

Pine Brook Press

A quarterly journal for, about, and by Pine Brook Hills residents | Spring 2023

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Community Calendar

HOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meetings are held quarterly at the Community Center/Fire Station (1905 Linden Drive) unless otherwise noted. All residents are welcome to attend.

See website: www.pinebrookhills.org

BOULDER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meets the second Monday of every month at 4:00 PM. Call 303-440-0235 for specifics.

BOULDER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Meets quarterly on Sundays. Please check www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org/calendar-1 for the next meeting or contact aharsh@comcast.net.

PINE BROOK HILLS WATER BOARD

Meets the third Thursday of every month at 12:00 PM. Call the Water Office at 303-442-5394 for more information.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM by Zoom. Contact arc@pinebrookhills.org for the link.



Thanks to
Donna Waters
for this photo
of a cute deer.

On the cover:
Rainbow by
Heather Leja

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

Email your high resolution PBH images to
press@pinebrookhills.org

A Word From the President

By Kevin Smith



Spring has finally arrived! (or at least I hope it has arrived). Even though we are likely to have many avid skiers in Pine Brook Hills who would like snow year around I am sure everyone is looking forward to the warmer temperatures, longer days, and the rebirth of flora that accompanies Spring.

Not all plants that come up in the spring are wanted. Jim

Adams (Forest Health team lead) has been focusing on Myrtle Spurge removal for many years. When driving through the neighborhood I am starting to see the bright green (with yellow flowers) of Myrtle Spurge beginning to bloom. Please take care to eradicate this from your property. If you need help due to the size of infestation or difficult terrain, get in touch with the Forest Health team and they will organize a team of volunteers to help remove the spurge. Also be on the lookout for Curly Dock and Poison Hemlock. These plants also warrant removal and should be eliminated as early as possible in the growing season.

Spring also brings more activity from native wildlife. Black bears are one species that we need to be especially aware of since they will be extremely hungry when coming out of hibernation. Since there are not a lot of native sources of food for them yet they will be more likely to look for human sourced food (i.e. garbage cans, bird feeders, food trash left in dumpsters at construction sites) so take care to minimize the risk of bears accessing these types of food. Also many mammals will be having offspring and we are likely to see young deer, foxes, bears and maybe even mountain

lions. Take care when driving on the roads at night to avoid running into the young animals that aren't as wise when it comes to dealing with automotive traffic.

Spring is a great time of year to get involved in volunteer activities. Pine Brook Hills relies upon volunteers to keep the community safe and functioning. The HOA and the Volunteer Fire Department are always looking for people who want to participate in improving the community. The HOA is looking for a Secretary and a lead for the enhancements committee. Please contact me if you, or you know of someone, who would be ideal for these roles.

In this issue of Pine Brook Press I would like to recognize Bob Loveman for his work in the community. Bob is the Treasurer for the Homeowners Association, the Secretary for Pine Brook Water District, and the Chairman for Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. In addition to all these roles Bob is an ace at pulling Myrtle Spurge and has been an active member of the Myrtle Spurge removal team. He is one of the key people who is involved in all aspects of the community. Bob has been a great asset for the HOA by keeping the budget straight and politely working to collect dues from all homeowners. Next time you see Bob be sure and thank him for his dedicated efforts in the community.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out and about enjoying the nicer weather!

Fire Side Chat

By John Benson

Greetings great residents of Pine Brook Hills! Well, we made it through another winter and I have to congratulate all of you for not only surviving the winter, but also driving up and down these hills with very few accidents or slide offs. Good tires got you to your destination safely and efficiently. I fully expected to see more accidents and slide offs during those days of inclement weather. GREAT JOB ALL. The contractors and workers ... not such a great track record.

As we move into spring, you are all well aware that we have had a few high fire potential days and unfortunately, I don't see this trend changing. I originally thought that because of our cold wet winter, we might see a cooler and wetter summer. It does not look like that is the case. I ask all of you to be vigilant through the coming months.

Remember to tell all of your guests and workers not to park in the tall grasses. Keep cigarette butts in vehicles or enclosed area. Don't throw ashes out in your yards, as these ashes can stay hot for a few days. Instead put your ashes in a sealed ash bucket full of water.

You may have seen the new bright and beautiful fire danger sign at the bottom of Linden Drive (see picture). The old one was in non-repair.

BMFPD has accomplished a lot already this year. The new fire station is fully up and running. The ERT is now running at full capacity for the year. Wildland Division Chief Palamara is running a crew of 23 this year. The great thing about this crew is that we now have more EMTs, wildland and structural firefighters to assist with our incidents. Mr. Palamara and his



crew-leads have done a tremendous job not only bringing on a bigger crew, but also bringing additional depth to the organization. You will see them working throughout the district this year. Wave and say hello. They are great members.

This year, we are putting 5 new rookies on our roster. These individuals bring a lot of enthusiasm and desire to serve the community. We are excited to welcome

Ethan Lake, Aaron Pilling, Arek Stanton, Nils Tellier and Robin Thompson to our roster. Since their start, these new members have seen a lot of action, which will assist their integration into our system at a much faster pace than before. We look forward to many great years ahead with these new members.

Until next time, please stay safe and help us protect the community.

Pine Brook Water Updates

By Andrew Churnside

PERSONNEL

There are some big changes coming this year at Pine Brook Water. After 37 years of full time employment and even more years helping out, Bob de Haas is stepping back and going to a reduced schedule. He will still be around to assist with major projects and some of the office jobs, but he plans to start taking things a little easier and enjoy more time with his family in his RV. Andrew Churnside will be stepping into a larger role with Bob stepping back and is expected to carry on without issue. You may have also seen the announcement on the PB Forum for a job opening with the District. After 24+ years, Shawn Beauprez will be leaving to move to Minnesota to be closer to his aging parents. Shawn's depth of knowledge of the District and skills will be missed and not easily replaced.

BOARD

This year would have been an election year for Board Members. Rick Waters opted not to run for re-election and Kevin Smith filled his seat un-opposed. Thanks to Rick for his 10 years serving in this volunteer role, we wish him all the best!

TANKS

The District continues to move forward with plans to replace two tanks in the system - the tank on Alpine Way and the tank off of Bristlecone Way. In addition, plans are being worked up for a new tank located near the filter plant below the reservoir. Currently, engineering work is being done on these new tanks to go out to bid to see what is possible and to further investigate funding options.

PFAS

By now you should have received an email notice regarding our latest round of PFAS testing. The District is committed to providing safe water that meets or exceeds all state and EPA regulations. For more information, see our website www.pinebrookwater.com.



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Auxiliary Update

by Susan Schiff

COMMUNITY SAFETY FAIR, MAY 6

The annual Auxiliary-hosted Community Safety Fair was held at BMFPD Station 2 and gave residents an opportunity to update home fire safety gear, including fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors. Participants could practice putting out a live fire with the help of our volunteer responders. Residents brought their extinguishers to have them tested and to see if they were subject to manufacturer's recall (and free replacement). All expired extinguishers were recycled free of charge. Information on evacuating your family and your pets was available. Fire truck tours were enjoyed by our youngest residents.

United Policyholders (UP) presented information regarding the following topics: what consumers should know before and after a disaster, homeowners' insurance coverage and policy limits, understanding the fine print, what to do if you are "dropped" by your insurer and tips to save money in these unprecedented times. UP is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and an effective voice for consumers of all types of insurance in all 50 states. The presentation was recorded and a link to the video will be available at the Auxiliary's website: www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org.

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME

The Spring New Resident Welcome was held on Saturday, May 6 at BMFPD Station 2, from during the Community Safety Fair. Fire Chief John Benson presented an introduction to BMF and how residents get service in medical, vehicle accident, or fire incidents. He shared critical information for staying safe in mountain communities in a 45-minute presentation, followed by time for questions and answers. Residents who are new (or newer) to the district were invited to attend.



BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE

Auxiliary volunteers are starting to prepare for the Fall Boulder Mountain Handmade Market early, and all District residents are invited to spend some time this summer helping make the event a success. Regardless of skill and interests, there's something for everyone and it's a great way to support our fire department.

BMFPD AUXILIARY

Interested in what the BMFPD Auxiliary does? The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for June 25 at 3:00 PM at BMFPD Fire Station 2, 40 Overlook Lane. All residents are welcome. Join in and learn more about how to support the fire department. Details about the organization can be found on the Auxiliary's website: www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org.

Plant Swap

by Donna Waters

The 3rd Annual Boulder Plant Swap will be held again May 13th in lower Pine Brook Hills!

It's a great opportunity to swap plants and network with your fellow gardeners. Doesn't matter if you grew them from seed, rooted them from cuttings, dug them up out of the ground, or bought them. Just bring them!

CHECK HERE FOR DETAILS AND ANY UPDATES:

<http://bit.ly/BoulderPlantSwap>



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My Life — Frolicking in the Venture Capital Undergrowth

By David H Davies



Many of you will remember me as a former President of the HOA, but I had a life before PBH. I was born in 1942 in industrial South Wales. South Wales was being heavily bombed, so my expectant mother and I (in utero) were relocated inland. I was born at the palatial house of Lord Tredegar. For years I was proud to be associated with the aristocracy, but then I discovered his lordship had donated his house to the state, for mothers to be!

Soon we were back in the family home in the little Welsh town of Llanelli, a town famous in the UK for being hard to pronounce! Then came an event that is part of the reason I am here today. My aunt Maureen came to visit from America. She brought candy, Life magazine, exotic fruits such as bananas, and real toys. I was hooked, and from then on I was a little proto-American.

I went to the University of London when I was 17 for a degree in chemistry, where another event reinforced my pro-Americanism. I was selected to spend 4 months as a research assistant to the president of Caltech in Pasadena, California. The president was Linus Pauling (later to become a Nobel laureate). That got me hooked on research. After getting a PhD in Physical Chemistry I started to look for a job in the USA.

I was fortunate to marry Jo, now my wife of 56 years. (Many of you may remember her as the head of the PBH Pine Bark Beetle effort called the Beetle Busters.)

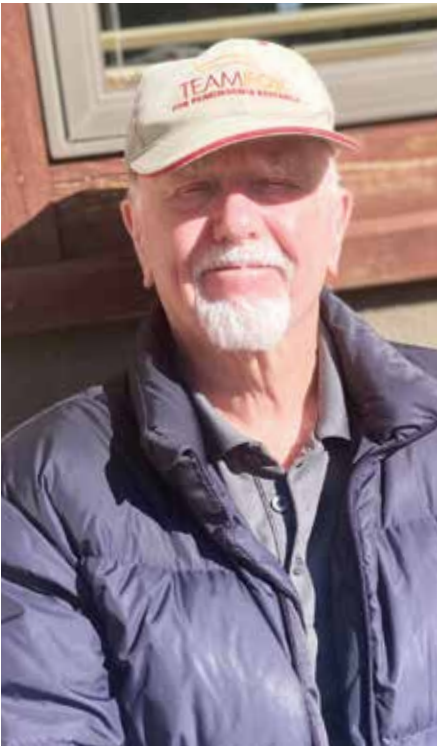
I got a job with Westinghouse Electric in Pittsburgh. After a few years I became manager of “thin films”: vacuum deposited electro optic films used in the semiconductor industry. My colleagues and I demonstrated “active matrix technology” to make flat panel electronic display devices. We asked Westinghouse if they were interested in making a business of it. They balked at the estimated \$100 million cost. They said “we can build a nuclear power plant for that!”

That began my journey into the wilds of venture capital (VC). Exxon Oil seeded us with capital, but we discovered our estimate was way low. So we “pivoted,” as they say in the VC industry, and built a small business making liquid crystal (LCD) calculator displays. Then 3M came calling, wanting our expertise in the field of displays. We sold out to them. Today active matrix technology is used in every TV, every phone, computer screen, and almost every car dashboard.

I stayed with 3M for 12 years and created a successful division making optical disks, including CD/CDROM and laser video disks. Then I got the startup bug again. I founded a company with VC support to make a holographic storage device. It didn't work! So, off to the VCs again, this time to make small removable quarter-sized optical disks that would fit into a phone or camera. We called it “Dataplay” and we did it.

Electronic memory (memory cards) were just appearing. We had the technology but no customers. The data storage business and technology moves so fast. So we pivoted again and set our sights lower. We used our expertise to build DVD mass production testers. We eventually sold our small but profitable business. I took my 24 issued US Patents and gratefully retired.

So a suggestion if you want to try starting a business and raising money: go ahead. Be prepared for a few ups and downs, and find a patient and wonderful supportive spouse like my Jo.



Meet our New Neighbors – The Cohans

Aloha y'all!

We are Casey, Alison, and Travis Cohan. We joined the lovely Pine Brook Hills community last June.

After 25 years we moved here from Maui, Hawaii, a beautiful paradise that we loved. We feel so fortunate to have experienced that life with its ocean activities and Hawaiian forests. However, it is a small island, and despite frequent travels to avoid island fever, we were ready for the next chapter with more travel and family time.

Both Casey and I have been drawn to Colorado for years. I spent some summers as a kid in the Rockies. We have enjoyed family time at my parents' cabin in Antonito on the Conejos River, and in northern Colorado with my brother, who lives in Loveland.

I'm originally from a cattle ranch outside of Austin, Texas. Casey grew up in Queens, New York. He loved surfing in Long Island and Florida. Our passions for marine biology took us to Maui, independently, in the late 90s. We fell in love there, got married in 2004 and brought Travis into the world in 2008. He is a freshman at Boulder High, who enjoys hunting and snowboarding.



We are absolutely loving the Colorado life! We have taken full advantage of this snowy winter, snowboarding at Steamboat, Copper and Eldora, We look forward to mountain adventures this spring and summer camping, backpacking, and river rafting.

We're very excited to be a part of this community! Feel free to reach out and say hello!

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Foraging in Pine Brook Hills

by Meg V

I was inspired to write this article after reading the article in the last issue about invasive curly dock.

CURLY DOCK ►

Curly Dock is indeed invasive, but did you know if you pick it, you can make yourself a tasty curly dock salad? As long as it is collected from a location free of herbicides, excessive car exhaust, or other pollutants, they are free, organic salad greens rich in vitamin C, zinc, calcium, and fiber! Look for plants with healthy leaves—not old, dirty ones riddled with bug holes—just as you do when picking vegetables from a garden. If you catch the plant too late, the reddish seeds are also edible.



Here are a few other tasty treats you can forage in PBH:



◄ LAMBS QUARTERS

The leaves of this plant are delicious!! They have a very spinachy taste and texture. Some people even call them Mountain Spinach.

CREeping MAHONIA ►

This ground plant grows like crazy in PBH! The flowers are yellow in spring and the berries ripen to a dusty blue in the late summer. The berries and flowers are edible but incredibly sour. I have eaten a few raw ones and wouldn't recommend it. I would recommend adding it to a wild jam though! They can add a lovely tartness and would be great with a bit of added sugar or honey.





◀ WILD CATMINT

That's right! I have found catnip growing in a few places in PBH, as well as around other spots in Boulder! This may have escaped from a garden or two and are highly prolific. I'm always sure to grab a few fresh leaves for my cat when I'm out foraging and spot this plant. She goes nuts for the fresh stuff. Humans can eat this plant as well! Add it to anything you would add regular mint leaves like tea or salad.

CRAB APPLES ▶

Did you know there are NO toxic apple lookalikes in Colorado? Yep! That means if it looks just like an apple, you can eat it! Crab apples are delicious when ripe, and cook down into great apple butter. You can also mix them with other fruits as natural pectin in Jams and Jelly. Like all apples, just avoid the seeds which contain trace amounts of toxins.



◀ YUCCA

You've absolutely seen this spiky plant growing all over our neighborhood, but did you know the flowers and fruits of the yucca are edible? I would describe the flowers as tasting like cauliflower. They would make a really pretty garnish. Just be sure to leave a few for the deer and pollinators, and watch out for the spiky leaves!

Foraging in PBH

...continued from page 11



◀ WILD PLUMS

I saved the best for last! These are my favorite things to forage in PBH. They are delicious raw, but I have also cooked these into jam and found that to be the best way to eat them. I bet you've seen the bushes of these when driving up Linden! Make sure they are pink and squish slightly when you squeeze them for ripeness in deep summer.

There are a lot more edible plants in PBH that I hope to try this summer, these are just a few of the ones I have tried myself and enjoyed.

To keep yourself safe while eating wild plants be sure to triple check your identification! I like to use the app "Seek" to help me identify plants. Then I tend to look the plant up online to make sure there are no toxic lookalikes, then sometimes to be extra safe I'll read up on it in one of my foraging books. This one is my favorite if you'd like to learn more about foraging: "Mountain States Foraging by Brianna Wiles".

If you triple check your identification, and are still a little scared; do a taste test! Put just a tiny nibble in your mouth and chew thoroughly then spit it out. If it makes your mouth feel funny, or isn't tasty; go no further. If it tastes great and your mouth feels fine, try swallowing a bite and waiting. If you feel fine after that, it is safe!

If the plant you're eating is a native one, be sure to only take what you need from the plant and leave most for the birds, bears, and other great foraging critters we have living in this wonderful wild neighborhood. Also absolutely ask permission before foraging something growing on someone else's property.

IF YOU'D LIKE
TO CHAT
ABOUT FORAGING
I'M ALL EARS!



I am very interested in eating foods from the wild and finding a deeper connection with the land we live on. I would love to go out on foraging walks or help people in the neighborhood identify some edible plants on their property.

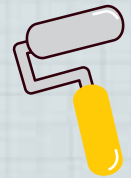
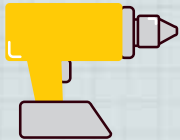
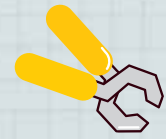
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Thanks for reading!

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- Anything on the house exterior

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Locals



Top:

Deer by Megan Shields

Bottom:

Turkeys by Susan Schiff

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LIVE MUSIC



APPEARING AT THE
PBH ICE CREAM SOCIAL

PBH Community Center
Sunday August 20, 2:00 - 4:00

Pine Brook Press
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Sunset Photo by Heather Leja