



# Pine Brook Press

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

WINTER 2003



## OH PIONEERS!

### JOHN AND DINNY SEWARD

By Suzanne Adams

For those of us who live here, Pine Brook Hills is more than just another pretty place. There's something unique about its spirit and character. More than mountain views and ponderosas, our community's special personality may have come from its history and the efforts of the people who made the place what it is. Two people who have contributed much to the character of Pine Brook Hills are John and Dinny Seward.

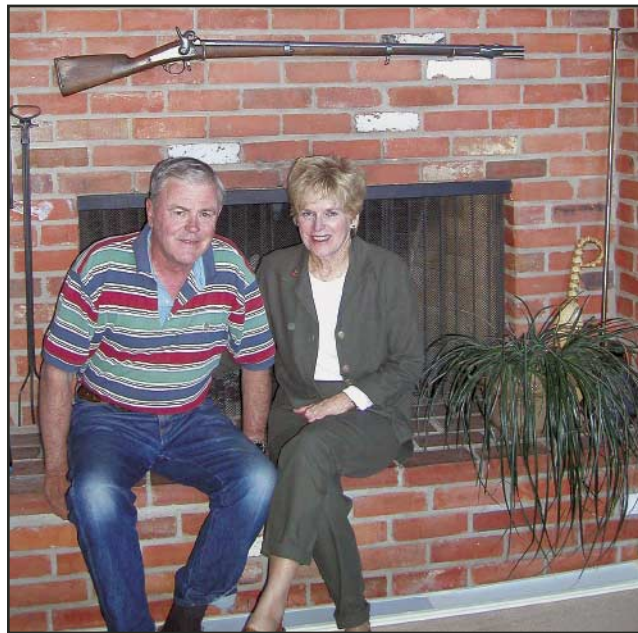
It was a pleasant Sunday afternoon in March of 1962 when John and Dinny, married only a year, went for a drive. They had no intention of purchasing property, but as they passed Linden they saw a sign: lots for sale in Pine Brook Hills. Out of idle curiosity they drove in and met Joe Erni, the ebullient developer of PBH, who told them, "I have just the lot for you!" He took them by jeep up the rugged proto-roads to Wild Horse Circle. The Swards agreed - it WAS just the lot. But the price was \$3000 with \$250 down, and John had only \$50 in his pocket. "That's OK, that's OK, give me the \$50 and come back tomorrow with the other \$200." John did. Dinny's salary as a second grade teacher made up the rest; "All my teaching salary went for that property. I earned \$3500 a year."

Although Pine Brook Hills was a wild place without adequate roads, water or gas, the plans for it were

spectacular. A stable and a ski slope would be built behind the present Community Center. There would be a school and a firehouse in the meadow above the parking lot. The creek would be dammed to create "Lake Erni." Joe was a dreamer.

The Seward's home, which they built themselves, was the 13th house built in all of PBH. John and Dinny cut out pictures from magazines and sketched

what they wanted. A young architecture student at CU drew up the plans. An early recycler, John framed the house with used lumber. He bought two houses on University Hill for \$1 each (true!), demolished one house for the raw materials and gave the other house to a friend in exchange for the use of his dump truck. He helped demolish a business in Boulder in order to get plate glass windows for the house. The bricks in their fireplace came from a livery stable advertising, "Coal \$5 a



ton."

John had some experience with bricks. After getting a degree in petroleum engineering he worked for a time in the oil patch, left, came to Boulder, needed a job and went to work laying brick. He met Dinny while she was in summer school at CU. They fell in love, but Dinny said, "Well, I'm not marrying a bricklayer!" So John applied for a job at Rocky Flats. They had three openings: janitor, handyman, and "monitor." He knew

what the first two were and they didn't sound too great, so he took the monitor job. Dinny married a monitor. A year later John moved into the product engineering department and spent the next thirty years developing, testing and producing nuclear weapons.

They moved to their still incomplete house in March of '65. Dinny was active in the house building; pregnancy didn't stop her from climbing ladders to paint ceiling beams. But by summer, with two babies in diapers, there was a bit of a problem: no running water. Breaks in the system and pumps out of commission meant that to obtain water the Swards had to carry buckets from a tanker truck parked on the street to flush toilets or, after heating the water on the stove, to do the dishes, which they did in the bathroom as they hadn't yet finished the kitchen. It was six weeks before the water came up.

The small community was cohesive, Dinny remembers. "We were really close then. You more or less had to be. We had a babysitting Co-op. One mother would watch all the children while the others played bridge." One morning the women were having coffee together and noticed a motorcyclist, behaving suspiciously. The ladies called the sheriff, blocked the road with their cars and stopped the cyclist, whose backpack was filled with items stolen from Pine Brook homes. "There's my candlesticks!" cried one woman.

There were picnics every summer, 4th of July and Memorial Day parties, and at Christmas you could hear bells jingling as the Ernies sent a sleigh all around Pine Brook, picking everyone up for a party at their home on Timber Lane. The men would block traffic in upper Pine Brook, collect all the kids in a pickup and let them have a wild sled ride from upper Timber Lane down to the Linden "T." They'd build a big fire where the Knapp's house is now, and make hot chocolate, cookies and "Glurg," a heavily alcoholic reward for the menfolk.

Children loved PBH. They could hike over 20 miles

of wilderness. There was an Indian camp on the Anne U. White Trail where arrowheads and pottery shards could be found. The kids explored everywhere, which led to one of John's worst memories. Their son Billy and a friend of his in second grade were out playing. The friend ran to the Seward's house crying, "Billy's stuck in a rock!" Billy had crawled into a crevice in a sheer cliff and had fallen into a cave 15 or 20 feet down. "It was the first time in my life that I didn't feel I could handle the situation," recalled John. "I was at a loss. Helpless." He called 911, the Sheriff, the Fire Department, and, finally, Rocky Mountain Rescue. It was cold and dark by then. "There's only one man who could help here," the rescuers told John, who remembered, "It was a skinny guy who greased himself up with motor oil, slithered into the cave, dropped a harness for Billy and pulled him up. He was pretty subdued."



**BOBCAT IN THE BASEMENT**  
An early visitor to the Seward home.

Stories from that time sound like The Old West. Wildlife abounded; John once found a bobcat in their basement. Some of the humans were wild as well. There were so many burglaries and incidents of vandalism that finally the Sheriff got exasperated and said, "I'll just deputize half a dozen of you. Then you take care of your own problems." One problem was drug dealers; some temporary residents had barrels of marijuana which they were pushing in baggies. When they shot a machine gun off the deck, the new deputies had had enough and set up a road block down on Linden to catch them. "It was illegal as hell," said John, "But it worked." The bad guys moved on.

Some of the early neighbors were - different. At least, they smelled different. John tells about one night when he and Joe Erni, as deputies, were patrolling. "We saw some guys with a spotlight. I thought they were jacking deer, but Joe said no, they were looking for goats. The White property, down at the bottom of Linden, used to belong to Minnie Mae Cunningham, who had a barn and outhouses, all run down, where she raised goats. Periodically the goats got away and needed to be recaptured. She was a school teacher and used to go home during the school day to milk the goats. She'd come back to school smelling of goat."

Everyone who lived here was a firefighter in those days, and there were a lot of fires. So when the developer's promise of a firehouse never materialized, the residents determined to build one themselves. John and Kirk Hendricks were ready to pour concrete for

*continued on p. 4.....*

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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

**HOA MEETING WED., JAN. 29.** Potluck at 6, meeting at 7:30:  
Emergency Preparedness (including terrorism) in PBH

**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 Tuesday mornings, 9 - 10 A.M. Free, but you need your own ball. Please call 449-0997 for encouragement and further details.

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

**ARE WE PREPARED FOR THIS YEAR?**

By Jim Eyster, HOA President

Emergency preparedness has a totally different meaning to us today than it did at the beginning of last year. Last year we learned that wildland fires and droughts are a reality. This year we are learning that we not only have to take steps to mitigate natural disasters but we also have to be concerned about potential terrorist activities.

You are probably asking what exposure to terrorism could we possibly have in Boulder? The potential terrorist targets in Boulder County are numerous and our next homeowners meeting on Wednesday, January 29, will address these concerns.

Lieutenant Larry Stern, Director for Emergency Management in Boulder County, and his team will discuss sensitive areas and preparedness plans. Bruce Hertelendy, a Pine Brook resident, will focus the discussion on Pine Brook Hills since he is the Emergency Preparedness Officer with BMFA. Also, our new BMFA fire chief, John Benson, will be there so you can



meet him. I would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about various types of emergencies and how to respond to them. A potluck dinner will begin at 6:00 pm followed by the meeting at 7:30 pm.

In terms of wildland fire mitigation, the Anne U. White fire break has been completed. A big thank you goes to BMFA and Tom Akins in particular for making sure that the fire break was completed this year.

Again this year the HOA Board is looking for ways to mitigate the wildland fire risk in Pine Brook. This year we are focusing on the south side of our community above Sunshine Canyon. Al Whitfield is chairing a committee of neighbors to consider the various fire mitigation alternatives and to make a recommendation to the Board.

I want to extend a big thank you to the following Board members who are leaving the Board after giving their time and energy to making Pine Brook Hills a better place to live: Al Gerrish, Member-at-Large, and Debby Springer, Secretary. Thank you once again for your service to our community.

It's never clear what a new year has in store for us but we do know that being proactive and taking necessary precautions can only be beneficial. Consequently, I encourage you to join your neighbors at the next homeowners meeting on Wednesday, January 29.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jim Woodruff

Last year your HOA set records for the most paying members, almost 90%, and most income from dues, \$19,400 (a \$3,000 increase over 2001!). Thanks to everyone for the great support.

Our major expenditure was to match a \$14,400 state grant for fire mitigation, creating a mile long firebreak above the Anne U. White Trail. The HOA Board has applied for a similar grant for 2003 to continue fire mitigation along the perimeter of our community.

Later this month I will be sending our annual solicitation for dues. I look forward to receiving your membership. Hopefully, we can make this another banner year. Thank you.

## Oh Pioneers! John and Dinny Seward (continued from p.2).

the foundation when black clouds warned of a storm's approach. "Oh well, let's just try to get it done," they decided. The concrete truck arrived with the rain, three inches in 20 minutes. The creek rose up over the banks, the trucker panicked and dumped his load of concrete right where the fire engines were supposed to go. When the skies cleared, John and Kirk redid the foundations and, with other Pine Brookers, built the rest of the firehouse with materials scavenged from Boulder buildings blown down by the wind. But that concrete on the firehouse floor was a problem. John and Boyd Jones had dynamite from their maintenance work with the Water District. "Let's just shoot it off - give it a try!" they decided. **Boom!** "They were like little kids," commented Dinny. Fortunately they only blew out one window.



Salvaging lumber for the firehouse from a building blown down by wind. John Seward is on the right.

Then as now, Pine Brook firefighters helped neighboring districts. Responding to a fire raging at Chautauqua, John and other Pine Brookers joined firemen already on the scene who were using a bulldozer to rough up the terrain for a firebreak. The fire was coming straight at them. There was no way out and the fire couldn't be stopped, so John and the others got down and covered themselves with loose dirt, deciding they would just have to let the fire roar over them. At that moment the wind died down. "The gusts that January night were clocked at 200 mph. It was terrible, a bad night," John remembers. "Several houses lost their roofs."

Despite troubles with water, burglars, fire and wind, the Swards never considered leaving Pine Brook Hills. As Dinny says, "We are so lucky to be living here..." (she paused briefly) "most of the time."



## ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob deHaas

**H**ow do we protect against drought in the future? This is the toughest question that the District has to face. Every year we have to wait and see what the summer weather brings us. 2002 was of course the worst that we have ever had to deal with. We made it through because of the high level of cooperation by the community.

So how can we establish our water supplies so that the restriction levels allow comfortable living without such extreme measures to conserve water? Don't get us wrong; the District is a very firm believer that water should be used wisely and never wasted.

The best long term solution would be to build a storage vessel to hold raw water in sufficient quantities to supply the community even in a drought such as 2002. This storage vessel would generally appear like a lake with very little fluctuation during normal years. It would hold enough water to supply all the homes in the Pine Brook Water District. Does this mean that there would be no restrictions? No, since no one knows for sure how long any drought can last. But instead of setting a restriction level and saying please do not actually use all of it, the District could set a restriction level and not worry about whether everyone actually uses their whole allotment. This restriction level would likely be a little higher than the current levels but still would not allow wanton waste of water. Wouldn't that be a change!

So where would we build this storage vessel? The most likely site is in the valley behind the Community Center/ Fire Station. There was a public meeting on November 14th, 2002 to discuss the idea with the community. 35 to 40 people showed up to hear our presentation. The result was overwhelming support for the concept. There will be more public meetings as we gather more information.

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the last meeting as they enjoy seeing you and having your input! We hope to see many more of you at our next meeting.

## ON THE FIRE SIDE - A NEW FIRE CHIEF

**J**ohn Benson, the erstwhile Deputy Chief and Fire Marshall for the Greater Eagle Fire Protection District in Eagle, Colorado, became the new Chief of the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority (BMFA) on December



16. He succeeds Don Whittemore, who resigned in July to become the Boulder County Emergency Services Coordinator.

John, 35, has 18 years of fire fighting experience. His previous district sprawled over 190 square miles and averaged 900 calls per

year! (BMFA responds to 100-130 calls annually).

John is a graduate of the National Fire Academy and certified in a wide range of emergency-related skills including emergency medical technology, wild land fire fighting, structural fire fighting and inspection, hazardous materials handling and terrorist attack response. John will bring considerable experience to BMFA in both structural and wildland firefighting.

Asked to describe him, Allen Saville, Chairman of the BMFA Board of Directors, used one word: integrity.

On November 20, John and his wife, Becky, met with BMFA members. He outlined his background and where he hopes to lead the department in the future. He plans on establishing strong ties with other Boulder County fire protection districts and to expand existing private and governmental wildland fire mitigation efforts.

John and Becky are looking for a house in the Boulder area. They have one daughter, Katie, a sixth grader and softball all-star.

**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](http://www.107boulderviewlane.com).

## THE GRANITE GARDEN

Facing the challenge of keeping our plants alive in spite of rocky soil, deer and other critters...

By Barbara Hosmer



Fungus gnats! These pesky little bugs are in my house ever since I brought a few plants indoors. You can see them flying and jumping on the soil surface of some of my plants, and not every bug spray will kill them.

Only about 1/8 inch long and kind of mosquito-like in appearance, fungus gnats develop in potting soil and reproduce continuously, with a generation completed in a month. The adult gnats, while annoying, do not cause much damage to plants. But the larvae in the soil feed on plant roots and can kill tender seedlings and will cause established plants to decline. Plant symptoms may be sudden wilting, loss of vigor, poor growth, yellowing and foliage loss.

Adult fungus gnats live only 7 to 10 days, but each female lays 100 to 300 eggs, which hatch in about 5 days and feed as larvae for up to 14 days before becoming less destructive adults. They like moist organic-rich plant soil, so the first measure you want to employ is to let your potting soil dry out between waterings. (This works for many plants, but I am trying to grow seedlings that need to stay moist.)

Bug sprays that contain pyrethrins as the active ingredient are helpful in killing the adult gnats. Not all sprays that are for "flying insects" seem to work, so check the labels. A more environmentally friendly method is the use of bright yellow sticky cards that the bugs stick to. Called Tangle-Traps, these cards work on whiteflies and aphids too. I am trying these, but I don't know if they are working fast enough.

To kill the larvae, there are several solutions that you can buy or make at home that will work, but you will need to be persistent in your efforts. If you are facing a major infestation, look for products containing Neem or *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis* (H-14).

There is an organic product called Organocide which claims to kill many problem insects including the gnat larvae. The active ingredient is sesame oil. You can find out more on their website at [www.organiclabs.com](http://www.organiclabs.com). Wet the soil thoroughly and frequently for it to slow down

the gnat population.

Another remedy I am trying is a recipe from Sturtz and Copeland. Although the adults still need to be trapped on the sticky cards or sprayed with the pyrethrin bug spray until they're gone, I have high hopes that this will be the best long-term "solution."

MIX: one quart warm water with 5-6 drops of anti-bacterial soap, 3 drops of sudsy ammonia and one teaspoon of rubbing alcohol. Pour ¼ to ½ cup into the soil every time you normally water your plants. It may be helpful to slightly moisten the soil first with just water, then pour on the solution.

If you have successfully fought a battle with fungus gnats, perhaps you could share your strategy with the rest of us. Next year I will try to be much more selective about which plants get to come indoors and will start using the soil treatments before the plants move inside!

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## IMPORTANT TIPS FOR FEEDING THE BIRDS

By Rosie Hauge

The birds sure have been busy at my feeders this winter. Some, like hairy woodpeckers and red crossbills, come one at a time. Others, like pygmy nuthatches and pine siskins, come in droves and literally take over. Occasionally, a pesky squirrel drapes himself over the feeding station for a grand feast while the chickadees chatter and the Steller's Jays scold. What a joy to watch.



We are fortunate to live in PBH where we have such an abundance of bird life coming from both the mountains and the plains. To see them up close, all you need is a simple feeder

or two and maybe a suet cage. Safflower seed is a good choice as is Niger Thistle, especially for finches and juncos. Suet seed cakes attract nuthatches and woodpeckers. Chickadees, jays (and squirrels) seem to like just about anything.

It is important to keep food and feeders clean in order to prevent disease. Moldy seed can cause a fatal illness called aspergillosis which affects birds' respiratory systems. Keep the feed dry and scrape out old seed. Clean your feeders once in a while with water mixed with a few drops of bleach, then let them dry in the sun to help kill bacteria. Shovel away hulls and seeds that accumulate below because disease can lurk there, too.

It is only January and there is a long winter ahead. Whether the drought continues or we get some big up slope storms, our little feathered friends need our help to make it through to spring. Watching them flutter busily about the feeders on a frosty morning is more than ample reward.

## CAN YOU HELP?

By Jim Eyster

During the November 5 elections, there was an issue on some ballots pertaining to the rehabilitation of Pine Brook Road. Only people living on Pine Brook Road or feeder roads were to vote on this issue.

Unfortunately, the Boulder County Division of Elections had **54 eligible people voting but counted 56 ballots** and the issue was decided by 1 vote. They believe that at the polls on Election Day a couple not living on Pine Brook Road were given the ballots containing the road rehabilitation issue. The people voting were not at fault and did nothing wrong but the County Clerk's Office would like to clarify this matter.

If you know anything about this matter, would you please contact Jim Eyster at 303-786-7586 or Leslie Lacy, County Attorney's Office, 303-441-3435.



## LAKE PINE BROOK?

By Suzanne Adams

In order to provide a reliable water supply for the subdivision, the Pine Brook Water Board is investigating the feasibility of building a dam that would create a 7.5 acre lake. The water rights to fill such a lake are already owned by the water district. The lake would store 206 acre feet of water, enough to supply Pine Brook Hills for two, and possibly three, years without drawing on any other water source.

Several sites for such a lake were considered, but the most likely candidate is an area near the Community Center and below lower Timber Lane. An aerial survey of the terrain has been completed. Engineering studies come next, followed by cost estimates. Preliminary estimate for the cost of the lake project is roughly \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000, to be amortized over time.

The Board is considering a rolled concrete dam. This dam would be 90 feet high at its highest, tapering to current ground level as it approaches the road. Drawings of the proposed lake show irregular, natural appearing contours. Recreational uses such as fishing, boating and possibly even swimming are under

discussion. No houses will be lost to the project.

Rationale for the proposal is not hard to find. The summer's drought and fire are both motivating forces. Pine Brook's water comes from wells and surface water. Our five wells normally produce 50,000 to 60,000 gallons of water a day; this summer they produced only 36,000 gallons a day. Nevertheless, the wells saved us this summer, as the surface water, which normally produces 70,000 to 80,000 gallons a day, ran dry. The district went 62 days without being able to pump surface water. The Wonderland Fire was extinguished partly by the use of 200,000 gallons of Pine Brook water. Because the recently installed pump houses were effective, the water could be placed where it was needed. Without that water, the outcome of the Wonderland Fire would almost certainly have been far less fortunate. Will we have sufficient water to fight any future fires? These concerns contribute to the Water District's ongoing search for additional sources of water.

The Board expressed gratitude to the community for their cooperation and judicious conservation of water, which this summer averaged just under 3,700 gallons of water per month per household, 40% less than the District's goal! Even under normal conditions the average home in Pine Brook Hills uses 6000 to 7000 gallons of water per month, while the average monthly household use in the City of Boulder is 25,000 gallons. But as water district manager Bob deHaas warned, "For us, the drought is not over." The goal of the Water District is to make available 7,000 to 10,000 gallons of water per month per household even under drought conditions.

Clearly, many questions remain before the residents of Pine Brook Hills could make an informed decision about funding the lake project. The Board plans a number of public meetings to explain and explore the possibilities.



## NEWSGROUP/FORUM FOR PBH

Steve Mestdagh has set up a forum for PineBrookers at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pinebrookhills/>.

To join, go to the above URL. Use this discussion area to talk to your neighbors across the valley or

next door. Ask about baby sitters, fire danger or water restrictions, find a teen to shovel your drive, calmly discuss the mistletoe problem etc.

Check it out. This is another means to start or join in discussions of interest to our community and communicate with your neighbors.



## GARAGE SALE...TAKE ONE

Now that we are into the heart of winter, can spring be far behind? In early spring come robins and daffodils. In late spring comes the Fire Department Auxiliary's annual Garage Sale fund raiser.

So while you are doing your spring cleaning (notice a theme here?) be sure to set aside all those good, used but not abused, items you no longer want or need. If you're like me and don't do spring cleaning, take some time between now and May to find some donations and un-stuff those overstuffed drawers, shelves, closets, and kitchen cabinets. Label some cartons "Garage Sale" and start filling them up with your donations. If you've decided to 'spring' for some new furniture, we'd be delighted if you donated the still usable pieces you are replacing.

We start collecting donations in early May. Hopefully you can find a spot somewhere in your home to store your donations until then. But if that is impossible, we do have year round use of a shed in Boulder Heights (thanks to Carol Schonwald). Call us if you need to use it.

The garage sale is the Auxiliary's biggest single source of funds for our various activities in support of BMFA and its volunteers. To make this sale a success, we need your support. We need your donations and your help. Many willing hands are needed to make this event a success. If you'd like to volunteer, please call us.

One thing that has helped make the last 2 sales extra successful was the donation each year of a good used car. If you are thinking of replacing a car this spring, how about donating the one you are replacing?

Art and Babette Markey  
Garage Sale Coordinators  
303-440-6132



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Attention Pine Brook Women:

Have you, like me, wanted to have at least some small part in helping our world neighbors in developing countries?

I will be hosting a Wine and Cheese Social in February for women interested in helping put on a party/fundraiser with the theme "A Night on the Silk Road." We will discuss the idea as well as the international project that it will fund. This is a No Obligation Social, and for those who become interested in helping, any form of help will be appreciated: ideas, resources, work efforts, or just attending the Fundraiser and encouraging friends to attend. Please feel free to invite additional guests to the Social if they have an interest in hearing about the project. I will be out of the country until January 22 but please leave a brief message with name, address and phone if you would like to be added to the invitation list for the February Social.

Pam Creswell  
720-406-9783  
pcreswell2@aol.com

To the Editor,

I appreciated the article on feeding the deer and wanted to add a further piece in support of the dangers of feeding the wildlife - danger to the wildlife, that is.


As a raft guide in the Grand Canyon I am privileged and blessed to experience life in such an incredible natural wonder. We work closely with the Park Service, and on one training trip a wildlife biologist spoke of the mule deer population at Phantom Ranch. The ecosystem in this part of the Canyon is adequate to sustain a mule deer population of around a dozen animals. Their normal habits are to spend the Spring and Summer around the ranch, and the Fall and Winter up on the North Rim. With the increase in human traffic, however, this pattern has changed. Now, instead of a healthy population of a dozen, two dozen mule deer wander the canyon floor at the Ranch year around. The culprit? Well-meaning hikers who think it's cute to feed the deer. The result? Habituation to human food, especially the sweet taste of fatty

processed snack food, which isn't fit for human consumption, let alone deer.

Over the years the wildlife specialists noted a decline in the apparent health of the deer population. Finally they culled what they called the healthiest doe out of the herd, killed her and performed a necropsy (autopsy on an animal) on her. Their findings? She had NO FAT in her adipose (fat ) sites. Deer are ruminants. They have two stomachs. What the specialists found was up to five pounds of plastic (Cheetos bags) wedged between the deer's first and second stomachs. She was starving to death due to her habituation to human food.

So, the wildlife specialists destroyed the entire herd because they were addicted to human food, and redoubled their efforts to educate humans on the dangers of feeding the wildlife. In Boulder, we are living in their homes. Feeding them presents a danger to the animals, and potentially to those of us who love being in a more natural setting. As cute as it is, DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS! Let them live as natural an existence as possible. And, I might add, may we all live as natural (as opposed to normal) existence as our beautiful state affords.

Charly Heavenrich  
(303) 545-5414



Heather Curtis  
**Photography**

Your neighbor in  
Pinebrook Hills

**303.442.6022**

**WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?**

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

By Anne Singh

Steve Maxwell made 2 memorable trips this past summer. First, he spent two weeks in Nairobi, where his family lived for 20 years when he was a kid. His brother still lives there and the purpose of the trip was to help his brother drive in a race - car event at the same track where they used to watch the races when growing up. Of the second trip, to a family reunion in Iowa at the end of July, he said, "Nick [his college-student son] and I jumped on our bikes and rode some 750 miles to Des Moines." Just like that. He also said, "It was 100+ degrees everyday and a trip of memorable bonding." Piece of cake! Well done, Steve and Nick!

Emilie Deibler and Robert Olliver married on October 19, 2002 at Wildwood Acres Moraga, California. It was a beautiful evening ceremony among stars, fall trees, family, and friends. They enjoyed honeymooning in Thailand where they relaxed on white sandy beaches,

scuba dived among tropical fish and kayaked through tall limestone islands. Emilie moved to Boulder and will begin her job-search for IT project management consulting and volunteer for outdoor education programs. Robert will continue graphic art design consulting and serve as a volunteer for the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. Both are enjoying the outdoor activities with their dog, Astro.

Jo Noble recently returned to PBH after volunteering in Africa for 7 months. She loves the work and the people so will go back again in April. While there she worked with FINCA (Foundation for International Community Assistance) on a project involving bringing together the Zulu and Indian population for the first time.

Please send future items for **Scat** to pinebrookpress@aol.com or call by the ides of March (March 15). We are looking for and appreciate all kinds of news - births, graduations, weddings, travels, sightings, etc. We would like to hear from our neighbors all over PBH. Just send the information and we'll do the writing! Cheers! Annie and Suzy.

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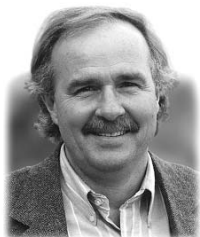
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## SKUNKED

By Barbara Hosmer

It's bad enough when your dog's nose catches the full brunt of a skunk's spray, but when it happens at midnight and you panic and let the dog into the house, the problem gets much worse. Of course I had to let the poor dog in. I was worried that he'd been blinded by getting sprayed right in the face. While getting the pooch into the shower, our other dog, who was not directly sprayed, proceeded to roll all over the carpeting to get the smell off. It's hard to know how much of the horrible smell that



was inside the house came in with the dogs, as all of the windows were wide open including the windows to our

bedroom, where the smell quickly wafted into our clothes closet. **Helpful hint #1:** don't put the dog in a bathroom that has a linen closet. All the linen will need to be washed - several times. **Helpful hint #2:** you need lots of tomato juice or hydrogen peroxide and baking soda to get rid of the smell on the dog. **Helpful hint #3:** you need lots of odor neutralizer for the carpet shampoo machine to clean the rugs. **Helpful hint #4:** take all the clothes, towels, linen and bedding from the whole house in plastic bags to Brite 'N' Clean Laundromat, where wonderful big new commercial washing machines wash five loads at once. **Helpful hint #5:** Spray odor neutralizer in your car as well as your clothes closet for the next week.

The only good that came out of this experience was finding this great Laundromat! We save precious Pine Brook water and get our laundry done much faster. Commercial washing machines are much more efficient both in tumbling action and water usage, than home machines. You can browse the internet, watch the news, or just relax for the 42 minutes it takes to wash everything. Then bring it home to dry if you don't want to use the dryers there. They also have a dry cleaning service. Brite 'N' Clean Laundromat is right near King Soopers on 30th Street and so convenient. See you there!

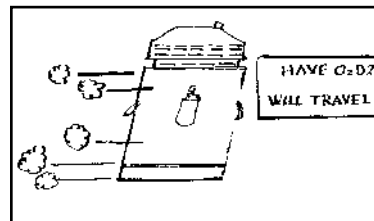
## DONNA JOHNSON'S STORY

By Anne Singh and Donna Johnson

The year 2002 ushered in a new and profound phase of PBH resident and artist Donna Johnson's life. After 4 months of coughing and fatigue she was diagnosed with Sjogren's Syndrome (SS), an autoimmune disorder like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis which, in her case, attacked her lungs. At her initial appointment she learned that she had lost 30% of her lung function and 6 weeks later another 10 % was gone, so they knew that her case was progressive.

Donna was put on prednisone and an immunosuppressant to stop her body from attacking itself. The prednisone caused an extreme retention of fluids causing a major weight gain and a round puffy face. "I was hardly recognizable even to myself," she said. The meds and the disease both contributed to extreme fatigue. In mid-July she had surgery to take lung biopsies to see what was happening. The good news was that there was no inflammation, so the disease was arrested. However, she had irreversible damage from the scar tissue, leaving her with 50% lung capacity.

Now she is on oxygen 24/7. She thought she would never be able to travel or play platform tennis again. But she was wrong. She travels with a small, 21 liter oxygen tank that fits in the car. It looks a little like the Star Wars character R2D2, so her family christened it O2D2. From O2D2 she



can fill a small portable tank which can be used with a cart and backpack and which allows her to play platform tennis. So her goal to play platform tennis

with her daughters over Thanksgiving came true. Meanwhile, she carries out a weight-training program to improve strength and endurance. She still paints and does what she wants to - it just takes twice as much effort and time. She is thankful she can still do so much, taking comfort in the Biblical verse, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Donna's positive attitude, her husband's support and her faith have helped her trust God for each breath, literally.

## MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS 2002

## Thank You to All Auxiliary, Other Helpers, and Wonderful Customers

The weather for Mountain Expressions, the Fire Department Auxiliary's November 2 and 3, art, craft and baked goods sale, was awful to say the least, particularly on Saturday. However, those of you who braved the bad conditions evidently came to do some serious shopping and our earnings were very impressive - close to \$6,000 was spent and we will add over \$2,000 to the Auxiliary budget. So, thank you customers.

Another reason we did so well, despite the weather, is the quality of the arts and crafts being exhibited - it seems to go up every year. Particularly helpful this year was the significant number of artists who donated their work. So, thank you to all the marvelous participating artisans from both Pine Brook Hills and Boulder Heights.

The Auxiliary members and their helpers outdid themselves this year. Even with much lower customer turnout, the bake sale and the Auxiliary craft table both did better than 2001, a perfect weather year! So, thank you to these creative people in their kitchens, at their sewing tables, etc.

A successful Mountain Expressions takes the efforts of so many people - 60 this year! So, thank you to all those volunteers in our community who help the Auxiliary to, in turn, support the volunteer firefighters.

*Susan Maxwell for the whole Pine Brook Hills Fire Department Auxiliary.*



Donna Johnson and her husband, Greg, team up for a game of platform tennis.



Janet Hummer and Veronique Foster chat at the PBH Ladies Holiday Tea, held at Social Chairman Karen Peperzak's home on Wednesday, December 4. Some 55 ladies came and it was indeed a jolly good tea!

A SQUIRREL IN WINTER - NOT SINGIN' IN THE RAIN



Those with photographic memories might associate the Squirrel in Winter with the Lion in Summer in a previous issue. *photograph by Peter D. Goldfinch*

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