



WAPITI BUGLE



Volume 12

March/April 2009

Issue 2

A Publication of Crystal Lakes Road and Recreation Association

(970) 881-2250

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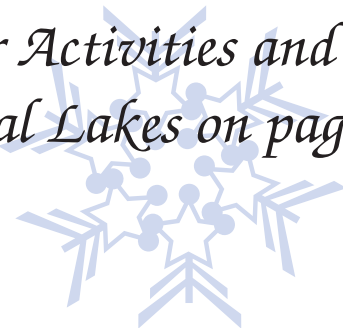
Web Page: www.crystal-lakes.org E-mail: crystal-lakes@crystal-lakes.org



Creedmore Lakes Road Sunset. Photo by Helen Bowlin.



*Saying Goodbye to Winter
–Winter Activities and Scenes
at Crystal Lakes on page 15.*



*Carter Quin sledding at Beaver Meadows.
Photo by Ann Watson*



*Carol Strazer at Red Feather Lakes Library.
Photo by Sarah Meyers.*



*Bob and Muriel Fleming at New Years Eve Party.
Photo by Helen Bowlin.*



*New Years Eve Partiers at The Restaurant.
Photo by Helen Bowlin.*



*Judy Randol and Elissa Deaton at Valentine's Day Party.
Photo by Helen Bowlin*



*Cindy and Jack Goodell at Valentines Day Party.
Photo by Helen Bowlin.*



*Badger. Photo from
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Mammals/Badger.htm>*



*Red Squirrel.
Photo by Carolyn St. John.*

“A Big Hello”

By Jody Sandquist, Manager

Thanks to all the new volunteers. We’ve had several owners offer to serve on various committees. The entire membership benefits from the efforts of these owners, who are willing to offer their time and talents by serving on the standing and/or ad hoc committees. Thanks, also, to the many volunteers who have continued their service on the committees. As “experienced hands” on the committees your knowledge is vital to help maintain consistency.

Be sure to vote. The Road & Recreation Association ballots will be mailed in early March. You will find a resume for each candidate for the two elections. The election for Road & Recreation Association Board of Directors openings will be conducted; and this year the Fishing Board will also hold its election by this written ballot. Please follow voting instructions on the ballot and clearly mark your choices. The ballot questions will appear on the ballot with enclosures describing the issues to be decided on by the membership.

Mail your ballot back in the special envelope with the certification on the back. That certification must be completed for your ballot to be valid. Prior to counting ballots, the certification envelopes are verified by the ballot judges, and the ballots removed from the envelopes. The envelopes are counted and stored as required. The ballots are then processed. This procedure maintains privacy for the voters while meeting COCIOA standards.

The Restaurant will begin serving Friday lunches again on March 20th, opening on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. for lunch and serving dinner beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Watch for important information elsewhere in this newsletter to help prevent pine beetle infestation by spraying and thinning.

The office will be closed April 12, 2009, to allow staff to celebrate the Easter holiday with their families. No staff will be on the premises on Sunday, April 12. If you have an emergency, CALL 911.

—*PLEASE VOLUNTEER*—

**Volunteers are needed for the Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department.
Please call Marian at 881-2049.
Your community needs you.**

CLVFD Rummage Sale

By Kate Kelly

We’re hoping you have lots of nice things to donate to the Fire Department Rummage Sale. Drop off hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday in May at the fire station. Gently used items only, please, and no microwaves, computers, televisions or stereo systems. Gently used outerwear, toys and sports equipment are greatly appreciated. Please do not leave anything at the fire station if no one is there. If you have furniture you’d like to donate, please call Kate Kelly at 970-881-2049 to arrange for someone to come to your location and take pictures of the item – we will have a bulletin board at the sale where people can view these items and fire department members will assist in moving anything that sells.

The sale is Sunday, May 24th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have lunches and logo items for sale.

Please come and join the fun. You may find that one item you have needed for years.

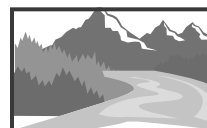
If you have an hour or two free, your help would be greatly appreciated. We will need help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 19, 20, 21 starting at 9:30 a.m. to sort, price and tag sale items. We will also need help on Sunday, May 24th for the sale.

We will have a bag sale on monday for any items left after the sale. For further information call Kate Kelly at 970-881-2049.

A Reminder From Your Fire Department

By Marian Kelly

All properties inside the Crystal Lakes subdivision fall under the Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District. Please make certain that your insurance company has the proper fire department listed for your lot — many companies use your zip code to determine your district, and erroneously list Red Feather Lakes Fire Department as your department. If there is a fire, your insurance company may not pay if they have the wrong fire department in their records, so we recommend that all property owners in Crystal Lakes verify that their insurance forms show Crystal Lakes Fire Department as the responding department.



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Remembering Bob Baraban

By Lisa Bell

A longtime summer resident of Crystal Lakes, Robert (Bob) Baraban passed away on November 25, 2008 at his home in Sun City West, Arizona. Born on November 23, 1930, Bob grew up in New York City and attended college at Northwestern University. He served in the Navy until after the Korean War and found eventual employment with IBM, where he worked until his retirement in 1991. Bob, and his wife Bonnie, moved to Arizona in 1993 and decided that the summers were too hot to endure without some relief in the mountains of Colorado. In 1993, he purchased the cabin at "Just Us Hill" on Creedmore Lakes Road and fell in love with Crystal Lakes. Each summer he looked forward to fishing, visiting with his many friends, and being a true "westerner" (despite wearing dress slacks and loafers while he did chores!). Bob will be remembered for his smoked trout, his assistance with the annual craft fair, his ability to make friends with anybody and everybody, and his great sense of humor. Bob was a little man with a huge heart and a giving spirit and his presence this summer will be missed.

Carol Strazer Wins Writing Award

By Ann Watson

"Writing was always a passion of mine and I dreamed of someday having my stories published in magazines, books and newspapers," Carol said. In December her dream came true when her award-winning essay, "Help at a Mountain Library," was selected to be published in the March 2009 issue of Woman's Day Magazine. The American Library Association and Woman's Day staff awarded Carol the prize out of thousands of entries because "her story was so unique and well-written."

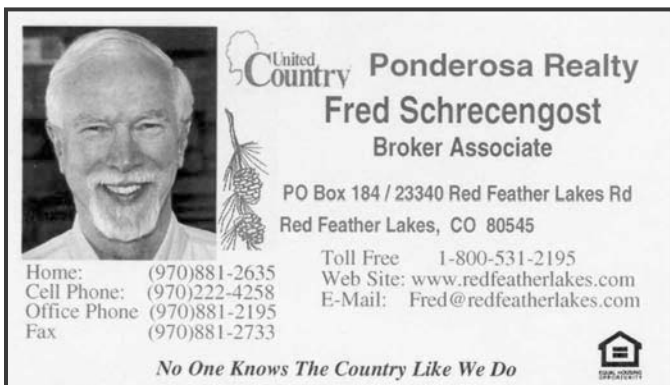
Carol has also been honored to have her story, *Becoming Catholic*, selected for inclusion in the new book, "Chicken Soup for the Soul; Living Catholic Faith," published in December, 2008.

Crystal Lakes became home to Carol and her husband Bob in 2004 after relocating from the Oregon/Washington area where they lived for 40 years. Carol said her goal was to do more creative writing after retirement, and "This was the perfect place to do it with the many talented and nurturing writers and artists living here." She immediately volunteered to be on the Wapiti Bugle Committee contributing her talents as editor and writer.

She serves on the Red Feather Lakes Library Program Committee and arranges for authors and other speakers to present programs. Bob is a member of the Crystal Lakes Water and Sewer Board.

Carol has a BS degree in Speech and English Education from Northwestern University and a MA in Counseling Psychology from Lewis and Clark University. She has worked as a teacher, counselor and program coordinator in high school, community college and hospital settings.

The Strazers have a daughter, son-in-law and grandson living in Oregon; a daughter and son-in-law in Seattle and a daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons in Centennial, CO. See photo on page 2.



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Wapiti Bugle:

A Property Owner's Communication
Published by Crystal Lakes Road and
Recreation Association

Newsletter Committee: Sharon Cooper,
Kay Hunter, Jana Mills, John Sprackling,
Helen Bowlin, Ann Watson, Editor

DEADLINE for the next issue:
Monday, April 6, 2009

The Village Veterinary Clinic and Pet Supply *LLC*

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73 Main St. in the Red Feather Lakes Village
970-881-3888

Office Reminders

By Marian Kelly

- No open fires are allowed without an approved firepit. To get your firepit approved please allow two weeks and plan accordingly. Specifications and an application for approval are available in the office. If you have an approved fire pit, you may call the office to get a fire permit, or come in to inform us you will be using your pit, whichever you prefer.
- With spring thaw, be aware of fast moving current on all streams and thin ice on lakes. Please be cautious and watch out for your own safety.
- Beetle spray request forms will be available March 1 and will need to be returned no later than June 1, 2009. This year's color for marking the trees will be yellow.
- Trailers are permitted to remain on lots for five months per calendar year but must display a trailer permit in the window. Trailer permits are available at no cost in the office. You may keep your trailer on your lot for up to four days at a time without a trailer permit. Trailers on lots for more than four days without a trailer permit and trailers left on lots for more than five months are subject to fines.
- The free fishing passes for property owners who paid their 2008-09 R&R dues on time will expire May 31, 2009.

- Large Volume water users: the fee paid for 2008-09 will expire May 31, 2009. Please come to the office to pay for the 2009-10 fiscal year as soon as possible. You may request to be invoiced for the charge.
- Please report any theft or damage of your property to the Larimer County Sheriff's Department as soon as possible.
- Architectural Control applications not received one week prior to the Architectural meeting will be scheduled for the following month. The ACC meets the first Saturday of every month.
- The office is happy to take delivery of UPS and FedEx packages sent to Crystal Lakes addresses, but please be aware of our limited space and try to pick up your package as soon as possible. We have almost no space for packages that must be refrigerated – we can accommodate only one medium-sized box – so please plan to pick up such packages quickly.

Office summer hours will begin on May 1. We will be open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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President's Report March 2009

By Steve Smalley

Ballots Coming Soon

It's that time of year again when the members are asked to vote on important issues and to elect board members. There will be three new issues brought to the membership this year; the first involves the extension of the Road Improvement Fund. The members approved this fund for a five year time period which expires this year. The road committee is asking for the fund to be extended for an additional five years and the amount be increased from \$50 to \$75 yearly. This increase is to help off-set the increase of cost to purchase the material for the roads. The second issue is to increase the Major Repair and Replacement Fund from \$10 to \$25 yearly. This would help the association's ability to maintain and replace equipment and facilities in the future. The third issue would be a one-time special assessment of \$50 for a pilot program for forest management in the greenbelts, along with an increased effort to fight the pine beetle. All these issues are important for the future of Crystal Lakes and to protect our most valuable community assets. We realize times are tough for many of our members, and do not want to put a hardship on anyone. However, these programs only represent an increase of dues by \$61 this year, or only \$5.08 per month. More information will be included in the ballot on each one of these issues. I hope you will review the material and then vote for what you think is best for our community.

Also on the ballot will be your opportunity to vote for three Road & Recreation Board members who will represent you. I urge you to carefully review the resumes and pick the candidates you feel will best

represent you as a property owner. It's unknown at this time if the need for a Fishing Board election will be necessary or not, but if it is needed those candidates will also appear on the ballot. This will be the first time that we have done a mail-in ballot for Fishing Board members.

Board Freezes Wages

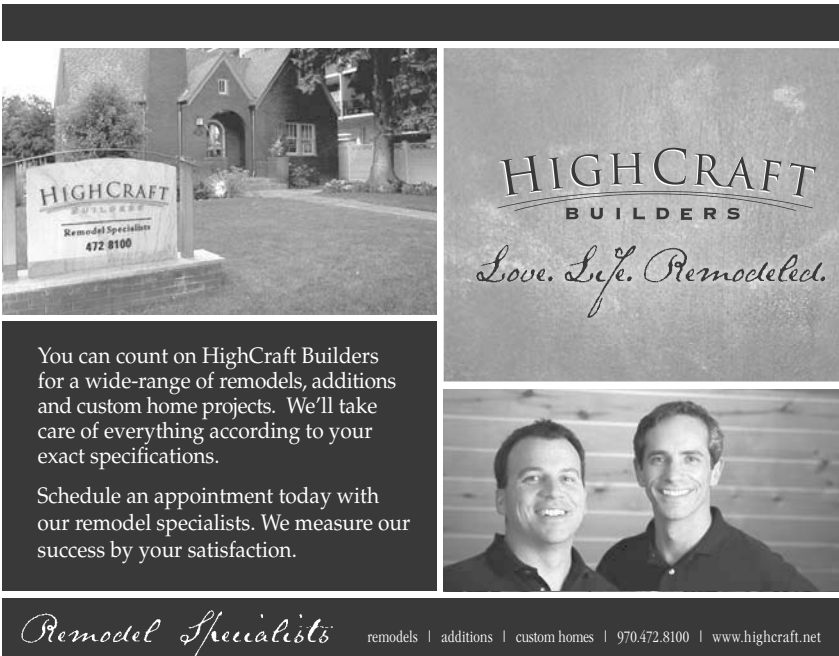
The Joint Boards have decided to freeze the wages of the association employees due to the current economic down turn. Although we feel this action is appropriate; by no means does this indicate any dissatisfaction with our staff or the duties they perform for all of us. The Boards are very grateful to our manager and staff for all they do and their dedication to the community.

New Benches

On the lighter side, Life Scout Mark Shepard visited the February board meeting to ask permission to build 4-5 benches for people to be able to sit on and enjoy the great outdoors. This project is one of the last steps Mark needs to complete in order to become an Eagle Scout. The Community Fund offered to help buy the materials for the project and Mark and his Troop 546 will be up this spring to construct the benches. It's so great to see young people who are so community minded. Thanks Mark.

Vote

Please keep your eyes open for your ballot. It is important that everyone votes. That is the way your voice is heard and policy is made. Please read the information carefully and then vote. Follow all instructions in returning your ballot so it will be counted.



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The Wapiti Bugle Committee will consider art work for publication in the newsletter. To submit art work, contact the committee members or the office.

Disclaimer
The *Wapiti Bugle* neither recommends nor endorses its advertisers. Property owners are encouraged to seek references and meet with contractors prior to engaging their services.

Notes from the Water and Sewer Association

By Steve Koeckeritz, President

Lower Lone Pine Lake Enlargement

The CLWSA Board will meet with our appraisers in early March to review appraisal data for the properties surrounding the lake site. States West Water Resources has mapped the boundaries of the new lake site to assist in the appraisal process. We anticipate meeting with adjoining owners in April to further update them on the status of the project and begin discussions regarding compensation for the land area needed to go forward with the project.

The Association has accepted a proposal from Anderson Consulting Engineers, Inc. to provide engineering analysis in support of efforts by the Association to refine the administration and operation of our augmentation plan, specifically in regard to our obligation to construct additional storage capacity in the Lone Pine Creek drainage. The scope of work under this proposal, which will cost \$20,000, will include (a) a hydrologic and operation analysis of the proposed expansion of Lower Lone Pine Lake, and (b) an assessment of residential water use within Crystal Lakes in order to reduce augmentation requirements.

The Association has received a proposal from States West Water Resources for final design and construction management services for the enlargement project. The total estimated cost for the above services is \$233,500, which will include final design and construction documents, state and federal permits, bidding assistance and construction management. States West has also updated construction cost estimates to a 2010 construction season which total approximately \$2,500,000 for completion of the project.

FY 2009-10 Budget

The Board has begun developing our budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2009. The Associations have been advised by our insurance advisor that the cost of our present medical insurance plan, which is budgeted at \$46,000 for the current year, is projected to increase 20.5% for the upcoming year. The joint boards have requested our advisor to provide cost information for a variety of alternative medical plans to minimize any increase in medical insurance costs for the upcoming year. Due in part to the anticipated increased cost of medical insurance and in view of current economic conditions, the Boards have voted to maintain salaries at the current level for all positions except that of Secretary, which may be adjusted after the Boards receive final cost data for medical insurance.

Recent repair costs in excess of \$9,000 for replacement of the transmission in the sewer truck will likely necessitate an increase in charges for servicing sealed vaults (now \$140) and septic tanks (now \$200).

Lots For Sale

Crystal Lakes Water & Sewer Association offers:

- Elk Ridge, Tract 13 \$99,900.00

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Wapiti Bugle Subscriptions Available

- Individual copies of the Wapiti Bugle are available at the office for \$2.00 each.
- Yearly subscriptions are \$20.00 for six issues

To order a one-year subscription, complete this form and enclose a check for \$20 to CLA, or you may pay at the office.

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Note: Every Crystal Lakes member receives six issues of the newsletter each year. The paid subscriptions provide a way for you to have newsletters sent to your friends, families etc.

Crystal Lakes Calendar of Events

By Kay Hunter

Sat. 3/14 *St. Patrick's Day Recreation
5:00 p.m.-
8:00 p.m. Committee sponsored corned beef
and cabbage dinner at the CL
restaurant

Tue. 3/17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day**

Wed. 3/18 *Crystal Lakes Community Potluck
Noon Wapiti Center. Bring a dish to share
and table service

Thu. 3/19 *CLVFD Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Fire Barn

Sat. 3/21 *Water & Sewer Board Meeting
8:00 a.m. Wapiti Center
10:00 a.m. *Joint Boards Meeting
1:00 p.m. *Road and Rec. Board Meeting

Thu. 3/26 *CLVFD Training
6:30 p.m. Fire Barn

Wed. 4/1 *Crystal Belles
10:00 a.m. call Peggy Reffel 881-2727 for
information

Thu. 4/2 *CLVFD Admin. Meeting
6:30 p.m. Fire Barn

Sat. 4/4 *ACC Meeting
1:00 p.m. Wapiti Center

Wed. 4/8 Mountain Gals
1:30 p.m. Colorado Hummingbirds
RFL POA Building

Thu. 4/9 *CLVFD Training
6:30 p.m. Fire Barn

Sun. 4/12 *Easter Sunday Buffet
8:00 a.m.-
2:00 p.m. The Restaurant, Wapiti Center

Wed. 4/15 *Crystal Lakes Community Potluck
Noon Wapiti Center. Bring a dish to share
and table service

Thu. 4/16 *CLVFD Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Fire Barn

Sat. 4/18 *Water & Sewer Board Meeting
8:00 a.m. Wapiti Center
10:00 a.m. *Joint Boards Meeting
1:00 p.m. *Road and Rec. Board Meeting

Sun. 4/19 *Fishing Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. Wapiti Center

Thurs. 4/23 *CLVFD Training
6:30 p.m. Fire Barn

Sat. 4/25 *Community Fund Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. Wapiti Center

Sun. 4/26 Bear Aware Meeting
10:00 a.m. Wapiti Center

Sat. 5/2 *ACC Meeting
1:00 p.m. Wapiti Center

Wed. 5/6 *Crystal Belles
10:00 a.m. call Peggy Reffel 881-2727 for
information

Thu. 5/7 *CLVFD Admin. Meeting
6:30 p.m. Fire Barn

Sun. 5/10 *Mother's Day Buffet
8:00 a.m.-
2:00 p.m. The Restaurant, Wapiti Center

Wed. 5/13 Mountain Gals Annual Spring Tea
Noon Chapel in the Pines

Thu. 5/14 *CLVFD Training
6:30 p.m. Fire Barn

*Meetings open to all Crystal Lakes Members

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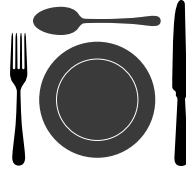
970-388-7835

What's Cooking at The Restaurant

By Helen Bowlin and Diana Ward

It's been wonderful to have our gathering place open this winter!

We have started our punch card program. Once you have 20 punches you can turn it in for a free meal. If you haven't started yours yet, come in and get one. They are free and there is no expiration date.



Don't forget the Recreation Committee has partnered with The Restaurant for the St. Patty's corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday March 14th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$4.00 per person. Sign up in the office or the restaurant.

Other Upcoming Events:

Easter Sunday Buffet—April 12th
from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Mother's Day Buffet—Sunday May 10th
from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Yes we have something in the works for you dads too!

Details next issue for our Father's Day BBQ on Sunday June 21.

Come to the 9Health Fair

It's a Great Deal!

By Judy Viola

The **9Health Fair** is scheduled in Red Feather Lakes on **Saturday, April 25, 2009, 7:00 a.m. until 12 noon**. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in low-cost and free health screenings. The 9Health Fair will be held at three sites this year: **Red Feather Medical Clinic (172 Main Street), Red Feather Lakes Community Library (71 Firehouse Lane) and Red Feather Lakes Property Owners Association (POA – 58 Firehouse Lane)**. Due to limited parking at the medical clinic, please park by the library and POA and first register for the 9Health Fair at the POA building. There will be vans and horses and wagon (thanks to Beaver Meadows Stables) shuttling participants between the POA/library and the medical clinic.

9Health Fair will provide low-cost blood tests, including blood chemistry, blood count and prostate specific antigen (PSA). Please **DO NOT eat for 12 hours before having your blood drawn (diabetics should not fast)**. Please **DO** drink plenty of water and take your prescribed medications. Participants must be 18 years of age and older. **All participants must start first at the POA building for registration and blood pressure check. Low cost blood screenings and free PAP smears** will be offered at the Red Feather Medical Clinic. If you are interested in a free PAP smear screening, call Cathy at 881-2885 to schedule a time. **Free health screenings** will be offered at the Red Feather Library, including vision, body in balance, oral/dental, lung function, cardiac risk assessment and much more, along with a variety of health education stations. Emmalie Conner from the Alzheimer's Association will be offering a free workshop, *Maintain Your Brain*, at the RFL library at 1 p.m. after the health fair. Call the library at 881-2664 to reserve your spot.

If you would like information about financial assistance for the low-cost blood screenings, please contact Cathy or Eileen (Red Feather Medical Clinic) at 881-2885. We wish you all good health and see you at the 9Health Fair.

The Weekend Retreat Series



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Red Feather Lakes Community Library Calendar of Events

By Sarah Myers

PO Box 123, 71 Firehouse Lane;
Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545

Phone: 970-881-2664

Web: www.rflibrary.org; Email: rflib@frie.com

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Library services available: computers, wireless, printer, photocopier, fax, Community Room, Interlibrary Loan service, classes & workshops year-round, Children's Story Hour, Full Service Lending Library (books, audio books, videos, children's materials and more!)

Ruth's Art Gallery Displays

- March: Children's Artwork from the Red Feather Lakes Elementary School, under the direction of Brenda Colter
- April: Temari (Japanese Woven Balls) by Timi Burdette
- May: Photographic Art by Bill and Joan Popejoy

Ongoing Events:

- Story Hour Time for Preschoolers. Meets every Friday 10-11:00 a.m. Story Hour time filled with great songs, stories, and crafts! All preschool children and parents welcome.
- Knit & Stitch meets 1st Friday monthly from 9:30-11:00 a.m. All crafters are welcome to attend and bring a project to work on!
- RFL Writer's Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 4-6:30 p.m.
- RFL Watercolor Society meets every Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- RFL Men's and Women's Book Groups meet 2nd Friday of each month (call for times and locations)

- Commissioner's Citizen's Meetings are now on the 2nd Thursday monthly from noon to 1:15 p.m. in the Community Room in this brown bag lunch-style meeting.
- RFL Community Library Board of Trustees meets 4th Wednesday monthly from 9-11:00 a.m. The community is always invited to attend Library Board meetings.

Upcoming Events:

March

Fri. 3/6 10-11:00 a.m.

Story Hour Time for Preschoolers – Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Join us for this special Story Hour Time to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. All preschool children and parents welcome.

Sat. 3/7 2-3:30 p.m.

Author Talk and Discussion on Self Publishing by Tom and Judy Viola. The Violas recently published Tom's work of fiction, The Gumshoe Chronicles: 1920. Please RSVP at the Library or by calling 970-881-2664. Drop-ins also welcome. Sale of books and signing to benefit Mountain Churches Community Assistance Program (MCCAP) of Red Feather Lakes.

Wed. 3/11 1:30 pm

Mountain Gals and Library present a special program: Interior Design for Health and Longevity by Cynthia Leibrock. Held at the RFL POA Building. For more information, visit www.AgingBeautifully.org.

Sat. 3/28 2-4:00 p.m.

Got Stress? Come to the Free Relaxation Workshop by Marilyn Ramming, PsyD, Licensed Professional Counselor. RSVP at the Library or by calling 881-2664. Drop-ins welcome too!

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April

Wed. 4/8 1:30 p.m.

Mountain Gals and Library present “Colorado Hummingbirds,” a special program by Wild Birds Unlimited, at 2 p.m. Held at the RFL POA Building. Mountain Gals’ short business meeting is from 1:30 to 2:00. The meetings and programs open to the public. A special display on hummingbird materials is available in the Library.

Sat. 4/18 2-3:30 p.m.

Free Computer Workshop: Ebay Basics by Debra Hawkins. Learn more about how Ebay works and about the basics of buying and selling on Ebay. Register in advance at the Library or by calling 881-2664.

Sat. 4/25 7:00 a.m. to noon

9Health Fair in Red Feather Lakes. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in low-cost and free health screenings. To be held at 3 locations this year: Red Feather Medical Clinic, RFL POA Building, RFL Community Library.

Sat. 4/25 1-2:30 p.m.

Special Program: Maintain Your Brain: How To Live A Healthy Lifestyle. Presented by the Emmalie Connor of the Alzheimer’s Association. Please RSVP at the Library or by calling 881-2664.

May

Sat. 5/2 1:00 p.m.

Location TBA. Native American Storytelling and Flute by Dr. Bailey Phelps. He will bring wonderful stories and music to the community at this special free program. All ages are welcome.

Sat. 5/9 2-4:00 p.m.

The Spanish Mustang: The Renewable Resource Horse by Gabriele Moritz. All are invited to learn about the beautiful Spanish Mustang at this educational and informative program by Gabriele Moritz.

Sat. 5/16 11:00-1:00 p.m.

Natural Cosmetics: Don’t Put Anything In Your Face You Wouldn’t Eat: A natural workshop by Gabriele Moritz. Bring a brown bag lunch to this fun, interactive workshop! Please RSVP at the Library or by calling 881-2664.

Additional programs, workshops, and story hours are being planned for 2009. Pick up a monthly calendar at the Library for complete details or visit our NEW website at <http://redfeather.colibraries.org>.

Badger Meets Bicyclist

By Alice Schiel

A head-on collision seemed imminent. Neither party noticed the other until they were quite close. Both were immersed in the beauty of their surroundings and feeling lucky to be able to live in Paradise! What a glorious July day for a bike ride thought the bicyclist as she headed east on Navaho Road. The heavy-set badger was waddling west. With its short legs you wouldn’t think it could run or gallop at up to 25-30 km per hour. The two would have a close race if they were to challenge each other.

Suddenly both came to an abrupt halt and studied each other. Badgers are easily identified by a distinctive white stripe on their foreheads and a black face with pale marks. With their powerful build they are the “bulldozers” of the weasel family. Large front claws on their black feet indicate they are good burrowers. A thick hide and unpleasant disposition offer the badger protection from most predators. Some are killed for fur but most deaths are caused by habitat loss and vehicular accidents. A bicycle/badger accident would not be pretty.

A badger’s jaw is constructed in a way that enables it to maintain its hold with great tenacity. Had the bicyclist known this, she might not have decided to continue forward. An eleven to twenty-two pound badger attached to her leg as she pedaled home would have made an award-winning picture. But no one was there with a camera.

A badger’s tough claws could easily puncture a bicycle tire. Hoping this relative of the skunk would head the opposite way, she started pedaling. The curmudgeon conceded the road to those scary tires and ran quickly up the hillside in search of a more peaceful habitat. See photo on page 2.

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Monthly Meetings With Commissioner Rennels Time Change

By Deni La Rue, Larimer County Community Information Manager

Larimer County Commissioner Kathay Rennels holds monthly citizen meetings in Red Feather Lakes for citizens of the area. These meetings are a great way to interact with Commissioner Rennels in an informal setting. Recently, the meeting day and time changed to accommodate more citizens. The monthly citizens meetings are now held on the second Thursday of the Month, from Noon-1:15 p.m. at the Red Feather Lakes Community Library in a BYO lunch setting. So, bring your lunch and your opinions, NO RSVP required. If you'd like to be on the citizens' notification list for these meetings simply email me and let me know. I won't share your email with anyone else.

Thanks, Deni La Rue,

dlarue@larimer.org (970) 498-7150.

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Member Input Needed on Fishing Policy

By Lou Phillippe, Fishing Board President

The Fishing Board has received complaints from Crystal Lakes members about crowding by non-members on busy weekends, and of some waters being "fished-out" between stockings. A recent study performed on Crystal Lake by biologists suggests the rainbows are being depleted from angler harvest. From the numbers of guest passes sold, it appears that the non-member fishing (unaccompanied guests, weekend renters, as well as guests-with-members) has more than doubled in the past few years. Based upon passes sold, there were approximately 2,445 non-member fishing-days in 2008. At a presumed average of two fish per day, or half a limit, it means 60% of the fish we stock are now being removed by non-members.

We have reached a point where we are managing a "pay fishery" for the general public to subsidize the fishing program. The cost of stocking is more than twice the annual per-lot contribution. The price of fish for stocking has risen from \$2.20 per pound to the 2009 price of \$3.60 per pound. Each average-sized stocked trout now costs over \$5.00. The annual per-lot contribution to the fishing program remains locked at \$12 per year, and the daily guest pass is still \$20 per day (lower than any other comparable private fishery on the Front Range).

We are considering **member recommendations** about fishing policy, with a goal of maintaining a high-quality fishery for members and their guests into the future. Input is requested on such things as stocking, non-member fees, daily bag limits for guests, daily limits for members, etc.. We have received numerous positive suggestions, and would like to solicit more.

The first Fishing Board meeting is Sunday, April 19th, 9:00 a.m. at the Wapiti Center. We will present data and discuss suggestions by members, and welcome anyone interested to attend and give their thoughts. In the meantime, ideas may be sent via e-mail to the Fishing Board President, Lou Phillippe, at loup@verinet.com. We look forward to hearing what our members think about this important issue.

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Guide To Thinning

By Gary Poage

Now that spring has arrived, property owners need to address the spread of the mountain pine beetle and management of their forest. Proper spacing of the trees is an important tool in forest management. It will increase the health of the forest stand, help individual trees resist insect and disease attack, and reduce the risk of fire. The increased sunlight reaching the ground will encourage the growth of new trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

The desired spacing varies with tree size. A general rule for tree spacing is five feet plus one foot for every inch of tree diameter.

When selecting trees to be retained and/or removed consider the following:

Select the healthiest trees to be saved. A healthy tree generally has a single pointed top, a straight trunk, and full foliage of typical color. Healthy trees are free of insects, disease, and animal or mechanical damage.

Manage your forest for a diversity of tree species. This management tool prevents total loss of your forest in case of insect or disease outbreaks which affect only one particular species. If you have only one or two tree species, select a balanced mixture and consider planting other tree species.

Plan to keep your best character trees. These are trees that may have a unique shape or appearance, provide diversity of species, have prominence, hide undesirable views, or provide homes for wildlife.

Be careful not to develop "square patterns or rows". Remember the rule is only a guide. Some trees may be closer together or farther apart.

Generally, lower stumps are better for safe walking and eventual wood disintegration. Four inches or less is a reasonable goal.

When thinning your trees it is a good practice to limb your remaining trees. Around homesites, limbing trees up to ten feet reduces the fire hazard. Cut limbs flush to the main stem or trunk. Limbing all trees up to six feet is beneficial for growth but not necessary.

Slash should be disposed of by chipping, lopping and scattering, or hauling to the community slash pile. Eliminating slash reduces fire hazards; improves aesthetics; and helps regeneration of the forest.

Because forests are not static, continued work in the future will be necessary. Take time to follow-up and examine your property each year, especially after the mountain pine beetle flight season.

See http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/landowner_g4thin_scr.pdf and http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/home_fire_protection_brochure.pdf for additional information.

Memorial for Jim Hirt

By Ann Watson

James Joseph Hirt of Longmont, Colorado died December 28, 2008 from a head injury after falling on the ice while ice fishing on Crystal Lake.


Jim was born on February 5, 1953 in Pittsburgh, PA and grew up in Lansing, IL where he graduated from high school in 1971. He worked for the railroad, was an accomplished carpenter and a certified welder.

Jim graduated with honors from Technical Trades Institute in Colorado Springs with an Associates Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology in 1991. He then worked in the high tech industry and until the time of his death was an Engineering Support Specialist at Seagate Technology in Longmont.

Jim was a loving and devoted husband and father. He loved music, playing his guitar, and listening to classic rock or oldies. Jim's many other skills and hobbies, include carpentry, landscaping, kayaking, target shooting, fishing, bicycling, photography, riding his street and dirt motorcycles, and camping. He was a member of Lifebridge Christian Church.

Jim and his son Justin, own property in Crystal Lakes, and loved being outdoors and spending time there. They planned to ultimately build a cabin there.

He is survived by Linda, his high school sweetheart and loving wife of 41 years; eldest son Justin and his wife Vale of Castle Rock; son Adam, daughter Larissa, and son Evan, all of Longmont. Learn more by visiting <http://jimhirt.blogspot.com>



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Crystal Lakes—Celebrating 40 years

By Helen Bowlin

This summer will be very special in Crystal Lakes, as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. We will have our usual activities such as breakfast at the lake, July 4th weekend activities, the backwoods 4x4 steak cook out, and the Labor Day weekend craft fair.

This year we will be adding a special celebration on Saturday July 25th to commemorate the 40th year of Crystal Lakes. We are planning a pig roast with all the fixings. We would like to have volunteers sign up to bring a dessert. Donna D will have karaoke on the deck. The celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m. behind the restaurant.

This celebration is open to all current and past property owners. We would love to contact everyone who has been involved in Crystal Lakes in the past. If you know the whereabouts of past property owners please contact Jane Tiffin at 881-3531. If you have some old photos or other memorabilia that you would like to share please call Bev at the office at 881-2250.

It will be a great time to be in Crystal Lakes, but isn't it always!

Did You Know?

By Kay Hunter

- Mother's Day goes back to the time of ancient Greeks, honoring Rhea, the mother of the gods.
- Early Christians celebrated Mother's festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- Later, on a religious order, the holiday was to include all mothers and was named Mothering Sunday.
- English colonists discontinued Mothering Sunday because of lack of time.
- In 1872 Julia Ward Howe organized a day for mothers dedicated to peace.
- In 1907, Anna M. Jarvis, a Philadelphia schoolteacher, began a movement to set up a national Mother's Day in honor of her mother, Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis.
- In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as a national holiday in honor of mothers.
- Many countries throughout the world celebrate Mother's Day at various times of the year. Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

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*Ready for a Sleigh Ride at Beaver Meadows.
Photo by Ann Watson.*



*Snowshoeing on Panhandle Trail. From left to right:
Carol Strazer, Bob Strazer, Jack Watson, Bob Schiel,
Alice Schiel. Photo by Ann Watson.*



*Don St. John
snowblowing
a Trail.
Photo by
Carolyn
St. John.*



*Bobcat in
Winter.
Photo by
Rick Bowlin.*

Panhandle River in Winter. Photo by Carolyn St. John.



*White-breasted
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Brown Trout, 28 ½ inches long, 5 pounds. Caught and photographed by Bob Strazer at Dowdy Lake



Sightings

By John Sprackling

Brown Trout

Salmo trutta

Native to Europe, brown trout were introduced to North America in the late 1800's with strains from Germany and Scotland (Loch Leven). Brown trout are aggressive predators that can survive in warmer waters than other trout species. Consequently, they and other introduced species, have taken the niche that native trout species once occupied.

At Crystal Lakes, brown trout were present in the North Fork of the Poudre and Panhandle Creek prior to the construction of the dam (1971-72) which created Panhandle Reservoir, now called Crystal Lake. Stocking by the Crystal Lakes Fish Board has been predominately cutbows but they have stocked some browns in the last 10 years. An October, 2008 survey revealed, to most fishermen's surprise, that 66% of the fish in our big lake are brown trout. Average length was 10.8" and average weight was 0.54 lb. They are "fall spawners" in the lake and upstream in Panhandle Creek west of the lake and consequently the survey probably missed some big females.

Brown trout eat adult and larva insects, crustaceans, and minnows and the largest browns feed after dark. This species is very popular with fly fishermen as they inhale a well cast fly, fight hard, and grow relatively fast. The world (also U. S.) record brown trout is 40 ¼ lb. caught in Arkansas (Little Red River-1992). The Colorado record is 30 ½ lb. (Roaring Judy Ponds, Gunnison County-1988). The Crystal Lake record is unknown but undoubtedly still lurking in the lake entertained by artificial flies and lures passing through its domain.