

PINE CONE REVIEW - AUGUST 2019



Greetings Pine Forest Owners!

We hope this note finds you well and enjoying summer, wherever in this world you may be! The Arrowleaf Balsamroot (in photo) is now dried and sunk back into its roots, growing energy for next year's spring. As the green of spring and early summer dries out, fingers crossed, we've been lucky to have no major (uncontrolled) fire outbreaks in The Valley to date.

Before offering a summary of recent news I'd like to make a couple reminders. First, minutes of past meetings, the Annual Meeting and the latest Pine Cone Review are posted on the PF website (<http://pine-forest.org/>).

As always, if you have changes in your contact information please email Rose or Nancy at directory@pine-forest.org to notify them of updates.

See the note below regarding the update on the sign installation. ***We need volunteers*** to help "raise the sign" on **Labor Day Weekend**. Please sign up!

And now, on to the news.....

Be Fire Wise

You've received updates from Heather regarding the status of the ladder fuel project so I won't go into that detail here. But, to all owners, please remember in this High Alert Fire Season that NO charcoal BBQs OR outdoor fires of any kind (including for fireworks/sparklers, roasting marshmallows, star gazing warmth, etc.) are allowed in PF until later fall when the High Alert will be removed. As always dispose of cigarettes in a contained, safe way....not via a casual flick out the window.

Please also remind any guests, visitors **and** contractors of these rules.

Slow Down!!!!

As I was talking with another PF owner on North Blackjack, while loading into my car pieces of cut trees, 3 cars came roaring (i.e. considerably over 15 mph) up to us, slowed slightly to pass, then sped up quickly to get on their way, dust streaming behind them.

Please remember do drive slowly enough to avoid creating a fog of dust in your rearview mirror. People living close to the roads eat dust, most likely literally, and those walking on the roads appreciate drivers leaving them, and their lungs, dust free.

The Board is aware of owners' frustrations with the dust levels but to come up with a solution is expensive and, from the reading I've done, not necessarily fool proof.

Water Tank Cleaning

At the end of August, we finally had our storage tanks cleaned. Our Water Manager, Doug Hale, oversaw the operation with help from Steve. Doug provided a detailed report of the cleaning outcome. That report will be published with the minutes following the August 24, 2019 meeting. In summary we have a good bit of

deferred maintenance that is required to bring the tanks up to better standards. The quality of our water is not at risk but we have work to do to keep it that way and to protect the long-term structural integrity of the tanks. .

Sign Update: Call For Volunteers Saturday August 31 10-Noon

If you've been in PF you have noticed the logs near the entrance that are staged for installation of the new sign. Brendan Connelly has been spending hours of his own time constructing the sign and preparing the logs.

Brendan will be ready to install the sign Labor Day Weekend. He needs 6 to 8 back-healthy volunteers Saturday, August 31, 10-Noon at the entrance to PF, to help with the installation. No tools are required (unless you have a crane to help lift the steel portion of the sign) but do bring gloves. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

Contact me, Anne Fox, to sign up: annewfox@gmail.com. Thank you!!!!

And, if anyone wants to volunteer to bring goodies and cool water to the site of the work please go ahead with that plan.

Linked In?

There have been discussions in The Valley about ways to improve Internet service to folks who live and work here. Don Linnertz, the Executive Director of TwispWorks, told me about a survey the PUD is conducting to collect data on Internet service needs. I encourage you to take the survey. All data will help in the effort to improve service. We will also be discussing the issue of Internet service to PF at the next board meeting.

To take the survey: Go to <https://okpudfiber.org/>. Scroll down and select the 'Interest Form Address Search' button. You may get an email saying you are outside the PUD service area but it is still important to respond so data indicating interest can be collected. It

helps make the case for future broadband implementation grants. It also helps the PUD see where it might make sense to make infrastructure investments.

We use methow.net for Internet service and our address was in their system. I entered the town as Winthrop, not Twisp as is indicated on Google maps. I received a reply back acknowledging our interest.

Valley HOAs Potluck

Pete Speer, vice-president of the Edelweiss board, recently organized a potluck at his house for members of HOA boards. Jon and I attended. There was a total of 5 HOAs represented. It was helpful to chat about common problems but, even more, to meet each other and exchange contact information. The hope is it will be an annual event, most likely to be held at the Methow Community Center.

And a last reminder.....Garbage Rules

Well, unfortunately in our world garbage does rule. Sorry I couldn't resist. Recently an owner left a flat screen TV at the dumpster. It was hauled away, at PF owners' expense, before we could post a sign on it asking the owner to take it to the recycle station.

Appliances, construction materials, electronics, cardboard and other recyclables are not allowed in or around the dumpsters. Owners need to dispose of those items by taking them to the Twisp Transfer Station

(http://okanogancounty.org/PW/Solid_Waste_Recycling/Vicinity_Maps/Twisp_Map.pdf and <https://wastebits.com/locator/location/twisp-transfer-station>) or, if you are a part-timer, consider hauling them back to home for disposal.

New and Ongoing Construction

It's building season in PF! Four lots, 11R, 48, 127 and 145 all have sites and homes under constructions. The Gustafsons continue to work on their structure on North Blackjack.

As always, thanks for your support of the PF community.

Anne Fox
PFOA Board President