

RAFTER J ROUNDUP

Volume 8, No. 4

Your Rafter J. Association, Inc. News

April 2003

MOSQUITO PELLETS

All property owners who have a "lagoon" septic system should have received a letter regarding the purchase of mosquito pellets. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Linda at the Rafter J office (970)385-6725. Purchasing pellets is *especially important* as mosquitoes and birds spread the West Nile Virus. There have already been documented cases of West Nile Virus in Colorado. It is imperative that we all get these pellets in our lagoons **before the mosquito larva hatch**. If the pellets aren't used in **every lagoon**, there is still a sizeable mosquito population. Therefore, we are **urging** every lagoon owner to take advantage of this offer.

You may purchase your pellets right here in Rafter J. Please call Robin Jackman @ 259-1859. Pellets may be purchased and distributed anytime from **April 1st** to **May 1st**. Cost is \$25.00. The Association pays an additional \$5.00 to help encourage everyone to use the pellets. The easiest form of payment is a check made out to the Rafter J Homeowner's Association.

Lake Durango Water Company Update: The Lake Durango water situation is still unclear and should be cleared up next month. The snow pack is better than last year but due to Lake Durango's water wrights, the water supply issue will come down to how fast the snow melts. The "experts" say the snow should melt quickly which can be good or bad for Lake Durango depending on which expert you listen to. It's clear that we will be on water rationing for the remainder of the year so make your plans accordingly. Conservation is our best bet to get thru to 2004. If Lake Durango does not get any new water, they have said that we will be out of water by next July or August. The PUC is beginning the process of looking at the Lake Durango's rate request and how this will come out is unknown. We are sure that there will be a rate increase of some kind. *Dick Griffith*

MORE ON BEETLE INFESTATION....IMPORTANT INFO SHARED WITH YOU FROM ONE OF OUR PROPERTY OWNERS:

Pinon Trees: What I've learned about beetle prevention and tree trimming. I hope this will help others avoid some of the pitfalls along the way to protecting their trees from beetle attack and reducing fire fuel hazard.

The best source of information is the La Plata County Extension Office: 970-247-4355 or email Kevin Mallow at: mallowkl@co.laplata.co.us More good info on Ips beetle: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05558.html>

Trimming: While it's good to reduce fire fuel hazard by trimming and thinning trees, be careful with the timing. The turpins evaporating from fresh pinon sap attracts the beetle. Although it is said that trimming pinon trees up to April 1 is ok, I think this is a bit late because it takes weeks for the tree wounds to seal off and the slash to dry. I did late March trimming and thinning work, which resulted in quite a bit of pinon slash. Since this is too close to beetle flight time for my comfort, I piled the slash near the driveway and called Cliff's Chipping at 247-1840. Cliff chipped the pinon slash into his trailer and hauled it away for a price that beats renting a chipper. I kept the chips from the juniper and oak slash for mulch because it shouldn't be a problem.

Insecticide: Unfortunately it is very easy to be misled by well intentioned but misinformed clerks at many of the local stores about the insecticide spray for protection from bark beetle. For example, the product known by the brand name "Sevin" comes in a variety of strengths with different purposes. Most stores sell a home garden variety of Sevin with only 20% +/- Carbaryl that is NOT for bark beetle. The correct Sevin is called Sevin XLR PLUS and is 44% Carbaryl with specific mixing/application instructions for bark beetle. This is available at Basin-Coop in 2.5 gal jugs that make 64 gallons of spray. Another similar product by Drexel is available at San Juan Nursery. I was told that the 2.5 gal jug will cover about 15 medium size trees but I have not tested that myself. Big pinons and ponderosas will require spray units with small fire-hose nozzles similar to the ones that Southwest Ag is building. For this reason, a lot of property owners are hiring Arborists to spray their trees. If you do this, make sure they are licensed, as that is a requirement to spray for money.

For comments or questions please call Chuck at 247-3807 or email c_w@earthlink.net

DISC GOLF CLINICS

Rafter J resident & local world class disc golf pro, Kurt Lampkin, is offering exclusive disc golf clinics in conjunction with Durango Parks & Recreation on Tuesday evenings (6:45) beginning April 8th. The clinics will be held at Folsom park... "Intro to Disc Golf" and "Skills & Techniques". Ages 8 & up required. Disc golf is a growing sport that teaches focus & patience. The beauty of "disc in flight" is matched only by the camaraderie among the players that are throwing them. To register for the clinics, call 375-7300 or for more info, call Kurt @ 259-1859.

HEARTWORM DISEASE PREVENTION

Speaking of mosquitoes...it is time for all of us pet parents (yes, this includes cats too!) to protect our 4-legged loved ones against heartworms. These parasites inhabit the hearts and lungs and can cause serious health problems, which may eventually lead to heart failure and death. A mosquito bites an infected dog and draws in a small amount of blood in which tiny immature heartworm larvae are circulating. The same mosquito then bites a cat, depositing the heartworm larvae on the skin. Heartworm disease is 100% preventable...contact your veterinarian soon as most in this area recommend the 6-month treatment to begin in May and end in October.

DON'T FORGET...APRIL 2003 IS "WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION MONTH"

Homeowners, neighborhoods and public land agencies are using various techniques to create safer, more fire wise communities - ranging from **brush clearing and tree trimming** to forest thinning and **hydro-mowing**. You can sign up for one or all of the tours that are being offered and see "on the ground" success stories. For an online brochure, please go to www.sjma.org, and then click on "events". You can then download the online brochure

Also...the Rafter J office has the 15 minute video, "Protecting Your Home from Wildfire" available to Rafter J members for viewing. Call Linda @ 385-6725 to get it.

BOARD MEETING

Next scheduled Board Meeting is **MONDAY, APRIL 21ST** 6:30 PM. Location is 1383 Ridge Road. All property owners are welcome

Timber Tech, who has this awesome machine that does an awesome job of "thinning", is currently scheduling days to service Rafter J. A lot of us hired them last year and it was well worth it! *See the ad below*

UNCLASSIFIEDS

TIMBER TECH

Tree thinning, brush removal, timber slash disposal, wildfire defensible space installation, fire break construction, fuel break construction, wildfire prevention program design, right-of-way clearing.

TAMMY TYNER
382-2526 or 749-0918

NEIGHBOR CARE

For pampered pets & plants & home security checks while you're away. Serving Rafter J exclusively since 1978. 259-0045

SIMPLY THE BEST CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Call for handyman work, interior painting, house cleaning, windows too.

KEITH WIDDER 259-5996

FIRE READY, INC.

Wildfire Prevention Services Hazard Tree & Brush Removal Large capacity chipping Certified insect spraying www.fireready.com 970-533-7078

DURANGO DECKS INC.

Custom Deck Design & Installation Deck/siding refurb and staining services. 18 yrs experience as a professional carpenter. Licensed, insured, member of the BBB Trex, Redwood, Cedar www.durangodecks.com or call Carl Sturm 382-0690

RECYCLING IN RAFTER J

Wanna talk trash? We now offer weekly garbage & recycling collection. We provide "critter loCs" on our wheeled carts to keep pesky animals out and customer can leave the lid locked when it is set out for collection as we will unlock it at time of collection. We provide red bins for recycling.

PHOENIX RECYCLING 375-1300

ADVANCED APPLIANCE SERVICE IN RAFTER J

Forty years experience
8:00-5:00

GENE TYRELL 385-4539

LINDA LOVES BOOKKEEPING, LLC

Business or Personal Bookkeeping
References available
Call Linda @ 385-6725

HOUSECLEANER AVAILABLE

Neighborhood references available.
Spring Cleaning, Julia 375-0239

MOUNTAIN TOP MASSAGE

Swedish, Deep Muscle, Shiatsu, Reflexology
\$40/hr 385-4675

Babysitter: Ashton Richardson will baby-sit for \$3/hr on Mondays and Fridays after school, all day Sat. & afternoon on Sunday. She is a very responsible eleven year old and can sit with children ages 3-10. Call 382-9530

Odd jobs, heavy lifting, or a carpenter's helper?? Reasonable rates. Call Justice Richardson 382-9530

Low rate **SNOW PLOWING!!**
Call Gene at 382-9530

NEW AVON REP TO THE RAFTER J AREA...JOYCE TURNER 259-4490

RAFTER J ASSOCIATION

#1 Ridge Road
Durango CO 81303
970-385-6725

gltlit@frontier.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dianne Hoffecker 259-7607
Vice-Pres: Doug Appel 259-2172
Treasurer: Buck Kindred 259-8586
Secretary: Renate Widder 259-5996
Member at Large: Dan Patterson 247-8539

FIRE

Emergency 911
LA PLATA COUNTY SHERIFF & ANIMAS CONTROL
Emergency 911
Central Dispatch 247-1155

WATER

Emergency: Day 749-0112
Evening 247-0739
Lake Durango Water Co. 247-3666

BUSINESS MANAGER

Linda Thompson 385-6725

WEED CONTROL

Rod Cook (La Plata County Ext. office)
247-2308

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Doug Appel 259-2172

RAFTER J ROUNDUP

Linda Thompson 385-6725

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Carl Sturm 382-0699

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Robin Jackman 259-1859