



LIFE IN THE PINES

Chipper Day Success!

Taos Pines -- the Premiere Firewise Community in Northern NM



Thanks to all those who participated in the Chipper Days this past summer! Lot of slash and deadwood were eliminated from a number of TPR properties, making it safer for the community as a whole in case of wildfire. Please check the Firewise

page on the TPR Website and your email for more detailed information regarding any future scheduled Chipper Days.

Again, many thanks to Linda Ford, Skeeter and all Chipper Day Captains and volunteers for a successful season!



You are invited to a "Meet, Eat & Greet" Social - Sept. 22nd

If you're in Taos Pines on September 22nd, please join Melissa and Mac Stallcup for a little social time at their home at 22 Elk Run.

When: September 22nd
Time: 6:00 p.m.

A note from Melissa: "Last year we got to meet many TPR'ers we never see! Hope you can come by if you are in the neighborhood." Any questions or to RSVP, please email Melissa at mls222@cox.net and let her know you are coming!

TPR POA NOTES:

Website: www.taospines.org

Next BOD Meeting is
Saturday, October 13th

2012-13 POA Dues of \$190 per lot owned are due. Payment should be sent to:
TPR-POA, PO Box 656,
Angel Fire, NM 87710

FOR SALE:



TPR No Trespassing Metal Signs at \$5.00 each
Contact Henry Garland at
214-215-3215

Fiberglass Snow Markers at \$4.00 each
Contact Doyle Moon at
575-377-0559 or email him at
moon@pinecamp.net

New Member Directory now being compiled. If you would like to "Opt In" and have some or all of your contact information included, please respond by emailing Melissa Stallcup at mls222@cox.net
Include name, Lot #, Phone # and Email. This directory will only be available to TPR owners.

TPR CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mark Scheinbaum ran this committee very ably in the past and recently turned the Chairmanship over to me and my wife, Lois --- with the understanding that he will continue to keep the membership informed with helpful and timely information. We moved into TPR in March, 2011, and are spending about half of the year here, and loving every minute of it! We hope to meet all of our neighbors and want you to know we are open to listening about any safety concerns you might have. We have set a few general committee goals as follows:

- PROTECT LIFE & PROPERTY
- PREVENT CRIME (Theft, Trespassing, Poaching)
- BE PREPARED TO ASSIST EMERGENCY RESPONDERS (Fire, Police, Medical)

We are currently gathering information to submit to the TPR Board in order to implement some ideas, and will be reporting on them later.

Our first summer on the mountain with horses on our property, we made the mistake of leaving horse feed in our horse trailer. We were awakened in the night to the loud noises of a black bear attempting to open the trailer door for a free meal. Fortunately, bright lights and shouting sent the bear running.

Below are the most tried and true BearWatch Tips for co-existing peacefully and successfully with New Mexico's black bears.

The over-arching advice, the motto even, of BearWatch is: **A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!**
Do not feed a bear ... ever.

- Keep trash in a bear-proof garbage container or stored in a sturdy metal shed or closed garage.
- Don't feed pets outdoors or leave pet dishes or store pet food outdoors.
- Hang birdseed feeders from sturdy metal wires suspended between trees or poles high enough off the ground that a bear can't reach it (e.g., 10 feet). Position your feeders 10 feet from each end of the poles/limbs. Stop feeding for a time if seed is accumulating on the ground. Store birdseed in a closed container in a sturdy shed or the garage.
- If you have high eaves, or second story eaves, you can hang feeders from them.



*Game cam photo of bear on Lot #46
in July, 2012.*

- Feed small amounts of seed that will last only several hours in the morning. This will work only if you've had no bear visitors. If a bear is in your birdseed, you will need to stop feeding for a time and try one of the other bird feeding tips.
- Stop feeding birds from July 1 thru Oct. 1.
- Feed suet and peanut butter only in winter when bears are in hibernation.
- Bring in hummingbird feeders at night.
- Keep barbecue grills clean.
- Keep kitchen windows and doors closed on summer nights.
- Don't plant fruit trees or berry bushes near your home. Remove fruit before it ripens to stop bears from climbing and breaking branches. Remove fallen fruit.
- Don't add melon rinds or fruit to a compost pile except in winter.
- Don't feed other wildlife as it will attract bears too.
- Don't leave food, groceries, pet food or birdseed in your car overnight.
- Keep all poisons inside your house; also many bears die from ingesting garbage bags.
- Keep woodpiles and junk away from the house. Bears will hunt for rodents that live there.
- Keeping community dumpsters locked definitely makes a huge difference! Dump, then lock!

Please feel free to contact us with your ideas and concerns. If you are interested in getting (or giving) training for First Responders and/or First Aid, please call Don & Lois Drury; Phone: 817-991-1850; Email: dddrrury@aol.com

by Don Drury

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT FOREST HEALTH

As a Firewise Community, we are concerned with the health of our forest. Thinning has become a big issue here. But what trees do you cut? Which ones are better to keep? My husband Bob and I asked one of the rangers over at the Forest Service last year, and here is what we found out.

Keep the aspen, no surprise here. But remember, they die from the top down, so any with bare tops are not healthy.



Keep the Blue Spruce and pick out any mistletoe from it. If it is covered with it, remove the tree.



Get rid of the White Fir. It looks a little like the Blue Spruce, but the Blue Spruce will have needles on the underside of the branch. (I can't imagine cutting ALL of ours!)



Douglas fir are OK to keep.



Try to keep the Ponderosa Pine, pick out any mistletoe from it. If it is covered with it, remove the tree.

And that is what we found out as we prepare our lot and build our new TPR home!

Of course, it is wise to remove all trees within thirty feet of your house. The remaining trees, within a hundred yards of your home or more, should have their lower branches cut about 10 feet up from the ground, and the under brush cleared. Keep the large trees, as they are the anchors and elders of the forest. We feel privileged to be caretakers of this corner of the earth for a while.

by Janet Warner/Bob Elsinger.

FALL FOLIAGE & COLOR

You'll find some of the best southwestern fall foliage along the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway loop from Taos to Eagle Nest (where you'll see 13,161-foot high Wheeler Peak), on to Angel Fire, and back to Taos. Here, the aspens range in color from brilliant gold to dark orange. Feast on purple

cinquefoil and golden and red cottonwoods while on the lookout for elk, black bear, and eagles. As of this writing on September 8, 2012, the aspens have started the slow transition from brilliant green to yellowish green, and many are tinged with yellow already. Should be a beautiful fall through September and October, and possibly an early one!

GARDENING IN TAOS PINES RANCH

After many years of gardening in the blackland prairies of north Texas, getting anything to grow in the southern Rocky mountains is a real challenge! Climate differences, length of growing seasons, soil and water content, and more make it definitely difficult. In this article, I will be sharing my personal experiences, the good, the bad and the beautiful!

After our house in TPR was completed, I immediately decided to add a few decorative flower beds here and there for color. It didn't take much digging (and jackhammering) to know that unless you are digging in the depths of a composted forest floor, you are going to hit sandy soil and rock right away. Be prepared for that with the right tools. And after spending a fortune on huge hanging baskets of geraniums, pansies, and more; then planting baby aspens near the house and stacking rock around these beds, I quickly learned that when the elk/deer/ground squirrels find them, they are quickly pruned to an inch of their lives! Rocks are scattered by elk nosing around, and bears looking for grubs and ants. Hey, we're in the mountains, not Dallas!

Native plants like potentillas, wild irises, asters, shasta daisies, bachelor buttons, yarrow, blanket flower, barberry, russian sage, catmint, lavender, and more are the way to go for color. Rhubarb, horseradish, and daffodils are usually ignored by most critters (they may get stepped on, however!)

Wildflower seeds should be scattered as the snow starts flying in November and preferably raked in and then again around the last snowfall in late spring. A heated greenhouse is a lifesaver for starting seedlings; nothing goes in the outside ground until around June 1st!



This summer, we added a tall, fenced-in outside garden area with raised beds for my veggies and herbs...I have learned a lot about maintaining warmth on cool nights, composting and more. Raised beds, in my experience, are essential and we have had a bumper crop of veggies! Details will be in the next issue!
by Roz Garland

HEARTY BEAN SALAD RECIPE



- 1 can black beans, drained
- 1 can pinto beans, drained
- 1 can kidney beans, drained
- 1 can black-eyed peas, drained
- 1 can corn, drained
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup peppers, sweet-colored, chopped
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup cooking oil
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Makes 12 servings.

Mix beans & vegetables in large container with cover. Bring oil, sugar and vinegar to a boil and simmer for 2 minutes. Cool. Pour mixture over beans & vegetables. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours, stirring occasionally. Serve either as a bean salad, or as an appetizer with baked tortilla chips.
by Jan Zientara

HORSES IN THE MOUNTAINS



Here's two of the Drury's granddaughters on a trail ride through Carson National Forest.

My husband Don and I have been riding horses in New Mexico for about 15 years and have grown to love the mountains. This is how we came to buy a place in Angel Fire and found Taos Pines. The horses seem to like the cool air and beautiful forest as much as we do.

We have brought all kinds of horses here to ride; young, old, our show horses and some real green ones, and we have had fun with some more than others.

On a horse, you can cover a lot of the country. Don and I have ridden in Valle Vidal for 10 days and not gone on the same trail twice. It is a wonderful way to spend time with your horse and see the beautiful mountains.

We plan to have the horses on the Mountain from Spring to early Fall, and then return them to our place in Texas for the winter months.

There is not a large animal Vet close to our house in TPR, so it is good to know a little about health and taking care of a lame or cut horse. When I leave Texas, I make sure I have all the medications I need in case of an emergency like cuts, colic and so on. The first year I had a hard time finding a good farrier, but thanks to Michael Dean (Elliott Barker Ranger) I now have that covered. If you or anyone you know would like to know more about horses and the mountains, just give me a call.

by Lois Drury 940-627-4300

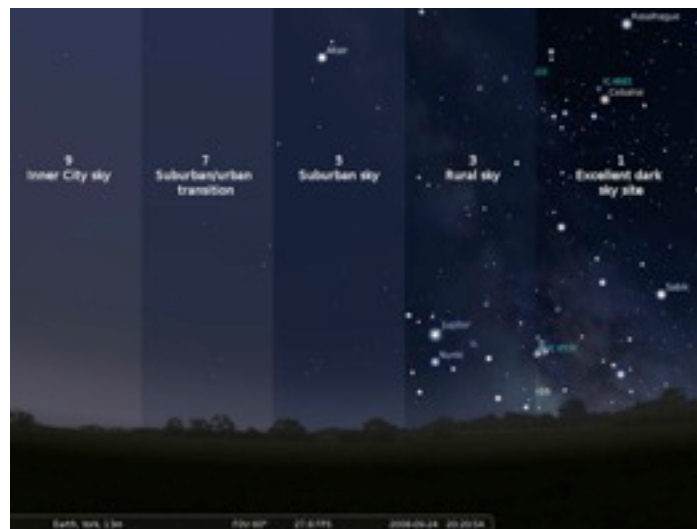
PARALLEL UNIVERSES

Welcome from the "Parallel Universe" at Taos Pines Ranch!

You may have heard that some physicists are postulating that there may be multiple universes and ours is just one of an infinite number. I'm not equipped, nor are they, to argue the point because there's no factual data to confirm the existence of any universes other than our own. In a sense however, we live in different universes depending on where we are located on the Earth.

In a big city such as New York, the skies are so light polluted, that there seems to be nothing "out there" other than the glow from our energy-wasting poorly-designed lighting fixtures. These lights shine in all directions creating a dome of featureless glare as shown on the left. How sad this is because it creates a kind of myopic perception of our environment. In contrast, look at the view on the right. It is astoundingly beautiful and instantly educates us about our real surroundings. This is (thankfully still) the view we get from Taos Pines Ranch.

The old saw about "out of sight out of mind" applies here. Without a true visual perspective, we may be unable to focus on the vast frontier



surrounding us. Please join me (accessible from the lower right image on the TPR POA Home page) at taospines.org to explore our "parallel universe" and learn about our "home among the stars." Each month, I will publish items of interest that you can discover and explore for yourself using just your eyes, binoculars, or a telescope.

September is always a great month to observe our universe because the monsoon rains will give way to several calm steady clear night skies. I look forward to sharing them with you. Wishing you clear dark skies!

by Gary Zientara

STAYING CONNECTED & SAFE

If you spend much time in TPR at all, you will know that it's difficult to stay abreast of all the news, and comings and goings. And not everyone WANTS to stay connected...however, it's extremely important for safety issues (especially in the winter months) to be proactive and stay informed about weather, road conditions, and events happening in the area. Some of this has been learned the hard way by residents coming unprepared and unknowingly into a raging blizzard, unplowed roads, and roaming wildlife.

Weather:

- forecast.weather.gov/
- www.accuweather.com
- www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/US/NM/Angel_Fire.html
- www.intellicast.com

(Most of these allow you to customize by adding a zip code to narrow it down to the area you want.)

Local News Papers:

- www.sangrechronicle.com
- www.taosnews.com



Road Conditions:

www.nmroads.com

Resorts:

- www.angelfiresort.com
- www.skitaos.org
- www.redriverskiarea.com
- www.enchantedforest.com
- www.skisantafe.com

Other:

- www.angelfirechamber.org
- www.angelfirenm.gov
- www.eaglenestchamber.org
- www.redrivernewmex.com
- www.co.colfax.nm.us/
- www.newmexico.gov
- www.firewise.org

WHY DO WE HUNT?

It is in our genetic makeup, our ancestors hunted to survive?

It fulfills a basic need of the human to connect with nature?

We share the common goal of providing food for our family or our group?

The satisfaction of accomplishing a successful hunt.?

As hunters, we do more to preserve our

wildlife than any other group?

Much of our dollars spent on hunting go to help wildlife?

Ethical hunting manages the wildlife population much better than starvation?

It teaches and reinforces self reliance?

We enjoy the experience?

I am sure there are many more reasons.

Living here in the mountains we are surrounded by wildlife on a daily basis. The larger animals, Elk, Deer, Bear as well as all the birds and small critters. We should remember that hunters and their passion for hunting are a major reason we have this. Passing this on to our youth today is a major responsibility and we should all do so. Even if we do not personally



hunt, we should take this issue seriously.

In the next issue I will explore the different types of hunting available to us here in New Mexico. In the Outdoors,

by Jim Wisniewski



“LIFE IN THE PINES” QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Hope you enjoyed this first edition of our TPR Newsletter. If you have a pertinent article or information we can include in the next edition, please let me know. Suggestions are always welcome! Email: Roz Garland (Editor) roz@thegarlandgroup.net