

the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

2008's 'To Do' list for safety

Each year about this time I send Mary Mesch, newsletter editor, my 'To Do' list for the Spring / Summer. There are some perennial members on the list but each year I think of some new things to add. Because of the fires in California, forest mitigation is on my mind. Here are some of the yearly 'To Do's' in that regard:

1. Take some time to look at your home's defensible space: have bushes and forest litter crept back; is it time to widen the zone of thinned vegetation; have new ladder fuels arrived?
2. If you have a private cistern, make sure that it is full of water and that all of the fittings are in place. If you would like the cistern tested, give me a call to arrange an inspection.
3. Look for trees that have fallen over during the winter and remove them if possible. Check also for 'widow makers'- trees that have died and fallen only to be caught by other trees. These

trees are particularly dangerous to remove so contact a professional.

4. Keep roofs clear of debris: all of those pine needles that accumulate over the winter need to be cleaned from gutters.
5. Check to see if roof shingles that blew off during the winter Chinook winds need to be replaced.
6. Enclose porch floors, roofs and attic openings (this will help keep wind-blown firebrands from getting into your home).
7. Dispose of slash from thinning. Be sure to follow the SFPD and County guidelines for burning.
8. Keep an eye out for the County burn ban. We post a sign at the entrance to the District (~ 3000 CSD) when it is in effect.
9. Don't park vehicles in tall, dry grass: hot mufflers can start fires.
10. Stack firewood uphill or on a contour and at least 15 feet from buildings.

Aug 08

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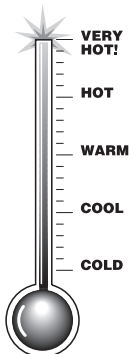
S U M M E R

11. Get rid of trash that accumulated over the winter.

Ideas for general emergency preparedness:

1. Do you have a family first aid kit? Have you taken a basic first aid class? Do you know CPR?
2. If you have a buried propane tank, provide us with a means of locating it when the access to the tank is under snow (e.g., a flag sticking up several feet).

(Cont. on p. 8)



Inside this Issue

Page 1: To Do List

Page 2: Schedule, Board of Directors

Page 3: Chief's Message

Page 4: In Memory of Donna Edwards

Page 5: Volunteer Profile: Abby Silver

Page 7: Dispatch, The Big Question

Page 9: Bald Mtn. Project

Page 10: Community Fest, Craft & Bake Sale

Page 11: Precious Water

Page 12: Sunshine Trivia

Page 13: Letter to community

Page 14: Sunshine Cemetery Association, Wildlife Watch



Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are also available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: www.sunshinefire.com

Firefighter trainings:

Trainings are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the fire station.

Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

Squad meetings:

Squad meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the fire station.

Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 23

Medical trainings:

Please refer to our website for the medical training schedule.

Board meetings:

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at fire station 2 (station 1 when completed). Meetings are open to the public.

Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Team Sunshine

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 on an as needed basis, location rotates. Call Mary Mesch 303-447-1471 for next meeting notice.

Special Events

Community Fest: Sept. 6, 2-6 pm, Station 2

Sunshine Crafts and Bake Sale, Sept. 27 and 28, 10am to 4pm, Schoolhouse

Colleen's Cosmic Soap The Mildest Soap You'll Ever Use

Oils: Palm, Coconut, Olive, Almond, Jojoba & Shea

Scents: Mocha-Mint, Honey-Almond, Orange-Vanilla, Juice Pear, Coconut-Lemongrass, Rose-Jasmine, Lavender and More. Unscented available too.
Samples upon request.

Colleen Crawford 303-449-6915

Board Members

Pavel Bouska, Chairman

Don Dick, Treasurer

Jennifer Lansky, Member

Frank McGuire, Member

Joyce Schroeder, Member

Board meetings are at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the fire station and are open to the public.

District Officers

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief

Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire Chief & Fire Marshal



Contact information

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief

Home & work ph. 303-786-8255

Pager 303-441-3851 #4561

steve@stevestratton.tv

SFPD-Chief@egroups.com

Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire chief & Fire Marshal

ph. 303-786-7731

SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com

In any emergency, call 911.

Sequoia Woodworks "When Craftsmanship Counts"

New construction/ Re-model
Framing- Int./ Ext. Trim
Log/ Timber Work

Michael Aronson
Partner/ Lead Carpenter
Long time Sunshine resident
(303) 819-5338

Chief's Message

I was walking down the road the other day with one of our more vocal residents while he was complaining that if we had a significant fire in Sunshine he didn't think our fire department had the ability to protect us. Given his extreme concern over the problem and his vast knowledge of the topic, I was surprised when he refused my offer to become fire chief. Of course, I disagreed with his assessment. And the statistics seem to be in my favor.

We average one significant wildland fire a year in Sunshine. To my knowledge, no structures have ever been lost to any of these events. The last truly threatening fire was the "Thanksgiving Fire" in 1987 that burned along the south side of Lee Hill (Church Camp). I understand that fire was pretty scary because it directly threatened Sunshine, and was complicated by residents stealing a fire truck and other residents disappearing among the flames as they declared themselves firefighters. Even in that confusion the town site was saved and there were no serious injuries. And, I have to say, our fire department has come a long way since then.

But that's not to say we won't have to deal with the real thing. Most of the communities around us have, and as Sunshine's population continues to increase, the values at risk also increase. If we get a fire ignition, for whatever cause, in whatever location, in the right dry windy conditions, there will be a problem...a problem that no number of trained firefighters will be able to handle.

It is time to progressively work toward protecting ourselves from this increasing danger. Our forests are overgrown and as more and more of us live among the trees this danger is continuing to increase.

By the time you read this, the Sunshine Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) should be just about completed. This has been a significant volunteer effort on the part of several of our community residents over the past year. It is time for us to prepare our community for a large fire, and the CWPP is an effort to do just that.

After some significant analyzing and study, we have come up with plans to build shaded fuel breaks, emergency egress routes and fuels reduction projects that should help manage a large fire when it occurs. These plans are community wide and dovetail with the plans of our surrounding fire districts. Of course, the CWPP doesn't mean much unless we actually put it into action. That will be the work of the years ahead. Having an authorized CWPP will allow us to apply for matching State and Federal funding. Discussions are underway to determine ways Sunshine can raise the money necessary to match these grants. The Colorado Legislature has just passed a law allowing property owners to take a tax deduction for monies spent mitigating fire danger, IF there is a CWPP in place.

So, this is a major step. And I want to thank the individuals that have made it happen. Abby Silver has been instrumental in getting the ef-



fort off the ground and driving it to completion. She has spent a lot of energy rallying the troupes and seeing that all the bases are covered. This project would not have happened without her huge efforts. Johanna Hurley, Brett Haberstick, Henry Ballard, Deirde Damron and Martha Peacock headed up committees and spearheaded major individual tasks. And Team Sunshine organized the fire danger assessments and neighborhood meetings. When you see any of these folks, give them a hug and thank them for making Sunshine a safer place.

This truly has been a community effort, and one we can be proud of. In the next few months and years we will be trying to initiate these plans and it will be important for you to become as involved as possible in order to assure the highest level of safety and success.

Steve Stratton
Fire chief

In Memory of Donna Edwards

This May, the Sunshine community lost one of our most beloved members with the death of Donna Edwards. Donna had known for some time that she was dying and she embraced the process just as fully as she had all other aspects of her rich, adventurous life. During her last weeks, friends visited and sprawled out on her large bed, where she served tea, ice cream, wisdom, and compassion. From her bed she loved watching the hummingbirds that thronged her feeders, with the Continental Divide providing an achingly beautiful backdrop.

Donna was the archetypal onion whose layers, peeled back, revealed many identities. She was a bon vivant who brightened our parties; author of ten books; family counselor; real estate investor; midwife and pioneer in the Lamaze method; founder of the pre-natal department at Fitzsimons Hospital and the Boulder Hospice organization; world traveler; photojournalist; speaker; and teacher. But more than a list of accomplishments, Donna was someone who loved life and lived each and every moment to its fullest.

When Donna was a few years out of college, she and a few friends had planned to leave Colorado and head to San Francisco for adventure. Her friends opted instead for marriages, but Donna drove out on her own with no idea where she was going to stay and no job. As she was driving in San Francisco, quite lost and with no map, she heard her name called. It was a friend's cousin, Rodger Ewy, who helped her find her way and with whom she spent the next 35 years. It was a fitting start

to a marriage that was accented with travel, adventure, and partnership.

A few years into their marriage, the couple left their safe jobs to become photojournalists in Europe, despite



having no background whatsoever in the field. They spent three years on a BMW motorcycle crisscrossing Europe and chronicling their travels, including talking their way through an Iron Curtain checkpoint. They settled in St. Gobain, France, where Donna taught the children on the nearby U.S. military base.

Donna became pregnant and was introduced to Lamaze, a natural childbirth method developed in France, giving birth to Marguerite ("Margo") in a former hunting lodge of Henry IV. Upon their return to the U.S., Donna wanted to share her experience with other women and she and Rodger co-authored a book about the Lamaze method. It became a bestseller and started a worldwide trend.

Thus began a long career for Donna as an author and counselor. Counseling wasn't just a job, it was a calling. She was always giving to those around her and had a way of making every single person feel like they were her special friend...and they were, as she had a seemingly endless capacity to connect with and love people. Her special gift was working with teens, she said she loved their potential.

Although she was incredibly talented and generous, she would want to be remembered as neither superwoman nor saint. She was irreverent with a keen sense of humor, down to earth, and enjoyed a good laugh at herself, like the first function she attended with second husband Jack. She wanted to keep a low profile, but ended up backing into a candle and catching her scarf on fire. She also took a measure of pride in getting kicked out of parochial school. (She never reconciled herself to religion when she was told, at age nine, that dogs didn't go to heaven.)

Despite her professional achievements and travels to six continents, Donna was at heart a homebody. She loved being a mother to Margo and the three other children who followed in quick succession: Suzanne, Rodger, Jr., and Lee. As a grandmother, she was loving, understanding, funny and very very hip. And her family extended beyond blood relations, she took many people into her heart and home, making them feel part of her extended family.

(Cont. on p. 5)

Volunteer Profile: Abby Silver

In January 2007, Team Sunshine asked chief Stratton how they could support his top priorities for the district. He stated that his #1 item was developing a Community Wildland Protection Plan, a document required for any local fire department to receive federal funds for projects and improvements. The document requires extensive information gathering and analysis of a district's fire hazard and response capability. It stipulates communication within the community so that property owners have opportunities to both learn and express their ideas, as well as communication with other departments and organizations.

Abby Silver says she didn't know this when she raised her hand to organize the committee. Her interest stemmed from a summer job she held many years ago doing timber assessments for the National Forest Service. The idea appealed to her of walking the district and learning its topography and vegetation. Little did she know the many hours she would put in at her computer, on her telephone, doing

presentations, and at meetings...not the 'walk in the woods' she had anticipated. She also admired the effort that chief Stratton has put into our district and she felt a desire to respond in kind.

She started the process by talking with Bob Bundy at the State Forest Service who advised her, "If you have good people in your neighborhood, you'll be able to pull it off". Abby credits our having "good people" with the fact that we have a first draft of the CWPP and the final draft is expected by early September. In particular, she cites major contributors as being Johanna Hurley, Martha Peacock, Deirdre Damron, Brett Haberstick, Steve Stratton, Henry Ballard, and John Chapman, Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance CWPP

coordinator.

Being involved with the CWPP process has caused Abby to become very interested in "the whole fire dynamic from cutting grass to escape routes". She no longer takes services for granted anymore, she states, and recognizes that there's a ton of details that need to be considered. Observing the diligence of the persons behind our fire protection services, including the CWPP, has made her feel more confident.



When she's not working on the CWPP, Abby creates hand built functional pottery and custom architectural ceramics, e.g., hearth and door surrounds, backsplashes. Both she and Bill are professional artists and their home includes studios for both her ceramics and his metalworking. Their home on County Road 83 features Abby's architectural ceramics and other artistic touches, such as a custom crafted handrail. It's also an energy efficient construction and, most surprisingly, was built in only nine months.

In addition to both being artists, Abby and Bill were also both born under the sign of Taurus, which is how they met when they attended a "Taureans

(Cont. on p. 6)

Donna Edwards (cont. from p. 4)

The last twelve years of her life were spent in Sunshine married to Jack Edwards who died last Christmas Eve. They truly loved Sunshine and Sunshine loved them. We have many fond memories of them: Donna dressed up as a gypsy fortune teller for the Halloween Carnival, their Easter egg hunts, playing volleyball, bidding animatedly at the Community Fest, dancing at every opportunity, walking their beloved border collies. Most of all, Donna loved being a Sunshine Bunko Babe, the easy

camaraderie of the women, the fun and laughter, the surprisingly deep bond forged over an inconsequential dice game. Donna's affection for Sunshine was passed to her daughter, Suzanne Ewy, who lives here with son Max.

Since her death, many of us have noticed hummingbirds around our homes. It's like a bit of Donna is with us.

Team Sunshine

Second Annual Spaghetti Feed. Last March we held our second annual Spaghetti Feed with about 120 residents attending. A highlight of the evening was a magic act by Nate the Great. Nate Biklen, a Sunshine resident, generously donated his time and thoroughly enthralled the community's children.

Third Annual Flapjack Fling. As always, we had a great turn out at this annual event.

Adopt a Road. With the assistance of Henry Ballard, Team Sunshine adopted CR83.

CWPP. See the profile of Abby Silver to see how she and other Team Sunshine members (Deirdre Dameron, Johanna Hurley, Martha Peacock, Ardie Schulster) supported this important project.

New Directory. We're updating the Sunshine directory. If your info has changed, please forward to mmesch@ionsky.com.

Want to participate? Contact Mary Mesch to volunteer for a single project or on an ongoing basis. 303-447-1471



*Flapjack Fling
Kitchen Crew:
Martha Peacock
Ene Beresford
Marty Dick*

A NEIGHBORLY REQUEST
TO ALL OUR DEAR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS ON COUNTY ROAD 83:

SUMMER IS HERE AND WITH IT ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT THIS SEASON BRINGS. UNFORTUNATELY WITH SUMMER ALSO COMES THE DRY, HOT WEATHER THAT TURNS COUNTY ROAD 83 INTO ONE BIG DUST BELT. THESE CLOUDS OF DUST ARE KNOWN TO BE HARMFUL TO HEALTH ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE OF US WHO LIVE NEAR THE ROAD. ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE A FACT OF LIFE, THE AMOUNT OF DUST CAN BE GREATLY REDUCED BY LIMITING THE SPEED OF YOUR VEHICLES TO NO MORE THAN 20 MILES PER HOUR INCLUDING THE STRAIGHT STRETCH IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE WHERE THE ROAD IS A LITTLE WIDER AND PEOPLE TEND TO PICK UP THEIR SPEED. IF YOU CHECK YOUR REARVIEW MIRROR YOU'LL SEE THE DUST FLYING BEHIND YOU. LINDA AND I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU, OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WOULD SLOW DOWN THEREBY MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER AND MUCH HEALTHIER.

THANK YOU,
TONY AND LINDA LUCHANGCO
98 COUNTY ROAD 83

Abby Silver (cont. from p. 5)
only" party.

Before settling in Sunshine, Abby had lived in the Boulder foothills before so she knew what she wanted: lots of sun and a sense of community. Bill and she love and appreciate living up here every day, the natural beauty, great people, and close proximity to wildlife.

She moved to the Boulder area from what seemed like continuous winter in Crested Butte. Before that, she traveled extensively. After high school, she took a year off and traveled in Europe and the Middle East. After college, she lived in Holland and did various jobs including restoring old boats. She also toured Thailand, Nepal, India, and Mali. She loves places that provide cultural diversity, and is not much of a luxury traveler which she attributes to growing up with parents who traveled in "backpacker style".

Her friends describe her as being energetic, friendly, and easy going. She loves just being outdoors, whether it's backcountry skiing, hiking, or walking her dogs. When indoors, she plays a mean game of Scrabble, perhaps a remnant of her journalism major.

Thank you, Abby, for a great job on the CWPP.

SFPD Dispatches to California

Sunshine Fire answered California's call for fire support by sending the district's Big Red Truck (Type 1) fire engine, along with four fire fighters, to Redding, CA. On July 9th the engine was transported using a federally contracted lowboy trailer and the firefighters flew to the incident via commercial airlines. The fire fighting effort in California has been extreme and at the time of this writing Colorado had dispatched 35 engines to CA, with more requested. The following facts were considered in making the decision to remove a fire truck from our district:

- The extreme need in California
- The extraordinary training opportunity for four firefighters
- Exercising of our truck at a time when it is seeing limited use
- Coordination with surrounding fire agencies to assure backup resources

- The fire weather forecast for our district during the deployment period
- The contract price to be paid to SFPD by the State of CA
- Wear and tear on the truck
- Truck maintenance when the apparatus returns
- The condition of Sunshine's remaining fleet
- Manpower remaining to service SFPD

SFPD's modernization plan of 2000 specified the replacement of our Type 2 fire engine with a new Type 1 engine, leaving the district with the same cadre of three fire apparatus. When the new truck was delivered in 2003 the decision was made to keep the Type 2 truck to facilitate dispatching a vehicle out of district when needed. With the deployment

to California, Sunshine retains the same equipment to defend the district as it has for the past two decades.

The tradition of providing "mutual aid" to a fire department in need is deeply engrained in the fire service. Our district, along with all other fire departments, depends on the sharing of resources when extremes strike. The California fires present an extraordinary opportunity for our volunteers to receive direct experience fighting extreme fire. This is training that would otherwise be impossible to receive. Sharing our fire fighters is the single most successful way we can prepare Sunshine for a crisis. It's not the equipment that saves the day, it's the people!

Steve Stratton,
Fire chief

The Big Question

Viewing the rust brown lodgepole stands on the other side of the Continental Divide is sobering, if not downright terrifying. The big question for us is how hard will we be hit here? The reality is that the experts disagree and probably no one knows. Here are the controversies:

1. The Continental Divide argument: Some sources state that the Continental Divide will act as a natural barrier to easterly movement of mountain pine beetles. Some counter by arguing that Rollins Pass and other passes offer avenues for them to spread. Still others say that's not the issue, there's usually not a large movement or mi-

gration of beetles anyway. The issue is whether the same conditions that caused the massive beetle activity west of the Divide exist here, and if so will create an increase in the beetle population already living in our area. Those conditions include trees stressed from drought and overcrowding, a large proportion of mature trees, and single species stands.

2. Lodgepole vs. Ponderosa Pine: The vast majority of affected trees to date have been lodgepole pines, so some believe the damage to the Front Range's predominantly ponderosa pine forests will be minimal. Supporting this is the fact that past beetle

epidemics have been restricted to one species of tree. True, but that is not a reliable predictor of this epidemic, according to others. In mixed forests, there have been attacks on ponderosas as well as lodgepoles, an indication that the beetles might make the species jump. If so, there could be a 40-60% kill rate.

3. Mitigation to improve forest health: Mitigation doesn't help, just look at Grand County's efforts. Counter: there's evidence that mitigation doesn't help with lodgepole stands, but does with ponderosa.

(Cont. on p. 8)

To Do List (cont. from p. 1)

3. Do you have an emergency evacuation plan for your animals? Emergency shelters will not take animals so develop a 'pre-plan' for them.

4. Do your friends and neighbors have emergency contact information for you?

5. If you have a sprinkler system for your house, please let us know if you have a fire department connection and its location (fire-marshall@sunshine-fpd.org). If you don't know if you have such a connection, call me (303-449-6685) and I'll check it out for you.

6. Put emergency contact and medical information in a location that is easy for firefighters and emergency medical personnel to find. Pharmacies sell plastic information holders, usually emblazoned with a big red cross, that you can attach to the refrigerator door. If you have a living will or Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR), make sure that they are easy to find by emergency responders. Good locations include the refrigerator door, as described above, or with your collection of medications.

7. Get a fireproof safe for critical personnel information or put the documents in a safety deposit box at one of the local banks.

8. Think about those items that are precious to you (e.g., family photographs) and keep them organized for quick and easy access if you need to quickly evacuate your home. In an emergency, you may have only a few minutes to gather belongings.

9. Make sure that emergency responders can locate your house: your fire department address marker (the green plastic strips) should be in good shape and visible from the road. If you need

a new one, or are unsure if your current marker is adequate for the task, contact me. Remember that some of our mutual and automatic aid responders (e.g., Pridemark Paramedic Services and adjacent fire districts) may not be as familiar with our District as we are.

10. Trim branches along your driveway to facilitate moving our equipment to your home (our largest pumper, 4501, is 9 feet wide and 11 feet tall).

11. Develop a family evacuation plan. Agree upon a rendezvous point, perhaps at a friend's house in town. Practice family fire drills: know the best exits from your home.

12. Check the batteries on your smoke detectors. Purchase a CO (carbon monoxide) detector. Most people in fires die of inhalation toxicity.

13. If you are going away on vacation, try to remember to park vehicles away from likely routes of emergency access. If you have a turnaround at your home, leave it free of vehicles so that we don't need to back down your driveway when we leave.

14. Make sure that your fire extinguisher is charged and is located for easy access. A good place for an extinguisher is just outside the kitchen. Extinguishers need to be serviced yearly! If you don't know the proper way to use an extinguisher, contact us and we'll be glad to show you.

15. Have flashlights with fresh batteries at convenient locations in your home.

16. If you have a gate on your driveway, make sure that we are up-to-date on the access code.

17. Consider purchasing a Knox Box (www.knoxbox.com) so that we can

gain access to your home in an emergency.

18. Clean out your garage and storage areas! Properly dispose of hazardous materials.

19. Have your fireplace chimney inspected and cleaned.

Remember to plan ahead. If you have any questions about emergency preparedness, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bruce Honeyman
Fire Marshal

The Big Question (cont. from p. 7)

4. Foothills vs. high mountains: The devastation has been primarily at higher elevations. The topography and ecosystem of the foothills below 8000' will lower the impact.

With all this contradictory information, what actions, if any, should we take to protect our property?

It's unclear how much thinning trees will prevent beetle kill in an epidemic, but it's still a good thing to do for fire mitigation. When selecting trees to cut, favor keeping Douglas Firs and young ponderosas that will withstand an infestation.

Hire a reputable company to spray trees that are highly desirable to retain. This isn't a job for a DIYer—even missing a 4" square area of the bole will make the tree vulnerable to attack. Spraying must be done on an annual basis.

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Starts Forest Restoration Project at Bald Mountain

Drive past Bald Mountain and you'll notice a large number of cut trees stacked along its eastern side. Boulder County Parks and Open Space is conducting an extensive forest restoration project, about the fourth such project in the county. They chose Bald Mountain because it is infested with mistletoe on its western side, leading to weakened trees and subsequent pine beetle kill. The east side features some of the county's most beautiful pre-settlement trees which merit special protection, according to Chad Julian, Sr. Resource Specialist for Forestry and Wildfire.

Forest restoration is a new concept and very different from fire mitigation, which focuses on reducing ladder fuels and creating crown separation as needed to reduce near term wildland fire danger. In promoting restoration, foresters are starting a long term process to return forests to their original state for better health and to reduce extreme fire behavior. Forest restoration considers how the forest functions including as a wildlife

habitat. At Bald Mountain, a wildlife biologist has worked to create about 30 habitat trees for a variety of birds.

Much of the original research underlying this was conducted in the 1980s in Flagstaff, AZ and resulted in the Southwestern Ponderosa Pine model. It was found that historical ponderosa pine forests were typified by frequent, low severity fires. To be more exact, you would expect a wildland fire every 3-5 years on a 250 acre tract of land.

The ecosystems of these forests were evenly mixed among openings without trees, clumps of ponderosas, persistent groves of older trees, and mixed high density stands with closed canopies. On average, there were 10-30 trees per acre. (In comparison, Bald Mountain averaged 300 trees per acre before the start of the project.)

The Flagstaff research provides helpful data, but the Front Range differs in latitude and climate. Research

was conducted to derive guidelines more specific to our region, resulting in a 2006 report co-authored by several agencies. Before settlement, the Front Range below 8000' was a lower montaine region which saw frequent, low severity fires in its predominantly ponderosa forests. Upper montaine forests between 8000-9000' were mixed conifer which led to mixed severity fires; above 9000' had high severity but very infrequent fires, i.e., hundreds of years intervals.

Julian warns that the degree of tree removal proscribed by forest restoration creates a landscape that can appear barren by current standards and will seem "drastic". At Bald Mountain, they plan to remove twenty tons of trees per acre. Part of restoration also includes reintroducing fire as part of the ecosystem.

He acknowledged that the tremendous resources required to return forests to their natural states will limit private restoration as well as any broad publicly funded programs.



Star Route Band for Hire

* Parties, Weddings
* Reunions, Receptions
* Fun for all! * Audience participation
Dance tunes - rockabilly - classic rock & roll,
jazz, blues, bluegrass, secret agent songs!

303-443-0121 or deefish@starplay.com
Band members are all Sunshine residents



Sunshine Community Fest
Sat. Sept. 6th, 2-6pm, Fire Station 2

Sunshine Craft & Bake Sale
Sat & Sun Sept. 27-28, 10am-4pm, Schoolhouse

Sunshine Community Fest! Mark your calendar for September 6th. Our annual bash boasts good food, great beer, live and silent auctions, raffle, door prizes. And all supporting a good cause—the Sunshine Fire Protection District.

Suggested donation is \$7 per person, \$20 maximum per family. Kids under 12 free. Bring a dish to share and a baked item to auction; chili, micro beer and soft drinks provided.

For our silent auction, we welcome your contributions of gently used household items including jewelry, kitchen gadgets, farm implements, toys, bikes, fine wine, book ends, or odd things from your garage that you don't use but someone should. Anything goes and creativity is welcome here!

Please contact Beth Byerlein at byerlein@ionsky.com (preferred) or 720-635-8188 if you'd like to volunteer your time, wares or if you know merchants willing to donate items.

Sunshine Craft & Bake Sale. Featuring the work of local residents, a silent auction, and a bake sale held at the historic schoolhouse. Free admissions. Proceeds benefit the Schoolhouse Association. Interested vendors, bakers, and auction donors may contact June Howard (303-443-2095).

Precious Water—Respect this Resource and Your Neighbors

Several Sunshine residents have had recent issues with their wells running dry. To reduce the drain on your aquifer and maintain civil relations with your neighbors who may draw from the same source, try practicing some of these tips.

- When possible, take showers instead of baths. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month from shorter showers.
- Turn off the shower water while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.
- If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead which can save a family of four up to 17,000 gallons of water a year.
- Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants.

- Avoid letting the faucet run while you brush your teeth, wash your face, or shave and you can save up to 4 gallons of water a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can save more than 600 gallons a month.
- Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them.
- Flush *strategically*.
- For males, discretely using the woods is a perfectly acceptable Sunshine practice.
- To reduce the amount of water applied to your lawn, adjust your lawnmower to cut grass no shorter than three inches. Taller grass encourages deeper roots and shades the soil to reduce moisture loss.
- Water at night or early morning when it's cool and evaporation is

lowest.

- Adjust sprinkler heads so there's no water wasted sprinkling your walk, driveway, etc.
- Use left over water from glasses, pet dishes, bathtub, and rinsing produce to water plants, rather than tossing down the drain.
- When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
- Use your garbage disposal sparingly to both conserve water and reduce solids in your septic system, 50% of which can come from garbage disposals.

Sources: *Wateruseitwisely.com*,
waterpikEcoFlow.com

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Sunshine Trivia

1. How is Sunshine responding to the upcoming Democratic National Convention?
 - a. Democrats are renting out their homes for \$500/night
 - b. Same for Republicans, but doubling the price
 - c. Libertarians are pitching tents and inviting the protestors
 - d. The fire department is ordering 2 1/2" hose
2. For Ruby Heflin's 80th birthday, she had...
 - a. Male strippers, who left after Ruby violated the 'no touching' clause
 - b. Live band, plenty to drink, hundreds of raucous friends
3. How did Lisa van Leuwen celebrate her 40th birthday??
 - a. A cone head party
 - b. Sending her family as far away as possible
 - c. A small group of ladies and lawn games – at least that's the cover story for Stephen
4. What was Chris V. doing hiding in the woods recently?
 - a. Looking for DNC protestors
 - b. Trying to jump out and scare defenseless ladies
 - c. Tending to his wounds after the ladies beat the hell out of him

Answers:

- 1) who knows yet! 2) huge party and band 3) lawn games 4) scaring ladies



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Protestor Patrol

Come late August, you may spot fire engines driving around the community. The mountain fire departments have been asked to patrol for Democratic National Convention protestors who may decide to camp out in the mountains rather than staying at hotels. There's a concern that their activities could lead to increased fire danger.

If you need assistance to confront or remove trespassers from your property, please contact the sheriff's department.

Auctioneers & Volunteers Needed

The Community Fest is scheduled for Sept. 6th and we need a few auctioneers. Let's give Beth a break!

Also, if you have goods or services to donate or would like to help solicit donations, that would be a great help.

We'll need some pots of chili, too. There's lots of jobs you can volunteer for that require a small amount of your time.

Please contact Beth Byerlein at
Byerlein@iosnky.com
(best) or 720-635-8188.

SFPD Residents:

I've just learned some of the details about the forest thinning project at Bald Mountain and have some major concerns. Chad Julian, the project manager at Boulder County Parks and Open Space, explained that he wants to return this area to a forest density of 20 – 30 trees per acre that he believes existed around 1860.

To make this estimate, he used old pictures from the late 1800's of Sunshine Canyon. These pictures show the area after miners had cut many of the trees for their cabins, mine timbers, and wood stoves so they don't depict the "natural" density accurately. Mr. Julian agrees with this. He also supports his estimate with data from stumps which still remain 150 years later due to slow decay in a dry climate. Upon further investigation, these data come from Flagstaff, Arizona and may not represent Sunshine Canyon tree densities accurately. Therefore the basis for his target density seems to be open to serious question.

Currently Bald Mountain has an average density of about 300 trees per acre. This means that he should remove 9 out of every 10 trees to reach his target density. He hastened to assure me that it wouldn't be that drastic, but clearly they intend to destroy almost everything. It will take a very long time for the forest to recover from this devastation. The disruption of ground cover already leaves large areas of bare earth exposed. Even though they intend to re-vegetate this, invasive species always move into such areas and crowd out native species. Bald Mountain will be an open sore in our canyon which fades very gradually.

He believes that thinning the ponderosa will make it more resistant to the pine bark beetle, even though other studies in lodgepole pine have shown that it makes absolutely no difference.

Mr. Julian also believes that a thinner forest makes ponderosa more resistant to fire. He pointed out that following the Foothills Fire a couple of years ago, 80-90% of the ponderosas died. This fire occurred at the very edge of suitable terrain for ponderosa and these trees were no doubt stressed by attempting to survive at the limits they can tolerate. No wonder most of them didn't make it. What happens at 5,500 feet bears little resemblance to what happens at 7,000 feet (i.e., Bald Mountain). Certainly a thinner forest does reduce the danger of a crown fire, but his goal far exceeds that which is appropriate for fire mitigation.

A major thinning project near Gross Reservoir about 25 years ago had unforeseen negative results. During the following winter, most of the surviving trees blew over. He told me that this won't happen on Bald Mountain.

It appears that Boulder County Parks and Open Space intends to conduct a research project on Bald Mountain to prove that excessive thinning of ponderosa will make them more resistant to the pine beetle and to fire. Unfortunately we, the residents who have enjoyed Bald Mountain for many years, will be the victims of this research.

A project of this magnitude should not have gotten started without any public notice and without an environmental impact study. I believe that all further work on the project should stop until these important steps have occurred.

Please send your comments to Mr. Julian at cjulian@bouldercounty.org.

Regards,
Don Dick

Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



Board Members

At the last Sunshine Cemetery Association meeting, president Haydee Kuner resigned from the board after nine years of service. We'd like to thank Haydee for her many contributions.

Three new persons joined the board: Stephen Hall, who took over as president, Dee Spencer, and Mike Aronson.

Sunshine Craft & Bake Sale

This annual event will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27- 28th and will feature the work of local residents, a silent auction, and a bake sale. It will be held at the historic schoolhouse and admission is free. All proceeds benefit the Schoolhouse Association. Interested vendors and anyone wanting to donate baked goods or items for the silent auction may contact June Howard (303-443-2095).

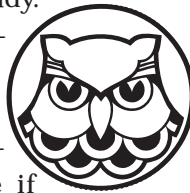
Wildlife Watch

Mountain Lion Study.

Last year, the Colorado DOW began a study in Boulder and Jefferson counties to determine if aversive conditioning techniques like rubber buckshot and beanbags will deter lions. The study is nearing the end of the initial 1-year pilot phase with about 14 lions collared. This initial phase is to validate suitability of the equipment for use in a 5-year study. DOW is using GPS collars that use a long-range VHF signal, and a short-range UHF datalink to download the log of recent activity from the collar.

Currently, if a mountain lion is a problem, there are very few options: either relocate, or euthenize. And although most people favor relocation, in reality bears and lions both usually return to their home range.

Matt Aldridge is the biological researcher out of the Fort Collins office leading the study. For more info, contact Jennifer Churchill at 303-291-7234 (office), 303-829-7143 (cell), or Jennifer.Churchill@state.co.us.
Submitted by Doug Young



Ips Beetles. If we didn't have enough to worry about with mountain pine beetles, Sunshine is also home to Ips beetles which are very similar in appearance. As compared to their more infamous cousins, Ips beetles bore into smaller trees with trunks that are less than 6" in diameter. Does this mean we're doubly doomed with mountain pine beetles eating trees greater than 6" and Ips taking care of the rest? Add to that the fact that Ips beetles have 5-7 life cycles per year so they can potentially kill many more trees.

The good news is that Ips beetles don't grow their populations like mountain pine beetles and don't reach epidemic proportions. Their damage is usually limited, with the notable exception several years ago of an infestation in the Four Corners area that killed a large number of piñon pines.

Still, it's worthwhile to take precautions so Ips beetles don't build up their population on your property. One of the important tasks is to dispose of slash piles that are both havens for this type of beetle and fire hazards.

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