

SPRUCE VALLEY RANCH FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Spring 2010

The holidays are now a distant memory and the calendar indicates that Spring is here. However, as you all know, Colorado weather can definitely be fickle. Temperatures have reached the low 70's but once again snow covered the ground this past Monday, May 24th.

Hopefully you all had the opportunity to see our resident moose in person this past winter. He spent a lot of time hanging out along Indiana Creek and great pictures have been posted on the web site by both Diane Currier and Mac Hamilton.

Board Meetings and Members: The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday morning, June 16th, at the Fernandes home. As always, owners are invited to sit in on the meeting. Anyone planning on attending should contact a board member to confirm the time and location. Our current Board members and the best phone numbers to use to reach them are: Tom Roe, (405) 615-2002, Larry Andersen (210) 262-1870, Georgie Fernandes (970) 390-9159, Phil Carlisle (817) 991-2702, and Steve Currier (970) 371-8577.

SVR Forestry: As Larry Andersen reported at the annual meeting of homeowners at the Hearthstone Restaurant on December 29, 2009, more than 18,000 trees were sprayed on common land and private lots combined in 2009. The Fall Beetle Survey identified only 56 trees infested by pine beetles.



We believe this low infestation was due to a variety of factors, but certainly the cool, wet summer shortened the flying window. In any case, the results of our beetle control were excellent and reinforce how important the spraying program combined with the removal of infested trees has been for the Ranch.

All residents are urged to continue to spray as that has been the key to our success in keeping SVR green. It is important to understand the differences between sprayers. While it is a resident's right to choose their service provider, it is important to understand the factors to consider. The Board has chosen Ten Mile Tree Care Service as the contractor for all spraying on the common ground in the Ranch. Ten Mile sprays all sides of the tree to a height of seventy-five (75) feet. (The beetles have not infested any trees in the Ranch that Ten Mile has sprayed.) Many other sprayers do not spray as high or as thoroughly. The chemical used is permethrin and according to the instructions on the bottle, can be mixed 2 to 5 quarts per 100 gallons. Ten Mile uses more than 4 quarts per 100 gallons in their solution. This ratio has proven very effective. We have also found that the act of spraying tends to protect trees beyond the subject tree.

The Board recently sent out a request for all residents to set up spraying on their lot. Once you have indicated which plan you prefer, Tom McCarthy of Ten Mile Tree Service will set up a spraying schedule. He has a large lot map of the Ranch showing individual lot boundaries, but you are encouraged to talk directly to him - (970) 389-3277 - before the spraying of your lot if you have any concerns or want to clarify your property boundaries and the diameter of trees you want to have sprayed. It is also strongly encouraged that you inspect your lot soon after spraying so as to insure that your instructions have been followed to the boundary of your lot. Please remember that lot boundaries are extremely hard to ascertain in some areas and this should not be left to the spraying service.

This year the Board will be taking a much sterner position on the removal of infested trees. **All** infested trees **MUST** be removed by June 15th. If no action has been taken, the Board will arrange for the removal of the infested trees and bill the homeowner accordingly. Bighorn Tree Service owned by Brad Hoerter (970) 453-0930 has been contracted by the Board to remove infected trees in the common areas. You may contact Tom or Larry to coordinate tree removal on your property, contact Brad Hoerter directly or arrange to have the work done by a different contractor.

To protect the fish in the lake, spraying will no longer be allowed on common areas or private lots within thirty to forty feet of the Tarn or the streams as permethrin and fish are not a good combination. Pheromone packets will be used in these areas.



Denver's Channel 4 (CBS) news recently reported on a locally produced alternative product. It is called ODC (organic disease control) and is produced by a company in Berthoud, CO using crushed shrimp shells which act like a hormone to the tree, helping it produce more resin and thus resist the intrusion of the pine beetle. We are trying to obtain additional information on the effectiveness of this product. Since it is totally non-toxic, it might work along the water or in areas where residents prefer no chemicals. However, you need to know that this product must be applied several times during the growing season.

If you have walked any of the Ranch trails recently, you may have noticed markings on many of the trees on common land. The Board has undertaken a study to determine the possible total costs which the Foundation may incur before this beetle infestation concludes. Trees in the common areas have been marked either with green tape or red dots. Our initial study guesstimated that we had about four hundred lodge pole pines per acre, but we needed a more accurate count to budget our continued forest management. The Board directed Tom McCarthy to take a count and mark approximately two hundred (200) trees per acre which we wanted to save (spray). About 3500 to 3600 trees in the common areas have been tied with green tape. Those trees with red dots are merely to help with the count so that we know how many total trees we have and might possibly have to cut down if they are eventually infested by beetles. With this information we have determined that the final cost of protecting the forest on Ranch common ground could reach \$500,000 over the next few years for both spraying and tree removal.

If you have any questions concerning the Pine Beetle Infestation Program, please contact either Larry Andersen (970) 453-7496 or **(210) 262-1870** cell or Tom Roe at (970) 453-0190 or **(405) 615-2002** cell or tomeroe@gmail.com.

As in previous years, SVR will again survey the Ranch for signs of beetle hits after the flying season. Detailed survey results will be provided to you in the Fall of 2010. We encourage all homeowners to inspect their own lots for signs of sap pustules and saw dust rings and, of course, reddish brown dying trees; then mark them accordingly.

Beyond the infested tree removal we also encourage lot owners to consider thinning and slash removal. Thinning is the key to a healthy forest which goes a long way towards minimizing the impact of the beetles. Permits for this type of work ARE necessary. Remember there are heavy fines for the removal of non-infected trees without a permit.

U. S. Forest Service: The Board is continuing to monitor the proposal by the U. S Forest Service to scope the forest areas directly adjacent to the Ranch in order to create a fire break zone for public and firefighter safety. This has been necessitated by the pine beetle epidemic. A decision on the work to be done is projected for August 2010 with bidding to be started in September 2010. Given that time line, it appears that the only work we may see done this summer is a boundary survey. For in-depth information, please go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/>. Then click on White River National Forest NEPA Projects and **Under Analysis**, click Breckenridge Forest Health and Fuels Project. All pertinent documents are available on this page.

SVR Fees: Sending quarterly billing statements by e-mail has now been in effect for close to a year. Thanks to all residents for helping make this transition a success. The “e-mail” method is saving significant time previously needed for preparation, stuffing envelopes, and addressing envelopes as well as saving money on postage.

Financial Statements: Phil Carlisle reports that the year-end financials have been posted on the web site in the “Owners Only” area. We did have a decrease in cash position for the year, yet we were able to fully fund all of our restricted funds per our budgetary goals for 2009. Our investment funds have had a decent bounce back after the sharp decline, although we are still somewhat lagging projections based on annual growth rates. We are now in line tracking a 5% annual growth rate since inception of the funds in 2001.

Boathouse: Now that the ice has finally melted off the Tarn, activity is resuming at the boathouse. Steve Currier, who handles all boathouse issues, reports that only a couple of upper boat spaces remain available. Please make sure you lock the door when leaving the boathouse.

Boat permits are required by the Town of Blue River at a cost of \$5.00. Mail your check to:

Kathy Neel, Town Clerk of Blue River
P.O. Box 1784
Breckenridge, CO 80424-1784

This year the SVR Foundation donated \$500.00 to the Town of Blue River and a number of SVR residents also made cash contributions for the purpose of increasing the number and size of fish used to stock the Tarn. According to Howard Smith who handles this effort for the Town of Blue River, stocking will occur sometime in early June. Please remember that catch and release of all fish is strongly encouraged by the SVR Board.



When parking at the boathouse, please park in the designated parking area. Use the parking tags that were provided for each homeowner this past Fall. If you did not receive yours, please contact Georgie Fernandes at (970) 390-9159. **The turn-a-round at the Tarn is for the Red, White and Blue Fire Department. It must be kept clear. The Sheriff's department can give citations for parking on the turn-a-round. Please do not block the drive to the Tarn or drive on the boathouse ramp.**

Stable: SVR horse owners are gearing up for another great year. The upgrades made in 2009 to the stable, including new steel sliding stall doors on all ten stalls, leveled paddock areas, better drainage all around, and safe stalls will be enjoyed by both horses and their owners. There are plans for four families to have their favorite mounts housed here this summer. Feel free to visit at any time.



The stable usage rules were revised and officially endorsed by the SVR board in February 2009 and the stable indemnification forms for all users of the stable are now in place. These documents are also available on the SVR website.

Trails: Phil Carlisle is the Board liaison overseeing trails, roads and bridges, and would appreciate some feedback as to which trails you use the most, which are your favorite trails and why, as well as any problem areas you find on the trails you frequent. Please take a moment to send your comments via e-mail to pcarlisle@xogllc.com.

Tennis Court: Resurfacing of the tennis court was completed in 2009. Grab a racquet and check it out! Remember - only tennis shoes are allowed whether you are playing tennis or basketball. No bicycles or ride-on toys are allowed. In order to maintain this amenity in tip top playing condition, we must adhere strictly to these rules. The code on the gate lock is 2000. Please remember to lock the gate when you leave.

Trap and Skeet: The trap and skeet range re-opened on May 21. The road is still a bit wet so the road barriers and "Road Closed" sign are still in place to minimize outside traffic. If you want to shoot, just move the barriers and sign, but then replace them once you have driven through. This inconvenience will be removed as soon as the road conditions improve.

A few boxes of clays have been stocked in each house. You are encouraged to purchase and keep a few extra boxes of clays on hand as and keeping the range problem in the past. Please **biodegradable clays** only.



Summit County's supply is limited stocked has been an on-going make sure to purchase

Remember, only shotguns rifles are allowed on the violation of this rule, please license number of the offender so that the sheriff can be notified.

are allowed; no handguns or long Range. In the event you observe a notify Larry or Tom and record the

Water Meter Readings: I imagine by now you all realize that your water consumption is being recorded each month. The water readings are taken on the last day of each month and are submitted to the Colorado Division of Water Resources. This data **MUST** include all water usage in the Ranch. It is illegal to bypass the recording of any usage of water on your property. All water used **MUST** pass through your water meter. Non-compliance with any part of such monitoring could jeopardize the water rights of all SVR residents.

Occasionally it has been necessary to contact some residents to let them know that their meter recorded "stuck" or a "leak" . A "leak" simply means that the water meter is reading a constant flow passing over the magnet for a period of 24 hours. This could be something as simple as a humidifier which is constantly calling for water. On the other hand, it may be a drippy faucet or a "running" toilet. You may have a REAL leak. A "stuck" reading indicates that your meter has not recorded any consumption at all since the previous month's recording. If you have not been in your home and/or have shut off your water, that reading may be accurate.

However, in several instances, it has been an indicator that debris has become stuck in the water meter and caused it to stop recording. We will continue to notify you if either of these readings is reported on your residence. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to follow up on any "leak" or "stuck" meter readings.

It is important for all residents to be aware of their water usage. As soon as the May readings are taken, Georgie Fernandes will compile a chart showing water consumption for each lot for the first five months of 2010. This will give each homeowner a water consumption reference for usage before irrigation systems are turned on and can be used to compare with the same time period in 2009.

The SVR Board strongly encourages all residents make conscientious choices in their water consumption. Keep in mind that a conventional toilet uses 5 to 7 gallons per flush while the water saving models use only about 1 ½ gallons per flush. A shower with a conventional shower head uses 7 to 10 gallons of water per minute while a water saving head uses only 2 to 4 gallons per minute. There are many web sites which offer ideas on conserving water. Check www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-serve/index.php for suggestions.

Web Site: Hopefully you are keeping a regular eye out for additions to the web site. It should be your "go to" place to access the Ranch homeowner's directory, find information about current events, see photos taken around the Ranch, check Ranch documents, and view SVR real estate for sale.

At the suggestion of one of our residents at the annual meeting in December, a “blog” or discussion board has been set up. Phil Carlisle is our webmaster. In order to use the discussion page, you will need to register and then be approved by the moderator in order to post comments. This process will ask you to generate a user name and a password which is unique only to you. You will then be able to comment on existing posts or create a new forum altogether. Once you have registered and want to comment on an existing topic, or forum, click on the forum of choice; this will take you to that topic’s home. From there, click on the topic, and it will take you to the comments posted for that topic. It may seem a bit complicated at first, but just give it a try and you will see that it isn’t nearly as complicated as it sounds. The main thing to keep in mind is that you need your own user account (login/password), and once you have this, you can ask to be remembered and automatically logged in on future visits.

Pet Etiquette: Upon request, the Board is asking all pet owners to be considerate of their fellow neighbors when walking their dogs in the Ranch by keeping their pets out of landscaped areas. SVR rules direct that all dogs be on a leash or in voice command at all times and owners are responsible for removing any solid waste deposited by their pets and disposing of it properly.

Annual Fourth of July Picnic: Mark your calendars for Friday, July 2, 2010. The picnic grounds will be the site of the annual gathering of all SVR residents. Additional information will be coming soon. We know you are all looking forward to renewing your Spruce Valley Ranch friendships and enjoying the amenities which are ready and waiting for you. Please do not hesitate to call any member of the Board with questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

SVR Board of Directors