



Bear Mountain Homeowners Association

P. O. Box 2068, Evergreen, CO 80437
Email – bmhoa@yahoo.com
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July 2006

President – Jim Peterson 303-674-8370
Secretary – Bill Schenk 303-674-6367

Vice President – Maggie Cross 303-674-6155
Treasurer – Jerry Roberts 303-679-6824

BEAR MOUNTAIN SUMMER PICNIC

The annual Bear Mountain Homeowners' Business Meeting and Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 27 from 2-5:00 p.m. at Gene and Sue Blythe's, 24228 Giant Gulch Road. We request that those attending with last names beginning with the letters: A through F, bring a dessert; G through P, bring an appetizer; and Q through Z, bring a side dish or salad.

Some folks also find it worthwhile to bring lawn chairs or ground blankets. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, beverages, cutlery, and paper products will be provided by the BMHOA. The annual business meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m., at which time we will review the activities of the past year, look forward to what lies ahead, and elect officers for the next year. Gene and Sue Blythe could really use some help setting up and tearing down from the party. If you can assist, please call them at 303-679-9456.

CALL FOR BMHOA OFFICERS

We encourage new candidates to consider joining the BMHOA Board of Directors, but if no one qualified wants to run for a position, then the current officers have offered to serve for another year. If you are a resident within the Bear Mountain Vista subdivision, a dues-paying member of the BMHOA, and would like to serve, please let one of the current board members know. As stated above, officers are elected at the end of the annual picnic and business meeting, and nominations for new officers can be made at that time.

BMHOA DIRECTORY STILL AVAILABLE

There are some copies of the new BMHOA Directory from December 2005 still available to dues paying members. We handed out a new Directory to every dues paying member at last year's annual Holiday Party, but for those that did not attend the party, or if you are a new dues paying member, you can receive the updated Directory by requesting one from Secretary Bill Schenk. If you would like a new Directory but are not a member of the BMHOA yet, please send a check for the \$25 dues payment to Treasurer Jerry Roberts and you will get a Directory sent back to you. A dues payment form is included at the end of this Newsletter.

If there are any updates to be made to the BMHOA Directory, please contact the BMHOA Secretary, Bill Schenk, at 303-674-6367 or email him at bschenk@schenk.org with the new information.

BMHOA BOARD MEETINGS

Your BMHOA Board of Directors meets typically every other month, on the second Wednesday of the month. *All BMHOA members are welcome to attend Board meetings.* The President of the Board sets the schedule and runs the meeting, and the next meeting is currently scheduled for June, 2006. Please

RSVP your intention to attend by contacting one of the current Board officers. Members of the BMHOA Board of Directors can be reached by telephone or at the following email address: bmhoa@yahoo.com, or see our website at the following web address: <http://www.bearmountainhoa.com/>.

BMHOA FISCAL YEAR

The BMHOA Board of Directors has settled on a September 1st start to our Fiscal Year, which would end on August 31st of the following year. This allows us to account for Summer Picnic expenses in a reasonable fashion. Membership dues paid from June through August are applied to the following fiscal year's account.

BMHOA WINTER GET-AWAY IN YELLOWSTONE

Tom and Ginny Boschen are organizing a family winter get-away for BMHOA members in beautiful Yellowstone National Park for December, 2006. Tom has been a winter volunteer with the Yellowstone Association Institute at the Buffalo Ranch in Yellowstone for the past three years, and is very excited about sharing this special place with his neighbors on Bear Mountain.

Located in Yellowstone's quiet northeast corner, the Buffalo Ranch offers comfortable lodging in a remarkable wilderness setting. You will enjoy cozy log cabins with propane heaters, a new bathhouse with radiant heated floor, private showers, and a common building (the "bunkhouse") with a fully equipped kitchen and classrooms. The ranch is in Lamar Valley, called by many "America's Serengeti" due to the profusion of wildlife including bear, moose, bison, elk, coyotes and, for the past 10 years since their reintroduction from Canada, the grey wolf. This is now the best place in the world to see wolves in their natural habitat.

Our group will spend 4 days at the ranch guided by Yellowstone Association Institute expert naturalist instructors. We will discover the diverse and abundant wildlife of Yellowstone's Northern Range. Field activities include road based sunrise and/or sunset trips to look for wildlife, and interpretive hikes in wildlife habitat to search for animal tracks and sign. Program content can focus on a particular species or topic and can include classroom presentations on animal behavior, ecology, conservation, and Park history. There will be ample opportunities for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, photography, and just vegging out in this spectacular setting.

The cost per participant for lodging and program will vary between \$64-120 per day, depending on the number of folks that sign up. In this case, more people=less cost/person. The Ranch can accommodate up to 28 guests. What's included: The Institute provides instruction, in-park transportation, park entrance passes, classroom space, lodging at the Buffalo Ranch, and program materials such as spotting scopes. Participants must provide their own personal clothing and equipment, sleeping bags, food, and do their own cooking and clean up.

We must know your level of interest soon and must commit to a 25% non-refundable deposit to guarantee our reservation. We are considering one of two weeks in December: December 4-8 or December 11-15. This would allow for three days of travel from Denver to Yellowstone and back to round out a week long vacation. Please call Tom or Ginny at 303-674-3438 with your preference of week if you are interested in going. The week most desired by the majority will be the one selected. Thanks!

AVOID MOST SUMMER TREE CUTTING

The forester recommends that trees NOT be cut or heavily pruned during the summer. When cut, they emit chemical vapors that attract insects which attack weakened trees. If the tree that attracts them is dead, they simply move into nearby healthy trees and attack them instead. The best time to cut trees is October or November, when the bugs are inactive. The exception is if you are cutting pines infested with pine beetles. That should be done in summer before the beetles fly to infest other trees, but the wood should be cut into short pieces and either the bark stripped or the wood soaked in appropriate chemicals and covered with plastic sheets to prevent the beetles from spreading.

SPRUCE BUDWORM UPDATE

The helicopter spraying for spruce budworm done in June of 2005 was effective. Despite significant damage to new buds in some locations after the spraying, most of the worms were apparently eventually killed. We had a forester and an entomologist visit in mid-May of this year to field check for infestation. They found relatively few egg cases and larvae and recommended we not spray this year but just monitor the situation.

Their assessment has proved correct and this year our trees appear healthier than they have for several years, with much less budworm damage overall. There are some individual trees with significant damage, mainly on the north face of Bear Mountain proper, and we sent specimens to the entomologist who confirmed there was still some budworm activity, though much less than in recent years. The good news is she also identified a number of insects that kill budworms and provide some natural control. Since the end of June we have seen new budworm moths swarming in the tree tops. If you have seen a lot of new tree damage or budworm moths, please let us know. The Colorado State Forest Service is doing an aerial survey of the Evergreen area to assess outbreaks, and the entomologist wants to come to Bear Mountain again in August to look for egg masses and evaluate the situation again.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

BMHOA has contracted with the Colorado State Forest Service to produce a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plan for all of Bear Mountain Vista. The purpose is to assess our forest health, the insect situation, and wildfire hazards. A report and map will be produced for the use of everyone in the neighborhood. The study will be done by Brenda Wasielewski, Assistant District Forester of the Golden District Office of the CSFS. She is subject to temporary but unpredictable firefighting assignments during the fire season, and will fit in our work whenever she can. She is unlikely to be able to simply come and map our whole area in one block of time, and will probably be here for a day or two at a time through the summer, when her schedule permits.

The plan will make recommendations for thinning the forest and other appropriate measures to improve forest health and reducing wildfire hazards. However, these will be recommendations only, and no one will be required to carry them out. Our goal is to provide information to enable us to improve forest health on Bear Mountain, but individual action is strictly voluntary.

If for any reason you do not want the forester on your property, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can convey that to the forester. In any event, she will not enter a property without coming to your door first to introduce herself and ask permission, but if no one is home and you have not told us you want to be omitted from the study, we will presume that you want to participate. She will be wearing an orange vest when working. The neighborhood-wide basic study will be paid for by BMHOA at no charge to individuals. The Forest Stewardship Plan will be done at a subdivision level, as detailed as our budget allows, but this will not result in detailed evaluations of each individual lot. If you are concerned about the health of your personal piece of the forest and would like your property to be studied in greater detail, which could even include marking of individual trees that should be removed to promote forest health, the forester can do that extra work at a rate of \$30 per hour. Because she will be in the area doing the neighborhood study anyway, providing greater detail on an individual lot will take less time than if she had to evaluate scattered lots at different times. Large lots will still take more time and cost more than small ones, but this is an opportunity for you to have expert work done for minimal cost. Remember, the state forester is neutral, not trying to sell you any tree services.

If you want a detailed individual study done, at your expense, please contact Brenda Wasielewski directly to make arrangements. Because she spends most of her summer in the field, it is best to contact her by email at: brendaw@lamar.colostate.edu Please also call Jim Peterson at 303-674-8370 or Maggie Cross at 303-674-6155 so we can help Brenda coordinate her time for best efficiency.

SLASH REMOVAL

The Board of Directors is discussing the possibility of designating a week in late October as **Slash Removal Week**. We would like to get feedback from homeowners who have substantial amounts of tree slash to remove and try to line up a chipping service that could give us a discounted rate if we could guarantee several days or a week of work in the area. Each homeowner would still be responsible for paying for the work done on their property, but a lower rate can probably be negotiated. **If you are interested in participating in a slash removal/chipping effort, please call Maggie Cross at 303-674-6155 or sign up at the summer picnic.**

BMHOA BYLAW UPDATE

The Association has three governing documents, the Articles of Incorporation, Covenants, and the Bylaws. The current Bylaws state that there are four directors: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board is recommending that the Bylaws be changed to create a fifth Board position. This change would allow past presidents or other individuals with knowledge of Association history and practices to serve on the Board. It would also create an uneven number of members, to avoid tied votes.

The Board would like to bring this matter to the membership as a whole at the annual meeting and would appreciate input, either pro or con, from the members prior to a formal resolution. Please call Maggie Cross (303-674-6155) or Jim Peterson (303-674-8390) if you have comments on this proposal or other proposed revisions to the Bylaws.

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Directors also would like to expand our liaisons with other organizations. Our neighbors in Mountain Park Home share many of the same concerns we have with forestry, weeds, water, development, etc. and the Board would like to work more closely with them. Other great organizations that we would like to interface with include the Mountain Area Land Trust and ENABLE, the north Evergreen watchdog group. Several Bear Mountain owners participated in the Evergreen Plan process and found it to be both educational and a good opportunity to express community concerns. If you are interested in policy, planning and zoning matters, and like working with other community groups, this is your opportunity. Give us a call!

Then there are the parties. They are fun, they keep us in touch, and the food and drink is always excellent. But they take some work and the Board could use some help organizing the parties, picking up supplies and helping with the cleanup. If you want to help keep this a primo place to live, consider getting involved.

ANNUAL WEED ALERT

Yes, it is that time of year. Canadian Thistle is merrily growing to new heights due to recent rains, along the usual crop of knapweed. **IT IS TIME TO PULL OR SPRAY THE WEEDS.** Longtime residents know the spiel about invasive noxious weeds, but for our newer members...

Colorado is plagued by various invasive weeds that poison the ground so no other plants can grow, crowd out native plants, and/or cause harm to animals. The worst offenders are Canadian and Musk Thistle, diffuse and spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge.

Thistle is easily recognizable. After a good rain, pull thistle up by the roots, bag it, and send it to the trash. If you have a really massive invasion, you may need to mow repeatedly and then spray in the fall. Spotted knapweed is an innocuous plant that has a roseate crown early in the summer and then develops spiky stems with small leaves and white or purple flowers. You may think this is pretty, but it poisons horses and drives out most native plants. Once established, its root system is impressively extensive. Small plants can be pulled, but it is often necessary to spray knapweed with a systemic herbicide in order to kill the roots. Leafy Spurge is another pretty plant with cute yellow flowers. If not eradicated, Spurge takes over and you can kiss native plants goodbye.

State law requires removal of noxious weeds on your property. Jeffco has a weed control office and they are more than happy to provide you with information and advice. They also will fine you if you fail to remove noxious weeds. To get more information (and pictures), go on-line and check the following websites: www.co.jefferson.co.us/weed/weed and www.ext.colostate.edu/ptik/2103a.html .

The Bear Mountain Homeowners Association owns a sprayer and your dues help buy the spray and support the noxious weed eradication program. Rich Dunrud (303-674-5638) has the sprayer and can give you lots of helpful advice. Please pull and spray, since once these weeds go to seed the problem grows exponentially.

SPEED TRAP

If you aren't already aware of this, you might find out the hard way. The Jeffco Sheriff Dept. has frequently been stationing a radar unit on Stanley Park Road to catch people speeding downhill as they come off Bear Mountain toward Evergreen. Even if you just coast through the curves at the top of the hill with your foot off the throttle, you can easily be doing 45 or so by the time you get to the fairly straight section, and bang--a ticket. They clock people as they come around the last curve and it's too late to slow down then. They are often there in the morning, and not just weekdays, either. They have been seen Saturdays. The limit there is 30 mph. So, be aware, and drive safely.

SUMMER FUN... AND ANNOYANCES

The dog days of summer are upon us and so are dirt bikes, ATVs and motorcycles. There is no doubt that these are fun vehicles, but users of same are reminded that their fun should be balanced with the property rights of other residents. The big meadow is owned by Ron Lewis and is a fragile piece of land. Off road vehicles simply must not be used on this land or on other mountain trails without the express permission of the owner.

Also, we have speed limits that are strictly enforced by the sheriff. Ripping up and down the roads feels good but may result in major fines. Neighbors, enjoying the squeak, whir and buzz of the hummingbirds are not particularly delighted by the sounds of revved-up crotch rockets. Please be considerate!

TRASH ALERT!!!

Residents are advised to put their trash in closed containers with tight lids and to keep their garbage cans inside their garage. Garbage cans should not be placed outside until the morning of pickup. There are many reasons for this:

1. Keeping trash inside keeps the critters out. These critters include: raccoons, coyotes, dogs, squirrels, ravens, and bears. As the bears come out of hibernation, they are ravenous and nothing is quite as attractive as household garbage. Do you really want bears hanging around your house or, worse yet, coming into your house? If not, keep your trash in the garage.

2. Putting cans out the night before is like putting out a smorgasbord for bears. There isn't a domestic trashcan in existence that is bear-proof.

3. Using sealed trash cans is almost a no-brainer, but the logic apparently eludes some people. Plastic sacks or cardboard boxes filled with household garbage are an invitation to the critters to snack. When they snack, garbage gets littered all over the road and then blows along the ditches and litters your neighbor's property. IT IS DISGUSTING! Out of consideration for your neighbors AND the critters (who shouldn't be eating this stuff), put any food-related garbage in tightly sealed containers.

4. If your garbage is not picked up in front of your house, it is a courtesy to make sure that the area where you leave it for pickup is not on someone else's land. Make an effort to pick up any litter that may have come from your garbage.

Bear Mountain residents generally maintain a caring balance between themselves and the various animals with which we share the mountain. However, the balance is easily tipped if common-sense garbage etiquette is not followed. Please be responsible with your trash.



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P.O. Box 2068
Evergreen, CO 80437

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A \$25 Investment in your Mountain Community!

If you are a resident of Bear Mountain and haven't sent in the dues for the 2006-07 year, or if you live in the area and wish to join as an associate member, please make out a check payable to BMHOA for \$25.00 and bring it to the next BMHOA party, or send it to: **BMHOA / P.O. Box 2068 / Evergreen, CO 80437**

Please complete the form below and include it with your check so that we can keep the Directory up to date. Dues pay for Newsletters, your copy of the Directory, and your family's attendance at all annual parties, including the Summer Picnic and Winter Holiday parties. They also pay for such things as weed spraying equipment, spray, etc. Dues are voluntary, but only those that contribute will receive benefits!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

Family Members: _____