



Pine Brook Press

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

SUMMER 2009



YEE HAW!

We're roundin' up all Pine Brookers to attend our HOA FAMILY POTLUCK AND SQUARE DANCE!

WHEN? Sunday, August 2, at 5:30

WHERE? The Community Center/
Firehouse

WHAT TO BRING? Western picnic grub
(drinks provided)

WHAT TO WEAR? You guessed it! West-
ern wear or whatever

WHO TO BRING? Family, friends and
innocent bystanders

For more information please call Pam
Creswell at 303.829.3320 (That's Pam on
her hoss).



A trip down
memory lane....
Square Dancing
at the Community
Center, July 2003.

**LET'S DO IT
AGAIN!**

BEETLE BUSTERS TAKE "POSTGRADUATE" TRAINING

The group of experienced BeetleBusters pictured here gathered at Pam Creswell and Marshal Swanton's home on June 6 for further training with Bruce Benninghoff, Forest Health Consultant.

Let us define our terms:

Beetle, in this context, means any of the four bark beetles currently attacking our forest: Mountain Pine Beetle, Ips Beetle, Turpentine Beetle, and Douglas Fir Beetle; **BeetleBusters** refers to those volunteers who, having completed a vigorous initial training both in class and in the field, respond to homeowners' requests for inspection of trees for bark beetles. In 2009 the BeetleBusters conducted approximately 120 inspections in Pine Brook, Boulder Heights and Carriage Hills, and have identified over 260 beetle-infested trees, which have been removed and treated. This effort represents thousands of volunteer hours. The BeetleBuster program is jointly sponsored by the PBH HOA and Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. Because



Who ARE these selfless heroes, willing to take on FOUR VARIETIES of ravenous bark beetles?

The Pine Brook Beetle Team consists of: Jim Adams, Suzanne Adams, Doug Barakat, Reid Baumgartner, Tom Byram, Cheri and Tom Cathey, Joyce Colson, Pam Creswell and Marshal Swanton, Jo Davies, Russ Endo, Jim and Kathy Eyster, Tom Foster, Jan Gillespie, John Hess, Roman Hought, Mike Hupka,

Richard Kaplan, Rody Kent, Peter and Della King-Smith, Gail Loveman, Art Markey, Jim Massengale, Quentin McKenna, Samagra Melville, Sue Rancis, Brian Ridley, Shawn Roberts, Allen and Marla Saville, Param Singh, Tom Spencer, Roger Svendson, Tim Triggs, David Tresemer, Donna Waters and Jo Wiedemann. Newly trained Beetlers include Wendy Acheson, Dee Marlin and Charmaine Settle.



A snow damaged forest infested with the Ips beetle.

The Ips Beetles love to raise their young in fallen trees and broken branches. Unfortunately for us, that heavy late winter snow storm provided lots of habitat for Ips. Alert Beetle Buster Jim Adams

discovered an Ips settlement on the slope below Alder Lane and was able to excise two beetles caught in flagrante delicto in their "nuptial chamber."

Anyone still finding downed trees or branches should chip them or truck them out of Pine Brook as soon as possible. Ips are Bad News Beetles.



Photos on this page by Jim Adams.

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WATER DISTRICT

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MID-SUMMER MEETING, August 2,
Western Grub Potluck at 5:30 P.M., followed by short
business meeting and then an **EVENING OF SQUARE
DANCING!**

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

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

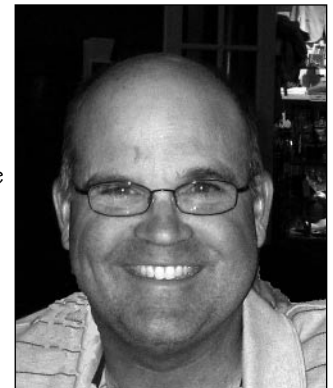
FIRE AUXILIARY - Generally meets the first Sunday of every month at 7 P.M. Call 786-8476 for confirmation.

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

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS: Midsummer Square Dancing!

By Mark Menagh, HOA President

I hope to see you at the Community Center on August 2 at 5:30 PM for a very special Western Grub Potluck and Square Dancin' evening. We will have our normal (short) HOA business meeting, then socialize and enjoy our neighbors at our community center and take part in a community square dance led by an experienced and enjoyable "caller." This is great fun for all of the family so be sure to bring 'em all with you.



As I'm sure you've noticed, our early summer has been wet. This additional moisture has increased the number of wildflowers and the grass has grown to extraordinary heights. Please take the time to shorten it around your house so when the grass dries out it won't be as big of a fire hazard. After you have removed and piled up any fallen trees and limbs on your property please call a tree service to chip or haul away the slash to reduce both fire danger and the possibility of a bark beetle infestation.

It is time to solicit volunteers for the Board of Directors of our HOA. The nomination committee chaired by Pam Creswell is looking for recommendations from you for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you would like to step forward and volunteer please do. For more information please contact Pam at

720-406-9783. For descriptions of the positions please refer to "HOA officers' job descriptions" on our website, www.pinebrookhills.org under HOA.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. See you at the square dancin' evening!



FIRE SIDE CHAT

By John Benson

Hello once again from rainy and cloudy Seattle, Washington, I mean Boulder, Colorado.

The rain has certainly offered us a reprieve on what we thought was going to be a ferocious fire season. When we were looking at the after-effects of the Old Stage and Neva Road fires we all feared this was going to be a long dry spring and summer. So far that has proven itself wrong. The Big Question is how long will the mild temperatures and precipitation last? My vote would be to have this last all summer. But, with the moisture and cooler temperatures comes one of our big nightmares, tall grasses.

The tall lush grasses we are seeing now could become fuel for a raging fire if they start to dry out during the next few months. This means homeowners need to be proactive in reducing the dangers of dry grasses. I know, I know, some people may get tired of hearing me talk about the need for mowing and fuel reduction, but if I don't keep reminding our residents then I would not be doing my job. So again here are some reminders of what we need to be doing to help reduce our risks:

- Ensure that you have mowed or weed whacked tall grasses around your properties,
- Ensure the areas along the roadways are also mowed. It doesn't take long for a muffler or catalytic converter to heat the grasses to ignition point.
- If you are conducting hot work such as welding, cutting or grinding, make sure you have extinguishment capabilities on hand to suppress any grasses that ignite.
- Please be careful with your outdoor recreational activities as well,
- Inform your contractors doing any work on your property that the work needs to be done in a careful and prudent manner, and

- If you have a fire, see smoke or think you smell smoke DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

This year the members of BMFPD have increased our wildfire training and education. The members and equipment are always ready. I have enjoyed watching our members increase their knowledge and skills regarding wildfire suppression.

I would be greatly surprised if we continue in this weather pattern. If we do, great, but I do not foresee that happening. As always, if you need a site visit and a fire safety inspection BMFPD provides these at no cost to our homeowners. We can be reached at 303-440-0235.

Please enjoy the summer and be careful.



ON THE WATER FRONT

By Bob de Haas

Summer is here and again the water supply/reservoir is in excellent shape. By the end of June the reservoir should be full which of course means the District will have an adequate supply of water for the year.

Late winter and spring brought plenty of moisture which benefited our supply, both at our surface water diversion point on Four Mile Creek and at the reservoir. So far this year we have captured over 20 acre feet of water directly from the drainage basin above the reservoir. That greatly reduced our need to pump water from Four Mile Creek.

The District will pump water from Four Mile Creek during June to finish filling the reservoir. So far this year we have only pumped water from Four Mile Creek for two months, and not pumped for four months. This not only saves the District money by not having to pump water over to the reservoir, but leaves more water in the tributary streams for all water users and the environment.

We know that you, as the residents of the area, have probably enjoyed not receiving notices advising you that usage has to be drastically curtailed. The District employees and the Board of Directors all have enjoyed not having to send out those notices and have enjoyed not having to try to predict what type of year (drought/wet/normal) it is going to be.

The most interesting part of all this is that we

have not seen dramatic changes in the amount of water used by the community. In fact the average use overall is less than what it was in the 70's and 80's. Wise water use has become a normal way of life for most people and it definitely shows in our community!

GARAGE SALE 2009

By Babette Markey for that dynamic duo:
Aunt Tique and Uncle Junque

We didn't know what to expect this year as far as garage sale results given the state of the economy. Would our profits be down because of significantly lower donations? Several dedicated hard-working volunteers thought that might be the case (including Uncle Junque). And after the first drop-off weekend, we seemed to be headed that way. Might the economic situation cause us to have a lot more shoppers looking for bargains? Maybe combined with lower donations? We just didn't have any idea.

But all the concern was for naught. Our wonderful donors came through, by the time the sale started, with almost as much as in previous years although, alas and alack, no car. What did surprise us a bit was that there actually seemed to be fewer shoppers rather than more..... but those who came were serious about buying when they found good buys!

Bottom line: we grossed around \$11,800. Pretty darn good for what we figured might be a down year! So thanks to everyone who helped out - by donating and/or volunteering and/or shopping. A big thanks to the donavolpers* (a new species in BMFPD that first surfaced in an earlier issue of the Pine Brook Press). And a special long distance shout-out to one daughter of a volunteer as she kindly waited to have her baby, allowing her mother the whole week to help with pricing.

They say that in retail it helps to know your customers. Well, that applies to our garage sale too. One of our more unusual donations this year was a portable, gas-powered, margarita maker. After several of us kinda scratched our heads wondering, Jim Eyster took one look at it and knew exactly who would be interested. One phone call later and we had made a sale! (See the following article).

We're planning some vacation but I guess it won't be too long ... we've gotten our first phone call from a neighbor who is doing some remodeling and wants to donate some furniture for next year's sale ... only

they need to move it out real soon. Anyone out there have any storage space we can use until next May????

*Donavolpers: those wonderful types who donate, volunteer AND shop the garage sale.

THE GAS-POWERED MARGARITA MAKER: Doesn't EVERYONE Need One?

Shawn Roberts certainly realized the potential and snatched up this treasure at the Fire District Garage Sale last May. Jim Eyster alerted Shawn to this absolutely essential piece of summertime equipment, having experienced the joys of a gas-powered margarita maker on a raft trip. Ah, life in the wilderness. Fortunately, Shawn offers to lend the



machine to any Pine Brooker who really needs it.



A well known visitor from Europe adorns the Solar Bee.

GOING GREEN

By Evie Gray

Several homeowners in Pine Brook have chosen to go **GREEN** in building their new homes or in remodeling existing ones. We contacted several homeowners who told their stories below:

- The Spitzes on Pine Brook Road plan to build a very green home using renewable materials on the siding and low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and glue. The subflooring, too, will be green.
- The Harringtons on Boulder View Lane have remodeled recently to incorporate photovoltaic and solar hot water heating. "The design of the house, my wife's design really, makes use of shade in the summer and sun in the winter," Harrington added.
- Jan Mitchell's extensive (and very green) remodel

to break down," Ben explained. "The shell of the house uses Pumicecrete, which is mostly pumice with a little cement and water, creating 14 inch thick exterior walls. There's 50 tons of pumice in my house, which provides a lot of thermal mass, an important passive solar design principle." Ben designed a "hot water maker" consisting of a 500 gallon stainless steel tank with 4 inches of rigid insulation around it, that stores heat from six solar hot water panels, as well as from a custom made hot water system inside a Russian-style fireplace which traps most of the heat from burning wood. The hot water maker provides all the heating for domestic hot water, as well as space heating through a hydronic in-floor radiant heating system both in the concrete slab as well as the bamboo



on Alpine Way was described in detail in the Spring issue of the Pine Brook Press.

- Marie and Steve Zanowick have been greening their 1976 home on Bow Mountain for the past 20 years. Their family celebrates each Earth Day by resolving to develop new green habits and home renovations. Their efforts have paid off, as their energy bill has remained constant over the past 20 years despite significant increases in the cost of energy during that time. One green step they've taken was to add a wood-burning cook stove, making use of the huge amount of wood from beetle trees. This year they plan to add solar panels that will provide 100% of the electrical needs for their home. "The original projected cost for this solar project was \$90,000, but Xcel Energy's rebates and federal tax credits have cut the cost to \$30,000," Marie said.
- Perhaps the most extensive example of green construction is Ben Levi's house on Wildcat Lane, finished in 2000 and pictured above. "I wanted to build a house which would maintain itself on a fairly sustainable level if the systems in the world began

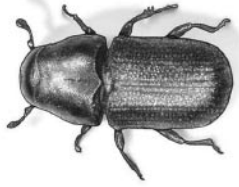
flooring. He has a 1.8kW photovoltaic system which is capable of providing power to the entire house on a typical sunny day, with sufficient battery backup for a minimum of three days without sun. Zoned agricultural, Ben and his partner Aria grow herbs and vegetables for sale, requiring some water use, but Aria has designed all the landscaping around the house to be both deer-proof and xeriscaped (low-water). Photos and details of this thoroughly green house can be seen at www.dialogue.org.

Caught in the Act!

Photo by Ken Larkin



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE BEETLE EPIDEMIC?



The best course of action is called **Integrated Pest Management**. It involves four steps:

1. Identify, remove and treat all infested trees (write beetlebusters@gmail.com for help).
2. Decrease forest density by thinning trees, preferably in the late fall and winter. This allows each tree to be healthier and better able to resist the beetles. Uninfested trees should NOT be cut during the beetle flight time (typically July 15 to September 30, depending on weather and beetle whims), because the terpenes from cut trees closely resemble the aggregation pheromone that the beetles use to attract more beetles to the trees. This we don't want!
3. Spray your "pet" trees. The product used in Pine Brook is Permethrin. A recent article in the Camera about Carbaryl has caused some concern - we don't use Carbaryl. Permethrin is not carcinogenic and is 98% effective in protecting uninfested trees when properly applied. Spraying must be done before the beetles fly. The U.S. Forest Service recommends one spray per year, while the Colorado State Forest Service recommends two sprays per year to cover the varied flight times of Mountain Pine, Ips and Turpentine Beetles. Choose your expert.
4. Consider using Verbenone patches on very desirable trees that can't be sprayed. Verbenone is the anti-aggregation pheromone that tells the beetles, "Go away! This tree is fully occupied." Some research indicates that Verbenone alone, without the other three steps, isn't very effective and may be a waste of money and effort. See "New Weapon in the Beetle Battle" in the Spring Pine Brook Press.

Our community has been vigilant in response to this epidemic, which has been called a disaster of historic proportions and "The Katrina of the West." If we continue to follow the steps outlined above we have an excellent chance of saving our beautiful forest.

IN PINE BROOK HILLS, UNITED WE OUGHT TO STAND

By Mike Connolly and Bill Alexander

What's OK to build in Pine Brook and what's not? How do we know? How do we handle differences of opinion? And most central to all these questions, what are the rules?

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is charged by the Pine Brook Hills Covenants to regulate building and development in Pine Brook Hills.

The original covenants were recorded between October 11, 1961 and June 2, 1964. Different sets of covenants were recorded for each of the seven units that comprise Pine Brook Hills. Then on November 11, 1992 a new all-inclusive single set of covenants were recorded. The later set, although widely accepted, never received full ratification.

Recently this system was severely challenged in a dispute between homeowners. The HOA ended up spending well over \$10,000 in legal fees defending our interests in the community as a whole. A plucky group of volunteers, realizing the serious nature of the problem, has set out to correct it and has formed a committee to study and recommend actions to the HOA.

Here are the issues the Covenants Committee is wrangling with:

1. Seven sets of rules within one small community means that homeowners may be subject to rules that don't apply to their neighbors.
2. If one party violates the rules of their unit, neighbors in an adjoining but different unit may not be able to do anything about it.
3. The financial burden of taking action against an offending party is limited to one unit, not spread out to the community as a whole.
4. Even if an individual unit succeeds in an action to enforce the unit's covenants, there are no provisions in the covenants to recover legal fees
5. The lack of uniformity of covenants raises the complexity of solving issues across units.

So are there solutions to these problems? Yes.

The residents of each of the seven units can adopt amended covenants joining them together as a single larger unit. Pine Brook Hills would then have one set of covenants, allowing our one ARC and one HOA to

more easily enforce the covenants as well as having the resources to do so. We could provide for mediation and, if that fails, collection of attorney fees for successful enforcement actions. We have a strong and vital Homeowners Association now. With these changes we would end our current vulnerability as a community, give the HOA and ARC added legitimacy and have the proper legal framework befitting a true community.

No one is suggesting that we create a brand new set of rules, only that we unify and formalize the rules already in place on a *de facto* basis, making sure that dispute resolution can be handled in a structured and economical manner. Otherwise the Homeowner's Association could go bankrupt, or dues would increase and the voluntary aspect we currently enjoy might go away.

And we have better things (like beetle and fire mitigation) to do with our precious HOA resources than spending it on legal battles.

What can you do? For now, stay informed, ask questions and if you have concerns or would like to help, contact Bill Alexander, Mike Connolly, or the other Covenants Advisory Review Committee members: Ben Bowen, Richard Fozzard, Deborah Menagh, Brad Schildt.

We applaud the efforts of everyone involved and welcome your participation!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wild West Water Wars

Dear Editor

The days of the Wild West have returned. Only instead of cattle rustling and horse thieving it was water robbery that occurred yesterday. I always figured that the huge population growth in our desert would cause a return of the Water Wars in this area. Well, yesterday it happened! Yesterday the water in our taps turned a very rusty color that sent us scurrying to town to buy cases of bottled water. We called Bob de Haas, who said he had not flushed any hydrants at that time, so we called the construction manager for the new home being built at the end of our road. He called back this morning to report that somebody had driven up to the new fire hydrant and stolen a big truckload of water! Ben and our neighbor next door had both heard the truck, but we've been hearing so many trucks on the construction project that we took no notice. The

high price of water in Pine Brook must have motivated somebody to steal....

Oh, darn! I was in the middle of writing this true story to you when the construction manager next door called back to say that it wasn't a theft at all. It was a neighboring fire district who came to test the new fire hydrant installed near the front of our house. We have a cooperative fire-fighting arrangement among our several mountain fire fighting districts, and folks from one of those districts decided to test the fire hydrant before it might be needed. And that's a good thing. Except that, when Bob de Haas tests hydrants (which always causes harmless discoloration from the iron, etc., in the water mains), he always tells us in advance to expect the change in water color!

So, there'll be no posse, no kangaroo court, and no hangin's. Dern!

Evie Gray



WHAT LIES BENEATH, AND HOW TO FIND IT!

No, no! We aren't talking about gold or silver but something much more valuable, especially here in the West: water.

A few months ago, long term PBH resident (since 1963) John Seward agreed to talk about and demonstrate to the Press the art of dowsing. Dowsing, or divining, is an ancient method for finding hidden things, primarily water. Eight thousand year old murals in an African cave show what may be a dowser at work.

John got an early exposure to dowsing. He attended Union College in upstate New York, where the city used dowsers to locate water. Working as a hod carrier at the state hospital during college, he met a worker dowsing for the water mains using witching sticks. They seemed to work. He taught John how to dowse.

John's family had mixed views about this activity. His father, a physician, wanted to believe, but he could not find water. John's brother, a physicist, was a "doubting Thomas" but he could successfully dowse. However, he still did not believe. After all he is an astronomer, not an astrologer. There is a reputation to uphold. But, skeptical readers may want to consider this quote: "I know very well that many scientists consider dowsing as they do astrology, as a type of ancient superstition. According to my conviction this is, however, unjustified. The dowsing rod is a simple instrument which shows the reaction of the human nervous system to certain factors which are

unknown to us at this time.” The person who said this: Albert Einstein. On the other hand, two scientific studies of dowsing, conducted in Germany, failed to show that dowsing is more than guesswork.

Years later, in PBH, John resigned from the Water District Board and took over maintenance for the district. With Fred Bransetter, backhoe driver, a good part of their job was to locate the water mains for repairs. Fred did the digging and both would divine for water using brass welding rods. John claims he was right 90% of the time. They did not always agree with each other. Once, looking for the water line on Beaver Way, they each insisted it was on opposite sides of the road. Compromising, they dug in the middle of the road - and there it was!

Getting comfortable on his living room couch, John brought out the materials to make the dowsing equipment: two wire hangers straightened and then bent at right angles into an L shape and two fist sized lengths of copper tubing into which the short ends of the hangers could fit and swivel easily. Dowsers use different materials - the forked wooden stick, usually willow, is a favorite. John has never used wood but he has no strong opinions about what works or, indeed, why it works.

We went outside to look for water. John cautioned that he had not done this for 15 - 20 years. The initial stance is to hold a copper tube in each hand with the short end of the wire hanger in the tube and the two long ends parallel to each other. It takes concentration to prevent the wires from swiveling. Keeping the wires parallel, one walks until the wires swivel away from each other. That is where the water is located. We could not do a true test, since John knew the location of water lines to his house and on the road.

John got set, with the wires parallel, and started walking. Sure enough, the wires swiveled away from each other when he walked over a buried water line. He demonstrated several times - it worked every time. This reporter then tried to emulate John.

No luck, the wires never budged.



No water

Perhaps there is a lesson here. The original developer of PBH, Joe Ernie used a dowser who staked where water was on each lot. It seemed to have worked in lower PBH but not in upper PBH - and we ended up with a reservoir. Some can do it and some cannot. It works in some places and not in others. Rather like most things in life!



Water here!

PREPARING FOR THE FIRE SEASON: A PBH Neighborhood Fire Drill

The phone rang with an ALERT message on Saturday morning, June 27: a simulated fire event was occurring and residents should leave Pine Brook by a specified evacuation route. The purpose of this drill was twofold: 1) to encourage residents to practice how they would prepare their homes, pack critical items and evacuate the area in the event of a real wildfire incident; and 2) to provide training for the fire department's Third Arm volunteers and rookie firefighters.

The fire drill was a success. Neighbors followed the direction of the Third Arm traffic controllers and their pink evacuation signs, down to a shady spot at the Fire Training Center on Lee Hill where the Auxiliary had prepared lemonade and cookies.

According to the scenario, the “fire” started on lower Linden, cutting off the most obvious evacuation route. A secondary “fire” blew up on Bristlecone, making that exit inaccessible as well. Although that exit wasn't used this time, everyone should know where it is. If you would like a tour of the Bristlecone exit, send an email to glovesman@ameritech.com.

The Third Arm volunteers performed admirably, “beyond the call of duty.” In one case, pictured at right, a Third Arm member directing traffic noticed that a bike was about to fall off an exiting car and helped to secure it.



We have good neighbors in this fire district.

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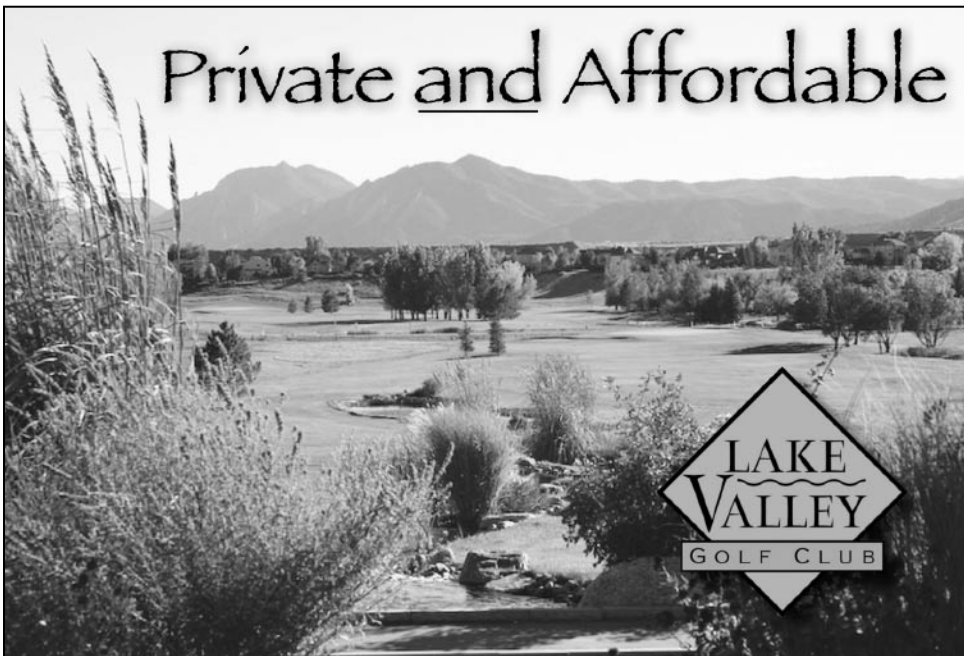
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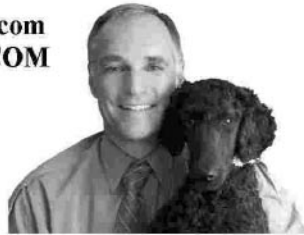
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CARVED BEARS AND OTHER CRITTERS

These creatures are all in Pine Brook and were all carved by Lueb Popoff, a native of Boulder.

From his files and his Web page, Popoff has provided the Pine Brook Press with photos of his Pine Brook work, including photos of several carved animals that we cannot see from the road.

He and his wife, Annie, live on a ranch nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains west of Boulder. Their historic log home was built in June 1923 as a hiking lodge by CU faculty and students.



THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Jay Markel

We in Pine Brook are blessed to live among beautiful natural surroundings. One need only take a short walk or drive or even simply look out a window from our homes to see the abundance of natural beauty that surrounds us. As the late John O'Donohue wrote so eloquently in describing his affinity for the beauty of natural landscape, *"The beauty of the earth is the first beauty. Millions of years before us the earth lived in wild elegance. . . . Sculpted with huge patience over millennia, landscape has enormous diversity of shape, presence and memory."**

Many of us have chosen to live in Pine Brook because of our appreciation for its natural beauty and "wild elegance." When I drive through our neighborhood I am struck by the abundant beauty of the area in which we live. There are spectacular rock formations, rare native plants, old trees formed by the turns of the wind and in the wet Spring that we are currently experiencing, wild flowers blooming at every turn. The challenge, for those wishing to enhance their homes with landscaping, is to balance this desire in a way that enhances the pre-existing beauty of the native landscape without destroying it.

There are a few guidelines that I find helpful when thinking about how to enhance a home's landscape. First, preserve the natural beauty that is there. Second, accommodate and integrate natural landscape with enhanced landscape so as to allow human interaction with the existing natural beauty, without destroying it. Third, mitigate the natural entropy that occurs in the "wild elegance," and that would possibly "naturally" destroy the beauty that is present. The current efforts of the Beetle Busters are a fine example of the third guideline.

Regarding the first and second guidelines, many of us bought homes already built and sited by others. In such instances, we are faced with the challenge of how to mitigate or redeem a less than ideal home placement and how to reclaim some of the natural beauty of the site that may have been destroyed during construction of the home. Sometimes this can be achieved with the addition of a rock formation



and a tree grouping. Other possibilities include re-creating a meadow in a flat area. To do so can greatly assist with drainage issues. Utilizing water for run-off gardens which are stepped or terraced can help to provide a balance between the natural and the enhanced landscape as well as help clean pollutants brought down with the rain.

I hope these three simple approaches can help you as you see your home, land, and relationship with nature.

*John O'Donohue, **Beauty: The Invisible Embrace** (Harper Collins 2004), p. 32.

Jay Markel is a Pine Brooker and landscape designer. He lives on Wild Horse Circle. - Ed.

SOME EXAMPLES OF JAY'S WORK.....

WATER



ROCK



REAL BEARS

These photos were taken by Bernie and Johanna Bach on Wild Horse Circle.



Hey, Mama, what about me?



Much better

See ya tomorrow...Fill those feeders!



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