



THE WILDWOOD HIGHLANDER

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News From Esperanza

Hi to all of you. I am Jonille Shepherd, and I've been asked to write some articles on what has been going on out here in the woods, away from the big city, and people, and shopping centers.... Besides sitting out a great deal of snow and rain this year, we are getting the roads fixed. When you come out here for the weekend, the bumps aren't too bad. But when you drive them daily it gets rough. Just ask Rosey (my pickup). That and maintaining the community well is mostly what your dues are going for. The members of our board of Directors are getting along well and are having occasional meetings, mainly discussing road repairs and improvements. (I secretly think the meetings are an excuse to get together and eat the Salmon we caught and brought back from Alaska.)

Summer always brings a lot of outdoor projects like decks, woodcutting, beer drinking. A lot of us are getting ready to plant gardens. Because of the high altitude and cool weather we have to plant indoors and transplant outdoors around mid-May. Most gardens look more like fortresses. We need protection from moles, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, birds, elk and deer. Bugs are just an afterthought!

Several of us have dogs and cats to chase the critters away, although sometimes our animals get chummy with the vermin. Over in Wildwood, Mr. Tulk's Great Dane and cat can be seen on occasion with a rabbit sitting between them munching away on grass. It's a peaceful place we have here in Wildwood Highlands!



"Winter"

YOUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES AT WORK

The Board of Directors has tried to maximize both the amount and the quality of road work obtained for the dollars spent during this past year. As a result, some of the roads are beginning to look and behave more like roads should, and our vehicles appreciate it!

preparing a solid road base to receive gravel and spreading the gravel along the section of road from the water tank to the first Yucca Circle turn-off. We had ten loads of gravel delivered and spread (about 250 cubic yards) along a distance of between 1500 and 2000 feet.

In January, we had work done which included grading of Aqua Fria Trail from the wash near John Laude's place to the intersection of Highland Trail; grading of Highland Trail to West Rock Springs Loop; grading of West Rock Springs Loop back to Aqua Fria Trail thus completing the loop. The work included installation of a culvert at lot nine, bar ditches on West Rock Springs Loop at lots twenty five and twenty three, and additional gravel at lots sixty-seven and sixty-eight. Lookout Loop was also graded. The photo below is of a portion of Aqua Fria (looking east) which shows the ditch work, grading, and gravel on the turn near lot sixty-eight. There was some improvement made on the banking of the road along this stretch, which makes driving on it in bad weather much safer and less stressful.



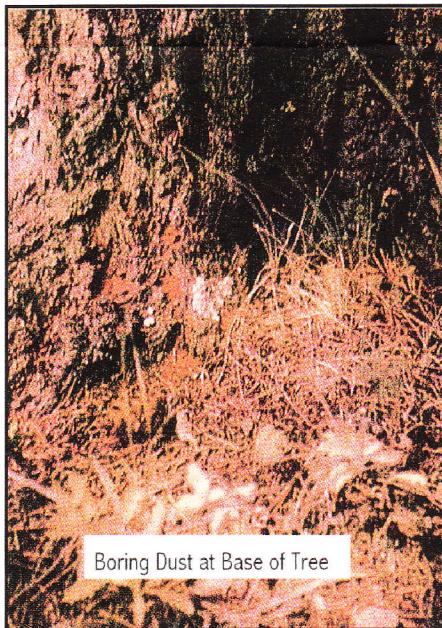
The photo above shows part of Aqua Fria Trail which was dry when the photo was taken, but would get badly rutted and very slick whenever it rained or snowed. All of us agreed that in wet weather, this particular stretch was the most dangerous road in our entire subdivision. The ruts were still visible even when the ground was dry and hard, as in this picture taken in late March. This part of the road was included in the most recent phase of work, done in early April. In addition to cutting bar ditches, the road work included



Bark Beetles Attack Wildwood Highlands

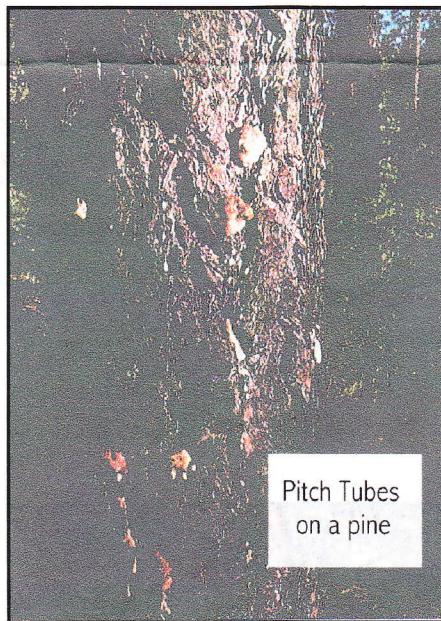


The bark beetle has been very active in our area during these past two drought years. They attack stressed Piñon Trees and kill them within 6 weeks. It is easy to tell if some trees are infected when the branches turn brown. But before that happens you can tell by finding boring dust (like sawdust) around the base of the tree or around tiny boring holes, and by pitch tubes. Pitch tubes are bits of resin



Boring Dust at Base of Tree

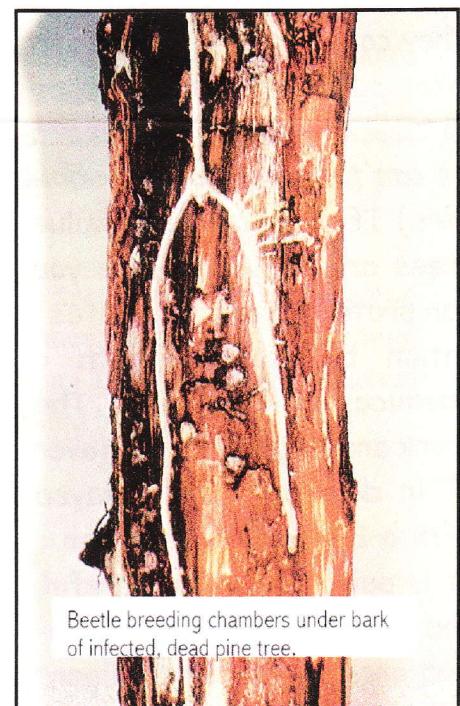
resembling a small pile of sand coming out from the bark with a tiny hole in the middle. When the beetles bore into healthy trees, a resin normally exudes and may prevent their entry by pushing them out, but with our drought (and damage by construction) trees have been highly stressed. Besides laying



Pitch Tubes
on a pine

in piles of 4' x 4' x 4' (1/2 cord), in a clearing away from healthy trees (you usually have a clearing when you cut them down) and cover them with clear tough plastic. Fred and Jonille used 3 1/2 mil from Walmart and had a handy roll of duct tape for the rips from the wood. After covering, the edge of the plastic must be buried in the dirt. You don't want any escapees. This creates a greenhouse effect raising the temperature to 160 degrees. After 2-3 weeks of sunny weather you have safe firewood. Anything under 4 inches in diameter doesn't need to be covered but removed to a safe area to dry out. No burning up here, please. We found out the way

eggs, the beetles introduce a fungus which leaves a blue stain under the bark of the tree. This helps kill the tree and provides nutrition for their babies - how nice for them! Also woodpecker activity on the trunk of the tree is a sign. Get out your magnifying glasses. Once a tree has been invaded by a beetle, it cannot be saved. The best thing to do is cut them down into firewood. But you aren't finished, you must stack the wood



Beetle breeding chambers under bark of infected, dead pine tree.



that our forest is expected to decay is through fire. Our juniper trees even have volatile oils so they will explode when on fire - real special fireworks! So we don't want to hasten decay. This is the reason the Forest Service won't cut their infected trees. They consider the juniper and Piñon forest expendable - of no value whatsoever. (*Too bad we can't delegate our tax dollars.*) If you have high value trees around your house you can protect them from infestation by spraying with a chemical called sevin. The trunk and large branches (over 4" in diameter) are sprayed with a 2% carbaryl solution. It is poisonous so be careful, and follow manufacturer's directions. We must be diligent

to avoid an infestation that will wipe out our whole forest. So all of you that come up here just for the summer to

get away from the heat, don't forget your chainsaws and plastic. It provides an excellent workout. Fred says he actually knows where some of his muscles are now! The good news is the abundant rain we have had recently will help to alleviate the stress in the trees! Further information on these critters and other indigenous bugs can be obtained from Mike Fallon, the Timber/Stewardship Forester at the Forestry Division of the New Mexico Energy Minerals & Natural Resources Department. They're located in Socorro, and their phone number is 505-835-9359. He also has information on pruning (something else we were all doing wrong) and seedlings.



This is what the full-grown bark beetle larvae and pupae look like. The purple stain on the wood is caused by fungus introduced by the beetles.

Wildwood Highlands Landowners' Association
Annual General Membership Meeting
May 20, 2001 at 1:00 pm
Datil Community Center

Come and help elect your new Board of Directors. All members are encouraged to consider serving on the Board. Bring any issues and concerns you may have about Wildwood Highlands. Remember that while everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, only members who are current on membership dues are eligible to vote!

If you will not be able to attend the May meeting, it is important to send in the Proxy. The Association can only vote and do business if a quorum of members are either present themselves, or are in attendance by means of their proxies. If you send in a proxy, or a copy of it, it must be presented to Frank Stubbs, WHLA Secretary before the meeting, or be mailed to the following address early enough to arrive before the meeting:

WHLA
P.O. Box 87
Datil, NM 87821

You may enter the name of any eligible WHLA member on your sheet, giving them the authority to vote your proxy. If you would like one of the current Board members to vote your proxy, you may enter his name on your sheet.

Donald Montalvo - President
Fred Shepherd - Vice President
Frank Stubbs - Secretary
Bruce Stubbs - Treasurer
Larry LaPierre - Member at Large

Homeowners' Association Proxy

I, (name)
(address), a landowner of record of Wildwood Highlands Landowners' Association (the "Association") do hereby constitute and appoint as my lawful attorney, agent and proxy, (proxy's name), to represent me at the meeting of the Association to be held on May 20, 2001, or, if postponed, at such time that this meeting is rescheduled, and at any adjournment of such meeting or rescheduled meeting.

The above named proxy is authorized to vote on my behalf, and to act for and in my name, place and stead on all matters and things which may be presented for action or consideration at such meetings, giving and granting unto said proxy full power in all respects that I could exercise if present in person. This proxy shall remain in effect until (proxy term end date), unless earlier terminated by me.

Date: _____

[Member Signature]

[Lot(s)]