

# The Sage Page

Volume 1, Issue 1

Jan/Feb 2007

## Fire Dept Reports New Rating

By Pete Schaus, Asst. Fire Chief

### Dates to note:

- ◆ Now through Jan 31, public comment period for Dixie National Forest Motorized Travel Plan
- ◆ Jan 9, Native Plant Society, Escalante Interagency Visitor Center, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Jan 17, Garfield County Trails Committee, Tropic High School, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Jan 30, Boulder Library Book Club, 7 p.m.

The big news from the Boulder Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) is the first ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating for the town of Boulder, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of '07. We came in as a "6/9", which means that residences and businesses within five road miles of the fire station are now a "9" instead of a "10," and those within 1,000 feet of a Boulder Farmstead fire hydrant are rated a "6." While the change from a "10" to a "9" may not seem like much, many more insurers are willing to offer coverage, making comparative shopping possible. Those eligible for the "6" rating should realize significant savings.

Be sure to contact your insurance company regarding the new rating before the first of the year. If they ask for a letter of verification from the fire department please contact either Katie Austin or Pete Schaus.

### Fire Fighters, EMTs, and Rescue Squad Earn Big Kudos

The Boulder Volunteer Fire Department is exactly that – volunteer (except for the Chief who pulls down the big bucks - \$1.00/yr.). Members attend meetings and training sessions twice a month, in Boulder, as well as out of town. Out-of-town training includes the week-long Winter Fire School in St. George in January, and several trainings in Escalante. The EMTs who staff the ambulance are regularly involved with recurrent training and re-certification, and like the fire-fighters, are on call 24/7/365. People interested in participating are most welcome. Current fire fighters and EMTs are:

- Katie (Fire Chief) and Mark Austin
- Kandice and Cory Johnson
- Torrian (EMT) and Phillip Nelson
- Randy (also EMT) and Shelly Ripplinger
- Donna Owen (EMT)
- Weston Albrecht
- Dennis Bertucci



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## Boulder Community Alliance, President's message

By Curtis Oberhansly

Welcome to the first issue of the Boulder Community Alliance (BCA) newsletter, which we hope to publish six times a year. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep everyone updated on BCA activities and community information.

During the BCA organizing phase, residents posed numerous questions: Why organize a community-based nonprofit? What are the goals? Who will be involved? How is it funded? Why have a paid Executive Director? The best way to answer these questions is to give some background on the catalyzing events.

A couple years ago, when a small group created Friends of the Library, they wanted to do some fundraising. But *how*? Did they have to become an official IRS 501 (c)(3) nonprofit? How could they raise money if they did not have "charitable" status?

Last year, an initiative on the ballot posed the question as to whether Boulder should disincorporate. This led to discussions about local control, planning, and what really constitutes a community. Many wished we had a place—other than the Town bulletin board—to post articles and other written information. A newsletter seemed like a good answer.

Last spring, an issue arose with the County over nationwide ATV promotions, or as their brochure said, "Garfield County, Your ATV Headquarters." For most of us in Boulder, this issue wasn't about your ATV; it was about someone else's jamboree. A group of concerned residents quickly gathered forces and sent the county over 100 letters suggesting alternative actions. And the Town Council followed up by passing a resolution saying "no thanks"

to such promotion. This response had some impact with the County, but we could see this was going to be a long-term issue requiring ongoing effort.

For a few years, Boulder has been facing increasing discussion about potential mesa top development of the State Trust Lands' 520-acre parcel in the southwest part of town. In addition, two new conservation easements were obtained in and adjacent to Boulder Town: the Austin Ranch and the Hoyt piece in Deer Creek. As a result, I got questions from other owners curious about the easement

*"We could also see an important role in helping generate additional resources for special needs . . . working with state programs that assist disabled or elderly..."*

costs and benefits. These types of issues can be quite complex and specific to the parcel of ground. Any analysis must blend the economics with the needs and desires of the owners. (I will go into detail in a future article about the ins and outs of conser-

vation easements.) They do have a lot of potential to aid in estate planning. Or they can simply settle, in a legally binding fashion, the owners' long-term vision for their property.

We're intrigued by programs related to sustainable agriculture. For example, the Utah Department of Natural Resources is investigating a regional program to combat cheat grass infestation through price stabilization of native grass seed. This would allow even small plot owners to grow and harvest regionally adapted native grass seeds for resale in a guaranteed market.

We could also see an important role in helping generate additional resources for special needs, such as working with state programs that assist the disabled or elderly with trans-

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## (from page 1) Fire Fighters, EMTs, and Rescue Squad

- Breck Crystal
- Tom Jerome
- Cookie and Pete Schaus

Recent calls include:

- 8-03 Ambulance assist Pole's Place
- 8-15 Ambulance assist
- 8-15 Tree fire on Black Mesa
- 9-11 Ambulance assist Salt Gulch
- 9-23 Ambulance transport to Richfield
- 10-01 Ambulance assist Boulder Pines Rd.
- 11-21 Pump house fire

While not formally a part of the BVFD, the County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Organization here in Boulder works out of the fire station. They also meet and train regularly, and are on call 24/7/365 to conduct their searches by foot, vehicle, and horseback. Members include:

- Mark (Commander) and Katie Austin
- Ray Gardner
- Weston Albrecht



- Ryan Haws
- Breck Crystal
- Don Montoya
- Randy and Shelly Ripplinger
- Eric Scott

Again, both Search and Rescue and the Fire Department exist because of the time and effort provided by their volunteers. If you have any inclination to join the team, we'd love to have you.

*Pete Schaus, Asst Fire Chief*

## (from page 2) President's Message

portation, hospice care or other needs. Why do some towns, such as Escalante, qualify for hospice care, while Boulder does not? This important need should be addressed.

By now you might be asking yourself how all this and more could be contemplated solely on a volunteer basis? Well, it can't. And that is why the Alliance hired Tim Clarke, on a part-time basis, to track it all. And because BCA is entirely community-based, we formed a 15 -person Advi-

sory Council made up of residents and property owners from the larger Boulder community. This Council meets once a month, provides critical input and steers all of our efforts.

The guidelines for our activities might best be summed up by restating BCA's goals: 1) to promote Boulder's rural and cultural heritage, including ranch preservation and open pasture protection; 2) foster sustainable economic development consistent with community values; 3) encourage volunteerism in partnership

with local government; 4) advance a sense of community in the larger Boulder area through volunteerism, arts, crafts, music, and organizational support; and 5) serve as facilitator and fiscal agent for grants and donations to further these goals.

Check our website at [www.bouldercommunityalliance.org](http://www.bouldercommunityalliance.org)

and sign up for the online newsletter as well. If you have any questions or input, please call or write.

## Note from the Executive Director

By Tim Clarke

It is not by chance that the word "community" is front and center in our name. Our wish in forming BCA in July was to pool the resources from a broad base of the community in a spirit of open-hearted volunteerism. Collectively, we can play a part in sustaining a viable and fulfilling lifestyle in and around Boulder.

Our areas of interest are outlined as 'the four Cs'—Conservation, Commerce, Community, and Culture, from which we've identified several activities . Apart from the



Tim Clarke, BCA Executive Director

initial start-up tasks, so far most of my time, as Executive Director, has been focused on the hot-button issue of ATV routes, both throughout Garfield County and within the Dixie National Forest system, which includes Boulder Mountain.

I encourage you to send us your feedback and ideas. I hope you can support us in having a strong local voice for Boulder, our community, and the Escalante River basin.

*Excerpt from the original article printed 12/19/2006 in the Salt Lake Tribune*

### Emery officials join OHV worriers

By Joe Baird

Emery County has an off-highway vehicle problem. Federal agencies have said so. Environmental groups have, too. Now, the county itself has joined the chorus.

In what might mark a first in rural Utah, a group of Emery County officials - collectively the county's public lands council - has issued a statement expressing alarm at how growing OHV activity, both legal and illegal, is negatively "impacting the county's resources and other users."

The statement, which appeared Dec. 5 in the Emery County Progress, also says the county's patience is wearing thin, citing impacts ranging from trampled grazing fences to deeply rutted dirt roads and the creation of new, illegal trails. It calls for stiffer fines and penalties for violators, and in-

creased funding from state and federal agencies to help beef up enforcement.

"It's not a new problem, but we're getting increased use all the time, especially from folks outside the area," says Ray Peterson, the county's public lands director and council chair. "With the increased moisture we got this fall during the hunting season, and the heavier and heavier use

we're seeing in the summer, especially on the big holiday weekends, it has become real apparent there is a problem."

Certainly, the growing popularity of motorized recreation in Utah has played a role. Off-highway vehicle registrations have tripled since 1998 to over 200,000, putting increased pressure on the

*County officials also are encouraging expanded education efforts, and seek more money to hire more enforcement staff.*

## *(cont'd from page 4: Emery County)*

backcountry. As those numbers have expanded, so, correspondingly, have the number of scofflaws who ignore the rules. Emery County also has become an increasingly popular destination for OHV enthusiasts, thanks to a diversity of terrain that includes the rugged desert canyons of the San Rafael Swell and the dense forests on the Wasatch Plateau.

But Emery County officials hasten to add that this isn't simply a problem of too many all-terrain vehicles, rock crawlers and dirt bikes on the trails. Energy exploration and development, and the large trucks and other equipment that accompany it, also have contributed to the problem.

Add it all up, Peterson says, and the county is faced with a serious management challenge. In that sense, he hopes the public lands council statement serves as a wake-up call.

"Our [county] general plan from the mid-'90s states that we desire adequate access on to the public lands. But that didn't mean unlimited access," he says.

"This is an issue we have to address."

The county's proclamation also is getting support, if qualified, from OHV groups.

"Anytime a county or local agency recognizes that there's an issue that needs to be managed, we're generally in agreement," says Mike Swenson, executive director of the Utah Shared Access Alliance.

"We support enforcement and reining in the few bad apples that are creating the problem. But we

would also oppose solutions that are so restrictive that they impact other users."

Concluding that the standard \$50 fines are of "no real consequence" to those who typically spend much more to travel to the area and fuel their OHVs, the council says much stiffer penalties - fines of hundreds, or even thousands of dollars - will be necessary "to deter unacceptable, unlawful behavior."

County officials also are encouraging expanded education efforts, and seek more money to hire more enforcement staff.

Peterson acknowledges that Emery County's proactive approach to the OHV issue may rub some

the wrong way. He shrugs it off.

"We know there are counties that have really disagreed with what we've done, but that's all right. We've tried to stay on top of this and make wise decisions. And we've been pretty consis-

tent in our position, though we haven't always communicated it as well as we could have," Peterson says.

"We want to see resource development. We welcome [OHV] users. But that doesn't mean we want unrestricted use."



# Portrait of an Artist: Scotty Mitchell

By Dianne Nelson Oberhansly

On a very cold November morning, artist Scotty Mitchell's Boulder studio is warm. A wood stove is burning, but warmth radiates as well from dozens of her pastel drawings that hang along all four walls. Umber, copper, cerulean and a blaze of other colors compose the sandstone and slickrock landscapes that distinguish Scotty's work.



"Green is the hardest," she says because pastel greens don't offer the wide range of hues that other colors do. Although Scotty began painting in oil, she later turned to pastel chalk because it allows for drawing rather than painting. "Slickrock is suited to be drawn," she says, "and I'm a drawer by nature."

Her work is plein-air, which means it is done almost completely onsite. A good deal of her time is spent searching for the right spot to draw. "You can drive past a place a thousand times and not see anything, and then suddenly, if the light and air are right, there it is!" Sometimes she will hike in as much as a mile carrying pastels, paper and easel to arrive at her viewpoint. In summer, add ski goggles which she wears to protect herself from gnats -- the bane of her existence.

A beautiful scene may or may not appeal to her. What she looks for these days in the landscapes she puts to paper is rhythm and patterns. Whatever it is that she sees, she doesn't have long to draw it. Depending on the season and time of day, the landscape's colors, shadows, and form change fairly quickly.

This phenomenon was wonderfully captured in her latest show, Works in Progress, appearing at the Anasazi State Museum in Boulder. In one grouping, Scotty displayed six different photographs of

the same landscape captured in pastels at different times of day and different seasons. Other pieces in the show revealed landscapes which were only partially completed or depicted different stages in the development of the same piece. "I like showing the bare bones of my work," she says.

Although she has visited Bluff, Kanab and Capital Reef to find landscapes that inspire, her work is principally drawn in the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. One of her favorite areas to work in is Dry Hollow. She believes the vast spaces, variety of colors, air quality and unique shape and form of south-central Utah make it a one-of-a-kind locale for an artist.

Her favorite time of year to draw is the Fall, especially in the last hour of the day when the light assumes a warm rosiness. And also, the gnats are gone! Winter is nice as well; she loves grasses and sticks poking out of the snow, even though the snow usually doesn't last long and she must therefore work quickly.

"I never know if I'll finish a piece," she admits. She points out several incomplete works that are waiting for the right snowfall or light or season to reoccur. Obviously, patience is one of her vocation's requirements.

Other challenges? Scotty pauses. "Well, to keep seeing more and more in the same places."

We look forward to seeing more and more of Scotty's work.

*To view Scotty Mitchell's art, visit  
<http://www.scottymitchell.com>*

# 'Who Are All These People?'

By Peg Smith, Editor

I keep hearing this: "I just don't know anyone anymore. Who are all these people?" Boulder, Utah hasn't grown overwhelmingly in the past several years; 126 people in the 1990 census of the town proper, 180 in 2000, and maybe another 75 now if you include Salt Gulch and the Draw. But it's true that new faces are increasingly replacing the old ones. How do we get to know each other?

Without a local newspaper to help publicize stories and activities, Boulder has always relied on the grapevine, or rather, several intertwining grapevines. That won't change any time soon. The *Sage Page* just adds another informational twist.

Two versions of the *Sage Page* will be published every other month. A printed copy will be sent to all zip-code 84716 boxholders and non-resident property owners, and it is geared toward more local news and events. An online version is available through the Boulder Community Alliance website:



Don't know everyone anymore?  
You're not alone.

[www.bouldercommunityalliance.org](http://www.bouldercommunityalliance.org). It has a wider distribution and is more oriented to describing the specific activities of the Alliance. You are welcome to sign up for both versions, or to opt out of either. (If you do not want to continue receiving this newsletter by mail, please let me know by phone, email, or US mail. My contact information is on the back sheet of this newsletter.)

At the boundless beginnings of 2007, I can only express wonder at my own good fortune of living in this place, in this beautiful, humbling, always-amazing place. I think all Boulderites, old-timer and new-comer, town proper or "in the county", can recognize common feeling in this.

## *On the 'Active' List of BCA Activities*

BCA is currently involved in these activities:

**Commerce:** Providing input to the Dixie National Forest Transportation Plan through their solicitation and scoping period. To provide comment or assistance, contact Tim Clarke, 335-7305.

**Community:** Gathering information for home health and/or hospice care for Boulder area residents. If you'd like to help, contact Cookie Schaus, 335-7318.

**Culture:** Book club, open to all. Meets last Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. in the Library. Call Dianne, 335-7434.

### ***Find Boulder area information at these websites:***

For links to local businesses, town meetings and minutes, and a community calendar, visit

**[www.boulderutah.com](http://www.boulderutah.com)**

For articles on the 'four Cs' of the alliance— Conservation, Commerce, Community, and Culture— and links to related organizations, visit

**[www.bouldercommunityalliance.org](http://www.bouldercommunityalliance.org)**

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Newsletter of the Boulder Community Alliance, a non-profit  
serving Boulder, Utah

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