

Game Trail TAILS



Game Trail Vision: To preserve this extraordinary, private environment of nature for all the years to come.

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www.gametrailassn.org

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Judy Curran, Board President

Homeowners Encouraged to Attend Annual Meeting

Well, we are fully into summer and very thankful for the great moisture we received in April and May. What a lifesaver for our roads and fire mitigation, not to mention the rafting industry.

Soon, it will be time for the Annual Meeting and Picnic on Saturday, September 7. There are a few format changes this year.

The morning will start with the popular Game Trail Home Tour from 9 to 11. Please read the related article below.

The Annual Meeting will follow from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year it will be held at the Game Trail Mail Center / Commons Area followed immediately by the Annual Picnic at the same location.

The fare for the picnic will once again be a pig roasted all night long by our very own Game Trail Grillers with sides of baked beans, coleslaw and pickles. For vegetarians, there will be a nice pasta salad entree. As always, there will be dessert for everyone.



Judy Curran, Board President

Further details on the Annual Meeting, Picnic, Home Tour and Board elections will be mailed to owners in August.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Judy Curran**
President
- **Phil Strongin**
Vice President
- **Jeff DeChristopher**
Treasurer
- **Bob Heller**
Secretary &
Asst. Treasurer
- **John Hvizdos**
Asst. Secretary

GTA ADMINISTRATOR
Chris Krocesky
719-395-4713

Sharon Martinez, Home Tour Committee

Tour of New & Remodeled Game Trail Homes Set

The Game Trail Home Tour will once again be part of the line up of events accompanying the Game Trail Association's annual business meeting. This year everything, including the business meeting and picnic, will be held on Saturday, September 7.

The tour, consisting of three homes, will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Three different builders will be featured.

Since some owners have lived in their home for an extended period, and others

have purchased previously-owned homes, this year a remodeled home will be featured along with two newly constructed homes.

As before, name tags will be required for the tour. These will be available at the GT office prior to September 7 and at the Mail Center on Saturday morning. Last name initials will determine which home each person visits first. This enables "crowd control."

More information regarding the tour will be included in a packet to be mailed to owners in August.

Featuring:

- 1 remodeled home
- 2 new homes
- 3 contractors

Chip Wait, Forestry Committee

Forest Health and Wildfire Preparedness Stressed

The recent foci for the Forestry Committee have been “forest health” and “wildfire mitigation.” Our local Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) District in Salida and Chaffee County Fire Protection District (CCFPD) in Buena Vista have helped keep us current with proactive efforts for maintaining both a healthy forest and self-help wildfire preparedness. Following are some helpful answers to common questions.

FOREST HEALTH

Q: When is a good time to remove green trees?

A: Cutting green trees should be avoided April through September. If tree removal during the five-month period is unavoidable, prompt removal to the slash pit is advised.

Q: What is the preferred height for “fire ladder” trimming/removal? Can dead branches be removed at any time?

A: Branch removal from ground to lowest limb (fire ladder) should be 10 feet or more. Removal of dead branches can be done at any time.

Q: Should a Game Trail resident plan to spray for bark beetles in 2013?

A: The local CSFS does not recommend spraying this year and considers the proactive effort unnecessary. Special “trophy trees” can be sprayed, if a lot owner considers it desirable.

There is some Chaffee County concern about ips and fir bark beetles which seem to be endemic at this time but have the potential to become epidemic in the future. There has been evidence of ips beetle activity in Game Trail involving fresh cut trees and branches during May.

Trees are already stressed from lack of moisture and with additional construction stress; it is recommended homes currently under construction consider spraying those trees with root damage.

Q: How do I find out more information about local forest health?

A: There is a wealth of information on the Colorado State Forest Service website: www.csfs.colostate.edu



View of Mt. Yale from Harvard Lakes Trail above Game Trail, May 2013.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Q: Where do I get emergency information, if an active wildfire risk is present?

A: Chaffee County property owners are urged to sign up for the “CodeRED” Reverse 911 emergency database. More information on this free service is detailed in an article on page 3.

Q: What is considered “defensible space” surrounding a structure?

A: Defensible space is defined as 30’ or greater surrounding a structure with minor or no combustible material (fuel) present. Safe driveway access is required for fire fighting equipment to enter and exit. CSFS and CCFPD may be contacted for onsite consultation. GT Forestry Committee members also are available for assistance.

Q: How can I best help the firefighters?

A: One of the best ways to help in advance of any emergency is to have an address sign with reflective white numbers on a green background. An emergency vehicle driver will be able to find your home much more readily if you have such a sign. These signs are available from the Buena Vista Fire Department for \$8 in both a vertical and horizontal format. To make arrangements for your reflective address sign, contact the BV Fire Department at 719-395-8098 or stop in the station at 111 Linderman Avenue in Buena Vista.

Q: How can I learn more about wildfire risks?

A: A web portal has recently been developed by the CSFS for self-assessment of your own wildfire risks: www.coloradowildfirerisk.com

Chip Wait, Forestry Committee

Chaffee County Initiates “CodeRED” Emergency Alert & Warning System

Chaffee County contracts with a company called CodeRED for its emergency alert system. The system allows the county to call citizens in a designated area about potentially life-threatening events.

You do not have to be a full time Chaffee County resident to receive notifications. However, you must have a Chaffee County address to register.

The CodeRED system was designed to work with both landlines and cell phones. Most local landlines

are automatically in the database; however, cell phones are not. You can check to ensure that your landline is in the database, and you can register your cell phone by going to www.chaffeesherriff.org. You will find the CodeRED link under the Communications Department.

Following are answers to select questions regarding the system. A complete list of questions and answers is available on the website.

Q: For what kinds of situations will CodeRED be used?

A: Severe weather, wild-fire, water main breaks, alerts concerning a missing child or adult, community safety emergencies, hazardous material spills in short, any and all emergencies and community alerts, where community safety could be affected.

Q: I have a cordless phone, and it does not work when the power goes out. How is CodeRED going to be able to contact me?

A: There are two ways you can continue to receive messages from CodeRED:

1. Make sure you have at least one working corded telephone.

2. The CodeRED sign-up form gives you the option of filling in both a primary phone number and an alternate phone number. You can fill in the alternate number with your cell number, or you can make it your primary number if you wish. Entering an alternate phone number will cause BOTH your primary and alternate phone numbers to be called.

Q: Does CodeRED have my telephone number, or do I have to sign up?

A: It is strongly suggested that county residents and property owners sign up for CodeRED. After all, you are the most reliable source of information about how to reach your household.

Because the county wants to reach everyone affected by an emergency whether or not they have signed up for CodeRED, two Chaffee County telephone databases are already available to the system.

One is the emergency 911 database all public safety agencies in Chaffee County use. The other is a database prepared by the company that supplies CodeRED service to the county.

Both databases are updated regularly. However, if you have moved or changed your number, you should definitely sign up or update information you have already provided.

Q: How do I sign up for CodeRED?

A: To sign up, go to www.chaffeesherriff.org.

Under “Communications” you will see the CodeRED button. Click on this button and you will find a link to the “Residential Data Collection Form” you can fill out online. This is the quickest, easiest way to sign up because the information you supply will immediately update Chaffee County’s CodeRED telephone number database.

Q: Can I arrange to have CodeRED call my place of business?

A: Yes. From the Residential Data Collection form, click on the button labeled “Click to Switch to Business Data.”

Phil Strongin, Board Vice President

Advice Offered for Bear Confrontations

According to Randy Hancock, District Wildlife Manager for the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colorado is home to a minimum of about 12,000 bears. About 200 to 300 bears inhabit northern Chaffee County. The bear population is dense, and the bears will eventually pass by any house in the area including those in the grasslands.

Bear problems mostly occur in the spring or fall when they are looking for high-energy food. Plant growth may be lacking in the spring causing them to forage for other food sources. Bears are attracted to scent and will return to a food source for two or three weeks once it has been discovered even when the food has been removed.

Randy said if you encounter a bear, make noise and back off slowly facing the bear and don’t turn your back. If the bear is eating, leave it alone. Do not intentionally feed bears; it’s illegal and can be dangerous.



DISCOURAGE BEAR ENCOUNTERS

- Keep car windows closed if there is food or a food scent in it.
- Bring bird feeders in at dusk and pick up fallen seed underneath.
- Never leave pet bowls outside.
- Burn off food particles and grease on grills after cooking.
- Clean up any fallen food particles after eating outside
- Store garbage in the house or garage, not outside.
- If bears find a food source, clean the area with Clorox.

Judy Curran, Board President

Wildfire Resources, ACC Policies & Board Nominations Highlighted

- continued from page 1 -

Even with all the moisture we received in late spring, fire is still a real and dangerous threat. There are many useful resources available for what you can do to be prepared should a fire come our way. One website we encourage you to review is: www.readycolorado.com.

On this site you will find links to create a plan, build a kit, take a class, get materials and much more. There are downloadable lists for family communications and household plans, as well as checklists for the home, car, workplace and pets. You will learn valuable information on what should be included in a disaster supply kit so that if you have to evacuate and leave your home you will have essential food, water and supplies for at least three days (72 hours). A link to this site will also be available on the Game Trail website.

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has a new Chair. Todd Allen has graciously agreed to take the reins. I sincerely thank Dave Nelson for his service as the Chair for the past several years and for continuing to serve as a committee member.

The ACC has taken on the monumental task of combining and condensing the existing Architectural Control Policies into one document. In addition, the group will be updating these policies to comply with the current laws governing green energy and xeriscaping with drought-tolerant vegetative landscapes and regulation of hardscapes.

Many thanks to Brenda Hooper, Chair of the Nominating Committee, along with members Vic Kuklin and Donna Childers, for the recommendation of two great candidates for next year's Game Trail Association Board. Two current members, Jeff DeChristopher and John Hvizdos will be retiring from the Board.

Cal Banning and Bill Hicks have been nominated and have kindly agreed to serve on the Board for a three-year term. A short bio on each of the candidates will be included in August's mailing.

Not much else to report at this time. Hope to see all of you at the Ice Cream Social on July 21 and the Annual Meeting and Picnic in September.

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**GAME TRAIL
COMMITTEE
CHAIRS**

}

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL
Todd Allen

COMMONS
Wayne Eisenbrandt

COMMUNICATIONS
Christine DeChristopher

FINANCE & AUDIT
Ken Siefken

FORESTRY
Chip Wait

HOME TOUR
Sharon Martinez

NOMINATING
Brenda Hooper

WATER
Walt Lafford

Chris Krocesky, ▼
GTA Administrator

Water Quality Report Available

A printed copy of the annual Game Trail water-quality report is available on the Game Trail website.

Residents may also request a copy of the water-quality report at the Game Trail Association office.

Judy Curran, Board President

Road Maintenance an On-Going Task

In April Steve Miles, Wayne Eisenbrandt and representatives from the Board drove all the Game Trail roads. Thanks to the moisture we got in April and May, Miles Construction was able to get a jump start on grading out the winter washboards and filling potholes.

At the May meeting, the Board approved a proposal for Miles Construction to do the following work:

- Re-grading and applying Durablend to 2½ miles of Game Trail roads that include sections of West Ridge, National Forest Drive, Eagles Ridge, Main Range, Mountain-side and Timberline.

- Adding 384 yards of material from the slash pit to the above roads prior to the Durablend application.
- Filling cracks and re-shaping shoulders on Great Peaks Drive.
- Slash pit cleanup.

As described in the last newsletter, the application of a binder such as Durablend will help stabilize the roads. Slower speeds and gentle braking will help lessen the creation of the washboards. However, washboards will never be completely eliminated since this problem is inherent to living in or near the mountains.

Christine DeChristopher, Communications Committee

Volunteers Needed for Game Trail Committees

Commons

Wayne Eisenbrandt, Chair of the Commons Committee, is looking for an assistant.

The Commons Committee is responsible for the maintenance of all Game Trail common property. The largest job involves the road plowing, grading, ditching, paving, inspecting, and signage. Although a contractor does the physical work, Wayne does the inspecting and schedules the contractor.

Other responsibilities of the Commons Committee include the mail center, the trash and recycling center, fences, signs, and entrances.

If you are interested in assisting Wayne, please give him a call at 719-395-5883 to get more information.

Communications

The Communications Committee needs volunteers to serve as cub reporters. Ideas are generated for newsletter articles, but someone needs to follow up to write the articles. Volunteers can write as many or as few articles as their time and interest permit.

The Communications Committee also needs someone to serve as Vice-Chair. The Chair sends out email notifications, maintains the email and directory contact information, and attends Game Trail Association Board meetings, in addition to special projects.

Please contact Christine DeChristopher, Communications Committee Chair, at 719-395-8101, if you are interested in either of these volunteer activities.



Many Game Trail residents and guests enjoy walking and jogging on the neighborhood roads and commons areas. If applicable, and for everyone's benefit, please be sure to pick up after your pets! This includes the dog corrals near the trash center. Thanks!

Stay Connected! Update Your Email & Directory Info

Email Communications

We are encouraging all who can to sign up for Game Trail information via email. Doing so will reserve association funds for other worthy needs, save trees, and provide residents with more timely information.

If you have been intending to sign up, but haven't yet had the chance, we urge you to access the **"Sign Up/Discontinue Game Trail Email Alerts and News"** form on the Game Trail website and submit it as soon as possible. Also, if your email address has changed, please update it using this same form.

Game Trail Community Directory

A directory that includes Game Trail owner names, addresses and contact information is provided to owners every year. At this time, we ask that all owners to be sure information is complete and current before the 2013 issue is printed in August. The 2013 directory will be distributed at the September Annual meeting.

To update information, access the **"Directory Update"** form on the Game Trail website or send an email to communications@gametrailassn.org. Don't have a 2012 directory to check? Please submit the update form anyway to be sure your information is accurate for the 2013 issue.

Game Trail Renters' Guide Available

The summer season brings an increase in short-term renters and guests to Game Trail. To make it easier for Game Trail owners to inform renters and guests of Game Trail rules and guidelines, a friendly guide is available on the website on the "Rules, Regs, Policies and Guidelines" page www.gametrailassn.org/boardpolicies.php

The Renters' Guide references rules for outdoor fires and fireworks, exterior house lights, trash and recycling, outdoor watering, pets, wildlife, and off-road vehicles. A list of essential phone numbers is also included.

As examples:

- Outside lights must not be kept on over night.
- Outdoor fires and fireworks are not allowed.
- Wildlife should not be fed or chased.

Game Trail owners are asked to provide this guide to all renters and guests and to post the guide in their residence for easy reference.

Game Trail Association



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Kari Allen, Editor
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Larry Gleeson, Proofreader

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



{ CALENDAR EVENTS }

- **July 10 & August 14**, 9:30 a.m., GTA Board meetings; in general, the Board meets the second Wednesday of every month
- **July 21**, 3-5 p.m., GTA Annual Ice Cream Social
- **September 7**, GTA Annual Business Meeting, Home Tour and Picnic
- **September 2013**, next issue of the Game Trail newsletter

Please bookmark
our website!

www.gametrailassn.org

Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 3-5 P.M.
**AT THE GAME TRAIL
MAIL CENTER / COMMONS**

*All Game Trail members
and their guests are invited!
Judy Curran and John Gladden
are providing the ice cream.*



What to Bring:

- Your own lawn chair
- Last Name A-L: a dessert
- Last Name M-Z: an ice cream topping