



Working to Preserve a Reasonable Balance

Preserve Unique Magnolia

A S S O C I A T I O N

P. U. M. A. Newsletter • Box 536 • Nederland, Colorado 80466

PUMA Potluck



All Magnolia-area residents, landowners, and their friends are invited to attend the annual potluck, sponsored by (PUMA)

Preserve Unique Magnolia Association.

Sunday, July 20, 4 to 8 p.m. (or thereabouts) rain-or-shine at Scott Reuman's, 7425 Magnolia Rd.

Come meet your neighbors for an afternoon of laughter, games, catching up, and filling up. Kids welcome. PUMA will provide paper plates, utensils, and some soft drinks. Please bring a food contribution to share and whatever else you want to drink. PUMA membership is not required.

RSVP is helpful, but not required: 303-442-0406 or scottreuman@conundrumdesigns.com

High Country Fire Department BBQ



The members of the High Country Fire Department and Auxiliary are hosting a BBQ at High Country Fire Department Station 4 on **Saturday, July 19 from 5-8 PM.** Station 4 is the fire station on Magnolia Rd. All

proceeds will benefit the auxiliary who provides both logistical and financial support for the work of the High Country Fire Department. The Auxiliary assists by providing water, snacks and sometimes meals for the firefighters during emergencies. They also raise funds to provide this support and to purchase needed materials for the Department. Firefighters will be on hand to cook your dinner and answer your fire related questions. Hope to see you there.

The Story of Scates' Ranch and Magnolia Road



This booklet providing an oral history of Edith Scates, as well as the recollections of her brother, Dick, who lived at the Centennial Ranch located at mile marker 7 on Magnolia

Road, will be ready soon! Not only will you read about their lives growing up and working on the ranch, but you'll learn about mountain fun in the early days too! Keep a lookout at upcoming PUMA events and for PUMA e-mails for more information. It may be available at the Nederland Mining Museum over the weekend of Miners' and Old Timers' Days (July 26th and 27th) too.

Thistle epistle 2003

By Jennifer Stewart



Nationwide, and globally, we face an ecological crisis caused by the spread of plant species away from their sources into environments where they become destructive, dangerous pests, capable of rendering millions of acres useless to man and to wildlife.

Efforts are made to control or eradicate introduced plants because of their success competing with native species and because they have no natural controls away from their points of origin. Objectives are: to control and deplete seed bank, and eradicate or contain existing populations. Integrated management uses biological, mechanical, and chemical controls. In our area, we are utilizing all three facets of control.

Among the plants we are dealing with in the Magnolia area are thistles. In our area we have six types, two of which are native, and four of which are noxious invaders.

Our native species are wavy leaf thistle (*Cirsium undulatum*) and white-flowered thistle (*Cirsium centaureae*). Wavy leaf thistle has beautiful grey-green leaves. White-flowered thistle has peculiarly angular leaves with ladder-like indentations, and white flowers. We leave these plants alone.

Introduced thistles are Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*). Canada thistle, a colony-forming perennial, has many small rose-colored flowers. Bull thistle is a biennial with flowers arising from a vase-shaped involucre. Musk thistle is a biennial or occasionally a winter annual. It has large, nodding rose-colored flowers. The monster is Scotch thistle, with leaves that can measure 2 feet long and a foot wide. This biennial can grow to 12 feet in height and be difficult to destroy because of its formidable size and thorns. Scotch thistle seeds last up to 30 years

in the soil, so seed prevention is especially important with this species. One plant has been found on Porter Ranch Road.

Musk, Scotch and Bull thistles should be pulled or dug up before they produce flowers. If they do succeed in blooming, flower heads should be cut before they can go to seed. It is important that flower heads are bagged and disposed of, not left to lie on roads where they will continue to mature and produce seeds.

There is a biological control for Musk thistle, which one can see if one opens an occupied blossom. Small grubs inhabit the interior of the flower head. This method takes a long time to establish, and is not hugely effective. These grubs can also be found in native wavy leaf thistle, which is an example of a biological control expanding its range beyond the target species.

*Canada thistle is an aggressive, persistent perennial. Pulling this plant can break roots, creating more plants. For this reason, only small populations in locations where they will be pulled consistently and regularly should be given this treatment. **Canada thistles should be cut or mowed three times during the growing season, to prevent flower and seed formation.** They can also be sprayed with an herbicide specific to broadleaved plants, such as Curtail or Redeem. The last cutting should be before the last half of August, when the plants are storing energy for the winter. Allow some regrowth so there is young, actively growing leaf matter; then they should be sprayed, as the plant will absorb the herbicide into its root system. Spraying the young rosettes and plants during the summer is helpful also.*

Goats can be used to keep a population of thistles under control. However, they are not the best solution for eradication. They should be used in conjunction with the other modalities.

Recapping major points: Work to prevent seed formation. Bag and dispose of all seed heads. Bag and dispose of old dried flower heads as they probably still have viable seeds. Revegetate treated areas with native plants.

There is a County mandate requiring property owners to control noxious plants. Find out more at their website: http://www.co.boulder.co.us/lu/pdf/weed_man.pdf

PUMA has a weed whacker and a new mower with a bag, which are available to check out. The Winiger Ridge Pilot Project supplied a small amount of grass seed in a mix prepared especially for this area. It was called the Winiger Ridge Mix, but is no longer available. However, I have a list of the grasses used in it, so it can be duplicated.

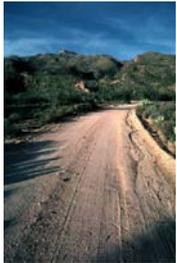
I am not working with the Colorado State Forest Service on the Winiger Ridge Weed Mitigation Task Force this year. However, I am available at no charge to property owners to evaluate your property and offer suggestions about noxious plants, and identify the natives. For additional information, please call me at 303-442-7460, or email at larkspur@magnoliaroad.net.

Additional websites about noxious plants:

<http://www.blm.gov/education/weed/weed.html>

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

<http://www.cwma.org>



Unpaved Magnolia is a great place to be, whether you are running, or riding a mountain bike, a dirt bike, or a horse. Those of us in vehicles need to be aware of those who choose other modes of getting

somewhere, and please slow down. We have all noticed that foreign runners tend to run on the wrong side of the road, and then can't understand English! And horses, even the most levelheaded, can still be startled. Please don't be the first to kill someone on this road!!

Magnolia Road Internet Co-op Celebrates First Year of Service

By Greg Ching



While it took one year of planning to officially start paid high-speed internet service, in the first year of operation about 120 households within roughly 150 square miles from Sugarloaf to Wondervu joined the Magnolia Road Internet Cooperative (MRIC). Just meeting all the new

subscribers has made real for many the MRIC motto "Fostering Community Through Connectivity."

MRIC achieved the goal of providing 24x7 high-speed internet service without requiring dedicated phone lines or expensive satellite dish equipment. Typical

installation labor charges are \$0 because volunteers maintain this network. Equipment charges vary from a low below \$100 to a more typical \$250 - \$300. Homeowners may connect multiple computers, own multiple e-mail addresses, and get website hosting for a flat \$50 each month. Even dial-up service for traveling residents is being considered.

Amazingly, MRIC stayed up during the Spring 2003 Blizzard. The most common complaint described so much snow that even a roof antenna was buried. MRIC is making a difference in reducing overall driving as more people telecommute or start home-based businesses.

Beginning MRIC's second year of paid service (July 2003), monthly rates will drop to \$35 per month for accepted volunteers who commit 2 hours per month, or 24 hours per year. Comparing the cost of a second phone line and typical ISP charges, even MRIC's current \$50 per month pricing is cost effective.

Keeping a community focus, MRIC initiated a policy of free broadband services for all emergency services. Currently, MRIC supports the Sugarloaf Fire Department with talks underway for High Country Fire Department. In addition, MRIC has audio streaming of emergency channels for folks who lack a scanner.

MRIC also hosts at no charge the websites of many community groups, including PUMA's own puma-net.org site.

There are many community services planned from airplane noise monitoring to smoke sighting web cams. The latter has the most interest but MRIC currently lacks the \$3000 per remote-controlled movable outdoor network camera. The intent is to feed video images to local volunteer fire departments and the U.S. Forestry Service. Many of these same volunteers spend hours trying to spot smoke sightings. If web cams could help with the triangulation of smoke it will speed up the work of firefighters. Someday, volunteers will sign up for shifts to watch these remote cameras during high fire season - an electronic watchtower for smoke.

If you would like to learn more about MRIC please review www.magnoliaroad.org for basic information. MRIC hopes to make high speed internet affordable to all in the mountain coverage area. There's no reason to install a second dial-up phone line, pay for more expensive and slower ISDN, or suffer expensive slow (latency) satellite service.

Community Effort to Move Mailboxes off Magnolia Succeeds

By Greg Ching



Newspaper and mail delivery by one's driveway has been accepted luxury for some Magnolia residents. For others, getting mail or newspapers

meant a trek of up to a few miles. Exercise is fine but for others with less time or willingness it meant unnecessary driving. Worse, some of the Magnolia mail clusters are in poor visibility locations often crowding traffic, inviting accidents, and risking school bus stops. Fewer mail stops along Magnolia helps all of the above problems.

In response to continuing mail thefts and past vandalism, about 100 Magnolia mailboxes migrated to USPS approved locations off Magnolia over Memorial Day weekend. The Daily Camera was the first paper to support the new clusters and now the others are following.

This move would have been impossible without the support of U.S. Congressman Mark Udall and the various Nederland Postmasters, including our current Jarman Smith. Special thanks go to Clark and Y Chapman of Lazy Z for initiating this effort May 2001. Last fall, Mike Jackson and others provided preliminary petitions and cluster location maps that were used for route extension budgeting purposes. This spring, both the Nederland Postmaster and Boulder County Sheriff's Deputy spoke to a group of residents concerned about mail thefts.

The recent cluster move planning was done by local cluster coordinators including Y Chapman, Mike Seiler, Mike Lewinski, Shenna Fitzgerald, Paul Kolesnikoff, Lisa Wollard, Katrina Harms, John Walker, Margot Rode, Jim Marlin, Pat Cuba, Susie Gallaudet, Brian Whitney, Dan Metzger, Greg Ching, Howard Kaushansky, Ray Browning, George Blakey, Rebecca Browning-DeLong, and Mike Jackson. Other unnamed neighbors donated time and materials to design and build their clusters. Many thanks to all residents who participated in the mailbox move discussion. It was very difficult at times but we managed to survive by communicating our needs and compromising for the sake of the community.

It should be noted that moving unlocked mailboxes would not solve the often drug-related mail thefts. Renting a Post Office box, buying a locking mailbox (about \$70 from Lowes or Home Depot), or retrofitting a

mail slot & padlock on your old box are the only reasonable alternatives. Mail thefts continue regularly according to Officer Manes of Boulder County Sheriff's Department. Vehicles with scanners and check printers have been known to patrol unlocked each month. The very worse thing you can do is to flag outgoing mail with checks inside...thieves will use that info to steal your financial identity.

Please remember to thank your newspaper and mail carrier if you are benefiting from the new clusters. They will need your help keeping your cluster accessible especially during the winter. They have commented on the nice design of the various clusters...good even heights.

Finally, it should be noted that no new mailboxes or clusters could go up without USPS consent. A group of residents off Frontier has filed a new route extension petition, for example. Let us hope lessons learned from the current mailbox move will help everyone involved.

SCA Corps Fire Education Audits Available

On July 18th signs will begin appearing along Lazy Z describing how residents can obtain a free defensible space audit. Interns from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Fire Education Corps, sponsored by the Boulder County Wildfire Mitigation Group and the Colorado State Forest Service, have been invited by High Country Fire Department to conduct individual home evaluations.

These interns can help mountain residents better understand the dangers of wild land fire and the importance of mitigation. They will **not** do the actual mitigation work but will conduct wild land fire risk evaluation (fire resistant building materials, fire resistant vegetation, and defensible space). The goal is to conduct about 100 home evaluations starting in the Lazy Z area.

If you would like to participate in this no cost audit, please contact HCFD to be put on the list. Please e-mail your contact information (name, address, phone number) to either

Jim Swenson <swensonj@netbonk.com
Randy Ralphs <randall.ralphs@sun.com
Greg Ching <greg.ching@magnoliaroad.net