two years ago, just before his 89th birthday he was asked about his feelings for Pine Brook Hills. His eyes lit up as he said, "I love it. I will never move from here." For those who knew you here, Marshall, you never will.

Param Singh

Contributions may be to the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority, 1905 Linden Drive, Boulder, CO 80304, for a tree and bench (for weary firefighters) to be placed near the Community Center.

Tyrone Ray Lewis Larson

1944-2003

Oh how we will miss our friend and neighbor Ty. He died of cancer only five weeks after diagnosis. His swift passing grieves us all.

He was born in North Dakota and was raised on a farm with no indoor plumbing. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 1966 and went on to get a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell University. While he was there he also got a wife; Paige and Ty were married in 1969.

When Ty took a job at Ball Aerospace in 1975, Ty, Paige and family joined our Pine Brook Hills community. I first became acquainted with Ty as we stood in line to register our kids at Foothills Elementary. During our wait I learned that the Larsons had bought the first house that I built, on North Cedar Brook. In 1983 Ball transferred Ty to headquarters in Muncie. The family lived on a farm for five years, until Ty was transferred back to Boulder as VP in Ball's antenna group.



In a flat real estate market we were selling our house in order to build a new one next door. We were praying for a buyer who would (1) buy right away, (2) be good neighbors, (3) have lots of kids, and (4) pay cash (people said we were crazy). The Larsons were the answer to our prayers on all four counts. Our kids became friends with Kristen, Kari, David and Sarah. Etched in our minds is the day Ty drove in the driveway in a stunning sky blue classic Corvette convertible, the realization of a childhood dream. He instantly became the "Boss Dad" on our block.

Ty loved to ski and play golf, was a voracious reader and enjoyed woodworking. He had a continuing thirst for education. But most important to Ty were his wife and their family: husband and father were his self-proclaimed "top jobs."

Ty's Christian faith was very important to him. In his quiet Norwegian way he lived his faith daily in his relationships with family, friends and co-workers. Marty Huisjen spoke at Ty's funeral about his amazing ability to network to find jobs for his friends, for his kids, and for the friends of his friends and kids. A show of hands by all those who had been helped by Ty confirmed that aspect of his life.

Ty's sister Arshebeth summed up his life as one of contrasts - he grew up on the plains but lived a lot of his life in the mountains; he had uneducated parents but he got a Ph.D. and MBA; he grew up in a low tech world of grain farming, but he worked in a high tech world of instruments, computers and cell phones.

We all will miss Ty's friendship and winning smile. We personally were very blessed to be Ty's next door neighbor and friend.

Donna Johnson

Contributions may be made in Ty's name to the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, P.O. Box 9011, Boulder, CO 80301, or to Hospice Care of Boulder and Broomfield Counties, 2594 Trailridge Drive East, Lafayette, CO 80026.

RAISING MONEY AND HAVING FUN



These strange and wild people were among over 300 who raised \$30,000 for Afghan schools!



PINE SPURGE HILLS

Congratulations and high kudos, Pine Brook Spurge Lovers, for a job well done! You have far outdone yourselves, over this last year, in spreading the spurge, that wonderful little innocent green plant that is quickly becoming a permanent element in every other garden in Pine Brook Hills. So stand up, I say, stand up and take your just rewards. You have created a green mascot for our once drab, brown community, and one that everyone will soon own, all thanks



to your generosity. How can we, and every unprotected hillside in Pine Brook, ever thank you?

But wait just a moment. Could it be that there just might be some misunderstanding in the minds of these Spurge Specialists? Could

this green onslaught be just a simple case of ignorance? Could it be that Spurge-O-Phytes are unaware that this little green monster is a poisonous weed? That it strangles plant life that our animal friends live on? That Spurge is spreading everywhere and that this ground-grunge is quickly changing the look of our beloved hills?

Awake, Pine Brookers, awake, ye of narrow sight! Shed your evil ways and return to the light. Find your shovel and gloves and remove this pest from our midst! We can do it!

Turn Away, Heed the Call, and Spurn the Spurge!
 Don Baer The Committee of One

GARAGE SALE 2003

By Babette Markey (and Art, of course)

We had a very successful sale, raising over \$6,000 net of expenses to help fund the Fire Department Auxiliary's activities in support of BMFA. As always, it was the hours (and hours and hours....) of hard work put in by all the volunteers that made the sale such a success. Of course there would not be a sale without all the donors who provided the merchandise for our PBHFD 'store' (as some have called it). And without the shoppers, we'd be left scratching our heads and wondering what to do with everything we had collected. So to all the volunteers, donors and shoppers, thank you for your support!! And reserved especially for the volunteers, a big hug from me to you.



Ready to rumble...er...shop!

I guess the string of new record highs each year on the amount of money the garage sale brought in had to be broken some time. I was hoping we could keep it going but realistically did not expect that we would. The key differences between the 2002 and 2003 sales were that this year no car was donated and not as much furniture was donated. We had just as much of the smaller items but not as much of these 'big ticket' items this year. So if you plan to replace a car or furniture between now and next May, please consider donating your old ones to us.

THEY DUN IT!



Them is Babette and Art Markey - Power Couple of the May Garage Sale. See above story.



Wait..... it **is** a deer caught in the headlights!

"I stood there amazed, transfixed as I gazed, caught in the DEER'S headlights...."

Peter D. Goldfinch

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