



Pine Brook Press

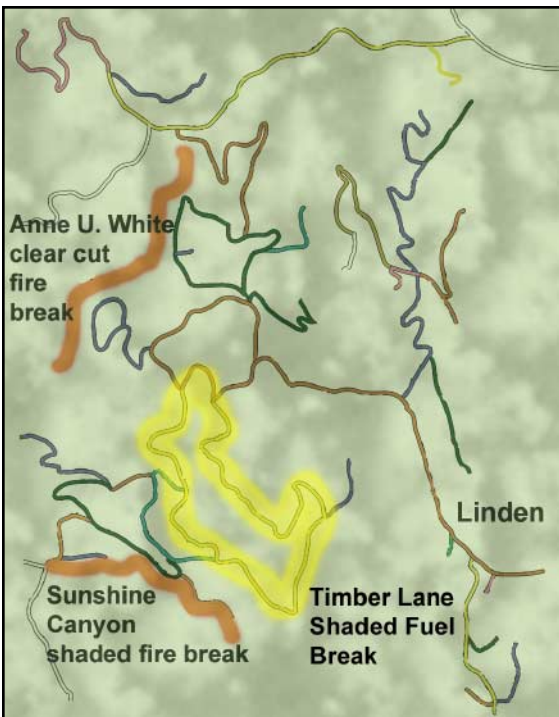
A Quarterly Journal for, about and by
Pine Brook Hills Residents

WINTER 2006



WORK BEGINS ON TIMBER LANE FUEL BREAK

The Timber Lane Shaded Fuel Break is a \$44,000 project funded half by voluntary HOA member dues and half by the Western States Wildland Urban Interface Project. 84 different properties are involved, by far the largest project that the HOA has attempted.



The Proposed Timber Lane Shaded Break

terms of fire danger. Because roads are common ignition areas (a carelessly tossed cigarette, a parked car igniting tall grass), trees below and above the road will be thinned, to augment the fuel break provided by the road itself. It's a very "owner-friendly process," as District Forester Allen Owen explains it. Because all the cutting will be done on private land, nothing can be cut without the owner's explicit permission. Although it is essential both for fire safety and for forest health that the overly dense timber on Timber Lane be thinned, there is no way the street

The original application was submitted in the fall of 2004, shortly after the Anchor Point Fire Risk Analysis had identified Timber Lane as Pine Brook Hill's top priority in

will become Clear Cut Alley. Allen calls this project a "fuels modification," rather than a rigidly defined fuel break. The complexity of the roads, the lay of the land, desire for screening between houses



District Forester Allen Owen examines the health of our forest lands.

and roads and general aesthetic preferences of the homeowners call for essentially a tree-by-tree decision making process.

The project must be completed within two years and has been divided into phases. Properties most in need of mitigation will be treated first. A number of properties on lower Timber Lane have already been marked, and that area is slated for completion of marking by mid January. It isn't expected that this one project can complete the need for fuels reduction on Timber Lane forever. It will be a first step. As Allen Owen says of his own property, "I've spent 15 years on my three acres, and I'm STILL working on it!"



Allen points out problem areas to Tim Triggs and Mark Menagh, HOA officers.

ON THE WATERFRONT

With Robert DeHaas

Winter hit and brought with it colder than normal temperatures. The Daily Camera notes that this December is among the ten coldest on record. What this meant to the reservoir project is that the work could not progress as planned and of course that means we are behind schedule.

Since it is too cold for work on the main part of the dam the work has been shifted to the miscellaneous concrete work. This work probably will be



The Dam Boss

completed about the end of February; temperatures at that time should allow work on the main part to resume.

The new completion date is about the end of March to the middle of April and the goal is still to have the project on line and be producing water from the reservoir before summer sets in.

There are some unique aspects to this project, one of which is that we will be covering the downstream face of the dam with earth to make it look more like part of the natural landscape. Because of this uniqueness the State has requested that we not cover the downstream face until after the reservoir has been filled and they can verify that it is performing as designed.

The challenge presented by this requirement is what to do with all the dirt that is currently behind the dam until we can place it on the face. What has been decided, even though it will create some inconveniences, is to store (temporarily) this dirt on the parking area to the community center. Once the State is satisfied that the dam is working as designed we can move that dirt to its final resting place on the downstream face of the dam. The goal is to be moving that dirt by the fall of 2006.

The good news is that the project is still moving forward and is still within our budget constraints. This has been accomplished by the hard work and cooperation of the contractors, ASI-RCC Inc., the engineers,

Turner, Collins, and Braden, and the Pine Brook Water District Board and Staff.

The District thanks the community for its support and patience while we get this work done. Without your support this project would not be feasible!

SOME CATS AREN'T PETS

Let's remind ourselves: we live in mountain lion territory. While venison is their preferred viand, we are also meat to lions, if somewhat less tasty meat. Most Pine Brookers never see a lion throughout many years of residence, and there are few instances in the country of lion attacks (none in PBH). However, some Pine Brookers see lions on a regular basis, and an appropriate degree of concern by all of us is warranted.

The Tennis/Sanchez family has seen mountain lions several times. On one occasion a lion came to drink at the small pool in their front yard. The children, inside the house, saw the lion and tapped on the window,



A PBH Lion in Winter

hoping that the lion would turn and look at them. It turned, all right, snarling at them as if to say, "This is MY property!" Kit Tennis called the Department of Wildlife for instructions on living with lions and learned some useful tips. "The children never go walking without a dog and an air horn. It's as automatic as putting on sun screen," Kit says. The DOW representative also offered them some 12 gauge shotgun bullets, which Kit hesitantly accepted. "Trouble is, I don't have a 12 gauge shotgun." Guess he'd have to throw the bullets at the cat.



When you are in deep trouble, say nothing, and try to look like you know what you're doing.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING JANUARY 25, at Community Center.
Potluck at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY SOCIAL NIGHT, FEBRUARY 17, 5 p.m. at Community Center (see p. 15).

MARDI GRAS PARTY, FEBRUARY 25, at Creswell/Swanton residence, 12 Boulder View Lane. Newcomers at 6 p.m., party at 7 p.m (see p. 5).

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

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 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 786-7586 for confirmation.

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

"MAYOR'S" MESSAGE

By Tim Triggs

If you are wondering whose portrait photo is here on page 3, let me introduce myself. I'm Tim Triggs, the new President of the Homeowners Association, replacing Pam Creswell, who will be moving on to the position of HOA Board Member at Large. Next time you see Pam, be sure to thank her for her many contributions as President. She has provided outstanding leadership to our community during a time of substantial changes and challenges. Thanks also to retiring Board members Al Gerrish and Eleanor Patten. New this year to the board, are Mark Menagh as Vice President and Margit Mestdagh as Secretary. Alex Baris will continue as Treasurer. I am really excited to be working with such a gifted and capable Board of Directors.



Our first HOA meeting of the year will be on January 25 at the community center. We will begin at 6:00 with a potluck dinner followed by the business meeting at 7:00. And I'm sure we will find something else cool to do.

About me: in case we haven't yet met, I have been living in Pine Brook since building my home here in 1975. Over the years I have been active in forest health, fire mitigation, and the Architectural Review Committee. I

have loved every minute of living up here. I feel honored to serve as President of Pine Brook HOA, by far the finest mountain community around. When you look at our fire and rescue services, our water and utilities, our diverse, talented and generous residents, no other place comes close. The feeling of true community that we enjoy here is a rare treat.

The two ongoing HOA-sponsored projects are the forest health initiative, better known as "Beetle Busters," (headed by Suzanne Adams, 449-0997) and the Timber Lane Shaded Fuel Break fire mitigation project (headed by Tim Triggs). Please call me at 444-4093 if you feel the urge to work on these projects or any of the other HOA committees. We love to see new faces.

If you find "Mayor's Message" a strange title for this article, it's an "in joke" between me and my wife Penny. When she heard that I would be President, she threatened to get me a T-shirt inscribed "Mayor of Pine Brook Hills," something that I would be required to wear to all of the official HOA meetings. I thought it was a pretty funny idea that I wanted to share with everyone, but I think I'll pass on the T-shirt. In any case, I hope that we all experience the coming year as both rewarding and fun.

THANK YOU, PAM!

Pine Brook Hills has reason to be grateful to retiring HOA President Pam Creswell. Her contagious enthusiasm, creativity and collegial leadership style have served our community very well indeed. She has been generous not only with her time but also with her home - a number of Pine Brook meetings, parties and fundraisers have been held there. Several notable accomplishments of her tenure are as follows:

1. The HOA won its largest grant, a \$22,000 matching grant to improve emergency access and egress on Timber Lane
2. The Forest Health Initiative, which led to the formation of the Beetle Busters, a program that Pam strongly supported
3. Improved communication between the HOA Board and the community. Those who sign up for it can receive agendas and minutes of Board and regular HOA meetings via email.
4. The first Boulder Heights/Pine Brook children's Christmas party

5. While the consolidation of the fire district and the creation of the reservoir were not HOA projects, Pam's recognition of the importance of fire safety and water storage was significant and helpful as the community made its decisions.

Pam's strong sense of responsibility has been evident; she continued to fulfill her responsibilities even when serious health considerations might have deflected her.

Fortunately for us, as Member at Large she has decided to take on two additional responsibilities: Social Chair, and Newcomer Welcome Committee. She plans to be working with Art Rancis on a home and car show later this year, as well as sponsoring Welcome Parties and information packets for newcomers.

Thank you, Pam!



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Alex Baris

Well, it's hard for me to believe 2005 is over. It was an interesting year for me as treasurer of the HOA and I really appreciate the opportunity I've had to learn so much more about Pine Brook Hills, the HOA and all the wonderful people who are so active in this community.

In 2005, we collected \$16,500 in dues which was \$1500 below the budgeted amount and accounted for almost 75% of the homeowners contributing. We were very fortunate to have a number of very generous homeowners who contributed more than the requested \$50 and a huge thank you goes out to them! In total revenues, we budgeted for \$22,000, including HOA dues, ads for the Pine Brook Press and Architectural Review Committee Fees. We actually received \$20,188-a little under budgeted revenues for the year. Our expenditures were also slightly lower than projected. We projected \$11,350 in 2005 expenses and only expended \$9,302. However, we still have one or two outstanding charges for 2005 that haven't been received. After paying these, I believe we will still be slightly under what we budgeted for expenses for the year.

In summary it was a fairly good year and we're all excited about 2006. It will be exciting to celebrate the completion of the reservoir-definitely a great thing for our community! Happy New Year!

FIRE SIDE CHAT

By John Benson

Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a great Christmas and you got everything you wanted.

It seems this year, with the lower temperatures and rising cost of natural and propane gas, more and more people are using their wood burning appliances. This can be both beneficial and detrimental to you. After hearing about some of the recent horror stories involving fireplaces, high winds and embers blowing back down the flue, I felt this would be a good time to address this issue.

If you know that you have high winds blowing in the area try to refrain from using your fireplace or stove. If the winds are blowing from the right direction and at a high enough speed, you may end up with the winds blowing embers and smoke back down the flue and possibly out the front face of the burning appliance. This year there has already been a rash of structure fires caused by wood burning appliances. I have included some safety tips, which I hope will keep you safe.

- a. Ensure that all safety devices are properly installed and working, i.e., doors, screens and dampers.
- b. Ensure that all flammables and combustibles have been removed in accordance with local county and manufacturer's rules and regulations.
- c. Always have some type of extinguishment just in case a fire starts outside of your wood burning appliance.
- d. Always make sure the doors are closed when no one is in the room or when you plan to leave the residence.
- e. MAKE SURE your chimney cap and spark arrester are intact and in good working order.
- f. If you have any questions regarding your wood burning appliances, please feel free to give BMFPD a call. We will be more than happy to come out and conduct a home inspection.

As I look into my crystal ball, I do not foresee any change in the price of home heating fuels.

BMFPD asks that you take every precaution during these cold winter months. Please do not become a statistic in a book on a shelf.

Until next time Stay Safe and Keep Warm.

MARDI GRAS PARTY

By Pam Creswell

Greetings from the '06 Welcome and Social Committee. We will be starting out the New Year with a BANG. Just about the time that everyone starts to get midwinter cabin fever, we are holding a Mardi Gras Party. Save the date of Saturday, February 25 at 7 P.M. Live jazz, beads and feather masks will greet you at this first of our parties. We are really hoping to draw a large crowd of Pine Brookers. The party will be held at 12 Boulder View Lane (Creswell/Swanton home). "Hurricanes," beer, wine and soft drinks will be provided and don't forget to wear green, gold or purple! Please cost share by bringing appetizers/finger food and a \$20 per person donation to cover the drinks and live music.

NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

Prior to our Mardi Gras Party (from 6 to 7) we will hold, at the same location, a Newcomer Orientation. This is geared toward residents who have been in Pine Brook for less than a year and is open to any residents who would still enjoy a refresher on the many wonders and safety issues of mountain living, as well as the excellent activities and projects going on in Pine Brook Hills. We are particularly excited to have our newcomers stay for the party.

Please RSVP by sending your check to Creswell, 12 Boulder View Lane, 80304, or bring your check to the party but RSVP by email to pcreswell2@aol.com. Please specify which part(s) of the evening you will be attending.

**QUESTION: GARAGE SALE 2006?****ANSWER: STAY TUNED**

By Art and Babette Markey (Garage Sale Gurus)

Until it is clear whether or not construction will be completed in time (so we have all the necessary parking space available), all we can say is "Stay Tuned" and watch this space in the April issue of the Pine Brook Press. For details on the construction, see the water district article by Bob DeHaas in this issue.

One thing we could use is additional storage. Does anyone have an empty room or garage stall or shed that they could make available? If so, please contact us (303-440-6132). Thanks.

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

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

Eleanor Patten's answering machine has a new message. She now identifies herself as Grandma Eleanor, thanks to the birth of her first grandchild, a red-haired girl named Ella Ann, after her very proud grandmother. Ella Ann, born Dec 16, 2005, is the child of Eric and Amber Patten of Memphis, Tenn. Congratulations, Eleanor!

Pine Brook has a hurricane survivor. Ellen Schultz, who works for the Humane Society, has adopted a dog, Max, who was abandoned during hurricane Katrina. Attempts to find the dog's owner were unsuccessful. Because of the starvation and stress the dog had undergone, it developed aggressive tendencies that made it unsuitable for regular adoption. When it was slated for death, Ellen stepped in, adopted it and has been working with the dog, who is slowly responding. You may see them out for a walk one day!

For more hurricane-related PBH news, see Param Singh's story on p. 7.

There has been interest in forming a PBH Bridge Club, and even an offer from a member of the community to teach bridge to anyone interested in learning or improving skills. If interested, please write to the pinebrookpress@aol.com, or drop a note to 25 Alpine Way, and we'll try to build a bridge between bridge players.



STEVE GRAD AND "THEATER 13"

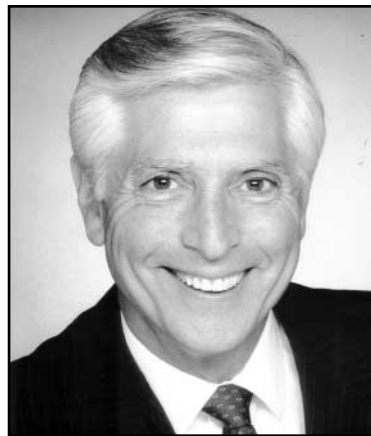
Something exciting is happening on 13th Street. A new professional theater group, Theatre 13, is in residence at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Pine Brooker Steve Grad, a founding member of the new company, played major roles in their first two shows and will appear with Suzanne Adams in Love Letters on (when else?) Valentine's Day, February 14th, 2006.

Those first two shows were highly successful. The group opened their season with a night of six short plays with the overall title "Relationships, Realities, & Repercussions." After a four star review by the Daily Camera, the second show, Orphans, played to sold out houses and standing ovations.

The group's intention is to perform primarily original work - work written by the group or written for them. In

February Theatre 13 will present Assumptions, an original play written by company member Paul Adamian. Steve's version of Aristophanes' anti-war sex romp Lysistrata, which he titles Liz's Strategy, is slated for production next fall.

Steve hadn't really planned on this level of involvement! But his life has not been noticeably predictable. College didn't initially suit him; he flunked out, joined the army, learned Russian and became a spy. Based in Turkey, he did electronic surveillance on the Soviet space program for the National Security Agency. After the army he tried college again, this time obtaining a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and a university position teaching Russian language and literature. But academia still didn't really suit him, so he got a job at a classical music station. His quali-



fications? "Since I knew German, Polish, French and Russian I could pronounce everything." Successive moves took him to Washington D.C., where he auditioned for a role with a professional theater company. He got the part, but when he started working with profession-

ally trained actors he realized he didn't know what he was doing. "But I faked it," he says cheerfully, becoming at that time what he characterizes as "a competent but not particularly exciting actor." (Critics currently use words like "impressive," "authoritative," "masterful," and "commands the stage" to describe his acting.)

After the move to PBH, Steve studied at Naropa, getting a Masters degree in Transpersonal Counseling Psychology at age 58. It occurred to him that by the time he got his practice going he'd be ready to retire. So for the past five or six years he has volunteered as a grief group facilitator and chaplain with Hospice and taught Buddhist meditation in the federal prison system.

Professionally trained, with professional attitudes and skills including acting, directing, writing, music, set, lighting and sound design, Theater 13 hopes to bring really good, new, provocative theater to the community. Half way into their first season, the group seems poised to do just that.

MY RED CROSS ADVENTURE:

A View from the Trenches

By Param Singh

"Would you mind working in a staff shelter in West Palm Beach?" the volunteer at the shelter office asked us sweetly. Then she explained that a staff shelter was a place where Red Cross volunteers were housed until hotel rooms became available. Her tone suggested it was not a plum assignment.

A cardinal rule of my retirement is to avoid positions of authority, but my eagerness to get to work got in the way. I had received the call to deploy for three weeks on Thursday evening and by early Saturday I was on a plane. Sunday morning I had rushed to be "in processed" only to be told that there were no personnel requests from the field. So when she further asked whether anyone would volunteer to be the Shelter Manager, I was so eager that I shot my hand up before she finished the question. That is how after about ninety minutes of training on shelters back in Denver the Red Cross selected me to be the Shelter Manager for the staff shelter in West Palm Beach, Florida, taking care of up to 100 volunteers.

Half an hour later I was in a van, with Darlene, Kate and Mike, all first time volunteers like me. We were the new shelter staff. Total shelter experience: zero. We were going to take care of approximately 100 "guests." The Red Cross has a policy not to call the victims of disasters victims. That would victimize them further. They are to be called "clients." But volunteers were not clients; for the shelter staff they became "guests."

The shelter on Belvedere Boulevard was a large, air-conditioned second floor function/dance hall owned by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) local 728. Downstairs was a Bail Bondsman and the meeting hall of the local AA. Across the street was a small strip mall with bars on all windows

The departing staff was in a great hurry to leave. Jumbles of instructions were thrown at us: women over there, men here; toilets on that side are all for women, even the one marked "men;" sign out and sign in sheets have to be faxed every day, no, there is no fax machine - use the one in the IBEW office, - there is no way to clean used blankets and towels - the Red Cross says throw them away have a good stay, any questions?

Thirty minutes later they were gone.

Instructions prior to deployment had characterized Wilma as a "hardship" assignment. We were told to bring essential items, with a list provided. I flew to Miami carrying bottled water in my backpack and toilet rolls in my suitcase. In the shelter store room we found over two thousand rolls of toilet paper and dozens of cases of bottled water. More often than not we received much more than we asked for. A request for a case of cereal turns into a pallet (1800 boxes).

As supplies piled up, storage space was becoming limited. There were piles of garbage bags filled with used blankets and towels. It seemed unethical to just trash them, as we had been told to do. All they needed was to be washed. Pastor Murphy from one of the local churches agreed to take them. He showed up in a sedan, expecting a few items. We filled a minivan.

The work entailed in operating the shelter was quite easy. After a couple of days, we started to work on making the place more congenial for our "guests." We had yet to see a "client."

The Coconut Palms Resort.....

Kate drew a nice scene with swaying palm trees and our new name. We ceased being the West Palm Beach Staff Shelter and become the Coconut Palms Resort. The coconut referred to a simian skull-shaped specimen that someone had left on a table. Trophies won by union teams over the years were stacked up in a small side room. We took the tallest one, won in some long ago softball tournament, and made it our "Snoring" trophy. Every night it would be shifted to one side of the room, men or women, where the loudest snorer resided. Lest you think otherwise, the women more than held their own. This became our signature event. Later, during our deployment, we met volunteers who had never stayed with us but had heard about the "Snoring Trophy."

Volunteering at the Fairgrounds Shelter

The Red Cross kept moving our "guests" into hotel rooms, in accordance with its stated policy. Some were put up at the five star PGA Resort. Many of our guests told us that they preferred the shelter: it saved the Red Cross money and they loved the community atmosphere. It did not matter - they were told they had to move into hotels. As a consequence our population started declining and we found that by mid morning we were done with our work.

I got permission to go to the client shelter at the

South Florida Fairgrounds and help out. After two weeks in Florida, I saw my first clients - the people we had come to help. The shelter was set up in a giant exhibition hall. The resident population fluctuated between 250 and 300. Most residents slept on mats or mattresses on the floor.

For our first task, we were asked us to count the number of people who did not have cots. We counted 138 who slept on pads on the concrete floor and another 28 on mattresses that they had brought with them.

My second task was to help in the food line at lunch. There was a considerable amount of food left over. Red Cross instructions were to trash the leftovers, but the Westgate Tabernacle church, in one of the poorest neighborhoods, could use the food. In total space of approximately 3500 square feet they were providing food and shelter to a population of 60-85. Some slept in the pews. I had never seen poverty like this in America. I made many trips to Westgate Tabernacle and we gave them all our used blankets, which kept piling up steadily as our shelter guests moved on.

Later that day, Jim Eyster called me and asked how things were going. Among other things we discussed the strange juxtaposition of volunteers staying in fancy hotels on donated dollars while the clients they came to serve did not have cots. He wanted to let his views be known to some one in a position of authority within the Red Cross. I told him that he was free to use my name.

I get into trouble

The next day I received a call from Red Cross Headquarters in Washington. Jim had been working the phones. Jim and I were tied into a three-way call with Renata H., Director of Public Relations. She picked up on the lack of cots. That was unacceptable, she said, and promised that someone from Florida would get in touch with us.

That afternoon I received a call from Miami. It was Mr. Greg Mack, Deputy Director for the entire Hurricane Wilma effort. He assured me that the Red Cross was not paying retail rates for hotel rooms. The Red Cross got rooms at places like the Marriott and PGA Resort either free or at minimal cost. Trust me, he said, the Red Cross was not paying anything like \$200 for a hotel room anywhere. He focused more on the cot situation. He tried to trip me up. I had talked about clients sleeping on the floor and at another

point I mentioned the thin Red Cross pads they were supplied with. "You just said they were sleeping on the floor." I replied that they were on the floor on a thin pad. He promised to get cots for the shelter and then asked if it had been appropriate for me to discuss these issues with someone outside the Red Cross. I told him that I thought it was perfectly appropriate. A couple of hours later there was a call from someone else in Miami. The cots would be there that night or the next morning.

The next day no cots showed up.

A volunteer name Nora was assigning hotel rooms locally. I asked what it was costing the Red Cross to put volunteers at the PGA Resort. The conversation went like this:

Nora: "Why?"

Param: "I just want to know."

Nora: "Why?"

Param: "Because we are spending donated dollars and I would like to know where they are going."

Nora: "I'm not going to tell you!"

Param: "Are the rooms free?"

Nora: "No."

Shut down and transferred

After two weeks, the Red Cross succeeded in placing all volunteers in hotel rooms and we were directed to shut down the shelter. We cleaned the place and stacked 120 cots. I suggested to my supervisor that the cots could be used at the Fairgrounds.

We all chose to spend our last week working at the Fairgrounds. We were assigned rooms in the Palm Beach Marriott hotel.

Shift Supervisor at Fairgrounds

This was more challenging work than operating the Coconut Palms. We were not dealing with fellow volunteers but clients who had lost their homes and most of their possessions and were in the fourth week of residence. It was hard to dispute the notion that nobody seemed to be in charge.

During the last few days of my deployment it was clear that the Red Cross wanted to wind things down. Our supplies started to dwindle and were not replenished. One client, an old man who was there alone, said to me, "I know what you are doing. You are just going to make things so miserable for us that we just leave. But I have nowhere to go."

Epilog

I left Palm Beach for home on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Before checking out I talked to the Marriott staff. It was my intention, I told them, to give to charity an amount equal to my hotel bill. I wanted to know the real cost to the Red Cross. Was the room free? They looked it up. No, it was not free. The Red Cross was going to be billed \$200 per night.

The next day, Sunday, I called Mike H. at the Fairgrounds client shelter. I asked if they had received the cots. The answer was brief: no.

This article is an abbreviated version of the full text, which can be found, with a few pictures, on the Pine Brook Hills website (www.pinebrookhills.org).



NEW BEETLE IN TOWN

The Red Turpentine Beetle

By Suzanne Adams

Oh, great. A new bark beetle has joined the mountain pine beetle (MPB) and the nefarious Ips beetle to prey on our trees. Just what we didn't need.

Turpentine beetles are similar in size and appearance to the MPB (approximately 3/8 inch long, and black to brownish-red in color). While MPBs attack the trunk below the crown and IPS attack in the crown, the turpentine beetles attack the tree at the base up to perhaps three feet. So those three have the poor tree pretty well covered.

Unlike MPB, the turpentine beetle burrows DOWNWARD. Freshly cut trees are attractive to these critters; they will hit the stumps and head down, even invading the root system of the former tree. The turpentine beetle pitch tubes (the resinous mass put out by the tree in an attempt to foil the beetles) are often large, as much as 2" long, and initially gooey.

A turpentine beetle attack is not necessarily as fatal as infestation by MPB or IPS, but it can weaken a tree and make it more susceptible to attack by the other two pests. Although there is debate about it, some experts maintain that the turpentine beetle, like MPB and IPS, can carry the blue stain fungus that clogs the circulatory system of the tree, inevitably leading to the tree's death.

In the "Can't win for losing" category, necessary fire mitigation work can attract beetles, because the resin released by a cut tree is similar biochemically to the attractant pheromones released by the beetles, which lead to a mass beetle attack on the tree. Ben Fox had done an extensive mitigation for fire on his property, and was dismayed when an inspection by the Beetle Busters revealed that 13 of his remaining trees had been hit by turpentine beetles. Subsequent Beetle Buster inspections in Pine Brook discovered the beetles on three additional properties. Unless there is blue stain fungus or evidence of concurrent infestation by MPB or IPS, the Beetle Busters are not recommending immediate removal of trees hit by turpentines. Watch them for further developments. The Beetle Busters hasten to add that fire mitigation trumps concern about attracting beetles. It's sad to lose a tree but can be tragic to lose a home.

What can we do about this newest threat? One precaution is to avoid stacking newly cut wood against living trees. The beetles, attracted by the pine resin of the cut wood, may invade the supporting tree. Spray the trees you wish to protect with Permethrin in the spring, the time of the annual red turpentine beetle flight. Spring spraying will protect trees against the spring flights of the multigenerational Ips as well, and may also offer protection during the July 15 to September 15 MPB flight season.

Protective Spraying

Some communities such as Winter Park, which is battling a serious beetle infestation, are doing a protective spraying of their community's uninfested trees. As such spraying must be done annually, it is expensive. However, spraying a large number of trees in close proximity reduces the cost per tree. If you would like to protect some of your trees and would be interested in getting a good price for doing so, please write pinebrookpress@aol.com or call Suzanne Adams (449.0997) and we will attempt to negotiate the best possible group price with the companies that do this work.



The Pine Brook Press is eager to share your news, letters, photos and thoughts. Please send them to pinebrookpress@aol.com or mail them to Suzanne Adams at 25 Alpine Way. Thank you!

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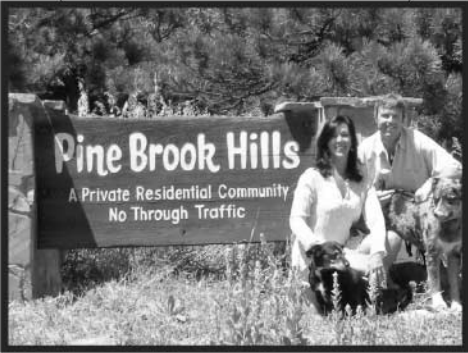
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PINE BROOK ROCKS!

by A. R. (Pete) Palmer

This is not about music or local social life, this is about what lies under our feet, and the story these rocks tell. PBH sits at the boundary between rocks reflecting two major historical eras in Earth history. This boundary runs roughly north-south and separates a tilted set of sedimentary rocks on the east from a complex of granites and metamorphic rocks on the west. The actual contact can be seen only in one area - the driveway of 718 Pine Brook Road, and occasionally in the south-side road ditch just west of that driveway entrance depending on whether runoff from rainstorms has cleared or buried the bedrock there. However, the contrast can be seen on opposite sides of the road between 2936 and 3232 Linden Drive, and east and west of the sharp bend at 1138 Timber Lane (refer to the map in your Pine Brook Directory for these locations).

Two simple geological laws will help you to understand the geological history of PBH. The Law of Superposition states that in any sequence of layered sedimentary rocks, the oldest rock is always at the bottom. The other useful law is the Law of Original Horizontality, which states that the layers in sedimentary rocks accumulate essentially horizontally.

So, on to deciphering the story. The granite/metamorphic rock complex represents the oldest part of our local history because these rocks underlie the tilted red pebbly sandstones at the base of the thick sedimentary sequence. Details of this history are difficult to work out, but the complexity is shown in a north-side road cut between 1981 and 2064 Upper Timber Lane. Here veins can be seen cutting through the weathered granitic rocks as well as through earlier veins. The material forming the veins was once molten rock filling cracks in the granite, which was also originally molten. Thus, they are younger than the granite.

The best exposure of the granite is on the west side of Linden just downhill from the 3034 driveway. The pink granite here is pretty fresh, but if you walk down to the junction, the same rock is deeply weathered and you can dig it easily with a pick. Another useful fact about granite is that the original molten rock had to crystallize several kilometers below the ground surface in order to cool slowly enough to form the mineral crystals that we see. Thus, when you stand on that outcrop you have to imagine the removal of several

kilometers of material above you to expose the granite. However, remember also that the entire stack of tilted sedimentary rocks, from just east of Linden to the front of the mountain, was also deposited horizontally above where you are standing. Because the granite is immediately below the oldest sediments, several kilometers of material were eroded away before the first sandstone layer was deposited. Thus, that granite has been exposed by deep erosion twice in its history!!

The tilted rocks that are well exposed in the steep road cut on Linden east of the firehouse, and at either end of the Dakota Ridge which forms the boundary between the foothills and the plains at the east margin of PBH, were bent upward and tilted toward the plains by forces forming the present Rocky Mountains, long after they were consolidated.

The reddish sandstone exposed in the Linden cut has many layers of well-rounded pebbles which are evidence that these deposits were made by streams. Red colors are generally evidence that the sediments accumulated on land. Overlying the red sandstones are white sandstones (flagstones) best exposed on Fountaintree Lane. The complex layering in the sandstone and small size of the sand grains are evidence that these were originally sand dune deposits. These are overlain by red shales and sandstones that underlie the valley behind the Dakota Ridge. The ridge is composed of a variety of generally white sandstones and shales that include a black shale unit well exposed when the cut was made through the ridge to get to 200 Boulder View Lane. These shales yielded some very well-preserved fossil plant materials. Just west of Denver, the sandstones of the Dakota Ridge have well exposed dinosaur footprints. Thus dinosaurs were walking around on those sands well before the rock layers were tilted to their present positions. East of Dakota Ridge, the Boulder valley is underlain by tilted black shales that contain fossils of marine organisms that accumulated in a vast north-south inland sea that connected the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. This sea inundated what is now central North America for about 40-50 million years, separating a mountainous west from a relatively lowland east. Its west shore was near Salt Lake City, and its east shore was just west of Minneapolis.

Now, how do we get numbers like that? Most granites include tiny crystals of zircon that incorporated

PINE BROOK HILLS KIDS' PAGE

WINTER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

By Ayla Bessemer (age 9)

Yippee!!! It's winter again!!! What is your favorite winter activity? In the snow there are so many fun things to do. I like to sled and ice skate. I also love



having snowball fights with my friends, building snowmen and making snow angels with my family.

Hurray! It's the New Year of 2006...a great time to make New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions are when you change something to make it better or do something you've always wanted to do. For example,

one of my resolutions this New Year is to meet and bring kids together in Pine Brook Hills.

So I thought it would be fun to have a snowman contest. Build a snowman with your friends or family some time in January or February. Then send me a picture of you and your snowman with your name, age and your snowman's name. Hopefully, we can publish some of the pictures in the next issue of the Pine Brook Press.* Everyone who enters will win a fun afternoon of Snowfrosts (see below), cookies and playing in the snow with some new friends at my house in March. Send your pictures to ayla@besemer.com or mail then to 1431 Timber Lane, by March 1st. Have a great winter enjoying time with your family!

SNOWFROST

This recipe for a Snowfrost is the most delicious holiday treat. It warms me up when I come in from playing in the snow. I love it and I hope you do too!

1 cup milk
 ¾ tsp. vanilla
 2 tsp. sugar
 Cinnamon stick
 Sprinkle of cinnamon

Combine all the ingredients and heat (either in the microwave or on the stove top) until nice and hot.

*The Pine Brook Press will be delighted to print some or all (space permitting) of the entries to the Snowman Contest. All kids are encouraged to enter!



small amounts of uranium when they crystallized. Uranium is an unstable element that decays very slowly, at a known rate, to produce a readily recognizable form of lead. Thus the ratio between the remaining uranium atoms and the lead in those crystals can yield a numerical age. In the Boulder area, these granitic rocks are about 1.6 billion (1,600,000,000) years old. The local sedimentary rocks can be dated only indirectly; the pebbly red sandstones in the Linden cut are about 300 million years old, and the sandstones of the Dakota Ridge are about 115 million years old. Thus, at the contact between the granite/metamorphic complex and the red pebbly sandstones, 1.3 billion years of Earth history are locally missing!! The uplift of the Rocky Mountains and thus the tilting of the rocks in eastern PBH began about 60 million years ago. So there's a lot of history under our feet and it all preceded human history. The present landscape is the only landscape known to humans. We can sketch out only small parts of our geological history locally, but even this boggles the mind!!



JUDY WANTS US TO HAVE MORE FUN

Let's bring back some of the excellent customs of yesteryear! Judy Smith (seen in photo with young firefighter E. Smith) suggests a revival of the



quarterly Friday Night Social Hours, starting on February 17 at 5 P.M. at the Firehouse/Community Center. Bring an appetizer (drinks will be

supplied), meet new and old friends, relax and have fun. Judy says we should.



Winter sunrise from Alpine Way

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