

It almost feels like summer, leaning towards fall already with the occasional rainstorms, which have kept things a bit greener and cooler over the last couple weeks. Of course on the mountain we tend to think the high 70's are hot!

Members were told by the Greenbelt Management Committee Chair, Kathy Dillon-Durica, that the Mountain Pine Beetle have begun their annual migration, which could last several weeks, as the beetle mature and take flight. Reports are that some of the trees are healthy enough to "spit out" the beetle; but so very many are still in a weakened condition from the years of drought, that the beetle find fertile new trees in which to nest. Those trees are called brood trees. A Beetle Buster meeting is planned for August 13th here in the Wapiti Center, where attendees will hear a lecture from Bruce Benninghoff, a very experienced MPB expert. If you have questions or concerns about the infestation and how you can best treat the trees on your property, plan to attend this meeting. It will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The New Owners' Orientation (NOO) will follow in the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome at NOO.

CL FIRES thanks all the volunteers and participants who helped make the 4th of July Family Fun Day such a success. Kids of all ages were thoroughly entertained at the morning games, both old favorites and new attractions. Photographers captured the young "Firefighters in Training" as they explored the CLVFD fire trucks and donned firefighter gear. The parade was filled with 22 entries, a new record. Char and Don St. John were featured as our Grand Marshals, escorted by Jim and Lois Kinney. The 4th of July Family Fun Day and Parade events are a way for the CLVFD to say "thank you" to all the Crystal Lakes members and supporters; and, as seems to be part of an annual plan, the parade ended just as the rainstorm began. Earnings from sales of CLVFD logo items, food sales, and the silent auction donations provided \$454.00 to the fire department for use towards items to support the firefighters. Thanks one and all for your generosity.

The Crystal Lakes Community Fund Association will hold its Annual Meeting July 30th, in the Wapiti Room, beginning at 2:00 p.m. You are encouraged to attend and bring your suggestions for projects that the Community Fund can adopt as future projects. This group, comprised of CL property owners, has contributed monies for many items that would not be possible to attain through annual budget line items. Please plan on attending the meeting and consider joining this 501(c)(3) organization.

Be sure to sign up for the annual 4 x 4 picnic. Steak sandwiches and sodas are provided, bring a potluck side dish to share and your own plates and tableware. Destination remains a secret. Meet at Basecamp to leave at 10:00 a.m. August 13th.

We have heard from several property owners that they are searching for firewood. The wood at the slash pile is no longer available to gather, since it is being prepared for processing into biochar material by Colorado Bio-Char. The CLA office personnel are willing to serve as facilitators, putting those who are looking for firewood in touch with property owners who have wood available. Give the office a call and provide your information – whether you are looking for firewood or have wood to give away. Call

970-881-2250 or email us as crystal-lakes@crystal-lakes.org.

The slash pile remains closed; but it was announced at the Board meeting that the air curtain burner is on location at what used to be the sort yard along CR 73C. The operators hope to acquire all their permits and have the air curtain burner in operation in mid to late August. The LLC operating the burner is called Slash Solutions. We do not have information about fees, but will provide that to you when we learn what those slash dumping rates will be.

Crystal Lakes will serve as County Seat for a Day on August 17, 2011. The County Commissioners and several county department representatives will be here at the Wapiti Center to answer your questions and discuss your concerns. This meeting is scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. that Wednesday evening, and is open to all. We hope to see you here.

I'll keep you posted.
Jody