

Spearfish Canyon Owners Association

Spearfish Canyon News

November 2014



Spearfish Canyon Owners Association Members,

It's Fall in the Canyon! Last year at this time we were all digging out from five feet of snow and wondering how we could get all the tree damage cleaned up. It was truly a memorable Fall. Fortunately this year has been altogether different. A snow reminder but then beautiful days to enjoy a more typical season.

Even though the activity and occupancy level of the Canyon changes this time of year, many SCOA matters and projects do not. I will spend a few minutes updating you on a couple of them.

Mountain Pine Beetles continue to make inroads into the Canyon and the County. SCOA, through general funds, member donations and cookbook sales has been active in supporting County efforts at slowing the spread of the beetle. If you would like an in depth look at the MPB problem South Dakota State University has a web site igrow.org that in the trees and forestry area has a great video by John Ball, SDSU forestry expert and Kurt Allen, USDA Forest Service entomologist. They give great detail on the MPB problem. It debunks some of the myths about the beetle as well as can save a homeowner considerable time and expense by outlining what will work to curtail the MPB, and also what will not work. It is worth the time to watch the segment.

Carol Reausaw and Rachel have put together a new owner packet to be sent to new property owners in the Canyon. It will contain the covenants with amendments, fire wise information and other general information that should be useful to a new owner. The packet is truly a work in progress so items that members deem appropriate to be included can be, just let them know. Likewise as properties change ownership let them know so we can make sure a packet is sent.

This is the time of year when many cabin owners start making plans for landscaping and building next summer. I would remind everyone that the Architectural Review Committee must give approval before work can begin. Lawrence County will not issue a building permit without an ARC recommendation. Likewise most landscaping alterations require approval as per our covenants. It is a simple matter to seek and get permits and can save considerable headache later. At times one might think some of the covenants are draconian and hinder our rights as property owners but they are there for a reason. When Homestake controlled the land on which two thirds of the Canyon properties are built, they were very careful to insure the integrity

Remember that the Architectural Review Committee must approve landscaping and building plans.

and beauty of the Canyon Spearfish and Hanna Creeks were preserved. SCOA was required to follow that directive. The covenants protect not only the Canyon and the Creek, but our property values as well. By insuring that the highest standards are in place we can enjoy and live in one of the most beautiful areas in the Hills. We have all seen developments that are overbuilt, filled with unsightly junk (treasures to some I am sure) or with structures that do not blend with the settings, well that is what the covenants and the ARC are charged with preventing. Not always a pleasant job but an absolute necessity to preserve the Canyon.

The Deadwood Standard Mine issue has been quiet of late, possibly due to the dropping gold price, but we continue to monitor any developments. If members hear of activity please let the Board know. Our stance on the DSM has not altered. There is one more mine issue and that is on Iron Creek. We have been following that small operation and are having input into its' operation and future.

I would like to mention one non SCOA item that most are not aware of and that is the Eagle Cliff Ski area. This area is groomed for cross country skiing as snow conditions allow by an association of skiers. They also contract snow removal for the parking areas near the trailheads. Eagle Cliff is a great area to cross country ski, it's a large ski area with both groomed and backcountry ski areas. If you are in the Canyon in the Winter and like this activity (snow machines are prohibited) in the area, get out and take advantage of it. The area is located south on US Hwy 85 going toward O'Neil Pass and Trailhead Lodge. To ski in the area has no charge, but people are invited to join for a nominal fee the Eagle Cliff Ski Association.

Well I am about done other than to encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the Fall beauty of the Canyon. From beautiful hikes, to listening to the elk bugle to simple drive down the Canyon, this is a great time to be active in the area. Get out and enjoy it!

Steve Paula, President

Spearfish Canyon Cuisine

SCOA donates \$16,000 of cookbook proceeds to Lawrence County to fight Mountain Pine Beetles

As this article goes to press, a fifth printing of the wildly popular cookbook, "Spearfish Canyon Cuisine," has begun. First published in July 2013, the success of the cookbook continues, as tourists and local residents alike seem to appreciate its fine recipes, its wonderful photos of Spearfish Canyon, and its cause which is to fight the pine beetle infestation apparent throughout the area.

To examine the cookbook's success, let's first look at its impetus. The Spearfish Canyon Owners Association (SCOA) consists primarily of rustic cabins, owned by nearly 200 family units who value Spearfish Canyon and aim to maintain its natural beauty and serenity. SCOA members work together to care for the canyon that surrounds them, and embrace ideas to always make improvements while preserving standards set by early visionaries.

A group of SCOA ladies first conceived the idea to collect favorite recipes and publish a cookbook to benefit a project shared by all canyon residents in 2008. Progress on the plan was delayed for various reasons, and wasn't revived until the summer of 2012, when some of the same ladies, discussing the beginning devastation of the pine beetles, chose to renew cookbook efforts. Profits from sales, they decided, would help to battle the beetles.

Through the winter, recipes were collected, edited, tested and entered into appropriate formats. Creative ideas were solicited for names, titles and styles. Representative photos were asked for, considered, and selected. Finally, by June 2013, 500 copies of "Spearfish Canyon Cuisine" were ordered. At the same time, SCOA members were given the chance to reserve cookbooks for \$18 each, with the knowledge that the price would rise to \$20 on July 1. During that two-week period a total of 191 copies were ordered, sight unseen. This encouraging promise of faith indicated great success to come!

The shipment arrived in time for SCOA's annual meeting, and many books were sold at that event. We also placed books at the Cheyenne Crossing Store and the Spearfish Canyon Lodge's Latchstring Restaurant. Perhaps our most effective marketing tool was table tents with two actual photos: one, a peaceful canyon



In the 18 months since the first cookbooks were published, we have sold 1,760 copies!

scene, and the other, a mountain-side with beetle kill, with a message reading "We want this (the beautiful), not this (the ugly). Staff at the Crossing Store report that customers look at the table tents as they wait for meals, and often make cookbook purchases because of their awareness.

Two major factors allowed us to sell the first order in less than four weeks: first, many of those who had pre-ordered the books for \$18 saw the quality of the books and ordered several more to give as gifts, and second, many of the thousands of motorcyclists here for the Rally, along with hundreds of regular tourists who love the area, purchased the cookbooks primarily to support the cause. These folks

are fans of the Black Hills, and they want to help preserve the beautiful canyon they love so much.

In the 18 months since our first cookbooks were published, we have sold 1,760 copies! More than 100 of these were mail orders we received from around the country, from our e-mail and Facebook notices, primarily. We also sold more than 100 books in miscellaneous ways: events, meals, presentations, recommendations from friends of friends, etc. We were fortunate to have articles in the Black Hills Pioneer and the Rapid City Journal, and these generated telephone and mail orders.

The Cheyenne Crossing Store has sold at least 950 copies, Latchstring Restaurant has purchased 195 copies, and Someone's in the Kitchen in Rapid City has sold 75 copies. Please remember to patronize and thank these businesses for their invaluable willingness to support our project.

Perhaps the greatest and most impressive result of the "Spearfish Canyon Cuisine" effort is that cookbook proceeds have allowed us to give a total of \$16,000 to Lawrence County to fight the pine beetles in Spearfish Canyon. We know we will be able to give more to the County, thanks to the wonderful support and generosity of SCOA members and others.

To order "Spearfish Canyon Cuisine," please send \$20 plus \$4 (shipping and handling) per book to Beverly Shaw, 8735 Deframe Court, Arvada, CO 80005. Checks should be made payable to SCOA.

– Beverly Shaw



She Knows

The first edge of fall
Cuts through this September day
Pulls her eyes into a trance
Something deep inside of her awakens
Anticipates, Knows

Perhaps she sees in a distance
Rolling fields of big bluestem
Waving their heavy heads – calling to her

Perhaps she hears an excitement in the wind
The stir of wild wings – calling to her

Or maybe she smells the grain fields of the Dakotas
Toasting to a golden brown – calling to her

For on this September day
Something inside her awakens
Anticipates, Knows

– Gordon Ommen © 2012

Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Gerry Bennett convenes meetings of the Spearfish Canyon Volunteer Fire Department the last Monday of each month at the Fire Hall. The Summer months included the serving of a delicious pot luck supper preceding the meetings. During Fall and Winter meetings, there will be coffee and cookies served at the meetings which start at 6:30 pm.



Jack Wanstedt serves as treasurer for the department and Dave Brueckner serves as secretary. Members of the Spearfish Canyon Fire Protection District are Ray Rossi, Gary Lillihaug and Steve Butsco. Current plans of the board are to save money for a new fire engine.

Chief Bennett reported that there were two car wrecks in the Canyon in June, and there were no calls during the motorcycle rally. He reported that a beer truck overturned near Eagle Cliff in the month of September, to which members were summoned.

Twelve volunteers participated in Firewise Day on August 16th. Bennett reported that volunteers picked up and cleaned around the Fire Hall, erected some 911 address signs, assisted residents with pick-up of yard debris, and chased cows. You'll have to talk to Gerry to find out what that is all about!

Local training took place on Oct. 11 and 18 and Firefighter classes begin on Nov. 4 in Spearfish. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Fire Department may call Bennett at (605) 642-4741.

Fall Update From Environmental Chairman

It is a beautiful fall in the canyon. We have had lots of rain and the creek is running full. An update on the flow of Spearfish Creek from Sept. 15th through October 14th shows the following variations in water flow: On Oct. 14, 2014, the cubic Flow per second near Lead was 55 CFS which in the last 4 weeks has varied from approximately 48 CFS - the lowest reading - to 67 CFS on Oct. 12, 2014. Information from USGS Web Interface.

Most of the leaves have turned and fallen. We had an early frost and then some wind, but it was

still a great display of colors. The last couple of years Mother Nature has been busy with storms and heavy snow with lots of tree damage as we are all aware. A big thank you to everyone for doing your part in cleaning up what you can on your property. I have noticed several groups have been out picking up trash along the ditches this fall which is a great service to the canyon.

The pine beetle infested trees have really started showing up this summer in the canyon. Jim Nelson addresses the pine beetle update in his column. Also, the

board has not received news on any change in the status of the Deadwood Standard Mine, so that is good news for now.

The property owners- all of us - that make up SCOA are really the primary defenders of Spearfish Canyon. Our actions regarding mining activity, encroachment on the stream, the pine beetle infestation and covenant compliance are all aimed at preserving the natural beauty and environment of Spearfish Canyon. It is a worthy goal and one that I hope we can all agree on.

– Dave Palmer

August 2011 to mid-October 2014

Draft Summary Report on Beetle Battle

Due to my involvement with LCC and USFS in attempting to limit the spread of Pine Beetle kill over the period noted (and with prior comments to USFS on major forest thinning projects since 2002) I was asked to summarize some of the activity over 2011-2014 time period. The following is a chronological summary of major effort by year.

In August 2011, the USFS briefed their USFS Formal Plan for battling pine beetle spread across the Black Hills. I attended their public briefing at Spearfish Holiday Inn. A specific statement in their plan was a declaration that no activity would be pursued in Spearfish Canyon, due to the steepness of the terrain and prioritization of their resources (manpower and dollars). Concern with this policy statement was expressed by many, including this writer. In September, a "Save Spearfish Canyon Coalition" was formed among Spearfish Canyon Owners Association, Lawrence County Timber Committee, County Invasive Species Management, Homestake/Wharf Management, Neiman Forest Products of Spearfish, Mayor of Spearfish and several participants in early planning, including members of the Lawrence County Commission.

Over the remainder of 2011, this planning effort included several meetings of the group. This effort morphed into a joint effort led by Bill Coburn/Neiman Forest Products, Chair of the County Timber Committee, Dave Heck, leader of the County Invasive Species Management, Bruce Outka, County legal advisor, and Bob Ewing, County Commissioner. This group formed a County Group which, under Dave Heck's leadership in working with Northern Black Hills Forest Service, Rhonda OByrne, formed a joint agreement between USFS and LCC (the first of its kind), which defined conditions under which the County-led team would be able to cut/chunk beetle-infested pines on USFS land. These conditions included lengths of tree trunk to be chunked and depth of slash/limbs to be allowed in cut areas, as examples.

In 2012, this effort resulted in spotting, cutting/chunking of approximately 38,000 trees at a per/tree average cost of \$14.75 for a total cost of \$560,000. Additional costs to recon/identify trees to be marked/cut exceeded \$250,000. Major funding inputs were from Spearfish Canyon Foundation, SCOA and SPF Canyon Volunteer Fire Department as well as City of Spearfish and individual donors. The priority for cutting this year included Spearfish Mountain, Rimrock south of that mountain, and area between Hanna and Cheyenne Crossing. Priority also included plan to cut/chunk to the north in the Canyon to the Fire Department. The /fall of 2012 further cutting was done to include 25,000 trees at

\$14.75/tree=\$375,000. Additional labor costs included recon/spotting of these trees at about \$200,000. Significant funding was acquired thru mining-related State severance taxes, and Wharf/Homestake funded their efforts in lands adjacent to their properties.

In 2013, County Invasive Management (LCISM) used 60 recon/survey personnel @\$12/hour to mark about 20,000 trees, including about 500 trees subsequently cut in the Canyon between Cheyenne Crossing and Elmore. Those Canyon-located trees used all the \$7000 from SCOA Cookbook sales, and total costs for the County for those 500 trees amounted to \$23,820. The SCOA funds were used only for cutting, with the additional costs resulting from the survey/marketing/fuel/administrative costs for the effort coming from sources other than SCOA. Also in 2012-13 summers, Invasive Species Management put out test plots on private lands adjacent to the Canyon in Lost Camp, Annie Creek and Carbonate using lethal baiting/spraying/trapping costing in excess of \$25,000 for each year=\$50,000.

In the fall of 2014, the recon/marketing/cutting efforts are estimated at about \$17,160 for approximately 600 trees in the Canyon. The true total costs include again that for fuel/workcomp/insurance/wages/paint/GPS units/etc.

The bottom line ... LCISM has expended all SCOA and SPF Canyon VFD Funds contributed each year, including those realized from cookbooks sales in 2013, for cutting in the Canyon. Similarly, LCISM will have expended those for 2014 from cookbook sales along with other SCOA funding for treatments in the Canyon. The bulk of those are used for actual cutting. Lawrence County absorbs the related costs for recon/marketing/other administrative costs. A good rule of thumb to pass along is that for every dollar contributed to LCISM for use in the beetle battle provides a minimum of \$4 return. Currently, essentially all our funding goes for direct tree cutting activities in the Canyon. A problem exists in that a cut of 500 trees or even 1000 trees, unless all are in close proximity to one another, will be difficult to notice within the total dense forested area but the LCISM will see good effectiveness in areas where cutting has taken place, with little spreading from those treated areas. Also, a variable in survey/marketing/cutting is the difficulty in terrain location where the activity occurs.

Hopefully, this gross summary of the beetle battle to date in Lawrence County and specifics of that funding committed and expended in the Canyon will help SCOA members understand the required scope of the effort and the attempts to use available resources most effectively in the County and in the Canyon.

– Jim Nelson/10 October 2014



Spearfish Canyon Owners' Association

PO Box 480

Lead, SD 57754

<http://www.canyonowners.org/>

WELCOME NEW OWNER!

With the purchase of your property, you are now part of Spearfish Canyon Owners Association consisting of approximately 200 owners. We have an annual meeting in July which includes a free catered dinner for you and your family. It is a great way to get to know all of your neighbors in the Canyon as well as the organizational structure of the association. We look forward to seeing you there!

Another way to get to know your neighbors is through attendance at the ladies' and men's coffee meetings at the Fire Hall. Refer to your newsletters to find out dates and times. And speaking of newsletters, we publish the SCOA "Spearfish Canyon News" three times per year. This publication is full of current news, reminders, and happenings in the Canyon. Please feel free to submit articles, pictures, poems, recipes and any material your neighbors would be interested in. All members are also welcome to attend the fire department meetings on the last Monday of each month. Pot luck dinners are involved!

At real estate closing, you should have received a copy of our covenants. These covenants were placed upon your property in 1990 by Homestake Mining Company when it sold these lots to the cabin owners. These covenants were set in place to protect the Canyon and Spearfish Creek. **Please refer to the covenants and Architectural Rules and Design Guidelines before undertaking any building or landscaping projects.** Also note that there is a 25' setback from Spearfish Creek where no landscape activity or building shall take place without a waiver from SCOA and/or the US Forest Service. All association documents can be accessed on the above website.

Be advised that according to the Third Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Reservations for Homestake Cabin Lot Sales in Spearfish Canyon:

1. (b) ***Rental Use. No Lot or Dwelling Unit shall be rented to non-family members for more than 14 days during any calendar year. Owners are obligated to insure compliance by Renters with this Declaration and all Spearfish Canyon Rules.***

For SCOA members' information, the US Forest Service Black Hills Phase I Plan specifically prohibits off-roading of motorized vehicles in Spearfish Canyon. This applies to snowmobiles as well as 4-wheelers.

We are all so fortunate to live in this beautiful canyon. We must all do our part to keep it as lovely and pristine as possible, as well as protect the water in our precious Spearfish Creek! We look forward to meeting our new neighbors.

Remember the Fire Rules:

No incinerators are allowed in Spearfish Canyon. Outdoor cooking, heating, decorative equipment, fireplaces, charcoal or gas cookers, chimneys, fire pits and any other similar equipment must have fire screens over the chimneys, or open flame areas, and must not have open flames extending above the screens. A permit with instructions for a "fire pit" must be obtained from the SD State Forestry Division at 11361 Nevada Gulch Road at the bottom of the road to Terry Peak. Their phone # is (605) 584-2300.

"The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain the beauty, serenity and attractiveness of the Spearfish Canyon, and monitor and protect the water quality and flow of Spearfish Creek and its tributaries and to preserve in perpetuity the covenants and conditions placed upon said property by Homestake Mining Company of California."

(Section A, Article III, Articles of Incorporation. Spearfish Canyon Owners' Association)

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(Section A, Article III, Articles of Incorporation. Spearfish Canyon Owners' Association)

Spearfish Canyon News...

is a newsletter by and for the homeowners of Spearfish Canyon Owners Association.

Send comments and articles PLEASE to Carol Reausaw: Caroljeanie@yahoo.com.

Many thanks to Dee Sleep with Chicken Creek Communications, LLC, for printing our newsletter.

Our website is: <http://www.canyonowners.org>

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