



Pine Brook Press

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

WINTER 2012



HOA OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

The PBH HOA elects officers to its board for two year terms. The following officers were elected at the October 25, 2011, members meeting:

PRESIDENT - Dave Davies

Dave Davies, our incoming President, arrived on these shores from deepest, wettest Wales in 1967 and 32 years later--after 10 years in Pennsylvania and 20-odd years in the San Francisco bay area--found home in Colorado. Dave has lived in Boulder since 1999 and PBH since 2005. Dave has been Treasurer of the HOA for 3 years, Vice President for 2 years and has served on the ARC, on the Roads Committee, and is a BeetleBuster. He describes himself as a technology entrepreneur with several high-tech start-ups in his background--some successful, some not. His proudest achievement is his family with two wonderful daughters, two sons-in-law, and four even more wonderful grandchildren--and of course his wife, Jo. Dave lives on Boulder View Lane in lower PBH. His avocations are sailing and boating, not that he will have much time for it in the next two years.



TREASURER - Terry O'Brien

Terry and wife, Cathie, moved from Minnesota to Boulder in 2002 and after renovating 44 Beaver Way in late 2003, have lived in PBH since January of 2004. Terry's educational background includes a BS degree from Macalester College in St Paul, MN, and an MBA from the University of Minnesota. Other professional credentials include a MN CPA license for over 30 years and a MN Real Estate Broker's license for over 15 years. Work



experience includes financial positions in the corporate environment to varied entrepreneurial ventures.

Terry and Cathie have been married for 28 years and have a blended family of 6 children and 8 grandchildren, 2 of whom live in Boulder. Personal interests include travel, camping, hiking, gardening and enjoying nature and the outdoors.

SECRETARY - Tom Mann

Tom and his wife Andrea moved to Boulder from upstate New York in 1980 and have lived in Pine Brook Hills since 1986. He has served as HOA secretary for the past year and a half and begins his second term in January.



The Manns have three children. Christopher (41) and his wife reside in Washington, D.C. Valerie (24) lives and works in Denver. Cody (19) lives at home, attends Metro State and is a fully accredited volunteer firefighter with the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District.

Tom has practiced commercial real estate management since arriving in 1980 and has managed some of Denver's largest high-rise office towers. He is currently working as a consultant (Mann Real Estate Services) for an east coast real estate investment trust and manages two office buildings in southeast Denver.

Both Tom and Andrea enjoy skiing during the winter months and sailing their 22 foot sailboat during the summer.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Bill Alexander

Bill Alexander is retired from 35 years at IBM in engineering, programming, sales, and marketing management positions around the USA involving mainframes to PCs. During that time he also founded and ran his

own General Contracting business building houses in



Pennsylvania ; his own Property Management firm handling Condo/ HOA associations in Florida ; and Real Estate partnerships in NJ, PA, NC, and FL. As a volunteer he continues to work in various positions at a number of nonprofit organizations including his HOA,

Animal rights groups, NARAL/Planned Parenthood and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV). He is an avid hiker, sailor, and with his wife, adventure traveler.



MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS 2011

The week before Mountain Expressions, as BMFPD Auxiliary members and many others are baking like crazy and putting finishing touches on projects and decorations, it always occurs to us that maybe no one will attend! But as usual, lots and lots of you did come, and the show was a great success once again. The event netted more than \$5500! These monies will be used in support of our firefighters and medical responders.

This year, the stars of the show were the Bake Sale and the Auxiliary Craft Table. Because bakers and crafters generously donate ingredients, materials, and hours and hours of time, the sales in these two areas are pure 100% profit for the Auxiliary.



Art Markey counts the dough.

Together, they raised nearly \$4000 and broke historic sales records by a large margin!

Mountain Expressions would not be a show without



Amy Mundinger with her treasures.

the artists. This year, 38 creative wonders sold their art, donated pieces, or both. The Auxiliary appreciates the time spent by artists who

sit at their tables and make Mountain Expressions what it truly is – a chance to talk to the creators of the treasures you are buying. And those artists who donate allow us to make that magic 100% profit again. Either way is a huge help to first responder support in the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District.

Last, but definitely not least, Mountain Expressions could not happen without volunteer staff – close to 50 of them this year! The cooperative spirit is always bountiful.



Susan Maxwell, the soul of Mountain Expressions all these years.

Thank you to all the customers, bakers, crafters, artists, and workers. We hope new volunteers will come join in the fun next year. The satisfaction of helping out during a great community event and supporting your fire department at the same time will be the reward.

Susan Maxwell, BMFPD Auxiliary

(Photos by the Pine Brook Press)



BMFPD National Award Nomination Update

In the last Press, we reported that the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD) had been nominated for a National Award by the Colorado Governor's Office of Homeland Security. The award that BMFPD was nominated for is one of the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Community Preparedness Awards.

Unfortunately, BMFPD did not receive an award. Despite our disappointment, we are very pleased and proud that the Governor's Office thought highly enough of BMFPD's efforts that the organization was nominated for such a prestigious award!

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

PRESIDENT

Dave Davies, 938-0522

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY

Tom Mann, 449-0730

TREASURER

Terry O'Brien, 530-3199

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Bill Alexander, 544-1333

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Neil Patel, 444-4886

NEWCOMER WELCOME

Jo Wiedemann, 447-2569

SOCIAL CHAIR

Pam Creswell, 720-406-9783

FIRE CHIEF

John Benson, 440-0235

FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT

Eric Ramberg, 443-8084

THIRD ARM

Bob Loveman, 926-0204

FIRE AUXILIARY

Ann Blonston, 720-295-2660
& Susan Maxwell, 444-9851

WATER BOARD

Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

WATER DISTRICT

Robert de Haas, Mgr., 443-5394

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING, January 31 . Potluck at 5:30 P.M. followed by new neighbor introduction at 7 P.M. At 7:10, Talk on Fire Defensible Space by Boulder County Outreach Forester Ryan Ludlow. Business Meeting at 7:40 P.M.

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

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 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 444-9851 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.

Presidents Patter: What's Next for the HOA?

By Dave Davies, HOA President

Our next Members meeting is Tuesday, January 31st, at the Community Center.

Join us on January 31st at 5.30 pm for a potluck dinner and at 7pm we will have as speaker Ryan Ludlow, Boulder County Outreach Forester. Ryan will speak on the topic of creating & maintaining fire defensible space around your property. There are more details on page 7 of this issue.



As mandated by the Bylaws of the PBH Assoc., Inc., the President serves two years and then is replaced by the Vice President. So with heavy heart and some trepidation I have to pick up the President banner from Bill Alexander. And it is a heavy banner as Bill did a great deal for the Association in his two years as President.

I am sure many of you realize how his vitality, energy, and intelligence have really contributed to our PBH HOA. However the GOOD news is that Bill gets to stay on the Board for two more years as MEMBER-AT-LARGE and can serve in any category he wants. So PBH will have the benefit of his energy for two more years--and believe me I intend to use it.

Just about the questions to consider at the beginning of my two-year term are: "How can we best utilize the generosity of PBH residents?" and "How we can use the existing resources to add to the quality of life here in PBH?"

What do YOU think are the priorities for PBH and what new initiatives are

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important to YOU?

I look to you to help answer that question. I'd like YOU as a member of our HOA and our community to tell me what YOU think we should do and how we should order our priorities.

Email me at davedavies.sbr@gmail.com and make some suggestions. Or use the Yahoo chat room or even call me at 303-938-0522. I am open to any ideas that are within the law and make sense. I believe we can do a lot as a community--- more than we can as a collection of individuals.

What about existing programs?

Among the projects already in place, first and foremost we want to continue to use our funds through our own BMFPD to continue the efforts in fire mitigation, fire prevention, and education.

Secondly, we have to keep up the pressure on our beetle friends so we do not lose the great momentum we have going. As explained elsewhere in this issue, we appear to be keeping the bark beetle population from exploding as it did in Summit County and the like, but we cannot let up.

Additionally, we have to decide this year what to do about the roads and the County's intractable position. We will have an opportunity this fall to put a more reasonable and sensible position on the ballot, or indeed kick the can down the hill again. You will be hearing more as we go through the year.

What new initiatives are on the drawing board?

NEW INITIATIVES that we are considering include the following:

* At the request of some residents, the ARC is reviewing a potential position that would place some noise and time restrictions on new home builders in PBH to minimize disruption. Any revisions will be brought to a member meeting for comments and approval.

* We are thinking of revisiting an initiative to help the more elderly residents of PBH. I was surprised last year when canvassing for the covenant vote as to how many older and solitary residents we seem to have. While many of these neighbors function extremely well, some can't get out so easily anymore. With a small effort and some organization, we should be able to offer enough help that these residents feel comfortable and safe staying in their homes. We stand to enrich not only their lives but our own.

* There is the issue of local speeding and irresponsible drivers. This is a tough one, but we can brainstorm some options such as hiring a deputy periodically to sit at known trouble spots, other reasonable ideas are welcome.

BUT seriously, as your new HOA President, I want to ask YOU to make suggestions and give me your comments. The best way to contact me is via email davedavies.sbr@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

By Terry O'Brien, HOA Treasurer

Our HOA association, as you know, is completely voluntary and there are many residents who contribute substantial amounts of their very valuable time to help PBH deal with many issues that need attention and which could be prohibitively expensive if they were paid for by the HOA. Without the BeetleBusters, for example, it is possible that our PBH trees would look similar to the Grand Lake area -- a sea of orange needles, no needles, or just clear cut. How tragic that would be. Of course, we also need a certain amount of money to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the various volunteers.

The suggested HOA dues amount of \$75 per year per lot has been recommended for several years. There are many residents who contribute more than their share each year. We appreciate your time and financial contributions. Thank you very much for making PBH a great place to live!

The HOA financial information available at the PB Press reporting submission time includes the eleven months ending November 30th and shows a favorable balance when compared to the 2011 budget. The HOA fiscal year will end December 31, 2011, and typically, some expenditures will be paid before the end of the year to get them into the 2011 year. When all the dust settles, we expect to see the final results similar to the 2011 budget deficit or close to breaking even.

The Board has proposed a 2012 Budget to the homeowners for approval at the January 31st meeting. Major expenses include fire mitigation \$15,000, BeetleBusters \$4,500, PB Press \$4,500, Roads related \$3,000, ARC related \$2,500, and PB directory \$2,000 with several additional categories \$500 or less. We have a projected deficit of \$6,500 as revenues have been slightly lower the past year while

expenses have increased. However, there are adequate reserves to absorb the deficit at the current time.

For further information, please see the chart which reflects the 2011 budget, actual revenue, and expense through November 11, 2011, and the proposed 2012 budget. If you have questions, please come to the January 31st HOA meeting or feel free to give me a call (303-530-3199) and I'll do my best to get you an answer.

PBH 2012 Final Budget		12/13/11			
Revenue	2011 Budget	Actual * 1/1 - 11/29/11	Estimated change to YE	Estimated YE Balance	Final 2012 Budget
HOA Dues	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,891		25,891	\$ 28,000
PB Press Ads	2,500				2,500
ARC Fees	300	150		150	300
Event Donations	100				
Comm'ty Ctr rental	-				-
Miscellaneous	100				-
Interest Income	100	33	7	40	40
Total Revenues	\$ 33,100	\$ 26,074	\$ 7	\$ 26,081	\$ 30,840
Expenditures					
ARC Related	\$ 500	-		-	2,500
BeetleBusters	4,500	1,617	500	2,117	4,500
Covenant Related	4,000				
Fire Mitigation	15,000	6,086	8,000	14,086	15,000
Legal	2,000	975		975	1,000
HOA Meetings	2,000	1,488	500	1,988	2,000
Insurance	1,400	1,450		1,450	1,500
Miscellaneous	60	85		85	100
PB Press	4,000	4,260		4,260	4,500
PBH Directory	-				2,000
Roads Survey	2,000	317		317	3,000
Signage	500	53	50	103	500
Supplies & Postage	500	456	50	506	500
Web Hosting	200	119	250	369	300
Total Expenditures	\$ 36,660	\$ 16,906	\$ 9,350	\$ 26,256	\$ 37,400
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (3,560)	\$ 9,167	\$ (9,343)	\$ (176)	\$ (6,560)

Cash & Reserve Balances @	11/29/11
Checking balance per bank	10/31/11 \$ 23,327.57
Add: Nov deposit	11/29/11 150.00
Less: OS checks	11/29/11 (429.50)
Balance per books	\$ 23,048.07
Flex Savings balance per bank	10/31/11 35,581.68
Total Cash & Reserve balances	11/29/11 \$ 58,629.75

* Cash basis

A dues request/invoice will be mailed in January to all homeowners. Dues payments should be made **payable to Pine Brook Hills HOA** and either mailed to 1907 Linden Drive, Boulder, CO 80304 or dropped off at the drop box near the entrance to the Community Center.

Thanks again for your contributions, time and money!

HOA NEEDS HELP: MEMBERSHIP ACTION REQUIRED

The PBH HOA is always looking for, and needing, volunteers. Currently, we are feeling the loss of critical resources and we need help in the HOA! We need you!

The following positions and activities need to be filled. Don't worry about background or lack of experience—this is a learning environment!

1) Someone(s) to help sell ads for the Press and Membership Directory. Our Treasurer will help with the money, but we need someone to help sell ads and

monitor collections etc.

2) We intend to reissue the Membership Directory for 2012 and 2013 and we will need people to help collect names and addresses etc. as well as assist with publishing. Many staff from previous issues are willing to help, but this is quite a large undertaking and the more help the better!

Thankfully the BeetleBusters, the ARC, the newcomers, the Pine Brook Press, the Roads committee, the social chair, and the fire mitigation coordinator position are all staffed—by volunteers just like you.

Please call Dave Davies at 303 938 0522 to discuss, or email davedavies.sbr@gmail.com.

FIRE SIDE CHAT

By John Benson

A big THANK YOU for being fire smart. This year's First Annual Fire Safety Sale put on by BMFPD's Auxiliary was a huge success. The number of residents who took home fire safety to heart was overwhelming and a delight to see. As a result of the fire safety sale, we took a number of old, nonfunctioning extinguishers out of service and replaced them with updated, operating extinguishers.

I was extremely pleased to see how many residents took part in our live burn training exercises. We heard numerous comments regarding how simple it was to operate an extinguisher. Our goal was to have everyone participate and understand how a fire extinguisher should be operated, in the event a fire happens in your home. Additionally, we were able to relieve some of the fears of operating a fire extinguisher if a small fire happens in the home.

In addition to the extinguishers, we were able to get a number of reflective address markers out at the driveways as well. This continues to be a top priority with me. We need to be able to find your address quickly in the event of an emergency. You have heard me mention time and time again: "If we can't find you, we can't help you." This is especially true during nighttime hours, when "decorative" addresses cannot be seen. By having your reflective address markers at the entrance, emergency responders can find you much faster, instead of having to drive around the block looking for the right address.

We sold multiple smoke and CO alarms as well as the Fire Safety Sale. Remember, carbon monoxide is

a silent killer, and, if not detected quickly, can lead to serious injury or death. If you have gas-powered appliances or heating units, I HIGHLY recommend the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. I do wish we would have sold more carbon monoxide detectors for your safety. The same can be said for smoke detectors. A smoke detector is also your earliest warning against a fire in your home. This especially holds true when you are asleep at night. You will need the extra time to get out in the event of a fire.

The best part about the Fire Safety Sale is that we still have the reflective address markers, 2.5 and 5 pound extinguishers in stock, as well as carbon monoxide and smoke detectors! The life you save may be you and your family. You can go to bouldermountainfire.org, click on BMFPD Safety Store, and order your fire safety devices online. We will contact you as soon as we get the order processed.



ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob de Haas

Winter is here and so are the freezing temperatures!

Freeze Prevention: It is not unusual to have cold snaps that can freeze water lines in the fall. Last year, several PBH homes had not “winterized” their irrigation systems which then froze, thawed when it turned warmer, and sprayed water everywhere! For more freeze prevention tips look on our website, pinebrookwater.com, for tips to keep your pipes from freezing.

Meter Pits: Has anyone been in your meter pit? No one but Water District Personnel are supposed to open the meter pits but.....almost every year we get calls for homes without water. When we arrive, we find the meter pit wide open in the freezing weather. This usually happens when a home owner or a plumber was working on the household plumbing and turned off the water at the meter pit and then forgot to close it. This is not only an inconvenience for the residents but it is not fun for us, as it usually happens during the evening hours and it is cold outside!

2012 Is a Water Board Election Year

Every even numbered year some of the Pine Brook Water District Board Members come up for election, just like the other elected officials. This election is

held in May if there are more candidates than openings for that year.

In 2012, there are three Board positions up for election. All these positions are for four year terms. The Board members who are up for election are Kirk Hendricks, Marie Zanowick, and Matt Rheingold. All of whom have said they will stand for election again in 2012.

There will be a call for “nominations” starting in early February 2012. Nominations simply consist of picking up the appropriate form from the Water Office and filling it out saying that you wish to run in the election. This form has to be returned to the Pine Brook Water District Office before the end of February. A person can also decide to file as a “write in candidate” but that also requires an appropriate form that states your intention to run as a write in candidate. This form is also available from our office and must be turned in to our office by March 1, 2012.

If there are no more candidates than positions up for election, than on March 2, 2012, the election will be cancelled. If there are more candidates than positions up for election than an election will be held on the second Tuesday of May 2012.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office or even any of the Board members. We would all be happy to answer your questions.

Credit Card payments are accepted at pinebrookwater.com for your convenience!

REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE RUNNING WATER ON THE STREET AND IT ISN'T OBVIOUS WHERE IT IS COMING FROM CALL OUR OFFICE! IT COULD BE A WATER MAIN BREAK!



ROADS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Cindy Lindsay

As you know, Ballot Issue 5A, which proposed issuing more than \$2.6 million in bonds for road reconstruction, repaving, and chip-sealing projects in PBH, was defeated during the November election. This defeat left PBH residents wondering, “What now?”

The hard-working Roads Committee has an answer.

With the bond issue for road rehabilitation now behind us, the Roads Committee is now working in two areas: Political Action and Roads Survey.

Political Action is a two-fold process. The committee

will be talking with other subdivisions to determine if there are economies of scale in working together on roads. They will also be talking with various state and county governments to determine if there are viable ways to have the county step up and do more road repairs and/or road rehabilitation.

The Roads Survey involves collecting data on the current condition of PBH roads. In addition, the committee will be talking with professionals to better understand what options we have for addressing the most severe road damage.

Look for more specific information from the Roads Committee in 2012.



CREATING AND MAINTAINING GOOD FIRE DEFENSIBLE SPACE: HOA TALK

At the HOA meeting on January 31st, we'll be joined by Ryan Ludlow, Boulder County Land Use's outreach forester. He works directly with private forest landowners to help them be good stewards of their land. He will discuss a very important and critical topic: Creating and Maintaining Good Fire Defensible Space.

Ryan's talk will focus on current research and what science tells us about how homes burn during a wild-fire. He will also discuss the crucial steps in keeping your defensible space in good shape.

Following his talk, Ryan will be available to answer questions about bark beetles, wildfire mitigation, general questions about forest ecology, optimizing the ponderosa forest and any related forest health topic. Ryan will be joined in the Q&A by our own BMFPD staff.



Ryan Ludlow is shown here pointing out an ips beetle at a recent local community event.

Keep in mind that Ryan is available to come to your property for a free site assessment to help you manage your backyard forest. Ryan can be reached

at 720.564.2641 or pinebeetle@bouldercounty.org. For more information visit www.bouldercounty.org/foresthealth.

NEWCOMER NEWS

Compiled By Jo Wiedemann

Paul Shippey lived in Boulder for seven years before moving to PBH from the Wonderland Lake area. A native of South Africa, Paul grew up amid the rich color and vibrancy that he believes only life in Africa has to offer. Being exposed to the great outdoors at an early age left an indelible mark on him that would later serve to spark a major interest in travel and adventure. He has traveled to distant locations from the Nepal Himalaya to the shifting sands of the Sahara. Paul is an auto industry veteran with 17-years experience as an automotive photojournalist, car magazine editor, motor company executive, racecar driver, and professional driver/instructor. His work has been published in leading titles in many countries. Paul describes himself as an adventurer, photojournalist/sponsored athlete/runner/business owner.



Page and Frank van der Linden moved to Timber Lane from Albuquerque, NM, at the end of September. Page is a freelance writer, focusing on nuclear weapons, arms control, and national security analysis. Frank is an operating systems developer at Oracle, in Broomfield. Frank



is originally from Amsterdam, Page from Albuquerque. After getting married, they lived in Amsterdam for two and a half years, but the open space of New Mexico drew them back there. After a few years in New Mexico, it was time for another change. The nature, space, and quiet of Pine Brook Hills, while being close to Boulder itself, has been a great match for them.

Aaron Brown recently moved to Timber Lane with his well-behaved dog, Sable. They both are enjoying the beautiful neighborhood. Aaron is a professor and teaches engineering at Metro State in Denver. Sable accompanies him to the office to ensure that he stays out of trouble. Aaron lived in Boulder



for 8 years before making the move to PBH. He used to be a pro cyclist and still rides for fun. He's very glad to be living in PBH.

Greg and Kathryn Hampson moved to Pine Brook Hills from Saratoga Springs, New York. They have two children, Tucker who is 18 and Hailey who is 16. They both go to Boulder High where they run cross country and track and sing and play in a few music groups. The Hampsons share their home with two dogs and two cats and would love to find a house/pet sitter to keep their pets company because they make frequent visits to the East Coast. After the dust settles from the move, Greg and Kathryn are looking forward to joining a volunteer group. However, if any PBH or HOA group needs help, please contact them this winter!

Margie and Rich Franklin moved from Chicago to Timber Lane. They come from Austrian and German



stock and report that "hiking in the mountains and eating chocolate bars is in our blood." To get their hiking "fix," they have been coming to Colorado for a week every summer for many years. They are delighted to now have a permanent home here so they can enjoy the mountains in every season. They have four children, Cathie, Justin, Liz, and Carrie, ranging in age from 23 to 29. Some are working in Boulder and some are regular visitors from the Midwest. A new puppy named Jillie lives with them. Rich is an attorney with the law firm of Baker & McKenzie. Margie is a former managing editor of an educational publisher and a volunteer in the arts. Cathie works for Disney.com in Boulder and was a goalie on the CU women's water polo team. Justin is an information specialist working as a librarian, while Liz is a law student interested in family law. Carrie is a writer/editor hoping to work for a magazine. The Franklins enjoy travel, music, art, theater, movies, as well as water and mountain sports.

Sharon Switzer recently moved to her new home on North Cedar Brook because she wanted to be in the mountains with the great views and space and still be close to town. PBH seemed to be the perfect fit. She is a third generation native of Boulder and grew up in the North Boulder Park area. A true Colorado native,

Sharon attended Washington Elementary, Casey Junior High, Boulder High School, and The University of Colorado. She holds a Bachelor's in Biology/Spanish and a Master's in Physical Therapy from the Health Sciences Center in Denver. Sharon owns a Physical Therapy practice in Boulder where she specializes in Muscle Activation Techniques (MAT). Sharon loves nature and being outdoors, particularly running, hiking, and organic gardening. She enjoys travel and recently went on an amazing trip to Nepal and trekked up to the Base Camp of Mt. Everest. An avid hiker, she has hiked most of the 14er's in Colorado and would love to meet her neighbors and go for a hike. Her interests also include salsa dancing, Latin music, and speaking Spanish. Sharon says that she is "thrilled that PBH residents are a community and not just neighbors." She looks forward to meeting you all.



GRAND CANYON EXPERIENCES LEAD TO UNIMAGINED GIFTS

By Charly Heavenrich

"Show don't tell." This was the first rule I received on the first session of my writers' workshop. When I first started writing the book which would become *Unimagined Gifts* (iUniverse.com, 2011), my intention was to offer an "ode to the Grand Canyon"--about a sense of place and how spending time in natural places like the Canyon often result in life-changing perceptions and choices. However, as the first draft proceeded, it felt like I was trying to shoehorn that theme into the book. So instead, my book morphed into the stories of ordinary people having an extraordinary experience in the Grand Canyon.

My first trip in the Grand Canyon was May 1978, and it turned into a homecoming. The moment the raft in which I was riding began moving downstream on the first day, goose bumps erupted on my skin, tears formed in my eyes, and I felt the clear sensation of nonphysical arms wrapping around me as if to say, "Welcome home, brother, welcome home." That was my



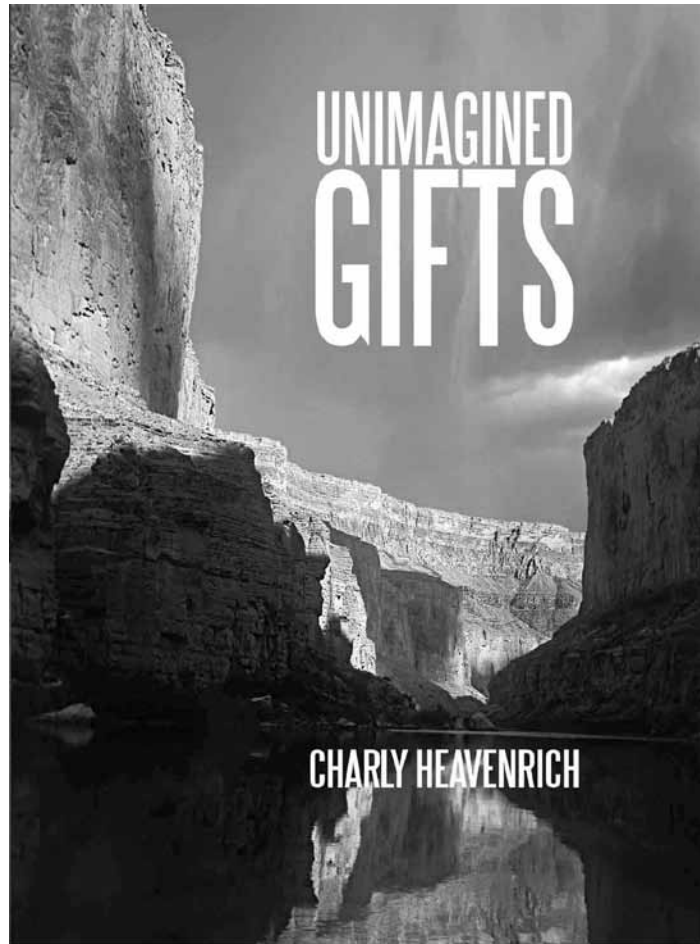
Myers in his book *Fateful Journeys*, rafting on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon turns out to be more dangerous than bowling and less dangerous than golf -- when comparing injury rates. Instead, old and young, male and female, experienced and inexperienced campers and rafters have their lives touched in subtle and profound ways.

Spending time in the Grand Canyon makes people aware of the difference between what is natural and what has become normal in their everyday lives. It's normal for humans to place limitations on themselves, to believe that they can't do something,

introduction! During that trip, the deeper we floated into the Canyon, the deeper the Canyon penetrated my being. Before it was over, I had decided to do whatever it would take to keep coming back. I've recently returned from my 110th rafting trip, and as with all other trips, several of my passengers had life-changing experiences.

When people talk about the Grand Canyon, thoughts inevitably turn to the world-class white water rapids of the Colorado River and the potential mayhem they offer. In reality, the most significant events that occur on a raft trip in the Canyon happen in the hearts and minds of those who travel through this living geologic wonder. After a week or two of living in the natural world, interacting with people from different parts of the world with widely divergent personal and professional perspectives, traveling at 3 to 4 miles per hour, sleeping under a celestial light show, all the while experiencing an unparalleled richness and diversity during the side canyon hikes, many experience a renewal of old dreams and new awareness of what is possible.

The mayhem? While the potential exists for things to go wrong, in reality it is rare. According to Dr. Tom



or go somewhere, without even trying to do so. As a raft guide for the past 33 years, I have seen this over and over again. I've also witnessed the depth of courage and ability in my passengers that they hadn't realized they possessed.

This is what keeps me coming back year after year, and what has become my passion – to support people in going where they never imagined possible and to do what they believed they couldn't do. My mission is to share these Grand Canyon experiences with the world. *Unimagined Gifts* highlights some of these people and their stories.



Private and Affordable



Join now and pay no dues until May 1, 2012



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K9 SLEUTHING

By Arthur Levy

Working dogs come in many breeds, but they all share a common trait -- they have a job to do. Many of the working dogs that helped find victims on September 11, 2011, were originally from animal shelters across the country.

My interest in working dogs began many years ago. During my career as a photojournalist for the TV networks, I covered many presidential campaigns and presidential events where working dogs were brought in to "sweep" an area before an event. Many of the major stories I covered had working dogs used in many different tasks including tracking.

I later produced a dog first aid DVD. While researching the different breeds used as working dogs, I was surprised to find that many animals used for scenting came from animal shelters. During my research, I also was able to talk with military and Border Patrol and Customs handlers about their dogs in preparation for the DVD. I learned that all working German Shepherds are good trackers, but some perform only one task such as protection. My interest and appreciation of working dogs that had a job to do increased.

After owning three non-working German Shepherds, I finally decided to get a working dog that could be of service to community and found Cody when he was 9 months old.

Cody is a three year old German Shepherd that was bred in Germany as a working dog. As a breed, German Shepherds can perform several jobs including protection, drug detection, explosive scenting, search and rescue and tracking to name just a few. Cody has been trained in protection and search and rescue. He specializes in finding Alzheimer patients and lost children, but can track many scents including other animals.

In Cody's training with Scent Trackers of the Rocky Mountains (STORM), he follows the scent tracks of people in both urban and mountain environments. Cody has spent hundreds of hours tracking in parking garages, buildings, parks, mountains, and businesses. Alzheimer's patients are often found not knowing where they are and where their homes are. This can make it very hard to find out where they came from. But, tracking can work in reverse! Cody can scent off the person's skin and lead police or firemen back to the person's home.



Cody is able to find his way back to my car no matter where we are. Several months ago, he led me back to my car after successfully completing four tracks in a new area. We were in a large office building complex with many parking lots, sidewalks, car, and roads and were more than one mile from my car. After the training, he led me directly to my car even though he had never been in the area before.

For additional training, I take him to the Farmer's Market in Boulder and have him scent off of a child's hand. Even with many scents of people and dogs, he leads me directly to the child within minutes. Last week, he successfully tracked an 85 year old woman at the Farmer's Market who was using a walker.

Cody is required to be very gentle with small children and babies, but he will occasionally kiss a child he finds. He has trained in heavy construction areas, under gunfire, near loud noises as well as in children's play areas.

One of Cody's trainers, Pat Stogler, has tracked for law enforcement agencies for more than 20 years. She has worked for the CBI, Boulder Sheriff's Office, Boulder Police, and many other departments. She has also testified in court as an expert witness on tracking. Pat says that Cody has the tracking ability in his genes and

I am the person who must learn from my dog. There is not a day that goes by that I do not learn something from Cody.

When Cody is on a "hot track" I can feel him pull his lead as we get closer to the person. Of all the dogs I have owned, Cody is the most intelligent. I was recently contacted by a woman who just moved to Boulder and had her dog jump out of the window at her home. Cody scented the dog's scent from an article and soon was on the track of the missing dog. The trail led us to a two-story office building where Cody pulled me down the hallways. We lost the track outside the building and repeated the track again with the same results. No dog!

The owner called a few days later and said the dog had come home missing all its identification tags, but had its collar. More than 45% of missing pets are stolen, according to a national pet tracking company.

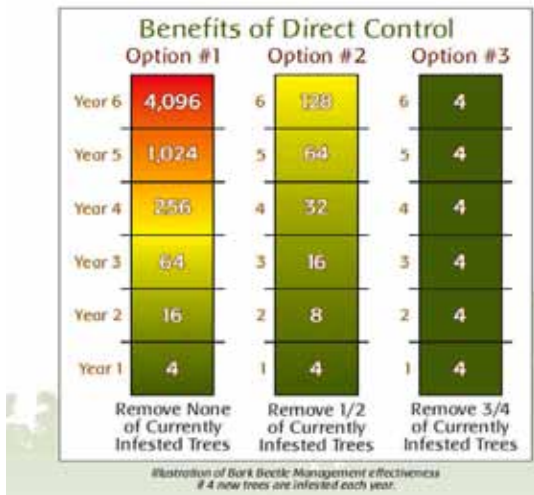
Cody and his fellow trackers have been asked to do demonstrations with several local police and fire departments. He will receive his search and rescue certification in a few weeks and is already on several lists of law enforcement agencies.

WHAT COULD PINE BROOK HILLS LOOK LIKE WITHOUT THE BEETLEBUSTERS?

Over the last six years, the BeetleBusters have identified more than 100 new Mountain Pine Beetle-infested trees per year. If PBH homeowners hadn't removed the majority of these infested trees PBH could be looking at more than 100,000 infested trees by next year and closer to half a million by the year after.*

Bark Beetle Management in Ponderosa Pine Forests

Where do these scary figures come from? Ryan Ludlow, Forestry Education and Outreach Coordinator of Boulder County's Land Use Department, created this chart for Boulder County's latest Bark Beetle Management document. The chart shows what can happen in a Ponderosa forest over a period of six years when no infested trees are removed (Option#1), when



50% of the infested trees are removed (Option#2) or when 75% of the infested trees are removed (Option #3).

This chart assumes

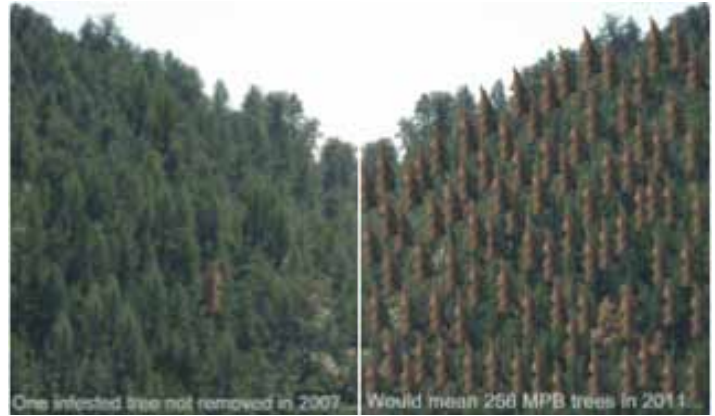
four infested trees in Year 1 and assumes that one infested tree (not removed) results in four infested trees the following year.

For Option #1 the number of infested trees quadruples every year. For Option #2 the number of infested trees only doubles every year. For Option #3 the number of infested trees stays constant because three of the infested trees are identified and removed.

(Adapted from the *Bark Beetle Inspector: Identification and Treatment Field Guide*; Boulder County Land Use Dept. You can link to the booklet at www.beetlebusters.net.)

How does this chart relate to Pine Brook Hills?

The BeetleBuster team started serious record keeping about five years ago. Based on these records, the team annually inspects more than 100 properties and identifies more than 100 beetle-infested trees. To the best of our knowledge, the majority of these trees are removed. Since the number of infested trees



These two photographs show how these numbers translate. On the left is a PBH hillside with one beetle tree. This is what PBH looks like now. In an epidemic and no BeetleBusters the manipulated image on the right shows what that hillside could look like in just four more years.

we have identified each year is remaining reasonably constant, we assume that PBH falls under option #3.

Unfortunately, PBH will continue to lose trees to the Mountain Pine Beetle. But by identifying infested trees and removing them before the next generation of beetles fly, we should be able to continue to keep the beetle population fairly stable. As Bruce Benninghoff, our Forestry Consultant, notes, we should also remember that in *endemic* mode, bark beetles seek out stressed and weak trees. In *epidemic* mode, they attack larger trees with thick phloem that provide nutrition for hundred and even thousands of larvae to complete the life cycle. These larger trees would be sorely missed. Bark beetles are indigenous (*endemic*), so our goal is not to eradicate them, just to keep them from becoming *epidemic*.

What can you do to keep PBH green?

Please, inspect your trees regularly or go online to request an inspection from the BeetleBusters (www.beetlebusters.net). If you want to know more about BeetleBusters and bark beetles, send us an email (beetlebusters@gmail.com) and we'll invite you to a short informational evening meeting that covers how you can discourage beetles from moving in and what to do if they do move in.

Pine Brook Hills doesn't have to look like Grand County or Summit County!

Prepared by your BeetleBuster Team.

*For the statisticians out there, you can get somewhat different numbers, depending on a variety of factors, but we feel these are valid estimates. For an alternative approach, check out *The Mountain Pine Beetle: A Synthesis of Biology, Management, and Impacts on Lodgepole Pine*; edited by Les Safranyik and Bill Wilson. (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib96122.pdf>). See the section "A Population-based Framework for Successful Control" on page 175 of the PDF file.

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Why do they have to get a fake, when I am always around in PBH? Besides I'm prettier!