



August 2016

# Blackhawk Ranch Newsletter

## FIRE MITIGATION REMINDER

The 2016 Community Fire Mitigations will be held on the first Saturday of every month beginning at 8:30 through October. An Appreciation Supper will be held the evening of October 1 for all of those who have participated.

Not only will property owners be helping make Blackhawk a safer place, but each hour a volunteer works counts as \$23 toward our matching funds which made the grants possible.



(photo by S. Bloomfield)

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## 2016 Annual Meeting Highlights

The Blackhawk Ranch Property Owners Annual Meeting was held at the Walsenburg Community Center on July 9. There were 43 parcels represented by owner attendance and 38 parcels represented by proxy, with 58 owners present plus several guests. Blackhawk Ranch currently has 27 full-time resident households and 20 part-time resident households. The Board welcomed 9 new parcel owners to our POA since our last meeting in July. Dan and Anne Ebie, Parcel 163, and Ken and Lori Diehl, Parcel 142 are presently having their homes built. After the Board Members and the Committee Chairs presented their reports, the Board honored several people for their volunteer contributions to the POA: Rick Brandenburg for spearheading the efforts to purchase a new tractor with attachments last year to maintain our roads and for snow removal and Nancy Pasternak for four years as President, Compliance Chair, and Communications Co-Chair. Retiring Board members were also honored: Paul Kimball for four years of service as Treasurer and three years as Road Chair and Dave Vigil for two years as Vice President and Weed Chair. Ken and Lori Diehl, Parcel 142 were elected to the Board of Directors, and Nancy Pasternak, Parcel 102 was re-elected. They join Lee Kimball and Rick Brandenburg, current Board members. The dues increase ballot issue was not passed because 50% plus one of the entire membership (93) is needed to increase the dues, as pursuant to our covenants. There were 37 votes against and 32 for the issue. This is why it is so important to have a quorum to conduct business. After the meeting was adjourned, the group enjoyed a potluck lunch.

Nancy Pasternak, president

## Blackhawk Book Club



The members of the Blackhawk Book Club have been meeting

monthly to share their thoughts on a wide variety of books.

The following books and hosts have been chosen for the summer and fall. The meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. with the host providing snacks and beverages. All Blackhawk Ranch residents and non-residents alike are invited to attend!

**August 10-- Ruth Anne Goza**  
*House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende  
**September 14 — Lois Hank**  
*The Water Diviner* by Andrew Anastasios, Meaghan Wilson-Anastasios  
**October 12 — Carol Ryan**  
*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant

## Emergency Notification

Blackhawk owners have four ways to learn about emergency situations on the Ranch.

1. **Blackhawk Ranch's Emergency Notification System** for Blackhawk owners only. A text or a phone call will be sent to those who have signed up if there is an emergency, such as a fire, on Blackhawk. <http://www.call-em-all.com/join/bhrpoa>. For a telephone alert, contact Cissy ([cissy@scw-inc.net](mailto:cissy@scw-inc.net)).
2. **Reverse 911 CodeRED.** These notifications are specific to the county where you own property. If you are in Huerfano County, sign up at [www.huerfano.us](http://www.huerfano.us). If you are in Las Animas, sign up at [www.trinidad.co.gov](http://www.trinidad.co.gov).
3. **Official Blackhawk Ranch Website.** The Home Page blog will post pertinent updates to emergency situations. [www.bhrpoa.com](http://www.bhrpoa.com)
4. **FACEBOOK**  
Request to be added to the closed group.

# Snapshots of Blackhawk Photographers

Many of us love to take photographs. Here are a couple of our more talented neighbors.

## DON SAVAGE (Lot # 124)



After many years of coming to their lot on Blackhawk Ranch for vacations, Don and Cathleen decided to build their home here and have been full-time residents for almost 3 years. He worked at NASA for 20 years, mostly at the headquarters in Washington, D.C. Don has been interested and active in photography since the early 1970s when he took two college courses in photography and darkroom processing and acquired more training in the Navy when he joined in 1975 as a journalist. Don has a wide interest in subject matter, but he says that “the beauty of Colorado and our National Parks are probably my greatest inspirations.” Although Don posts most of his photos on his Facebook page, [Don Savage Photography](#), he has also published two books of photographs, one titled *Yosemite* and another *Colorado Autumn*. Currently, he is interested in putting together a photo book on the abandoned coal mines of Black Hawk Ranch, and he would like to obtain permission from property owners who have any mines on their property they



would like him to photograph.

“Climbing Under a Silvery Moon” won a contest and appeared on the front page of the *Colorado Springs Independent* in 2012.

“Slinging Mud” depicts the speed and excitement of Motocross racing.

## AL SWANSON (Lot # 178 )



Al and Katherine Swanson are nonresidents of the ranch but have owned their property since 1999, camping on it with their RV for many years. Primarily a landscape photographer, Al has been taking photographs for around 30 years, preferring Canon products. He spent 25 years in the Air Force, stationed overseas several times as well as across the United States, and another 13 years in industry. Al owned his own photography company, but he is now retired. He and Katherine travel quite a bit with their RV. Al said, “We realize that with the time we have left, we cannot see all of what this beautiful country contains. However, we are going to take a stab at it.” Al has had his photographs as well as articles published in *Trailer Life Magazine*

and in the *Photograph Society of America Journal*. “I enjoy doing all sorts of landscapes and continue to explore old haunts, such as mining towns and ghost towns,” Al explains. “I also enjoy roaming around the plains and other parts of Colorado looking for deserted homesteads. However, I just enjoy shooting and take advantage of every opportunity.” Al has a [Webpage](#) and a [Facebook](#) page for his photography, “Nature’s Impressions.”

The top photograph is of an abandoned homestead near La Veta, and the bottom photograph of wildflowers near Cordova Pass.

