

SPRING VALLEY NEWS

NEWS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

SPRING VALLEY PROPERTY OWNERS AND RECREATIONAL CORPORATION

Email: info@myspringvalley.org website: www.myspringvalley.org SVPORC PHONE NUMBER 719.686.1825

Election Time

We will be electing new board members in July with three seats up for election. The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting in August. Please consider running for a two year term. It is a great opportunity to learn more about your community and help make this a great place to live. Meetings are held once a month so very little time is required. If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, please send your intentions with a brief biography for the ballot to PO Box 513, Divide, CO 80814. Must be postmarked by June 30, 2013. You may also email to: info@myspringvalley.org

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Exit, pursued by a bear...

by David Martinek

In William Shakespeare's "*The Winter's Tale*" one of his stage directions has a character exiting the scene pursued by a bear. In truth, black bears will not normally confront people unless they pose some harm to their cubs, or have food in their pocket.

It is spring in Colorado and the bears have emerged from their dens after a winter's hibernation. Often, like this year, snow may still be on the ground. Looking for food, the bears will migrate to lower elevations where green plants are more plentiful. Still, it takes a couple of weeks for their digestive system to activate. During this critical period, they must rely on their remaining stored fat.

The black bear population in Colorado is estimated to be 8,000 to 12,000 animals. They are solitary creatures and can live twenty years in the wild, although few do. Weighing from 125 to 450 pounds, they measure about three feet high at the shoulders on all fours, or five feet tall when standing up to get a better look at whatever had peaked their curiosity. Their heavy bodies are supported by short, powerful legs. They are very agile and can run in bursts up to 35 miles per hour up or downhill with ease. All bears have five toes and long claws. Their hind footprints are human-like.

Black bears may in fact have blonde, brown, honey-colored or black hair. They may also have a tan muzzle or a white spot on their chest. Most Colorado black bears are cinnamon-colored or some shade of brown.

Bears use trails just like people. They can sense colors, form and movement and their vision is good, but they generally rely on their very acute sense of smell and hearing to locate food and warn them of danger. Adult black bears make a variety of sounds. However, the most commonly heard utterances are woofing and jaw-popping. The cubs will whimper and bawl.

They are also very territorial. When a bear becomes a particular nuisance to the point that something needs to be done about it, one of the remedies our Division of Wildlife friends use is to capture and relocate the offending bear to another area, at least 100 miles away. Their sense of territory and direction, though, causes a few to return.

Bears are omnivores – they eat both plants and animals. About 90 percent of their diet is made up of nutritious plants – such as sprouts, grasses, nuts and berries – while the remaining ten percent consists of insects and carrion. In periods of drought, those percentages may change. When trying to fatten up for winter hibernation, bears may actively feed for up to twenty hours per day and ingest over 20,000 calories.

Fall in the high country is when bears become *the* wildlife to watch out for. As early as late summer the black bear of Colorado begin to forage for food in preparation for winter's hibernation, usually in October and November. Their natural curiosity and hunger will cause them to come out of the woods in search of food. Leave your garbage out overnight and you might find it scattered all over your yard in the morning. During this time, bears may seem to be everywhere, particularly at dusk or dawn, rummaging through trash and generally creating a mess – which is not really their fault. They are just being bears. After all, this is bear country; to them, it's we humans who are the intruders.

Several years ago, during foraging season, the story is told of a very curious, small black bear that walked right into city hall in Woodland Park. Never has a small town bureaucracy moved so fast.

Once in hibernation, a bear's heart rate and breathing will slow down considerably, and its body temperature will drop up to twelve degrees. In their deep sleep, bears do not eat, drink or eliminate wastes. They maintain their energy levels and water balance by using stored fat.

The Ute Indians felt that bears were their protectors, and maybe they were. They are plentiful throughout the Pikes Peak region and are another addition to the remarkable variety of wildlife that makes our area uniquely special.

2013 Volunteer Fish Patrol

2013 Fishing season is open. Now is a good time to think about volunteering for fishing patrol this year. Just a few hours a month is all you need to help out. If you fish a lot, this could save you money as you would fish for free!! We also hope for a few volunteers to act as substitute patrol to fill in as needed.

Please contact Dick Cope at 687-8931 if you are interested.

Fishing permits are available from any fishing patrol volunteer, on the website at www.myspringvalley.org or by calling SVPORC at 719-686-1825.

Fishing Derby

The annual Terry Harris Memorial Children's Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, July 13. As always, we need volunteers to help with this major event. The first item on the list to be done is donations. We need all of our neighbors to use their imaginations and come up with ways to get businesses to donate prizes and/or monetary donations for the raffle ticket booth. In the past, we have had many prizes available, including fishing gear, gift baskets, toys, hats, T-shirts, decorative items and gift cards. We like to have a variety of items to give all those who purchase the tickets many items to pick from.

Last year was the final year that Phantom Canyon Brewery would be providing lunch. We greatly appreciate all their hard work and the great lunches that they provided throughout the years. This will be a major expense for the fishing derby funds so we really need to have donations for this part of the day. We also need volunteers to help with set up, serving and clean up after the lunch is over.

We will need volunteers to help with setting up the booths in the morning, manning the booths, picking up ice and many other jobs too numerous to mention. If you would like to donate your time or you need more information, please contact Deb Schneider 687-7476 or Roni Gordon 687-6906. We are very confident that you will come thru as you always do and this event will be a great success.

2013 Activity Schedule

June 8 th	Kiddie Carnival/ Neighborhood Picnic
July 6 th	Fish Stocking for Derby
July 13 th	Terry Harris Memorial Children's Fishing Derby
August 17 th	Annual Meeting 9:00am Doughnuts and Coffee Provided
September 14 th	Harvest Party
October 19 th	Trunk or Treat 6:30 to 7:30 pm

All dates subject to change

**SPRING VALLEY PROPERTY
OWNERS AND RECREATIONAL
CORPORATION**

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Voice Mail: 719.686.1825

We're on the Web!

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www.myspringvalley.org
