



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

The BHR POA Board met by teleconference on March 25, 2023. Treasurer Art Jackson reported that the 2022 financials have been reconciled and that the 2023 budget has been posted to the website. He stated that the February A/R Aging Summary report shows an outstanding balance of \$16,690.40 for 32 properties. The POA will send Notice of Delinquency invoices to all outstanding parcel owners at the end of March. Four properties are multi-year delinquent. Road Chair Jim Nance explained that Ferrero will be cleaning culverts and "cutting down" four steep areas on the roads. EMC Chair Brad Brooks updated the mitigation grant progress, stating that 25 acres of or 35 acre have been completed, but the steepest section will be done April 28-30 with the help of Team Rubicon. Access the links on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

Important Links

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [BOD Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financials](#)

Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)

Reporter: Nancy Pasternak

How Can You Help?

by Susanne Bloomfield, Communication Chair

Except for two road contractors and some mitigation work paid for by grants, everything else that keeps Blackhawk Ranch operating smoothly and safely is accomplished by property owner volunteers. Here are ways you can contribute to our community, and help is needed in ALL of them. (Contact [Brad](#) or [Susanne](#))

- ***Two positions on the Board of Directors for two-year terms to fill the retirements of Brad Brooks and Susanne Bloomfield: both have served two terms each.
- ***Team Rubicon support April 28-30 for chipper and meals (see article below)
- ***Snow Captain to decide when and where to plow
- ***Quadrant spotters in case of fire/smoke reports
- ***Quadrant bi-annual weed spraying patrols (see article next page)
- ***People to change the Fire Danger signs at entrances when needed
- ***Summer Community Fire Mitigation days
- ***Writers for Newsletter articles of any kind

***THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW***
The BHR Annual Meeting will be held on July 1, 2023, at La Veta Mercantile. Registration at ??????

Team Rubicon - for the Encore & Finale

by Brad Brooks, Emergency Management Committee Chair

Recent unprecedented fire weather and high winds have caused several fires in Southern Colorado in the last few days. This is a very timely reminder for Blackhawk property owners of how crucial our ongoing fire mitigation efforts are on the Blackhawk!

Our Blackhawk Emergency Management Committee has developed a strong working relationship with Team Rubicon in Colorado (<https://teamrubiconusa.org>). This veterans group works tirelessly in both rescue, recovery, and prevention missions across our nation and internationally. This year they are again coming to work with us on **April 28-30** to assist us in completing our work on Wapiti Drive. Team Rubicon is sending 35 of their best Grey Shirts to mitigate the forest along the last and steepest portion of Wapiti Drive, assisting us to complete our Shaded Fuel Break grant.

Blackhawk will be supporting Team Rubicon in two ways. First, we will be fielding a Chipper team to work behind Team Rubicon, chipping their slash. Hard work over three days, but much fun as well. Please let Brad Brooks (719-252-5621) know if you can work with the chipper team on the 28th, 29th or 30th. We can use the help!

Second, Blackhawk volunteers will feed the 40+ crew members for their evening meals on the 28th, 29th, and 30th. Blackhawk volunteers will be working tirelessly to plan, supply, cook, deliver, serve, and cleanup after each of these meals. Last year, the we were told by the Team Rubicon Incident Commander that Team Rubicon had never been fed as well as by Blackhawk.

This mitigation is a planned part of the Blackhawk/Colorado State Forest Service matching grant that we were awarded in 2020. This grant officially ends June 1, 2023, and we have about 4-5 more acres to complete. This has been a unifying project across Blackhawk, allowing us to not only create an emergency corridor out of Wapiti Drive, but also the Shaded Fuel Break would act as an actual firefighting line. Over 40 of our residents have contributed to this long-term project. Amazing what we can accomplish working together!

Trujillo Creek Fire

By Susanne Bloomfield

A forest fire that originated in an unoccupied cabin along the Trujillo Creek Valley near Mauricio Canyon southwest of Blackhawk Ranch on Monday, April 10, brought area fire departments to the scene. A Mandatory Evacuation was issued for the area, and neighboring Bighorn Sheep Ranch was on pre-evacuation. Due to rugged and steep terrain, first responders had difficulty accessing the fire, and moving equipment and personnel onto the hill was a challenge.



At 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday morning, April 12, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control took over incident command of the Trujillo Creek Fire. The Juniper Valley Hotshot team, the U.S. Forest Service Smokey Bear Hotshot team out of New Mexico, and one other Hotshot team were working the fire. The total number of firefighters was about 100. Water drops were conducted by helicopter, and a fire line was constructed around the fire. By Wednesday evening, firefighters were stationed around the entirety of the fire as crews expected high winds for Thursday, but the winds cooperated allowing for aggressive aerial water attacks on Thursday and Friday. Cooler weather and rain were predicted for the weekend.

As of Friday night, the fire was still active but 25% contained. It destroyed two, possibly three structures and 118 acres. No significant injuries to firefighters or residents occurred. Residents remain on pre-evacuation status.

A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak

Did you know that Colorado has eleven historic carousels (also known as merry-go-rounds) and six that you can visit and ride? From the "Gilded Age" to the 1920s, an estimated 6,000 carousels were built in America, spinning round and round to the sound of Wurlitzer organs. Sadly, less than 200 of the classic wood carousels survive today.



The Kit Carson County carousel in Burlington was built in 1905 by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company for Elitch Gardens in Denver. It was purchased by county officials in 1928. Restoration took place from 1976 to 2001. The carousel features 46 hand carved animals and four chariots. The back of each chariot has an originally painted landscape, and the 45 original

oil paintings have also been restored. Music is provided by a 1909 Wurlitzer Monster Military Band Organ containing 225 pipes accompanied by bass and snare drums. It is considered a priceless carousel, one of the best in the nation. The carousel is housed in the original 1928 building. The carousel and carousel museum are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 11am to 6pm daily. Admission is one dollar and each ride is 25 cents. For more information visit the Kit Carson Carousel's website.

The "Carousel of Happiness" can be found in Nederland southwest of Boulder and is open year-round. The "Lakeside Carousel" is located at the Lakeside Amusement Park near Denver. The owners of Lakeside acquired their Parker classic carousel in 1908, and it's been spinning for more than a century. What makes the Lakeside Carousel so unique is the style of the distinctive carvings that are often described as "moving folk art." Some believe that this carousel represents a collaboration of carving done by different woodcarvers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



The Pueblo Parks Carousel was built in 1911. Restoration took place from 1957 to 1985. It features 36 hand-carved horses, a chariot and a spinning Lovers Tub, all carved by master woodcarvers Solomon Stein and Harry Goldstein at the turn of the 19th century in a style reminiscent of the original Coney Island carousels. Music is provided by a fully restored 1920 Wurlitzer Band Organ. It

is open during the Summer months and is located in Pueblo.

The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Carousel is open year-round (weather permitting) at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo southwest of Colorado Springs. The zoo was recently voted as one of the top 10 zoos in the nation by *USA Today*. The Royal Gorge Carousel can be found at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park near Canon City and is available when the park is open. It is not historic and has only been in use since 2015, but what makes it unique are the views from it of the gorge and Sangre de Cristo mountains.

It Will Soon Be Time to Spray Weeds

by Susanne Bloomfield, Weed Chair

As the newly appointed Weed Committee Chair, I want to remind everyone that as the beautiful spring wildflowers begin to blossom, and the native grasses turn green, so do the noxious weeds that could smother and kill them all.

Colorado state law requires control of all noxious weeds. Although all property owners are responsible for the inspection and control of noxious weeds on their own properties, the Blackhawk Ranch Board, assisted by volunteers, has assumed the responsibility of spraying for these weeds along the road setbacks (30 feet from the center of the road on each side) twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. With the help of volunteers, we spot spray noxious weeds, using Millstone herbicide to manage infestations. Individual property owners may rent a POA backpack sprayer from the Board to help control weeds on their own properties.

The most common weeds on Blackhawk Ranch include [Scotch Thistle](#) (top photo), [Common Mullein](#) (second photo), [Houndstongue](#) (third photo), [Russian Knapweed](#) (bottom right photo), [Canada Thistle](#) (bottom left photo), and [Musk Thistle](#) (bottom middle photo). Noxious weeds can grow several feet in height and act like ground cover, rapidly consuming large areas of land. Please visit the [BHRPOA website](#) for more information on noxious weed management on Blackhawk Ranch.

So far, the only current volunteers for the committee who have agreed to help my husband and me are Art and Wendy Jackson and Nancy Pasternak BHR will furnish and mix the herbicide for volunteers in a container that can be placed in the back of any UTV, a large, four-wheel ATV, or even the back of a pickup truck. Attached sprayers on long hoses will reach into the roadsides.

If you would like to volunteer to spray weeds in just a segment of the Ranch, and **WE DO NEED MORE HELP**, contact me: vicepresident@blackhawranch.org. Many hands always make any task easier.

The efforts of our community with the help of our the BHR Noxious Weed Management Plan have been very effective in controlling the spread of noxious weeds on BHR. Let's keep up the good and necessary work!



Resources:

[Noxious Weeds | Blackhawk Ranch Property Owners Association](#)
[Colorado Department of Agriculture - Noxious Weeds](#)
[Noxious Weed Species](#)
[Colorado Weed Management Association](#)
[Huerfano County Noxious Weed Plan](#)
[Las Animas County Weed Management Plan](#)