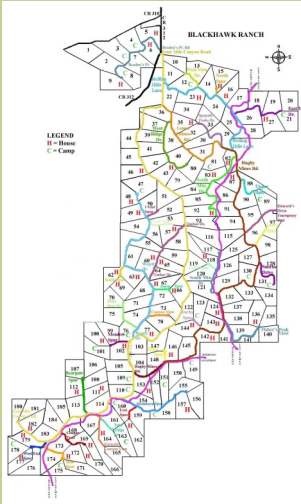




# Blackhawk Ranch Newsletter

August 2015

## NEW MAPS & UPDATES



As a result of new information gathered at the Annual Meeting, an updated Directory of Property Owners is now available on the official Blackhawk Ranch website. Two new maps are also available there: [bhrpoa.com](http://bhrpoa.com)

One map shows the lot numbers and roads with the new Brodmore Spur emergency exit marked on it. The second map designates which lots have permanent residences, which have part-time residences, and which have long-term campsites.

The BHR Emergency Notification List is also being updated. Thanks to Art Jackson and Cissy Severance for their work on these projects. Magnets with numbers to call in an emergency are available from Terry Bloomfield.

Editor: Susanne Bloomfield  
Copy editors:  
Cissy Severance &  
Nancy Pasternak  
[skbloomfield65@gmail.com](mailto:skbloomfield65@gmail.com)  
Feedback as well as ideas for the newsletter are welcome!

## Blackhawk Ranch Annual Meeting Highlights

There were 43 parcels represented by owner attendance and 31 parcels represented by proxy with 53 owners present plus several guests. The Board honored several people for their volunteer efforts during the past year: Cissy and Tom Severance in collaboration with Susanne and Terry Bloomfield for the work done on acquiring grants for fire mitigation efforts and a wood chipper for the POA; Carol Ryan and Paul Kimball for extra efforts made towards streamlining our financial records and tax returns; and Mike Wedgworth for his work to help develop a second emergency exit route from Blackhawk Ranch onto Big Horn Ranch, for improving the current exit route from Howard's Draw, and for beginning the process of creating an emergency contact system with Las Animas County for BHR residents living in that county. Parcel owner artists were featured this year for the first time, with paintings displayed by Gina Buttignol and Cathleen Savage, and soap making and wool throws created by Dennis Kaeding and Cindy Bramon. The Board welcomed 10 new parcel owners to our POA since June 2014. Richard Brandenburg was elected to the Board of Directors and Lee Kimball was re-elected. (Nancy Pasternak, president)

## UTE PRAYER TREES

The Ute tribes, who once inhabited this region of Colorado, often culturally modified trees as a part of their ceremonies. The people would stop and pray four times on the way to their sacred mountain, Pikes Peak. The Ute called the mountain *Tava*, meaning Sun, and they were the *Tabeguache*, or People of the Sun, the largest of the ten bands of Utes.

On each prayer stop on their journey to *Tava*, they would choose a pliable sapling, bend it parallel to the ground, and secure it with a yucca rope. "Then everyone circled the tree and prayed, for they knew it would hold their prayers for 800 years, and each breeze would give their prayers new breath."

Another type of ceremonial tree is the Medicine Tree.



The National Park Service explains that Utes would insert a sharp stick into a tree and peel the bark away to the inner layer, which would be used in a healing ceremony. Since a tree cannot add growth rings to such scars, historians are able to date the ceremony by comparing the rings in the scarred and unscarred areas.

Historian Celinda Kaelin of the Pikes Peak Historical Society has identified over 500 ceremonial trees in the region so far, and more are being discovered near Black Forest, Fox Run, Cuchara, and La Veta. John Wesley Anderson, who gives presentations on this subject, has also written a book titled *Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region* that describes in more detail the history of the Ute practices.

The photos on the right are some of the trees discovered on Blackhawk Ranch that appear to be culturally modified by the Utes. The last two trees can be viewed on the east side of the road on Wapiti Drive between Mule Deer and just north of Canyon View. If you see similar trees on your property, please do not destroy such historically and culturally significant artifacts!

Check out this website: [www.pikespeakmuseum.org/indians](http://www.pikespeakmuseum.org/indians)





Other avid Blackhawk residents are enjoying and preserving the fruits and vegetables they grow in their unique and creative gardens on Blackhawk Ranch, including the McPhearsons, the Hinzmanns, the Kimballs, the Weivodas, the Hanks, and Bob Montgomery. In the next newsletter, we will share the experiences of Blackhawk's poultry experts.



## Blackhawk Book Club

After the Annual meeting, several women from the Ranch community decided that it would be fun to start a book club. The first meeting was hosted by Carol Ryan, and ten women gathered to enjoy refreshments and discuss *Orphan Train: A Novel* by Kristina Baker Kline.

The meeting was such a success that another one is planned for September 2 at Bloomfields' home beginning at 3:00. The group will read and discuss two books by Harper Lee: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*.

Future books and meetings have also been set:

Oct. 14 at Cissy Severance's home  
*One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus

Nov. 11 at Debi Patch's home  
*The Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon

All Blackhawk owners are invited to attend. Each hostess will provide refreshments. For more information, contact Deb Kenney:  
pauldeb141@gmail.com

## VOLUNTEERS???

Are you interested in serving on a committee to pursue a dues increase as a ballot issue for next year's annual meeting? Such a committee would lobby individual parcel owners, providing them with the necessary data to back up their campaign. Contact Rick Brandenburg: drhome.rick@gmail.com

## SNAPSHOTS OF BLACKHAWK GARDENERS

### THE KENNEYS (Lot # 9)

Debby and Paul Kenney's garden is tucked inside a Clear Span Pro 6' x 4' x 20' greenhouse that they purchased as a kit from Growers Supply. It has an aluminum frame with polycarbonate panels, and they added solar powered vent openers and a shade cloth cover. They plan to purchase a heater this winter. Their green peppers, jalapeno peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, carrots, lettuce, onions, and numerous tomato plants are in raised beds with soil enriched by horse manure compost. Debby also has a vertical herb garden with basil, oregano, parsley, thyme, and rosemary. Having fresh herbs has been wonderful for their homemade pizzas. Rather than purchasing plants from retailers, this winter they hope to start their own flowers from seed in their greenhouse as well as adding to their fresh vegetable selection.



### PATCH & BRANDENBURG (Lot # 69 )

Rick and Deb planted their first garden on the ranch in 1999, the year after they moved into their semi-furnished house. They experimented with various vegetables for the next eight years, battling hail, drought, and hungry cows. Last summer after a few years off, they renewed their gardening efforts, amending the soil with buffalo manure and constructing a stout wooden fence around their vegetable patch. They have had great success this season with beans, peas, carrots, onions, rhubarb, lettuce, beets, and tomatoes (which never seem to ripen before the first frost). This spring, both enrolled in the Colorado Master Gardeners course through the Colorado State Extension office in Pueblo, a course they recommend highly to everyone. They said, "The most important thing we learned was how much we didn't know about gardening." Since one of the obligations which Master Gardeners take on is to share what they have learned with their neighbors, they are willing to help others with questions about gardening, including flowers, vegetables, and trees. "If we don't have the answers," Deb and Rick stated, "we have the contacts and resources to find them."



### THE BUTTIGNOLS (Lot #153)

Being from New York where Roger grew up gardening, the soil was moist and good, so growing a garden in the dry Colorado soil was a learning experience. He started by using all of the fire mitigation by-products on their property, including wood chips as mulch for the raised beds and garlic beds to retain moisture and keep any weeds down, and cedar limbs and branches to build an artistic garden fence designed by Gina. Horse manure compost from one of the neighbors was mixed in to begin building a better soil. Besides four different types of garlic, the Buttignols have zucchini, beans, corn, radishes, three types of tomatoes, cabbage, asparagus, herbs, and few giant sunflowers planted by the birds.

