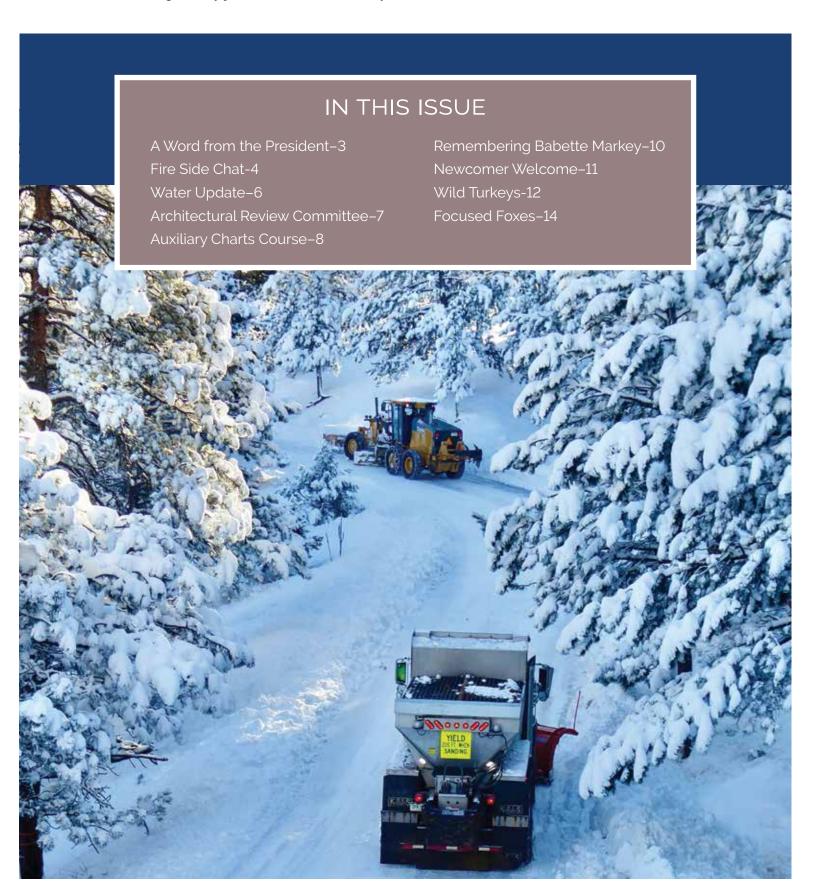
Pine Brook Press

A quarterly journal for, about, and by Pine Brook Hills residents | Winter 2024



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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

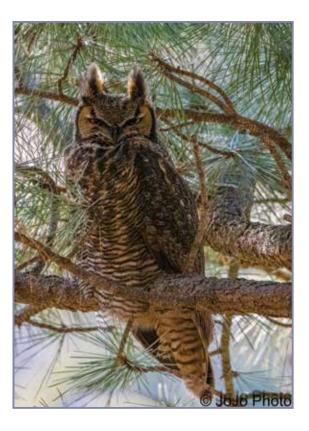
Meets quarterly on Sundays. Please check www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org/calendar-1 for the next meeting or contact aharsh@comcast.net.

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.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

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

Thanks to Mary Johnson for this photo of a great horned owl.

On the cover: Plow and Grader by Jim Adams

A Word From the President

By Ethan Lake



Greetings and Happy New Year to everyone in Pine Brook Hills. The new year brings some changes to the volunteer team at the Pine Brook HOA. Kevin Smith will be taking a welldeserved step back from some of the responsibilities of serving on the HOA, although he is continuing on as a member-at-

large on the board and advisor. I will be attempting to fill his shoes as HOA president, and a new resident and new volunteer to the board, Brandon Saltmarsh, will be stepping up as HOA vice president. A bit about myself; I moved to Boulder in 2016 and Pine Brook in 2018. I enjoy both the foothills living and the urban proximity that Pine Brook provides (and our wonderful water district). My professional background is both in real estate and geology, and I work in downtown Boulder. I am also fortunate to be able to devote much of my time to serving on Boulder Mountain Fire.

So what does the HOA provide for the community (or why should I voluntarily contribute my time and dues)? Any HOA must provide some form of community benefit that exceeds the capabilities of individual residents, or it loses its raison d'etre. I want to highlight just a few of the things the HOA does for the community and acknowledge the volunteers that make them possible. We serve as a communication hub for the neighborhood through the forums, neighborhood website, community meetings and events, and the Pine Brook Press. The Pine Brook Press would not be possible without the efforts of editor Mark Cronshaw and the website is kept up-to-date by the hard work of Cindie Baker. Our neighborhood social events are coordinated by Megan Shields. Should you wish to hold a block party and meet your neighbors; we have designated funding for this very purpose. Neighborhood enhancement has a new committee head - Brandon Saltmarsh has generously agreed to accept this responsibility as well. Our budget also has funding available for enhancement projects that the community wishes to see completed. Perhaps our most important duty, and the area where we focus the majority of our spending is on communitywide fire mitigation. Your dues are combined with grants and matching funds to enable the Boulder Mountain Fire Mitigation Crew to maintain grass along the roadsides creating fire brakes, thinning trees and opening defensive spaces. In addition, the crew chips, mulches or burns the slash piles created by the above activities. Paul Mundinger is our fire department liaison who assists in coordinating all these initiatives. Fire mitigation is

critical to the safety of our community and to our ongoing ability to maintain homeowner's insurance. Please remember that as you are considering making a contribution this year. Please also do not hesitate to reach out with questions about how to improve your residence's resiliency. Our community is active with both Firewise and Wildfire Partners and we can provide information regarding both resources. During my tenure the next two years I also hope to compile a list of insurers that still cover Pine Brook Hills and the mitigation they required, as a resource to the community. Please reach out if you have recently applied for coverage to assist with this data collection. Lastly, none of the above would be possible without the behind-the-scenes efforts of Treasurer Bob Loveman keeping the books balanced and ensuring all our obligations are met. Bob is ending his tenure as treasurer this year and the board will be actively soliciting a community-minded financially-experienced volunteer to step into his very large shoes.

Lastly, I wanted to briefly address one thing that the HOA is not, in light of some recent neighborhood discussions and controversies. The HOA is not another layer of government or zoning board endowed with the police and taxing power. Our contributions are voluntary, and the positions are filled by volunteers who generously donate their time and talents to the community. We can help attempt to mediate disputes between neighbors but strongly urge all to first: attempt to go along to get along, and second: try in-person communication early and often over points of friction. We will all live in a happier, friendlier community if we remember the other human and the fact that their dreams and aspirations are just as valid as ours. In the last resort when the previous fails, the proper venue to settle disputes is the existing county approval and court framework. Article 6, section 1 of the Pine Brook Covenants gives to every resident that right. It is my sincere wish, however, that any dispute does not rise to this level.

Ethan Lake, Pine Brook Hills HOA President

Fire Side Chat

By John Benson

Happy winter to all of you out there in the Land of Pine Brook Hills. Hopefully the holidays were good for everyone. This article is about driving on our road network and some of the things that I am seeing with drivers.

The first thought on my mind is the lack of safety that I have personally seen and also learned about from reports from various individuals. Our roads are unforgiving due to limited sight vision, steep grades, multiple grades, and speeding motorists— and then you throw in skateboarders, joggers, walkers, and bicyclists. I am actually very surprised that we don't have more motor vehicle accidents than we do.

There is a term we teach members of our fire department, and that is "Driving with Prudence." Our members are taught to not take chances on our roads. Our drivers/engineers are not only taught driving safety for their apparatus and crew, but we also teach them to drive defensively for passing motorists and the unknowns that may occur.

I cannot tell you how many times I have watched passing motorists cut the yellow line and straighten the blind curves. Do you really want to endanger yourself, your vehicle occupants, and others traveling our roads?

I understand you may need to get to your destination quickly, but think about what would happen if you crash your vehicle or injure someone. You will not get to your destination at all. Plus, you will be down a vehicle and have to get a rental or worse.

How about a better strategy of leaving earlier and staying between "the mustard and the mayo" (the yellow and white lines) and not risk a head-on collision? Please, SLOW DOWN, LEAVE EARLIER, AND KEEP THE VEHICLE BETWEEN THE LINES.

I am tired of having to head toward the ditch or the Jersey barriers to avoid a collision. I have even seen a passing car halfway in my lane. Not a pretty sight. This is where we have to drive and be able to react to someone else's lack of prudent driving.

It still amazes me that during the winter months, with our bad roads, we still have community residents, workers, and delivery vehicles with tires that do not provide enough traction to either climb these grades or be able to stop. I know tires are expensive, but what is safer, bald tires or tires with good traction? Is it safer to have your family traveling in a vehicle with less-than-optimal tires or tires that provide traction? SAFETY FIRST. I just spent \$3,500 for good tires for my personal vehicles. But I have the safety of my



family first and foremost in my mind. I also don't want my family to be stranded somewhere.

Please, please tell your visitors, workers, and delivery drivers that they need to have good tires and traction control devices in their vehicles to prevent spin outs and crashes.

No matter how much we preach the need for safety on these roads, we continue to have incidents, crashes, and spin outs due to a lack of prudence.

If we all work together, we can make these roads a safer means of transportation. We don't like seeing anyone involved in a crash, and I certainly do not want any of our fire department members in an unsafe condition when the above items can be mitigated for the safety of everyone.

Until next time, please be safe and enjoy the winter.

Prudent driving techniques and optimal equipment can save us all.

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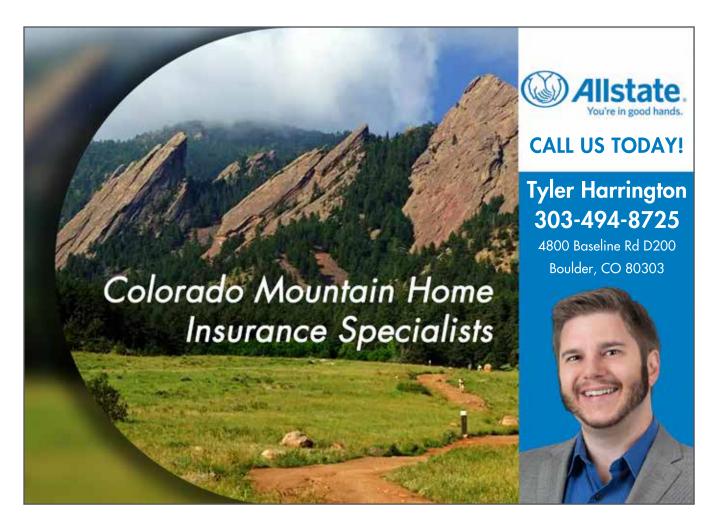
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Water Update: Planned Upgrade to Steel Tanks

by Andrew Churnside

The Water District is currently soliciting bids for a total reconstruction of the existing steel water tanks located on Alpine Way and on Bristlecone.

The existing steel water tanks have served us well over the years, but due to the natural wear and tear, it was time for either a major overhaul or replacement. The decision has been made to replace the current steel tanks with more durable and modern concrete tanks that will enhance the reliability and efficiency of our water supply.

This project is a crucial step in ensuring the continued availability of clean and safe water for all residents in our district. The replacement will not only address the aging infrastructure but will also bring about several long-term benefits.

KEY FEATURES OF THE WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

Material Upgrade: The new concrete tanks are known for their durability and low maintenance requirements, providing a more robust solution compared to steel tanks.

Improved Water Quality: Concrete tanks are less susceptible to corrosion, which will contribute to maintaining higher water quality standards for our residents.

Modern Technology: The new tanks will incorporate the latest technologies for monitoring and maintenance, ensuring a proactive approach to addressing any issues that may arise.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for this project is being provided through a low-interest loan from the state. As bids are received from potential vendors and details of the project are finalized, there will likely be a need to adjust water rates to cover the costs associated with this project. We assure you that any proposed rate adjustments will be thoroughly reviewed and communicated transparently to the community before any decisions are made.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Vendor Bidding: In January, we will be soliciting bids to potential vendors who specialize in water tank construction. The selection process will involve careful consideration of various factors, including expertise, cost, and impact on residents.

Construction Commencement: Once a vendor is selected, the construction phase is expected to begin around late spring of this year. We understand that construction activities may cause some inconvenience, and we will strive to keep you informed about any potential disruptions.





Completion Target: Estimates for completion are difficult to make this early in the process but we anticipate the replacement of both tanks to take place over the next two years. There is also the possibility of constructing a third tank near the water treatment plant, but this is dependent on pricing and available funding.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

We value your input and encourage residents to share any concerns or suggestions related to the project. Regular updates will be provided through scheduled water board meetings and via our website to keep everyone informed about the progress and any adjustments to the schedule.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work towards enhancing our district's infrastructure for the benefit of all. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us!

Architectural Review Committee

by Natasha Bodorff and Rob Mohr, ARC Co-Chairs & PBH neighbors

We are seeing many new neighbors (Welcome!) and many renovations happening in our community. We would like to remind all PBH residents which home improvements and/or landscaping projects require an application to the ARC board for review and approval.

The ideal time to submit an application, be it for a fast track approval (such as exterior paint or deck material and color) or a more involved full home remodel that requires more extensive work (windows, roof, additions, soil movement), is in the preplanning stages. We suggest this time frame to make sure the planned project is compliant with the HOA's legally binding Covenants. (Each of us signed these when buying our homes in PBH). The homeowner, their architect, contractor, or GC can submit any specs, plans, or links to materials for review via the ARC fast track application on the PBH Website.

We are also here to help you make sure your project is up to current Boulder County codes, and is following the Boulder County guidelines on living in a rural mountain wildlife neighborhood and follows dark sky guidelines.

Wildlife Fencing:

- https://rb.gy/oee59r
- https://rb.gy/2qpr4q

Dark Sky Guidelines:

- https://rb.gy/t2il5h
- https://rb.gy/6j1v20

These two areas are extremely important in respecting the wildlife that resides amongst us and was here first, and in keeping with the beautiful natural environment that is the essence of PBH and why we chose to live here versus in an urban or suburban environment.

The ARC is available to help all homeowners learn and incorporate the latest fire safe building materials, use dark sky certified lighting, and mitigate their property, driveway and home to be better prepared for fires.

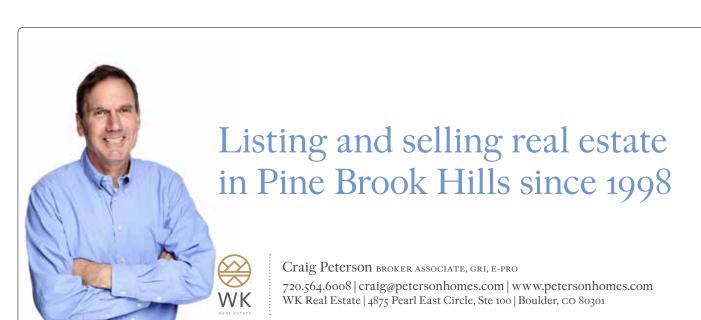
In addition, the ARC offers practical advice to newcomers that are not aware of all the different aspects of mountain living regarding wildlife, fire mitigation, water, vegetation choices, landscaping, the construction of wildlife appropriate fencing, and the placement of outdoor structures in relation to property and boundary lines.

The ARC strives to educate, support and help our community make the best choices for their properties based on the PBH Covenants and Boulder County building and land use codes. We review each application on a case by case basis given the extremely varied landscape in which we live.

You can find more info about ARC and submitting a project application at:

https://pinebrookhills.org/hoa/architectural

Our legally binding and governing covenants can be found at https://rb.gy/mxg58m



Auxiliary Charts Course for 2024

By Susan Schiff

As I write this, members of the BMFPD Auxiliary leadership team are preparing for Auxiliary's January organizing meeting, where we look back at our 2023 work and set priorities for 2024. Because there will be a number of new faces at this meeting, we prepare background information so all attending know the Auxiliary's role in Boulder Mountain Fire. This quarter, rather than share information about what the Auxiliary has been up to, I'm sharing that background information with my Pine Brook neighbors.

We live within the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD). BMFPD consists of firefighters, emergency medical responders and support personnel who respond to 911 calls in the fire district. Most of the responders are volunteers and live in the community. The department includes our Fire Chief John Benson, the Wildfire Mitigation crew led by Mike Palamara, the Auxiliary and an elected Board of Directors who work together to keep things running smoothly.



Member Maryanne Kurtinaitis leading New Resident Welcome



Member Judy Tupy replenishing treats at Boulder Mountain Handmade

THE AUXILIARY'S MISSION IS FOURFOLD:

- Fundraising
- · Outreach and Education
- Recognition
- Provisioning

FUNDRAISING: Boulder Mountain Handmade Market is an art and craft fair held at Boulder's Elks Lodge over Veterans Day weekend that brings together 50+ Colorado-based artists who sell their wares. The Auxiliary's markets-within-the-market sell donated homemade baked goods and craft and gift items created and donated by residents of the fire district. The proceeds from the event support all of the Auxiliary's programs and fund lifesafety equipment for the responders.

RECOGNITION: Volunteers are the beating heart of our department, over 60 neighbors who commit to dozens of training hours, and 24/7 response for fire, medical and accident calls. The Auxiliary recognizes their work – and their families' support – through social events and other forms of thanks throughout the year.



Learning how to use an fire extinguisher at Communit Safety Fair

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

Community resilience in the face of fire, weather and other emergencies is built on the collective knowledge and preparedness of our residents. The Auxiliary's New Resident Welcome program aims to jumpstart that process for newcomers, through information and semi-annual briefings from Chief Benson. The Auxiliary hosts a Community

Safety Fair each spring so residents can learn new skills (how to use a fire extinguisher, for example) and update home safety gear. Volunteers deliver new reflective address signs, carbon monoxide

alarms, extinguishers and other safety items year-round when residents order from the online Community Safety Store.

PROVISIONING: Structure fires, wildland fires, downed power lines and road accidents can keep responders on-scene and working for hours at a time, in any weather. A team of trained Auxiliary volunteers is on-call to furnish hot and cold beverages and nutritious meals to responders 24/7. We take pride in insuring that our provisioning is timely and complete, so responders can focus on the critical job at hand.



Safety Fair is a team effort with responders and Auxiliary



Member Jane Glotzer with a young visitor to the Safety Fair



Sheriff Curtis Johnson addressing BMFPD Celebration Dinner

HOW DOES THE AUXILIARY DO IT ALL?

Many hands make light work: with the commitment of 60+ active members and dozens of casual event volunteers, and great collaborations with other department volunteers.

It has been my pleasure to lead the Auxiliary for the past two years. I made many new friends and learned some new skills, made a difference in the work of fellow department volunteers and did a small part in keeping my community safe. How many volunteer jobs offer rewards like these?

I welcome you to join this terrific group of folks - whether with a small commitment that fits a busy family's schedule, or a larger role post-retirement, a one-time volunteer slot or an ongoing responsibility. Many hands make light work, and the more residents we have working on our mission, the greater our success.

Please feel free to contact us and we can help you find a role.

president@bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org

This will be the last article in the Pine Brook Press by Susan, as she is moving away from Pine Brook. Many thanks to her for her service to the community.

Mark, Editor



Pine Brook Hills Social Committee

We need you!

Looking to get more engaged in our neighborhood?

Have some fun ideas you think will help strengthen our community?

> Just want to be social every few months?

If you answered YES to any of these questions the Social Committee is right for YOU!

Committee members will explore activities, determine the annual social calendar as well as help drive attendance. And, have fun!

We will meet Tuesday evenings once a quarter at the Community Center to plan and prep for events.

If you are interested, please reach out to Megan Shields:

Social@PineBrookHills.org meganmshields@yahoo.com 415.612.0428 318 Timber Lane

Remembering **Babette Markey**

by Susan Maxwell



Many Pine Brook Hills residents can recall the years when the Fire Department Auxiliary ran a huge Spring Garage Sale as its main fundraiser. It was known far and wide for being well organized and having "good stuff". Every year there was always a large throng of customers waiting to come in

on opening day. It was a triple win for PBH residents: a place to get rid of treasures they no longer wanted, buy other people's discarded treasures at great prices, and most importantly, raise funds to support their dedicated volunteer firefighters.

From 1995 to 2013, it was Babette who coordinated this massive effort for the Auxiliary, with able assistance from her husband Art and a lot of help from many members of the Auxiliary. Under their guidance, the Garage Sale got bigger and bigger, more and more successful. They started taking contributions of large items throughout the year, finding places to store them. Babette forged relationships with consignment stores where she would place particularly high quality clothing items to make more profit. She became an expert at sleuthing out valuable antiques, researching their value in order to set just the right price.

But it was not only the Garage Sale that benefited from Babette's efforts, for years she was a participating artist and baker in the Auxiliary's other (now only) fundraiser -Boulder Mountain Handmade sale in the Fall. Her stained glass creations still adorn many homes in PBH, especially at holiday time

And, on top of this, she also served as Treasurer of the Auxiliary for many years, guiding us through the budgeting process, coordinating with the Fire Board, fine tuning the business side of the Auxiliary's fundraisers. She was, incredibly attentive to detail, exceptionally generous with her time, and always loyal to the fire department. She was a friend to the PBH community as a whole and is missed.

Newcomer Welcome: The Saltmarsh Family

We moved to Boulder, this summer, from Winter Park, FL. Our family collectively (and especially!) enjoys time on trails, traveling, trampoline play, our doggie Lucy, and games of any sort.

Here's the breakdown of our crew, along with some of our favorite hobbies and interests:

- Kervin Saltmarsh (5): polar bears, biking, music, and root beer
- Myles Saltmarsh (7): ducks, piano, imagination play, swimming, running fast, and monkey bars
- **Katie Saltmarsh:** sunrises, mountains, hiking, music, cooking, and travel
- Brandon Saltmarsh: biking and running in the mountains, hydrofoil surfing, traveling (van life!), and Dad jokes

We feel grateful to be part of PBH, and hope to be involved members of this awesome community. Already, Katie is room parent for both kids at school and Brandon is the standing PBH Enhancement Chair (please email at brandonsaltmarsh@gmail. com with any neighborhood improvement any ideas!), the VP of the PBH HOA, a member of the PBH Architectural Review Committee, is a volunteer firefighter (in training!) with Boulder



Mountain Fire Rescue at our neighborhood station, and is spending time with Greenhouse Scholars (a local nonprofit) to mentor some local young scholars. We love this area and hope to make a difference. Moreover, we want to get to know our neighbors. Please call us to connect!

As a PBH resident and experienced real estate expert in our beautiful mountain community, I understand the unique selling points that make our neighborhood exceptional.



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Wild Turkeys

by Carron Meaney



Proud Turkeys (water color) by Nancy Sullo

Wild turkeys, native to Colorado, forage in flocks of up to 40 birds, and are very different from farmed turkeys.

Ben Franklin was a great admirer; he thought they should be the national bird rather than the bald eagle. They were almost exterminated in the 1900s. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) conducted a very aggressive reintroduction campaign in the 1980s, and now estimate that there are 35,000 turkeys state wide. CPW increased hunting licenses in some places as a result of expanding populations.

Turkeys are omnivorous and eat a huge variety of foods: insects, fruit, berries, seeds, spiders, snails, small animals including snakes, Ponderosa pine and wild grass seeds. Wild turkeys are preyed upon by many species, including coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, and bobcats.

Merriam's turkey is the subspecies of the foothills (including PBH) and mountains. They roost (spend the night) communally at dusk in large cottonwoods and Ponderosa pines, safe from predators. They often line up and fly up one at a time! They go to the same tree or group of trees every night.

Have you ever wondered about all the odd protuberances? Males sport a snood that hangs down from the top of the bill. The longer the snood the higher the testosterone level (and the more resistant to coccidiosis). Females prefer males with longer snoods. The waddle hangs down from the neck area, becoming engorged with blood and turning bright red during courtship. The beard is a feather-like structure that protrudes from



A young wild turkey, called a poult. Photo by Susan Schiff

the chest. These are all largely male features, although females can have them too. Turkey's heads change colors from white to blue to red, depending on their emotional state. The red color indicates excitement, and occurs during the breeding season.

Turkeys make a number of sounds, including the familiar gobble that can be heard up to a mile away. Males make the gobbling call during spring. They attract females by puffing out their feathers, spreading their tails, and swelling up their snood

and wattle (also turning it bright red).

Females build nests on the ground, and cover them with leaves and pine needles when they head out to forage. The female is solely in charge of the eggs and young. She will lay 12-18 spotted eggs. Eggs are taken by crows and other birds. The young, called poults, are vulnerable. Only about 25 percent of them will survive beyond 4 weeks. The wild turkey's average life span is 3 to 5 years.



Turkeys are true omnivores and will take bird seed from a platform feeder. Photo by Jim Adams



The male on the right is likely dominant and more appealing to females, as his snood and wattle are more engorged and red than the one on the left. Photo by Susan Schiff



Male turkey with snood hanging down from the top of the beak, wattle hanging down from the chin area, and featherlike beard hanging down from the chest. Photo by Susan Schiff



This young turkey sports a snood that protrudes like a rhinoceros horn! It will grow and hang down over its bill. Photo by Susan Schiff

Focused Foxes

Photo by Susan Schiff



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Photo by Bailey Mohr