

July 24, 2015

BIG SKY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Hello From The BSOA

*Your Homeowner Association newsletter with
this month's community news!*

Email Distribution List

Feeling like you're missing out on Big Sky news? Send us an email at bsoa@bigskyoa.org, or give us a call at (406) 995-4166 and we'll add you to our monthly newsletter distribution list!

Deadline for Propane Consortium

Time is running out to join the Big Sky Propane Consortium! Group purchasing, or consortiums are formed to leverage the purchasing power and optimize cost reduction, meaning the more members that sign up, the greater the negotiating power, which results in lower prices.

Since its conception, Big Sky Propane Consortium has grown from 5 members to over 400 members and for the last 11 years has been getting the best propane costs possible. Although the amount of money saved is dependent upon the amount of propane used by each resident, an example of possible savings, is the BSOA office, which joined the consortium last year and saved 38% in costs from

BSOA Board of Directors

Sept 4, 12:00pm

BSAC Meeting

Aug 6, 8:00am

Aug 20, 8:00am

SAVE THE DATE



This year's Annual Meeting & Reception will be **3:00 pm - 6:30 pm** on

Friday, Sept. 4th

Musical Entertainment:

Montana Rose

Weed Spotlight:

Field Pennycress (Stinkweed/Fanweed)



Native to Europe and naturalized throughout North America, field pennycress is a nuisance weed in the

the previous year.

Please complete the sign-up form and return to the BSOA office before **August 1, 2015** if you want to participate in the consortium.

[Click here for the letter and sign-up form!](#)

Any questions regarding the Big Sky Propane Consortium can be directed to Lori in the BSOA office at lori@bigskyoa.org, or (406) 995-4166.

Reminder from the BSAC

The Big Sky Architectural Committee has had a busy spring and summer reviewing many new projects that are now under construction. Whether driving down Little Coyote, or sightseeing in the Cascade Subdivision, new buildings are popping up everywhere. As the heat of summer passes, the cool weather makes for some nice conditions to spruce up the landscaping around your home, or install a new patio. The BSAC would like to remind homeowners that projects of any scale, which make alterations or changes to the exterior of your home or landscaping, need to be reviewed and approved by the BSAC prior to work commencing.



Please do not hesitate to contact Casey at the BSOA office to discuss individual project requirements and submittal dates. Reach him by phone at (406) 995-4166 or email at casey@bigskyoa.org.

Widespread Impacts

The definition of a weed is "a plant where you don't want it." Corn is a weed in my hay field; grass is a weed in my garden; but certain weeds are designated "noxious" because of their



widespread negative ecological impacts. On a more personal level, these weeds can impact our beloved pets and wildlife, as their seeds and burrs can become embedded in skin, ears, and eyes, causing severe irritation, abscesses, blindness, and more.

mustard family that is commonly found in recently disturbed soils.

Often seen immediately after construction, field pennycress is not able to out-compete healthy, perennial vegetation. The plant bears an unpleasant odor, making it easy to identify. The most characteristic attribute of this species is the round, or oval wafer-like pod which justifies the name pennycress. The plant is a "pioneer" of disturbed soil, readily invading recently disturbed land.

Hand pulling and collecting/bagging seeds is a very successful method of control. Over time, the pioneer species gives way to more perennial and competitive species.

Weeds to Know:



Foxtail

Foxtail Barely, Cheatgrass, Burdock, and Houndstongue (pictured to the right) all take advantage of wildlife, humans, and pets to spread their seed. Various traits of the seed, like the long awns of Foxtail Barely & Cheatgrass and the velcro-like burrs of Burdock and Houndstounge, are designed to aid in seed dispersal by helping the seed cling to anything that travels through an area. Once attached to clothing or embedded in fur, the seed enjoys the ride, waiting to be plucked off and deposited to start a new infestation. There are simple actions you can take to protect your pets and fight against weeds. Learn to identify plants of concern so you can avoid them, stay on designated trails, leash your dog, and after a hike inspect and clean you and your pet. These suggestions may seem trivial, but your pets, wildlife and native plants will all appreciate your effort.

Noxious weeds do more damage than just degrading aesthetic values in your yard and here's why it is necessary to get rid of them. Noxious weeds are the second leading cause of animal population decline and extinction worldwide. They reduce forage, alter thermal and escape cover and may reduce territorial space. Noxious weeds lead to soil erosion which negatively affects water quality and fish spawning grounds. Weeds reduce biodiversity and create a loss of habitat.

Any weed that has a tap root can easily be pulled, where weeds with extensive root systems need a little more fire power applied towards them. It is essential to remove as much of the root as possible because any pieces left behind can still sprout. Collect all pulled weeds and place them in garbage bags to take to the landfill.

For more information on how weeds affect your pets and wildlife, or for more extensive weed control tips [CLICK HERE.](#)



Cheatgrass



Burdock



Houndstongue

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

HAPPENINGS

July 25 - [Annual Crail Ranch Bake Sale Plus!](#)

July 25/26 - [Big Sky Fly Fishing Festival](#)

July 27 - [New Women's Fly Fishing School](#)

July 28 - [Baroque Music](#)

UPDATE: Meadow Construction

Northwestern Energy has been upgrading the underground electric distribution systems in the meadow. Currently, they are approximately 1/3 done with construction with around 12,000 of the 34,000 feet completed. Here is the list of the work that is being done in various areas:



Yellowtail - All conduit and cable has been installed and energized. Landscape repair will be completed in the near future

Curley Bear - All conduit is installed, crews will be working on electric cable here in the next week or so

Two Moons / Looking Glass - All Conduit is installed, Cable is being installed

Little Coyote - Crews are starting to install conduit here

Sweet Grass Hills - Crews are in the area installing conduit and will be in there for a few weeks.

When driving around the meadow be aware of where crews are working and drive slowly. Little Coyote is one road where the speed limit is often overlooked and speeding while there are construction workers around is putting them at undo risk.

Any questions, or concerns pertaining to the project can be directed to the Project Engineer, Caleb H Skjervem, at [\(406\) 582-4685](tel:4065824685).

[Montana](#)

[July 30/31- Big Sky PBR](#)

[July 31 - Wet & Wild](#)

[Aug 1 - Virtual tour of the First Crail Ranch](#)

[Aug 2 - Montana Shakespeare in the Parks](#)

[Aug 6 - First Security Band Community Appreciation Lunch](#)

[Aug 13 - Par the Peaks Golf Tournament](#)

[Aug 13 - Vine & Dine Festival](#)

[Aug 15 - Big Sky Open Golf Championship](#)

[Aug 15 - Annual Parks & Trails Gala](#)

[Aug 16 - Historic Small Cabin Exhibits, Est. 2015](#)

[Aug 20 - Business After Hours](#)

[Aug 28/29 - Kids Adventure Games](#)

HAVE AN IDEA?

Anything you'd like to see in the next newsletter? Let us know if there is an issue you would like addressed, an event your organization would like to share, or just something cool about the community.

Bear Smart

The Bear Smart Big Sky committee is still hard at work educating Big Sky residents and trying to make the community safer for residents and their four-legged neighbors. The bear trailer will continue to be at the Farmers Market every other week and can also be found at the trailheads of Ousel Fall and Beehive from time

to time. There are roughly 700 Kodiak bear resistant cans in Big Sky making the area about 70% bear resistant. Though a great percentage this number should be much larger. Many subdivisions and HOAs, including the BSOA, have adopted resolutions that



require homeowners to switch to bear proof cans. So why do more residents not have them?

It seems to be a case of supply and demand. There are only 300 more cans available from the 1,000 cans originally purchased by Republic Services. Making the switch has added to the problem with only a few cans being swapped at a time. BSOA is working towards a solution that will get more Kodiak cans out to members.

These cans do a good job keeping bears out, but sometimes they seem to do a good job keeping humans out too. Because of this members who have already obtained a receptacle can swing by the BSOA office and pick up a decal that explains how to correctly use the can. Some cans may already have this sticker, so if yours does then there is no need to come get one. These decals also help Republic Services track the cans and who they belong to.

Any questions regarding the cans may be directed to the BSOA office, or directly to Republic Services at (406) 586-0606.

Big Sky Medical Center

We're halfway through summer and with each passing day more is completed at the new Medical Center. Crews are hard at work trying to finish the project by its scheduled



completion date in late October. The grand opening of the facility is planned for early December. The 51,625 sf. building has been in the works since 2003 when the Bozeman Deaconess Board first discussed opening a facility in Big Sky. Of the total square footage, some of the space is not being built in this Phase I construction. Instead, the space has been shelled out for future expansion. Utilizing local resources, geothermal wells will be used to heat and cool the building, with a propane tank and generator available for back up. The Medical Center has a budget of \$25 million and several Big Sky residents and corporations have made significant pledges.

The new facility will offer 24/7/365 emergency services with the hope of doing more assessments locally and reducing the number of patients that have to be sent down the canyon for an emergency. Emergency services will be a collaboration between the facility and the Fire District, details that have not been finalized yet. As of right

now 5 full-time physicians have been hired as well as 12 nurses, most of whom are Big Sky residents that are excited about no longer commuting to work. Full-time staff will remain the same during the shoulder seasons. Costs at the new medical center will be the same as those at the Bozeman facility, the only difference being insurance reimbursement.

Wild & Scenic Rivers

An initiative is underway to designate the Gallatin River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Montanans for Healthy Rivers is leading a group of interested parties, including Big Sky's own Gallatin River



Task Force and Greater Yellowstone Coalition, among others, to protect the last, best free-flowing rivers in western Montana. Although neighboring states have been very active protecting waterways, no rivers have been designated in Montana under the Wild and Scenic River Act since 1976. Here's what needs to happen and how you can help.

An act of Congress is required to designate a river as Wild and Scenic. Senators Daines and Tester recently authored a bill to include the East Rosebud River in the Beartooth drainage. Next summer the Gallatin River will be similarly proposed. In the meantime, Montanans for Healthy Rivers is seeking public grassroots support in the form of a petition drive. You can register your support online at healthyriverst.org. Alternatively, you will see sign-up sheets at many prominent businesses in the Gallatin River watershed in the upcoming months. There will be a Wild and Scenic Party at Lone Peak Brewery today, Friday, July 24th at 7:30 pm with music from bluegrass stars, The Lil Smokies.

Any questions, or for more information feel free to contact Charles Wolf Drimal with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. His contact information is cdrimal@greateryellowstone.org, or (406) 586-1593. Click [here for an FAQ booklet](#) that has more information and a brief synopsis of the form.

Natural Resource Workshop

The natural resources in Big Sky are a precious and fragile thing and as land and homeowners it is important to do everything you can to protect those resources. On Tuesday, August 4th MSU Extension in Gallatin County is offering private landowners an evening workshop on managing the natural resources of property in Big Sky. The event

will be at the Outdoor Education Center on Jack Creek Preserve from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with light refreshments provided.

The free, 2-hour workshop will provide landowners the basic knowledge and skills needed to understand the natural resources on their property. Participants will learn about developing property objectives, weed identification and management, wildfire protection and much more! By the end of this workshop each participant will have a foundation to develop achievable goals for their property. Workshop speakers include representatives from Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Committee, Fire Safe Montana and Montana State University Extension in Gallatin County.

RSVP is required to the MSU Extension - Gallatin County office by Wednesday, **JULY 29th**. Limit of 30 total participants

To RSVP, or for more information:

Call - (406) 388-3213 Email - gallatin@montana.edu

Madison County Board Openings

There is an opening for a Madison County resident to serve on the Big Sky Transportation District Board. In addition, there are openings for Madison County residents on a couple of other Boards. The Madison County Board of Commissioners has vacancies on the Solid Waste Board, the Mental Healthy Local Advisory Council, and the Planning Board representing the Pony, Norris and Harrison Areas.

If you are interested in serving on any of these boards please contact the Commissioners' Office at (406) 843-4277, by email at madco@madison.mt.gov, or visit www.madison.mt.gov.

Big Sky Owners Association

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