

SPRUCE VALLEY RANCH FOUNDATION

Spring to Summer 2011 Newsletter

Welcome new SVR residents: New owners, Roger Jo Soukup and Edwin A. Samayoa closed on their new home at 1193 Indiana Creek Road on May 17th.

John and Jean Sherman from Colorado Springs are the new owners of 0832 Indiana Creek Road.

Annual picnic: All Spruce Valley Ranch residents, family members and guests are invited to the annual picnic which will be held this year on Saturday, July 2 from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the picnic grounds on Indiana Creek Road. Beverages including beer, wine, soda and water will be provided by the SVR Foundation. Each family should bring their own entrée and tableware, as well as a dish to share (salad, casserole, hors d'oeuvres, etc.). The grill will be ready to cook your steaks, burgers, brats, or whatever else you wish to prepare.

The snow in the Ranch is finally almost all gone, although we had another four inches on June 20th. After more than 500 inches this past winter, Spring has been slow to arrive. Daffodils are in bloom and the aspens are finally opening their leaves. The last of the ice melted from the Tarn on Memorial Day. At least one bear has been making the rounds and is busy looking for food after the winter hibernation. This means all residents should be careful with their smaller pets and refrain from putting out bird feed. Diane Currier snapped this picture in her backyard.



There also have been moose sighted in the Ranch. As you are probably aware, the moose population in Summit County has grown dramatically since they were reintroduced to Colorado in 1978.

While they are great fun to view, it is important to remember that they can be extremely dangerous. Their long legs enable them to walk easily, even in marshy areas, and they can run up to 35 mph. They have very poor eyesight, so they rely on smell and hearing. This can make them especially dangerous if you are out walking your dog, as they may mistake your pet for a wolf which is their most common enemy. Please be alert as they will not hesitate to charge and they have sharp hooves and the ability to kick with both their front and rear legs. These two youngsters were photographed just yesterday near the Andersen's garage.



SVR Forestry: Tom Mc Carthy of Ten Mile Tree Care Service is presently working long hours and weekends with his assistants, spraying the lodge pole pine trees on common land as well as those private lots whose owners chose him as their service provider. The stable area was sprayed first before any horses were brought in for the summer season. Because this has been a very cold, wet Spring, Tom is almost three weeks behind schedule. Some shaded areas in the woods still have piles of snow. The Board is extremely appreciative of Tom's efforts to complete the job before the beetles fly.

As reported at the annual meeting, only twenty-nine trees in the entire Ranch were discovered to have been infested by beetles during the 2010 Fall survey. Most of these have already been removed. The group of ten on the very steep terrain on common land behind lot 48 were cut, stacked, sprayed and covered with plastic.

In accordance with the Board's position, **ALL** infested trees **MUST** be removed before the beetles fly. If any homeowner does not comply, the Board will arrange for the removal of the trees and bill the homeowner accordingly. You may contact Larry Andersen (210) 262-1870 cell or Tom Roe (405) 615-2002 cell if you need assistance in coordinating tree removal.

The Spruce Valley Ranch Board applied to the Summit County Board of County Commissioners through the Summit County Wildfire Council for a matching grant to help with fire mitigation work. We received approval in mid June in the amount of \$26,500. \$10,000 in matching funds will be used for work on common ground, \$10,000 for work in filings 3 & 4, and \$6500 for work on the twelve private lots who indicated their interest in the program. Dan Welsh of Colorado Forestry Inc. assisted in writing the grant proposal and has been hired to complete this phase of fire mitigation in the Ranch.

As a recipient of this grant, The SVR Board had to sign an agreement to comply with the Summit County Weed Management Plan when implementing the proposed fuel reduction program. A full reading of this weed management plan is available by going to <http://www.co.summit.co.us/wildfiremitigation/grants.htm> and then clicking on Summit County Weed Management Plan. You will find a listing of Summit County's noxious weeds and techniques to manage them. It is important that each of us as homeowners do our part to limit or eliminate these noxious weed species.

SVR Roads: Spruce Valley Ranch roads are private and no parking is allowed. It is considered trespassing to park on the roads in the Ranch and citations may be issued if we continue to have parking issues.

Porcupines: This is a reminder of the options for preventing loss of spruce trees by porcupines.

1. Hire a trapper to come to your property to trap and relocate the porcupines.
2. The other option, which seems to be working, is "critter-repellant". I have purchased some of this myself, and sprinkled it around the base of some of our larger spruce trees. It is suppose to have the "fox" smell. The fox is the most feared predator of the porcupine. Once the porcupines strip a good portion of bark from the trees, the trees will die.



See the link below for the *Critter-repellent*

<http://www.critter-repellent.com/porcupine/porcupine-removal.php>

A good reliable trapper is James Hooks, at jameshooks09@gmail.com. James has been the president of the Colorado Trappers Association, and has been around these parts for years. James can also help you with critters (like pack-rats and raccoons) that may have invaded your home.

Trap and Skeet: As of June 13, the trap and skeet range opened for the season. A few boxes of clays have been stacked in each house. You are encouraged to purchase and keep a few extra boxes of clays on hand as Summit County's supply is often limited. Please make sure to purchase **biodegradable clays only**. Remember, only shotguns are allowed at trap and skeet. No handguns or long guns are allowed on the range. If you notice anyone in violation of this rule, please notify either Larry Andersen or Tom Roe.

Landscape timber and gravel stairs will soon be constructed to the skeet range similar in style to those at the trap and shooting range. They will start at the opening in the split rail fence at the parking area and end at the small concrete pad near the picnic table at the skeet range.

Stable: SVR horse owners are looking forward to another great year. The exercise ring has already been set up and three of the summer's occupants are all settled. Remember that indemnification forms are required for all users of the stable and are available on the web site as well as in the tack room.

Stocking the Tarn: On June 10th, several Spruce Valley Ranch residents joined the Town of Blue River Mayor Lindsay Backas and staff from the Fish Farm, a hatchery in Berthoud, Colorado to release more than 600 new fish. It took almost two hours to equalize the temperature of the water in the tank (50 degrees) with the temperature of the water in the Tarn (42 degrees). In this picture, Mac Hamilton is straightening the release tube and Tony Fernandes and Larry Andersen are assisting any fish which seem to be struggling in their new home. If you look closely, you can see fish exiting the yellow tube.

This year the Spruce Valley Ranch Foundation donated \$500 to the Town of Blue River to supplement the stocking. The Town of Blue River is strongly urging catch and release when fishing on the Tarn. All fishermen must have a valid Colorado fishing license.

For the first time, a second stocking is planned for August with monies donated by Blue River residents. If you are interested in donating to this amenity, make your check payable to the Town of Blue River with a notation in the memo section that it is for Tarn stocking. Then mail your check to Kathy Neel, Town Clerk of Blue River, at address noted below.

Boathouse: Activity resumed at the boathouse even before all of the ice melted from the Tarn. Any questions regarding boathouse issues should be directed to Steve Currier at (970) 453-9786. Please be sure that you lock the door when leaving the facility.



The Town of Blue River now requires boat decals for all watercraft except belly boats and float tubes. These permits cost \$20.00 per boat and are available from Kevin Snell, the Deputy Sheriff, or directly from the Town of Blue River. All monies from the boat permits are being designated to a special fund to purchase fish for stocking the Tarn. Please mail your checks to:

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

When parking at the boathouse, please use the designated parking area and remember to use your SVR Resident parking tags. If you did not receive your tags, please contact Georgie Fernandes at (970) 390-9159. **The turn-around at the Tarn is for the Red, White and Blue Fire Department. It must be kept clear.**



Plastic Coated Metal Tables
Heavy-Duty Square Expanded Metal Table
product description
Rugged steel construction completely coated with corrosion-resistant plastic.
Protective plastic shell is 30 times the thickness of paint or powder coating.
UV stable, mold and mildew resistant.
Rugged and durable, perfect for all outdoor settings.
Sturdy 1 1/2" O.D. steel tubing.
Rounded edges for seating comfort and style.
1 1/2" dia. umbrella hole.
Stainless steel, temperature-resistant hardware.

Picnic Area: Four new four foot square picnic tables and two eight foot rectangular picnic tables have been ordered for the picnic area. Unfortunately they will not arrive in time for the upcoming annual picnic, but should be here by the end of July.

Tennis Court: The court has been power washed and is ready for another season. Please be sure to wear tennis shoes, whether you are playing tennis or playing basketball. No bicycles or ride-on toys are

allowed. In order to maintain this amenity in top playing condition, we must strictly adhere to these rules.

Please remember that Spruce Valley Ranch amenities are to be used only by residents or their guests when accompanied by the resident. (See Ranch Rules)

Water Meter Readings: As you all know, water consumption is recorded on the last day of each month and then reported to the State of Colorado Water Board. There have been several “stuck” meters recently which may be due to debris collecting on the magnet in the meter. In the event that you are notified that you have a “leak” or that your meter is “stuck”, immediate repairs need to be undertaken. You can call Georgie Fernandes (970) 390-9159 and report what size meter is installed at your home. In most instances, it would be 5/8 inch and the brass fitting of the meter would be so marked. Parts can be ordered to replace the inner workings for about \$50.00. Otherwise a new meter will be required. Please help the Ranch stay in compliance with the regulations of the Colorado Division of Water Resources.

Pet Etiquette: The Board is requesting 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.

Sincerely yours,

SVR Board of Directors