

THE WILDWOOD HIGHLANDER

Publication of the Wildwood Highlands Landowners Association August 15, 2002

Welcome to the first edition of the 2002 Wildwood Highlands Newsletter. At the time of the May meeting, we entered into one of the worst fire seasons we have ever had. Fires all around us until July, then all heck broke loose. A fire at the Saulsberry Ranch which we extinguished rapidly, then two days later a nasty lightning strike hit Alegres Mountain and the Slurry bombers had to be called in to contain it. A day later, lightning struck a tree at the Homestead Subdivision. The next day in the late afternoon, the Larry Moss residence exploded into flames and all we could do was to keep the fire from being a full blown wildland fire. The Forest Service is also at every fire due to the close proximity of BLM and State Forest land. The monsoons finally kicked in to partially relieve the fire danger.

We want to thank all the landowners for adhering to the no burn rules by not burning trash or having camp fires. Human caused fires have been and are the largest cause of Wildland fires.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Spears haul two loads of base course pm the rocky hill between the Montalvo residence and the O'Gorman residence. Mr. Spears graded the road from Highway 12 to the well and leveled the fill, which was included in the price of the two loads.

Jamie and Barbara are once again members in good standing. The shed was moved to a new location in July. Thank you everyone for the help. Also thank you to a person from Sugerloaf who helped in the moving. I want to also thank members for identifying problems in the road, plugged culverts, wash outs, etc.

The Board checked into a money market account and it would not be feasible at this time due to the balance of funds. We were not paying a service charge for the checking account, but we were paying 7.50 each month for returned checks. This equates to \$90.00 per year. This was stopped.

There will be a Board meeting (short) for all the membership on Sunday September 1, 2002 at the Laude' residence. A pot luck will follow the meeting at 1:: pm. Bring your favorite dish-beverage-chairs-silverware/plates. See you on Sept. 1st.

A great orator once said, "Don't bring me your problems unless you have a solution."

John Laude'

As a Postal Employee I investigated whether the Landowners Association would qualify for a bulk mailing permit which would save money on mailing costs. I sent in an application and this is pending. When I have news on this I will inform the members.

While on the internet recently I saw this information which I felt might concern the folks living in our area. The subject is Flea and Tick control and the article was unsigned.

If you have animals, and what's a happy homestead without them?, fleas and ticks are an uncomfortable fact of life for you and your pet. More than a nuisance, fleas and ticks can transmit a host of pathogens and skin diseases to humans and their furry friends. But you don't have to risk disease or watch your pets suffer. With a little diligence and the use of good sense pest controls, you can get the upper hand during flea and tick season.

The most common flea is Ctenocephalides felis, the cat flea. Despite the name, these fleas are just as happy to reside on your dog. Anyone who has ever suffered through a severe flea infestation knows it's a situation that can drive even the most mild environmentalist to reach for the pesticide. But that would only be a short term solution. Besides being ineffective in the long run, those chemicals contribute to indoor air pollution and subject your family and pets to residual exposure for weeks and even months after they're applied. This can be particularly dangerous for young children who may crawl on treated carpets and floors. Their developing bodies are more sensitive than adults to the effects of pesticides.

The good news is prevention is the best approach to flea control. The bad news is that you'll have to vacuum and vacuum and vacuum. You can eliminate up to 50 percent of flea eggs in a single pass with a vacuum cleaner. Vacuuming provides the same level of control as permethrin, a widely used pesticide. It is recommended vacuuming your carpets at least once a week or as often as once a day during peak flea season, usually middle to late summer. Pay special attention to any areas where pets lie and remember to clean underneath sofas and chairs. Wash bedding regularly and vacuum cushions, pillows, and between crevices on upholstered furniture.

You won't want to allow a flea infested pet into your freshly cleaned home, so treat them to an occasional bath. Avoid using a pesticide based shampoo. Plain soap and water usually work to drown the fleas. Work up a good lather and allow it to stand for a few minutes before rinsing your pet.

Flea combs are another good method for controlling mild infestations of adult fleas. These combs have tightly spaced teeth that comb out fleas and their manure (which serves as food for the larvae), but still allows hair to pass through. Dip the comb into soapy water to dislodge and drown the fleas. Pets usually enjoy the extra attention, and by combing regularly, you'll be able to monitor the flea population and take action if numbers begin to swell. Outdoors, fleas are highly susceptible to fluctuations in temperature and moisture. They like damp environments, but they are vulnerable to drowning. Fleas are found most often in moist shaded areas such as under porches and around dog pens. Use your garden hose to give the shady areas a good flooding as puddles will drown the fleas.

Ticks transmit many diseases including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever, and Babesiosis, a disease similar to malaria. Ticks are patient, making their way onto the edges of leaves and branches, then stretching their legs out to hitch a ride on a passing host. Once they're on a suitable host, they find a place to dig in and feed: usually a spot the host can't easily reach. A female tick will feed for up to a week and increase as much as 200 times in weight before falling to the ground where she lays her eggs. Keeping the vegetation around your home trimmed reduces the risk of picking up ticks in your daily movements. This is also good fire prevention. Removing leaf litter and brush also helps to limit tick habitat and once again reduces fuel for fire. The good sense procedures for one also works for the other.

Removing a tick safely requires special care and not getting in a panic. Inspecting your skin daily is important if ticks are prevalent. Having someone help you to inspect areas you can't see can make a difference. So always stay on good terms with someone special. If you find a tick, remember it usually takes at least eight hours to transmit diseases after it digs in. NEVER squeeze the ticks body with your fingers. This forces its contents into your bloodstream. The best method is to use fine tipped tweezers. Grip the tick by the head as close to the skin as possible and pull slowly and gently to remove the tick. Clean the wound and wash your hands and tweezers. Do not attempt to smother the tick or burn it off your skin or that of your pet. This also is a procedure which can be dangerous. Using good sense with these pests can require some effort, but the results are better for you, your pet, and your living environment.

If anyone has any information, poetry, recipes, or just fun stories to share: contact me at (505)344-5382 or glbaca1113@earthlink.net. We can make our newsletter informative and beneficial to all.

Gilbert Baca